Editorial Policy Statement

It is both an honor and a privilege to be assuming the duties of Editor of the Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences. The Journal of Gerontology was established in 1946, with the goal of providing a medium of communication concerning human growth and development. That continues to be our goal today. I am pleased to report that the journal is in excellent shape. We have seen several significant changes in the past few years, including the division of the Journals and the increased number of pages devoted to the psychological sciences. In addition, under the impressive editorship of Richard Schulz, the number of manuscripts submitted to the journal has been increasing while the number of days required to process a manuscript has decreased. We are all indebted to Dr. Schulz for his intellectual and scientific guidance, his encouragement to prospective authors, and his sound management of the journal.

I assume the responsibilities of Editor as we end the 20th century. It is clear that there has never been a more important time for the gerontological sciences or for the elderly. There are more older people than ever. As members of multigeneration families and the society at large, they are defining new boundaries for health and successful living. It is my hope that we will be able to continue to build upon our scientific base and reach out in new ways to meet the challenges we face as a science and as a society.

I urge you to help the journal continue along the path of success. This can only be achieved with the cooperation of researchers in the field. Continue to send the journal your very best manuscripts and recommend it to your colleagues. I would like to extend an invitation to all scientists conducting research in gerontology and using psychological variables to consider the Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences as their first, foremost, and primary publication venue. In my tenure as Editor I hope to increase the breadth of research published in the journal. I would very much like to see the journal include a representative sample of the vast array of high-quality research in the psychological sciences being conducted both in this country and abroad. The journal should, has, and will continue to applaud diversity in content and method. Thus, if you do psychological research but have never considered submitting your manuscripts to this journal, I encourage you to do so. This journal is committed to excellence and to publishing gerontological research from the diverse areas of psychology.

Publication is the mainstay of our profession. It is how we convey our research findings to our peers. It is how we are judged by our peers; it is often how others judge our field. It is my hope that the journal will continue to expand. In particular, I hope the journal will continue to expand in attractiveness to a broader array of researchers, to junior as well as senior researchers and to international as well as American scholars. Publishing is fundamental to what we do as scientists. If you are new to the journal or a junior author, I suggest that you identify yourself as such in your cover letter to me when submitting a manuscript. I will make every effort to facilitate the experience for you. Having your manuscript reviewed by respected scholars in the field can often, in itself, be an important learning experience.

In the main, the journal uses rather traditional formats of empirically based journal articles. However, there will continue to be the potential for less usual formats such as literature reviews, fast-breaking findings, brief reports. I will also be happy to consider the publication of a group of papers organized around a particular theme. If you are interested in any of these possibilities, please feel free to contact me about them.

As we move toward the 21st century we are all aware of the new technologies that greatly affect our work. Personal computers, word processing, electronic mail, and the Internet are very likely to change the way manuscripts are submitted, reviewed, and published. We are currently exploring ways in which these technologies can be made user-friendly without disadvantaging anyone. I have no doubt that future editorial announcements will feature updates on how these new technologies will be integrated into the publication process.

Following the lead of the biologists, I have decided to institute an award for the best publication of the year. We in the psychological sciences are doing good work. It should be recognized. Recommendations will be made by the editorial board, and details will be announced as they become available.

I am very pleased to report that my colleague Dr. Denise Park has agreed to serve as Associate Editor. Dr. Park, as many of you know, has recently joined the faculty at the University of
Michigan. We, therefore, will be able to handle all manuscripts from the same office. Dr. Park and I share a commitment to excellence in research and publication.

And finally, I would like to thank those of you who have agreed to serve on the new editorial board. As you know, journals rely on the good will, faith, and free labor of scholars who work in the field. We could not do a good job or be the leading journal in the field without your help. I extend to you my deep-felt gratitude for agreeing to serve in this role. If you are not on the Editorial Board and would like to serve as an ad hoc reviewer for the *JG:PS*, please send me your name and address, a copy of your vita, and a summary of the areas in which you feel competent to review. Psychologists in the early stages of their careers are particularly encouraged to write, both because it is considerably more difficult to identify you, and because many reviewers find it a valuable learning experience that improves their own scientific writing.

I assume the responsibilities of this position with the support and expertise of an outstanding Associate Editor, a highly committed Editorial Board, and an experienced and extremely competent GSA central office staff. With this team, I believe the journal can meet the scientific, societal, and political challenges that face the field as we move into the 21st century.

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Editor, *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*