Editorial

Open Sesame: a new generation journal

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Summary

The Royal College of Psychiatrists welcomes you to its newest peer-reviewed research journal, British Journal of Psychiatry Open (BJPsych Open), which has been created to maximise the College’s efforts to publish and disseminate the most exciting and progressive research in psychiatry and allied disciplines. BJPsych Open will maintain the same high quality standards established by the British Journal of Psychiatry (BJPsych). As an online journal without print restrictions, BJPsych Open will be able to publish many more excellent articles and article types not currently accommodated within BJPsych. The breadth of BJPsych Open is outlined in ‘What we publish’ and its strength is realised in our first issue, ‘Powerful papers’. As editors, we welcome both your submissions and comments as our new generation journal grows.

Declaration of interest

None.

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What we publish

BJPsych Open offers publication of specialist research, and articles on clinical practice, ethics, research design, informed consent and innovations in research practice, including pilot and feasibility studies that offer significant advances in knowledge. Protocols of commissioned studies that have already undergone peer review are also eligible. Furthermore, BJPsych Open aims to accommodate high-quality submissions from low- and middle-income countries that continue to be underrepresented in the best research print journals. BJPsych Open is seeking papers from multiple disciplines and traditions of mental health research and practice, ranging from the environmental, social and cultural aspects through to nosology, epidemiology, neuroscience and biological research. Studies from the worlds of economics, medical humanities, geography and the arts as well as papers that offer critical and refreshing insights into the history and philosophies of care and clinical practice are welcome. Further, BJPsych Open will selectively consider unique and well-documented case reports addressing previously unknown efficacy, adverse events, drug interactions and novel insights into pathogenesis which have an impact on clinical practice and potential further research. The highest standards of accessible and provocative thinking, academic practice and innovations will be showcased.

Why publish in BJPsych Open?

BJPsych Open will publish the most exciting and progressive research in all fields of psychiatry and allied disciplines. The journal will provide rapid peer review and decisions, leading to online publication within 28 days from acceptance. Therefore we will publish all year round, with online editions assembled quarterly. This provides greater efficiency for authors by maximising dissemination and sharing of research while maintaining the highest standards of scientific peer review and publication ethics. We anticipate publishing many different article types that are not currently accommodated within a print journal. Accepted manuscripts will be published under a Creative Commons license so permitting authors to continue to use their work freely without restriction.

Powerful papers

This first issue provides a great start. The role of informed consents and placebos in randomised controlled trials (RCTs) is a contested and underresearched area. We welcome critiques about the suitability and design of RCTs for testing interventions to improve mental health, and the alternative designs that perhaps provide more depth and information about mechanisms and contexts. The premature mortality of people with severe mental illness is now a well-established research finding, but the mechanisms, preventive interventions and personality factors require more investigation. For example, the paper by Prins et al provides new evidence of significant psychopathology for patients with asthma that is not recognised or treated, including 20% of such patients having a personality disorder. Clearly there...
are implications not only for asthma management but also for the better management of psychopathology in medical practice. Finally, Trotta et al’s study shows that parental psychosis as a measure of familial liability to psychosis and childhood adversity are each risk factors for future psychosis but do not combine or interact beyond their individual effects, suggesting different pathophysiological mechanisms.

We hope you enjoy this first issue and the benefits of publishing your best work in BJPsych Open.

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References


