Chief Editor's Introduction

Dr. Hamada Hamid Altalib

In Volume 14 Issue 1 of the Journal of Muslim Mental Health (JMMH) we continue to publish timely work to better understand and address the mental health needs of Muslim communities in the US and around the world. Although Black Muslims constitute a fifth of all US Muslims according to Pew Research Center, the experiences of Black Muslims and particularly Black Muslim women are underrepresented in the academic literature. The first article “Black Muslim Women’s Use of Spirituality and Religion as Domestic Violence Coping Strategies” by Olubunmi Basirat Oyewuwo, PhD examines the intersectionality of gender, race, and religion and how these forces inform how American Black Muslim women cope with domestic violence. While the themes of help seeking of religious leaders and spiritual coping are highlighted in article, the participants’ detailed reports are striking. Psychosocial and economic support for women of color is lacking and the research demonstrates the potential positive role of spiritual resources and the need for economic support.

Over the years, JMMH has dedicated space to publishing tools for conducting research in Muslim communities. The purpose of highlighting these articles and making them a research priority is to continue to sharpen the metrics and scales researchers draw on. In this issue the article titled “The Psychometric Properties of Attitudes Toward Seeking Professional Psychological Help Scale-Short Form in Jordanian University Students” by Rayan et al offers a validated a 6-item social distance scale and a 10-item attitudes toward psychological help scale used in an Arabic speaking student population.

Occasionally, JMMH publishes special articles in the field of forensic mental health and/or Islamic Law. Amber Haque, PhD provides an overview of mental health policy development, cultural practices, and Islamic law in his article “Mental Health Laws and Reflections on Culture: The Case of United Arab Emirates”.

This issue of JMMH reflects the diverse challenges and developments that touch the Muslim populations globally. On behalf of the editorial board we thank the peer reviewers for their contribution and congratulate the authors for their important work.