

**Journal on Developmental Disabilities**  
**Le journal sur les handicaps du développement**

**Volume 11 Number 1**

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## **Editorial Policy**

The Journal on Developmental Disabilities is published twice yearly by the Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities (OADD). The Association has established the following objective for the journal:

*To foster and promote thoughtful and critical dialogue about relevant issues in the field of developmental disabilities, including those broader social issues that impact on persons with developmental disabilities.*

## **Content**

Each issue features a selection of research, conceptual, informational, and editorial papers. An issue may have a central theme. Reviews of relevant books, movies, websites, software, and other resources are welcomed, as are letters to the editor. In this way we strive to collectively enrich our understanding of issues, encourage stimulating debate among those working in the field, and improve services.

## **Language**

Submissions are invited in either French or English and, if accepted, will be printed in the language of submission with an abstract in the other language. Submissions must be free of any gender and ethnic bias. People-first language (e.g., persons with developmental disabilities) must be used throughout the manuscript (including figures and tables).

## **Editorial Process**

Each submission will undergo a peer review by two or more reviewers (typically from the Board of Editors) with relevant expertise. The authors of the manuscripts will not be identified to the reviewers. The reviewers will recommend for or against publication and provide their reasons. Reviewers are asked to judge the manuscript on several criteria including its contribution to increasing our knowledge and clarity of communication. The reviewers are asked to write in a positive and constructive manner to help the authors improve their work, if necessary. All reviews are completed within two weeks using electronic communication

### **Final Decision**

The Editor-in-Chief, or guest editor, reserves the final decision regarding publication of a submission. To promote the publication of theme issues, the Editor reserves the right to decide in which issue to publish the article if it has been accepted.

### **Copyright**

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## **Editorial**

### **Special Issue on Families of Individuals with DD**

*Rosemary A. Condillac*

TRE-ADD Program, Thistleton Regional Centre, Etobicoke, ON

I am pleased to introduce the long-awaited special issue on Families of Individuals with D.D. The articles in this issue represent years of work by many teams of researchers and thousands of volunteer hours of participation by hundreds of family members. We are grateful that parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters and guardians were very generous with their time in order to teach us more about them.

Without exception, the papers included in this issue have important clinical implications for those who support individuals with DD and their families. We have learned that there are many factors that contribute to and alleviate parenting stress, and that there are different models that can be used to help us to understand these issues. We have learned that parents of individuals with DD are a heterogeneous group, with a wide-range of coping abilities and stress levels. These parents tell us that they don't simply need more services and supports; they need the right kinds of services and supports for their stage in the family life-cycle. Similar to parents, siblings of individuals with DD are also a heterogeneous group with varying levels of understanding of their siblings' disability, and a wide-range of socio-emotional functioning. Supports and services for siblings are a necessary component of service delivery to families of individuals with DD.

In closing, I'd like to take the opportunity to call our community to action. There are many things to be done to better support the individuals with DD and their families who live in our communities, and we need to take responsibility to effect change within our circles of influence. The limited housing options for adults with DD is a great concern for their aging parents and siblings. Service providers, researchers and policy makers who are consumers of this knowledge must make a combined effort to fund, develop, and examine the effects of creative solutions to this housing crisis.

Rosemary A. Condillac

### **Author's Note**

The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Thistletown Regional Centre or the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

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