

Message from Chief Editor



Chinese Mental Health

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In the last decade, mental health is one of the issues of public concern on both local, regionally and global scales. Apart from physical health, people are more aware of how mental health affects our lives. People now recognize how we perceive and feel towards ourselves and our environments influence our quality of life. Mental health is not simply interpreted as the absence of mental health problem but a condition encompassing a wide range of dimensions of well being of an individual. The Greater China is no exception. Traditionally characterized by the phenomenon of somatization among the people, Chinese communities nowadays realize the significance of mental health for people's quality of life.

In this journal issue, we have chosen the theme of "Chinese Mental Health".

We are happy to see more papers coming from front-line mental health practitioners (i.e., psychiatrists, nurses, social workers, etc.) in addition to scholars. One of the missions of the journal is to provide a platform for communication and exchange among mental health professionals. This issue fulfils this by connecting contributions from Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. As the chief editor of the journal, I hope that this is only a kick-off of a series of exchange of mental health knowledge and experiences among Chinese societies. While not discounting the

important contribution from the West, we believe that such exchange can engender indigenous knowledge which will in turn enrich our understanding of mental health at a higher level.

In this issue, two papers are contributed by Mainland China authors who do a very good job to help us understand the recent mental health issues and development on the mainland. One paper is from scholars in Taiwan, which reviews and discusses comprehensively the social work practicum supervision system in mental health field there. It clearly identifies the strengths and limitations of the system and the areas that need further development. There are also papers from Hong Kong, covering evidence-based research to illustrate and evaluate the practice models/approaches in the local service sectors. Two of them are from professionals in hospitals, representing the encouraging trend that practitioners with a research mind-set integrate theory and practice and produce empirical evidence.

Our journal will continuously serve as a channel for mental health professionals to exchange views and experience. Your support provides the dynamism for us to strive for a higher standard of excellence. We welcome submissions from scholars and practitioners alike to enrich mental health knowledge both locally and regionally.