



William A. Carlezon, Jr., Ph.D., DPN Principal Editor

### ***NPP-Digital Psychiatry and Neuroscience (DPN): Year 1 Update***

NPP-Digital Psychiatry (DPN)—ACNP’s new Open Access, Online-only journal—celebrated its first anniversary on August 15, 2024. We celebrate numerous accomplishments. Foremost, we are pleased to report a strong Year-1 portfolio covering a diverse range of digitally-oriented topics and article-types (see <https://www.nature.com/dpn>). Most of the article-types are familiar: Original Reports, Reviews, Commentaries (1000 words), Perspectives (mini-reviews; 2000 words). However, we have also launched some article-types that are new and reflect evolving interests and practices in scientific publishing. As one example, DPN publishes Registered Reports, which are articles where the plan for a study (often involving research in humans, or large-scale meta-analyses) is first reviewed before the research is initiated. Registered Reports proceed according to a 2-stage process, beginning with peer review of the proposed research plan. If reviewers find the plan scientifically sound, the Stage 1 submission is accepted, representing a commitment to accept the Stage 2 submission (the actual research report) regardless of outcome, provided that it meets DPN (and ACNP) standards for quality. These types of reports are intended to reduce bias while opening a clear path for research that is innovative and rigorously-conducted but may provide negative results (i.e., hypothesis not supported, statistical significance not achieved despite adequate power). We have also launched “Primers”, which are exceptionally short (2-page) articles designed to teach a new and emerging concept to the research community. These articles embody an important mission of the journal: to increase alignment between psychiatry and neuroscience. Ideally, a “Primer” will introduce a psychiatry concept to the neuroscience community, or conversely, a neuroscience concept to the researchers who treat or study psychiatric conditions in humans. They are brief and include

descriptions of Key Attributes, High-Impact Applications (past or prospective), and Current Limitations and Aspirations. We recently published our first Primer, which describes a machine learning-based approach that was originally developed to quantify the microstructure of social behavior in rodent models systems. We are actively seeking suggestions or nominations for future Primers (see <https://www.nature.com/dpn/contact>). Due to the nuances of the article structure, Primers are currently “by invitation only”, but the DPN team is happy to work with authors to explore topics and devise a maximally-effective presentation style.

Another notable accomplishment for Year 1 is listing in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). This is a form of journal accreditation that enhances credibility for librarians and funders by signifying adherence to high standards of open access publishing and quality control, which in turn increases visibility of the journal to authors and readers. This is an early but important step in the process of DPN officially acquiring a Journal Impact Factor score. In addition, we recently established our first journal awards program. Called the DPN Editors’ New Investigator Waiver Award, this program offers an opportunity to waive the article processing charge (APC; currently \$2090) for new investigators who recently established their independent research programs and wish to publish their manuscript in DPN. Qualifying for this award requires a brief application process to ensure eligibility, and awards are only bestowed for articles that are accepted after peer review (<https://www.nature.com/dpn/announcements>). We recently completed our first round of invitations and anticipate opening another round before the end of 2024. Finally, DPN is delighted to be an official sponsor for the Technology in Psychiatry Summit (TIPS) (<https://tips.societyconference.com/v2/>), which in 2024 will be held as a satellite conference of the ACNP Annual Meeting.

As always, we are eager for feedback and suggestions. This journal belongs to the members of ACNP, and the entire team working to build and shape this new journal—our editors, interns, staff, and publisher—looks forward to making it maximally useful to our community and beyond.

William A. Carlezon Jr., Ph.D., on behalf of the DPN team