Cognitive and Behavioral Practice
Special Series “Applications of Cognitive and Behavioral Therapy in Response to COVID-19”

Guest Editors:
Nikolaos Kazantzis, Ph.D.
nikolaos@nikolaoskazantzis.com

Carmen P. McLean, Ph.D.
Carmen.McLean4@va.gov

Susan Sprich, Ph.D.
SSPRICH@mgh.harvard.edu

Matthew Carper, Ph.D.
matthew_carper@brown.edu

It is clear that the corona virus (COVID-19) is having a devastating health, economic, and social impact on our international communities. What is less clear are the short- and long-term mental health repercussions of exposure and fear of exposure to the virus, illness and death of loved ones, prolonged social isolation, and financial strain. Some members of our community, such as older adults, may be experiencing greater social isolation and have unique concerns related to the uptake of technology that younger populations may not have. There are also equally alarming disparities in impact among racially defined and culturally defined groups.

As countries around the world grapple with the immediate issues of preserving life, sustaining their economies, and supporting the wellbeing of their citizens, mental health professionals will be needed more than ever.

Evidence based psychotherapies can help us to shine a light through these dark times.

The goal of this special series in Cognitive and Behavioral Practice is to bring together guidance that is practically useful for clinicians in supporting the community’s response to COVID-19. Consistent with the aims, scope, and mission set by Dr. Brian Chu’s Editorial team, we are interested in studies of innovative treatments and service delivery modes in response to the pandemic (i.e., development, feasibility, acceptability, initial outcomes). C&B is a practitioner- oriented journal; we are interested in studies of treatment outcome and other data-based manuscripts as long as these are presented in the context of rich clinical descriptions (e.g., case vignettes, video demonstrations, and therapist guidelines). We also encourage review articles and commentaries with focus on clinical practice implementation that compliment empirical submissions.
Our goal is to represent the perspectives of research-focused, education-focused, and practice-focused readers of the journal. Authors or author groups with questions about potential submissions are invited to contact the Guest Editor team identified above.

Those manuscripts selected for further consideration will be peer reviewed and fast-tracked for publication if accepted. We will strive to provide editorial decision letters (i.e., first decision of revise and resubmit, accept, reject) within two weeks of completed submission. Authors will be expected to revise manuscripts promptly. Accepted articles will be posted online within a short time frame and prioritized for publication.

Topics may include:

- Development, feasibility, acceptability, or initial outcomes of specific CBT interventions for COVID-19 impact
- Applications of CBT to videoconference or telephone delivered care
- Innovative e-health platforms for CBT interventions
- Work with disadvantaged communities, including recommendations for overcoming inequalities among community groups that may be defined by their gender, racial, and cultural identification, or sexual orientation
- Dissemination of CBTs to support persons across the lifespan (e.g., older adult populations) as well as specialty populations (e.g., emergency responders)

Manuscript submission portal: https://www.editorialmanager.com/candbp
Manuscript preparation enquires: Bonnie Brown, RN (Editorial Assistant): bonnieb@bu.edu

UPDATE:

This is an unprecedented time for our communities and we feel there is much work to be done to support mental health professionals who draw on cognitive and behavioral therapies as modalities to support their clients. There has been strong interest in the Cognitive and Behavioral Practice special series in response to COVID-19. **We wish to advise that the deadline for submissions to this C&BP special series is open and not fixed, but we do hope to have received submissions by the end of August.** We will be able to review and offer editorial decisions, including decisions to accept and publish at a rapid rate, and manuscripts will receive Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) upon acceptance and prior to the submission appearing in the journal. While we are working to offer rapid decisions, and we already have issued first decisions on selected submissions, these are ultimately subject to the rate of peer review and may be greater than 7 days.

**IMPACT STATEMENT:**

The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been classified as a pandemic by the World Health Organization and has had a significant indirect impact on the scholarly work of our CBT community. Those with primary childcare responsibilities have had the additional strain of home-schooling and the incoming editorial team for C&BP recognizes that individuals in primary parenting roles will have had a reduction in their research productivity and writing output. The incoming editorial team for the journal therefore wishes to offer support and extra allowances to authors in this position, and invites communications that include expression of need and requests for assistance. Those seeking
assistance should submit a short (200 word) request to any of the Guest Editors listed above. This is a statement of relevance to the response to COVID-19 special series, but also applies to all new manuscript submissions to C&BP.