

## Advancing the international perspective in behavioural medicine and health psychology: a response to Dr. Keith Petrie

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As a Canadian who has lived and worked in the US for almost 20 years, I am certainly well-aware of the phenomenon that Dr. [Petrie \(2007\)](#) described in his recent article titled “The invisibility of international health psychology research.” And, I agree with his basic premise that, historically, a number of high profile behavioral medicine and health psychology journals seem to be underrepresented in terms of papers that originate outside of the US. In fact, increasing the proportion of such papers was a goal that I set for myself when I took over the role of Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Behavioral Medicine* in 2005. However, I must admit that it was not my first priority; my most important goals were to introduce an online electronic submission system, to reduce the journal’s lag-times for editorial decisions and publication of accepted manuscripts, and to develop a board of Associate Editors where none had previously existed. Although I might have done a better job of anticipating Dr. Petrie’s concerns by recruiting Associate Editors from around the world, it is perhaps not surprising that I chose instead to recruit people that I knew best to ensure that the aforementioned goals could be achieved.

It is important to note that the *Journal of Behavioral Medicine* has always been an international journal open to submissions from scientists all over the world. In the three years that I have been Editor-in-Chief, 39% of our submissions have been from outside of the US, 26% of our reviews have been conducted by non-US reviewers, and 26% of the articles that we have published have included non-US authors. Further, 40% of the articles that will appear in 2007 were contributed by authors from outside of the US, reflecting a growing proportion of international papers. As an aside, it is worth noting that papers that originate from the US do not necessarily include only American authors. Because people such as Dr. Petrie and I come from all over the world to live and work in the US as students, post-docs, and faculty, it is often the case that publications have been informed and benefited from an



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international perspective even though the paper may identify an American institution as the author’s affiliation.

Given the above statistics I hope that Dr. Petrie would agree that we are moving in the right direction. Nonetheless, I do believe that the time is right to prioritise the goal of increasing the international face of the *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*. We currently have two Associate Editors from outside of the US (Linda Cameron, University of Auckland and Tavis Campbell, University of Calgary), but I would like to see this proportion grow. To that end, I extend an open invitation to colleagues who would like to serve as a reviewer for the journal and who may be interested in earning a position as an Associate Editor. Interested parties are encouraged to contact me by email ([france@ohio.edu](mailto:france@ohio.edu)) and to provide a copy of their curriculum vitae along with a brief description of their primary areas of expertise.

### References

- Petrie, K. (2007). The invisibility of international health psychology research. *The European Health Psychologist*, 9, 50-52.

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