

Staying Connected and Maintaining Hope

As I sat down to write this introduction, I began reflecting on AACAP's 70th Annual Meeting held in New York City this past October. AACAP annual meetings have always been a mixture of euphoria and exhaustion for me. There are so many friends and colleagues to see, embrace, and check-in with, and not enough time; so much valuable educational content to consume, and not enough time; so many restaurants, social gatherings, and receptions to attend, but simply not enough time. When the flurry of the week ends and I return home to recharge, it is the sense of community and solidarity that endures. For me, solidarity with folks who are deeply concerned about the health and well-being of children and families cultivates an important source of hope. Especially in these trying times, it is important to seek out sources of hope and hold them close. I want to thank the AACAP community and readers of this journal for being a source of hope for myself and many others.

As we embark on another edition of *JAACAP Connect*, we continue our commitment to exploring innovative approaches and critical issues that shape the landscape of pediatric psychiatry. The articles in this edition not only reflect the diversity of challenges faced by children and adolescents but also underscore the constantly evolving nature of our field. Each contribution delves into distinct aspects of child mental health, offering fresh insights and strategies that hold the potential to enhance clinical practice, research, and policy. In the first article authored by Silai Mirzoy, "Parent-Child Interaction Therapy for Muslim-American Parents and Young Children" we explore the importance of culturally responsive interventions, understanding that effective mental health care must consider cultural nuances that resonate with diverse populations.

The second article, "The Implications of Loot Boxes and Their Involvement in the Possible Development

of Childhood Gambling Disorders" Drs. Arlin Bhattacharjee and Gino Mortillaro delve into the intersection of gaming, technology, and child mental health. The authors examine the impact of loot boxes on the potential development of childhood gambling disorders, shedding light on a contemporary issue that demands attention. In the third article, "Pandemic Effects on the Perception of Eating Disorder X Posts Among Adolescents and Transitional Age Youth" by Chelsea Li *et al.*, the authors examine how social media may have influenced the rise of eating disorders during the pandemic, especially for adolescents.

Turning our attention to the training of future practitioners, "Evidence-Based Practices: An Opportunity to Enhance Psychiatric Residency Training" author Rachel H. Olfson advocates for an increased emphasis on evidence-based practices, providing a roadmap for incorporating these practices into the training curriculum and discusses a specific treatment modality for complex patients. The fifth article, "Telepsychiatry and In-Person Care for Pediatric Patients During COVID-19: Patients' Perspectives" by Sultana Jahan *et al.*, investigates the experiences and perspectives of pediatric patients regarding telepsychiatry and in-person care during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the mental health-care landscape continues to adapt to new challenges, this article contributes to our understanding of patient preferences and the impact of technology on the doctor-patient relationship.

We are thrilled to bring you this edition of *Connect*, and we hope this edition stimulates further reflection, discussion, and action, fostering advancements that ultimately benefit the mental well-being of children and adolescents.

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Editor