



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

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OBJECTIVES

- To describe a new publication that promotes a mentored authorship experience to anyone interested in child and adolescent psychiatry (CAP) - a model applicable to other medical disciplines.
- To evaluate the hypothesis that active mentorship and a dedicated publication outlet encourage novice authors to engage in the process of peer-reviewed authorship.

BACKGROUND

- Improving access to opportunities for scientific authorship can increase competency in research literacy, enhance lifelong learning skills, and improve evidence-based clinical care.
- Publishing in peer-reviewed scholarly journals can be daunting for novice, first-time, or would-be authors.
- Authoring and publishing scientific manuscripts under a mentor's supervision can increase competency in research literacy.¹
- JAACAP Connect* is an online companion to the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (JAACAP)*, a peer reviewed scholarly publication.
 - All *JAACAP Connect* content is freely available online.
 - JAACAP Connect* encourages authors to *never worry alone*, as academic writing is rarely a solo act, but rather a fruitful collaboration.²
 - The mission of *JAACAP Connect* is to promote the development of translational skills and publication as education.
- JAACAP* is the flagship journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP).
 - With an Impact Factor of 6.354 in 2013, *JAACAP* was ranked 1st of 117 pediatric journals and 11th of 135 psychiatry journals.³
 - In 2013, *JAACAP* had a print circulation of 9,227 and an average 37,520 monthly website visits.
 - The mission of *JAACAP* is to advance the science of pediatric mental health and promote the care of youth and their families.
- AACAP is the world's largest professional organization of child and adolescent psychiatry, representing over 8,800 members around the world.
- The AACAP John F. McDermott Assistant Editor-in-Residence award provides the opportunity for an early-career child and adolescent psychiatrist to join the *JAACAP* editorial team for two years.
 - The McDermott editor receives behind-the-scenes editorial training and mentorship, and serves first as associate editor and later as editor-in-chief of *JAACAP Connect* (see succession plan described in the Table).

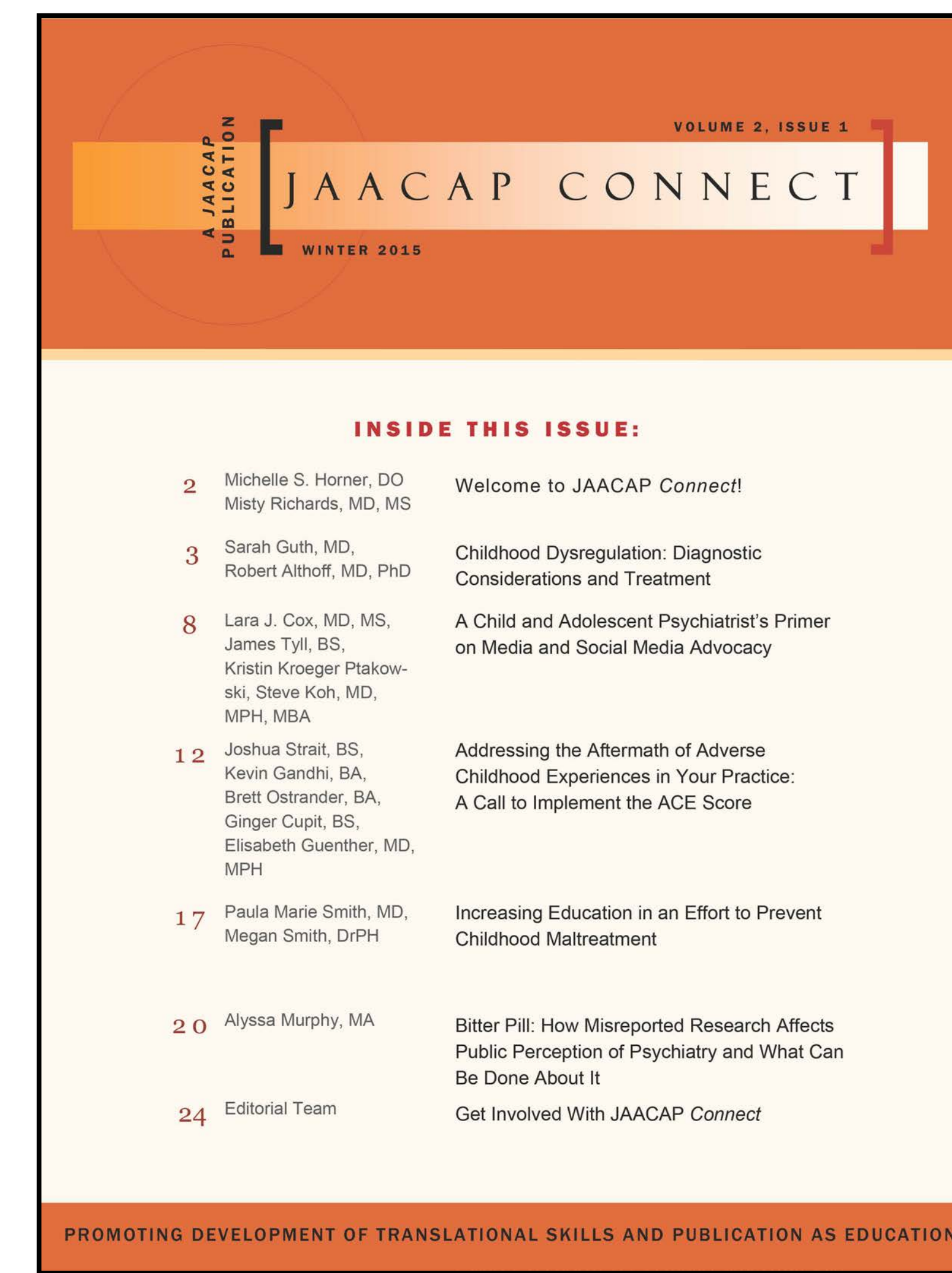
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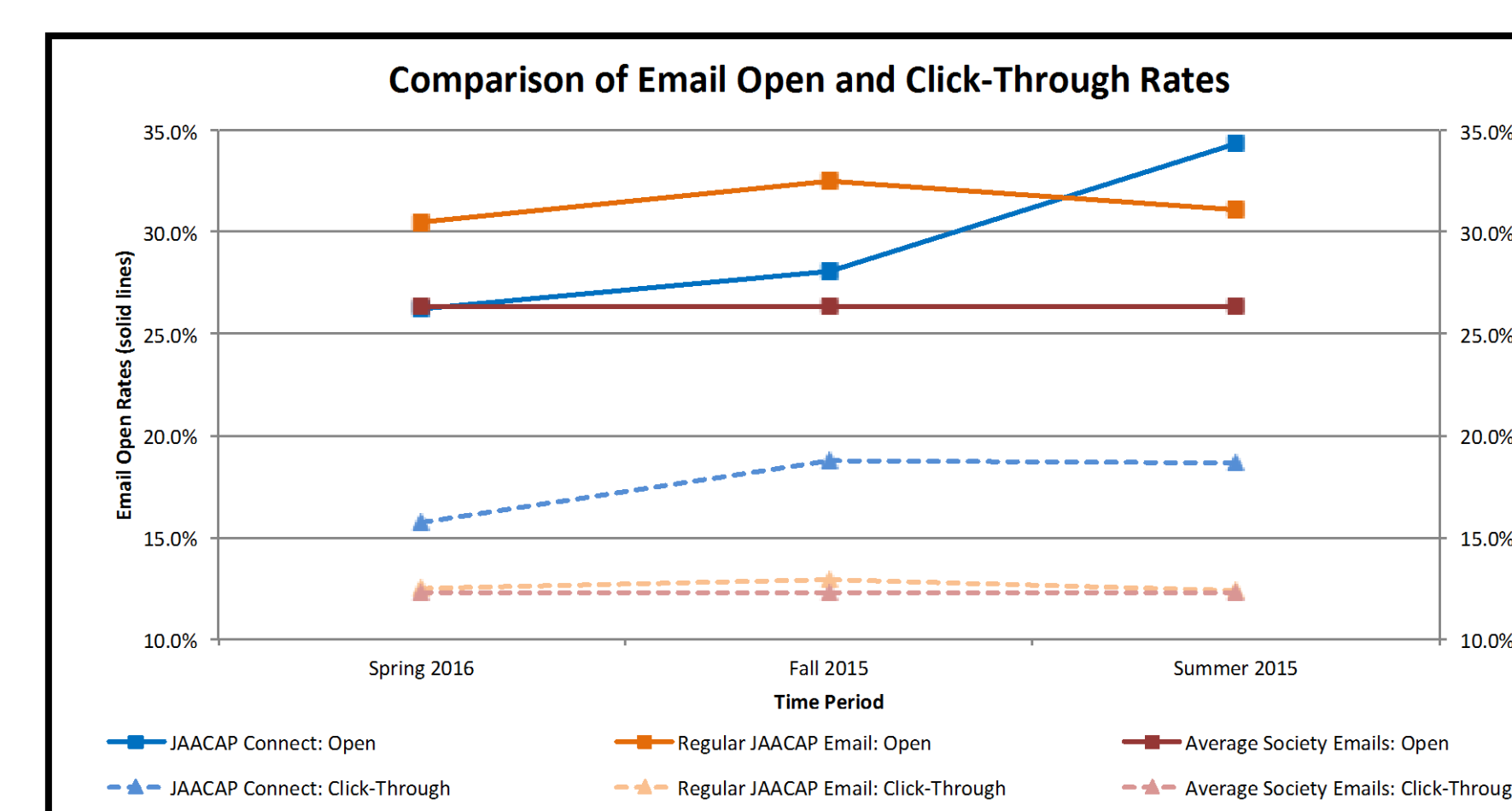
METHODS

- We created a new online companion journal, *JAACAP Connect*.
- We promoted *JAACAP Connect* at the AACAP Annual Meeting, via email solicitation, and via targeted outreach to AACAP committees and at other events.
- Anyone with an interest in child and adolescent psychiatry was invited to participate. We particularly targeted novice and would-be authors, including trainees and early career psychiatrists (ECPs, defined as those fewer than 7 years out of training).
- We have published two articles on practical tips toward scholarly publication,^{2,4} with more planned for future issues.
- Authorship process**
 - Interested authors contact us through a dedicated email address.
 - The editorial mentor replies with a welcoming message to set up an informal phone or Skype meeting.
 - The editor/mentor uses open-ended questions and positive approaches to help the author identify a publishable concept from his/her broader interests.
 - An iterative process of skill-building continues, resulting in an outline and presentable draft, which is then passed on to an expert content mentor for internal peer review.
 - The *JAACAP Connect* editorial board reviews the final submission and accepted manuscripts are moved into production.
- Beginning with Volume 2, responsibility for typesetting and production using Microsoft Publisher was transitioned from the *JAACAP Connect* editor to the *JAACAP* Editorial Office, with an anticipated production cost of approximately \$1,500 per quarterly issue, consisting primarily of staff time.



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 initiated the publication process.
 - Participants ranged in training from college graduates to advanced practitioners, but most were trainees (students, residents, fellows) or ECPs.
 - Nearly every article had at least one trainee or ECP as a coauthor; approximately 50% were authored in collaboration with more experienced colleagues.
- Approximately 90% of authorship experiences began with a phone call or personal meeting with a *JAACAP Connect* editor to help determine a topic.
- All participants who had a first call completed preliminary content outlines; 16 produced strong drafts that were eventually published after a median of 3 revisions (range 2-6). The remaining are in process or in press.
- Online usage statistics (Figure)
 - Emails about *JAACAP Connect* have higher open and click-through rates than *JAACAP* or AACAP.



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.
- Staggered editorial appointments (as summarized in the Table) can help smooth transitions, promote mentorship, and ensure the publication's longevity.
- Involvement in a publication specifically designed to promote novice, trainee, or early-career authorship can offer an accessible and welcoming point of entry into scientific writing and editing.⁵
- Future directions include:
 - Creating modules to educate novice authors on basic manuscript construction and publication skills;
 - Obtaining better information on online use (e.g. Urchin);
 - Conducting a survey of authors and readers to refine content and improve participation and engagement over time; and
 - Outsourcing production.

TABLE: Succession Plan EIC = Editor-in-Chief; TBN = To be named

| Year | JAACAP EIC | Connect Associate Ed | McDermott Assistant Ed | Connect EIC |
|------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 2015 | Martin (year 8) | TBN A (-elect, half year) | Horner | Horner |
| 2016 | Martin (year 9) | TBN A | TBN A | Horner |
| 2017 | Martin (year 10) | TBN B (-elect, half year) | TBN A | TBN A |
| 2018 | TBN (year 1) | TBN B | TBN B | TBN A |
| 2019 | TBN (year 2) | TBN C (-elect, half year) | TBN B | TBN B |
| 2020 | TBN (year 3) | TBN C | TBN C | TBN B |

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DISCLOSURES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

- MH is the 2014-2015 *JAACAP* John F. McDermott Assistant Editor-in-Residence and founding Editor of *JAACAP Connect*. She receives a travel stipend from AACAP.
- MB is Managing Editor of *JAACAP* and employed by AACAP.
- AM is Editor-in-Chief of *JAACAP* and receives an editorial and travel stipend from AACAP.
- The authors report no competing interests to disclose.
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