



## *Final Notes*

### **Change in Editorial Team**

Catherine (CJ) Carter-Snell, PhD RN SANE-A DF-AFN

As some of you are aware, we have had a recent change in the Executive Committee. Dr. Paul Clements had to step back from his President workload effective June 1, 2025. Being President-elect I stepped into the role of President. I would like to thank Paul for all the excellent work, time and commitment he gave on behalf of the AFN. We are in an excellent position moving forward, as a result of Paul's leadership and the others who preceded him. Our membership continues to increase, our education and conference committees are producing excellent webinars and conferences, our committees are developing updated bylaws and policy/position statements and there is a renewed interest in networking and partnerships. There is a lot to be accomplished with these new initiatives. As a result, I need to step away from my role as Editor-in-Chief during my term following the release of this summer issue until January 2027.

The JAFN terms of reference stipulate that the Editor-in-Chief is replaced by one of the Associate Editors. All associate editors, like the Editor-in-Chief, are required to be doctorally prepared, have a record of publications and research, and preferably experience with publishing. We have three Associate Editors: Dr. Theresa Fay-Hillier, Dr. Annie Lewis-O'Connor, and Dr. Paul Clements. The JAFN editorial board proposed to the AFN Executive committee that Dr. Theresa Fay-Hillier be a Joint Editor-in-Chief in conjunction with Dr. Paul Clements effective August 15, 2025. His extensive knowledge of publishing combined with her expertise will be a good combination and reduce the workload for both. This decision was supported by the Executive Committee. This interim joint appointment will ensure we continue to have a high-quality journal which you expect.

Dr. Annie Lewis-O'Connor continues as an Associate Editor. We asked Dr. Victor Petreca, the research section editor, to step up from his section editor role to act as interim Associate Editor to support her. Dr. Jennifer Johnson remains as section editor for Practice Perspectives. Her clinical and research knowledge is valuable in that role. Teresa Devitt-Lynch is also on the editorial committee, assisting with Practice Perspectives submissions as needed. We also have the support of our amazing Marketing director, Kristi Mayo for editing and graphics.

This issue we are also introducing continuing education credits, with the assistance of our CE coordinator, Dr. Angelia Trujillo. We will be selecting at least one article per issue, recommended by the editors, for CE credit. The links are at the end of the identified article. Thank you Angelia for your assistance in this initiative and to the Board of Directors for the suggestion! We hope to hear feedback from you about the initiative, and will be tracking its' use.

I know the journal is in good hands during my leave while I fill the role of President. We are now in our third year and have had excellent readership and reception. Each issue receives >2500 reads and over 3000 downloads. Your work is being noticed.

Thank you to the JAFN Editorial Board including Kristi Mayo, AFN Executive/Board and staff, and all who have submitted to the journal. We encourage all AFN members to consider publishing with us- if you haven't published before, our team is willing to support you. As Dr. Lewis-O'Connor said, we need "all the chocolates in the box" - Clinicians to tell us what is new or innovative, and researchers to provide evidence for your hard work. We also need peer reviewers. If interested in participating as a content expert on the editorial board, please contact one of the Editors-in-Chief. You don't have to be a researcher, only skilled in your area of practice. Together we can continue to create a strong source of evidence-based information for forensic practitioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert Shull". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Albert" being more prominent than the last name "Shull".

President-AFN