

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The recent decade has fostered an amazing advancement in addiction research, yet we are still far from understanding the entire spectrum of consequences associated with fetal exposure to addictive substances and how to prevent them from happening. This knowledge gap exists despite global multi-disciplinary research and millions of dollars invested in addiction biochemistry, neurology and psychology. Cognizant of the matter, our new journal is designed to attract and showcase novel data regarding the most common teratogenic drug of abuse – alcohol.

This dedicated publication venue is not meant to replace existing journals but rather allow the community of clinicians and scientists who are interested in the clinical implications of fetal alcohol research findings to prioritize discussions concerning risk stratification and prevention of fetal alcohol harm.

Over the years several key assumptions had been challenged in our field and one that is most fascinating addresses the role of parental contribution to the fetal alcohol spectrum of clinical findings and outcomes. Once attributed solely to the molecular toxicity of alcohol, it is now becoming more evident that FASD has strong associations to parental mental health and the early years exposure to parental behaviours. As the pendulum swings, we may see a gradual shift from defining alcohol as a toxin exclusively to viewing it also as a biomarker of parental distress so profound that its impact crosses from generation to generation.

I congratulate the authors who have joined us for this exciting journey and have contributed their science to the launching issue of the *Journal of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Risk and Prevention*. I expect to see an ongoing involvement and interest of the entire medical community in this rapidly growing research area, and most importantly I am sincerely hoping that our joint effort will have a positive impact on the lives of our patients and their families.



Tom Leibson, Editor-in-Chief
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
University of Toronto
Academic Pediatrician, Mother-Baby
Unit at Mount Sinai Hospital