

10-2019

Editorial - October 2019

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Recommended Citation

Jordan, Sara Smock (2019) "Editorial - October 2019," *Journal of Solution Focused Practices*: Vol. 3 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/journalsfp/vol3/iss1/2>

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A New Chapter

Sara Smock Jordan

Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Solution Focused Brief Therapy*

As a doctoral student, I had the opportunity to be an editorial assistant of a top-tier scholarly journal. Within a few weeks, I knew I wanted to be an editor someday. At that time, *JSFBT* didn't exist. I remember asking myself "What journal would be interested in an editor who focused on furthering the evidence-base of SFBT?" Time passed and I entered my first academic position as an assistant professor. More time passed and I finally obtained promotion and tenure. For the first time in a while, I revisited my interest in becoming an editor.

Several years ago, I was asked to join the editorial board for the new *Journal of Solution-Focused Brief Therapy*. I was very excited and honored to be part of *JSFBT*. As a member of the *JSFBT* editorial board, I was impressed with the quality of *JSFBT* over the years. I eagerly awaited the arrival of a new issue. After a lapse in publication, I became concerned. The value of this journal is so great I didn't want to see it dissolve.

This spring, I received an email from David Hains stating that AASFBT was looking for a new editor. I have to be honest, I thought "Could this be true? Could I be someone they might be interested in for the role?" I emailed David back, trying not to sound too eager, letting him know I was interested in the position. One day, David emailed me saying that he would like me to step into the *JSFBT* editorship. I agreed. We began to talk about possibilities for how *JSFBT* could be restructured. The excitement began to grow within me. I remember thinking to myself "Is this really happening? Am I really the new editor?"

My excitement about the *JSFBT* editorship was directly connected to the importance of the journal to the SF community. In academia, publishers ask "why do we need a new journal?" In the case of *JSFBT*, the question was "why should *JSFBT* continue?" *JSFBT* is important to the international community because it provides an outlet for scholars, clinicians, and practitioners from various disciplines to share their work with others. Steve and Insoo passed before *JSFBT* was launched, however there is no doubt in my mind that they would support and encourage the continuation of the journal. Both Steve and Insoo understood the need for SFBT to be recognized as an evidence-based practice, as well as the importance of maintaining the validity of SF. I honestly believe that *JSFBT* fulfills their vision

of disseminating quality SF work and widening the evidence-base of SFBT.

When asked to be the editor of *JSFBT*, I expressed my apprehension about *JSFBT*'s sustainability. Early in our discussions, David and I began to brainstorm ideas for increasing the support for the journal. One idea was to include co-sponsors. During a zoom call about the possibility of co-sponsors, I started to become emotional; I began to cry. I became so overwhelmed with the hope and opportunity to collaborate with various organizations on an international level. Across groups, cultures, practices, and schools of thought, differences exist. Could the re-birth of *JSFBT* be a common cross-cultural thread that would join and unite individuals and groups from around the world? The excitement began to grow even more. My vision of *JSFBT* was now more than generating quality materials but bridging a community of like-minded people.

First, we developed a plan to publish a crowdfunding issue of *JSFBT*. Our intent was to generate funds for *JSFBT*'s production. We also discussed platforms for *JSFBT*. We wanted a low cost, easily manageable option, and eventually decided on an open-access platform. We discussed how we would financially support the costs associated with the journal. The AASFBT had produced the journal on a shoestring budget, but the *JSFBT* could not be sustained or grow on such a tight budget. Through many conversations, we developed a plan to have co-sponsoring organizations fund the journal. We started by asking the larger SFBT organizations to be our main co-sponsors, and over the next few months we plan to open the invitation to other smaller organizations who wish to support *JSFBT*. Needless to say, it's been a busy summer.

As *JSFBT* continues to evolve, my best hopes are the following. First, that the journal becomes more widely accessible to individuals and groups around the world. Starting in 2020, the journal will be published using an online open-access platform. This will promote a world-wide readership. In addition, our hope is to translate abstracts into various languages. Second, my hope is to widen the scope of *JSFBT*'s articles, including SF manuscripts from a wide variety of topics, populations, and disciplines. This widened scope will foster further innovations for the SF approach. Third, my hope is that the journal will further promote SFBT's recognition as an evidence-based practice. Maintaining a SF journal will greatly increase the amount of SF research generated and published. Fourth, the journal plans to be more intentional about mentoring new scholars and non-native speakers. The hope is to develop a mentoring program that will encourage individuals and groups to submit their creative ideas and work.

So, what small steps need to happen to make these best hopes possible? You! It will take a community of SF individuals who are willing to writing up their new ideas, serve on the Editorial Board, and volunteer to be ad hoc reviewers. It will also require groups/associations to donate or co-sponsor financially.

I am so honored and excited to be the new editor of *JSFBT*. Over the next few months, the editorial board and I will unveil more small steps to accomplishing these best hopes. The future looks bright and I'm thrilled to be part of this international, collaborate effort to leave

a legacy of SF materials!

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