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Introduction to Volume 6

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Journal of Adolescent and Family Health

Volume 6

Editorial

Welcome to the *Journal of Adolescent and Family Health* (JA&FH). The sixth volume marks the successful transition of the journal from the Institute for Youth Development to the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. The journal represents an example of the interdisciplinary work supported by the College of Health, Education, and Professional Studies (CHEPS) at the (UTC). Faculty members from the seven departments of CHEPS serve as editors of the journal. Dr. Elizabeth Crawford (Education), Jessica Etheridge (Interior Design), Dr. Susan McDonald (Occupational Therapy), Dr. Jessica Peacock (Health and Human Performance), Dr. Cathy Smith (Physical Therapy), Dr. Chris Smith (Nursing), and Dr. Michael Sherr (Social Work) work together to provide a forum that mixes clinical innovation, practice wisdom, and theory, with academic rigor and excellence. Consistent with the metropolitan-engaged mission of UTC, the journal publishes articles that helping professionals and the public will find relevant and the academic community finds credible.

The purpose of JA&FH is to promote positive adolescent development and family health through the publication of original articles. The editors seek to publish a wide range of manuscripts from the basic biological and behavioral sciences to social and applied sciences, public health, policy, and evaluation of services intended to improve the lives of adolescents and families. Additionally, the editors welcome submissions from researchers and practitioners in the fields of nursing, education, interior design, health and human performance, physical therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, social work, and other related disciplines.

JA&FH is a free-online open-source journal. The journal serves as an example of the spirit of collaboration that exists between members of CHEPS, UTC, and the Chattanooga community. Generous funding from the Maclellan Foundation makes it possible to provide the journal as a free open-source resource. Brian Beise The support and interdisciplinary vision of Dean Rutledge provides the editors the in-kind support needed to produce the journal for the college. Dean Liedtka and her staff from the library provide technical support. Finally, we are grateful to Chancellor Angle and Provost Ainsworth for cultivating an environment on campus that allows such productive partnerships to form and exist.

The initial articles for the current volume highlight the diverse topics and fields relevant to promoting adolescent development and family health. Dunleavy and Thyer examined outcome studies trying to clarify the evidence-based support for the effectiveness of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for Autism Spectrum Disorders. Pooler and Jones assessed the well-being of Guardian ad Litem supervisors tasked with the responsibility of recruiting, training, and supervising court-appointed volunteers to advocate and represent the best interests of children and adolescents in family court proceedings involving allegations of abuse or neglect. Horne completed an initial evaluation of a youth program intended to promote psychosocial development and resistance to health risk behaviors. Additional articles added to the rest of the volume will surely continue to exemplify the broad interdisciplinary fields relevant to supporting adolescent and family health.

On behalf of my colleagues, we invite interested practitioners and scholars to stay abreast of recent research from the interdisciplinary fields by joining the email list for the journal. Members on the email list will receive RSS feeds when we publish new articles. Additionally, members can receive personalized “bealerts” to track newly published articles tailored to specific interests.