

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue: Family Assessment in Pediatric Psychology

Issue Editors: Lamia P. Barakat and Melissa A. Alderfer

Historically, the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology* has propelled research examining family functioning and family influences to child health conditions through special issues focused on families and other systems (Kazak (Ed.), 1997), assessment in pediatric psychology (La Greca & Lemanek (Eds.), 1996), and most recently, evidence-based assessment in pediatric psychology (Cohen, La Greca, Blount, Kazak, Holmbeck, & Lemanek (Eds.), 2008). Research focused specifically on family assessment in pediatric psychology remains sparse, however, particularly in terms of evaluation of family functioning measures in the pediatric context and the development of pediatric-specific family measures for clinical and/or research purposes. Consistent with the demarcation of the section on family influences and adaptation as an area of focus for the journal (Barakat, 2007) and recent recommendations regarding the importance of further development of family measures for use in pediatric psychology research (Alderfer et al., 2008), the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology* requests papers for a special issue on Family Assessment in Pediatric Psychology. This special issue actively encourages the dissemination of

research regarding the development, evaluation, and use of family measures within pediatric contexts.

The goals of the special issue are to: a) promote the development and refinement of family assessment measures that will better elucidate family interaction patterns that promote resilience and enhance quality of life in pediatric populations; and b) highlight measures that might be incorporated into ongoing descriptive research focused on family variables as resistance factors or family-focused intervention research aiming to improve adaptation, adherence, and quality of life. Of interest is innovative research documenting the psychometric properties and utility of the standard measures of family functioning in pediatric versus non-ill samples and studies reporting on the development of and unique information that can be gleaned from pediatric-specific family measures. Submissions spanning the contexts of clinical evaluation, descriptive research, and treatment outcomes are encouraged. Particular attention will be given to manuscripts that incorporate unique approaches to the use of multiple informants and multiple methods of assessment.

The deadline for receipt of manuscripts is September 30, 2009. Manuscripts should be written in APA format, following guidelines by the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*. Inquiries regarding potential topics may be directed to Lamia Barakat (barakat@email.chop.edu) and Melissa Alderfer (alderfer@email.chop.edu).