Editorial mentorship facilitates early authorship through a scholarly journal's online companion: JAACAP Connect

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Abstract
Objectives:
We describe a new publication that promotes a mentored authorship experience. We propose that active mentorship and a dedicated publication outlet encourage novice, first-time, or would-be authors to engage in the process of peer-reviewed authorship.

Methods:
We created a new online journal, JAACAP Connect, as a companion to the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (JAACAP). With an Impact Factor of 6.354 in 2013, JAACAP was ranked 1st of 117 pediatrics journals and 11th of 135 psychiatry journals. We specifically targeted trainees and early career psychiatrists (ECPs, defined as those fewer than 7 years out of training). We published two articles on practical tips toward scholarly publication, with more planned for future issues. Interested authors worked with an editorial mentor in an iterative process of skill-building, resulting in an outline and presentable draft, which was then peer reviewed.

Results:
The first three issues of JAACAP Connect have been published (Fall and Winter 2014; Spring 2015), comprising 16 articles. Since May 2014, 43 unique first authors from 25 different institutions have participated. Most authors were trainees (students, residents, fellows) or ECPs. At least one trainee or ECP served as a coauthor in each article; half were authored in collaboration with more experienced colleagues. All participants produced preliminary content outlines; 16 resulted in strong drafts that were eventually published after a median of 3 revisions (range 2-6).

Conclusions:
By creating an online companion journal that incorporates an explicit mentorship component, scholarly journals and their parent societies can: better engage their readership; offer new experiences and learning opportunities to their trainee and early-career members; expand the diversity of their author base and content offerings; and strengthen their pipeline of future authors and editors. Involvement in such a publication can offer an

References
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