Call for Submissions

Journal of Pediatric Psychology:
Special Issue on Adherence: A Tribute to Dennis Drotar
Guest Editors: Avani C. Modi, Ph.D., Kevin A. Hommel, Ph.D., and Ahna L. Pai, Ph.D.

Background
The World Health Organization¹, National Institutes of Health and various scientific consensus statements have identified treatment adherence²-⁴, defined as the extent to which patients take their medication/treatment as prescribed, as a significant and highly prevalent problem for children with chronic conditions, which affect 20-30% of all youth. With advances in medicine and technology, it is well established that treatment regimens for pediatric chronic illness are now more complex, burdensome, and difficult for families to manage consistently and effectively⁵,⁶. Research across pediatric chronic conditions indicates that the rate of nonadherence is approximately 50%, with rates being even worse in adolescents and young adults⁶,⁷. In light of the serious negative consequences of nonadherence, it is critical to assess and treat nonadherence in pediatric populations. This is especially salient during childhood as this is the time during which critical lifelong health-related behaviors become established⁸. Many children will continue to have chronic diseases and develop additional medical comorbidities into adulthood. Additionally, as new treatments have been developed for chronic conditions, this has presented new opportunities for adherence promotion as these treatments do not preclude the necessity of adherence. Thus, further understanding of adherence behaviors over time, as well as adherence in the context of multiple conditions and novel therapies is a high priority area for further research.

Dr. Dennis Drotar was a nationally recognized leader and teacher, with many significant achievements, including past president of the Society of Pediatric Psychology (SPP) and Society of Developmental Pediatrics (SDBP), past editor of the Journal of Pediatric Psychology (JPP), and recipient of the Distinguished Service Award and the Martin P. Levin Mentorship Award from the Society of Pediatric Psychology. While Dr. Drotar had a broad array of research interests, he was a pioneer in the area of treatment adherence, with numerous publications, books, and grants in this area. This special issue is a tribute to his legacy in adherence research.

Details
The aim of this special issue is to highlight research examining adherence to treatment in pediatric chronic diseases. We highly encourage manuscripts that focus on 1) novel adherence measurement (e.g., biomarkers, technology-focused methods), 2) impact of adherence on health and patient-reported outcomes, 3) development and testing of high impact, innovative interventions to improve adherence, 4) cultural, economic, and health care disparities in adherence, 5) developmental influences, risks, and protective factors in treatment adherence, 6) economic evaluation of adherence interventions, and 7) the translation of adherence research into clinical practice. We expect manuscripts to highlight implications of the results for practitioners, researchers, and/or policy makers. We will accept a variety of manuscripts, including original research, systemic reviews, commentaries and historical analyses.

Submissions for this special issue will be accepted until February 1, 2018. Papers should be prepared in compliance with JPP’s Instructions to Authors (https://academic.oup.com/jpepsy) and submitted through the ScholarOne Manuscript Central™ submission portal (http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jpepsy). Manuscripts will be peer reviewed. Papers that are not appropriate for inclusion in this special issue may be rerouted (with the authors’ knowledge and consent) for consideration for publication in JPP as regular papers.
Please indicate in the cover letter accompanying your manuscript that you would like to have the paper considered for the Special Issue on Adherence: A Tribute to Dennis Drotar.

Please direct all inquiries to Avani Modi (avani.modi@cchmc.org).