

Editorial Comment: From the Guest Editor

Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics, Volume 7, Number 1 (2010)
Copyright 2010, White Hat Communications

This text may be freely shared among individuals, but it may not be republished in any medium without express written consent from the authors and advance notification of White Hat Communications

Five timely and thought provoking papers have been compiled for this special issue of the JSWVE. These papers have the potential to stimulate renewed debate and discussion of research ethics in our classrooms and conferences.

Alan Barsky, for example, goes beyond the traditional rules-based approach to promoting ethical research that is presented in most texts and ethics trainings. Instead, he promotes an approach to the ethical conduct of research that is based on the promotion of virtues. Barsky's paper warrants discussion of: the contrast and merits of the rules-based and virtues ethics approaches, the particular virtues that we should pursue in the ethical conduct of social work research, as well as the means to implement a *virtues* ethics approach.

Ethical issues related to methodological issues are presented in two papers. Patrick Dattalo discusses important considerations in sampling that are relevant to our current era of evidence-based practice and the promotion of randomized controlled trials as the gold standard of research. Dattalo's paper presents alternative research designs and rationales for their use. Martin Bloom, the well-known advocate of single system designs in social work introduces the concept of *evaluation-informed specific practice* and discusses it in the context of evidence-based general practice and client-centered practice.

The final two papers take a critical look at populations that are largely invisible or neglected in social work research. Kelly Jackson outlines considerations for social work research with the growing population of multiracial individuals. Alyson Shapiro and I examine the coverage of fathers in family-focused social work research and call for their inclusion not only as a topic, but as actual participants in research.

Thank you to the editors of JSWVE, Stephen Marson and Jerry Finn, who saw the need to provide a forum to discuss ethical issues

in social work research. Thank you also to the contributing authors for their creativity and patience in the review process, and to the many reviewers who I relied upon to provide hours of service. Finally, to you the reader, I hope that you will be part of the ongoing dialogue in these areas. If you have a perspective to share, please write to me or the journal editors.

Judy Krysik, Arizona State University
Guest Editor