Call for Nominations

The Board of Directors of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has recently approved the transformation of Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups into a scholarly review journal, which will go into effect on January 1, 2019. Perspectives is currently identified as a newsletter, one that was formally acknowledged as being peer reviewed as of January 2017. However, because of the increasing need for the advancement of knowledge translation in the discipline, the Board has determined that members, affiliates, and students can most effectively be served by a scholarly review journal that is more intently focused on bridging the gap from research to practice.

In discussing the opportunity presented by this new direction, the ASHA Board of Special Interest Group Coordinators (BSIGC) has carefully considered the nature of the leadership required to make this transformation a success. As a scholarly review journal, Perspectives will require keen attention to the development and execution of content strategies aligned with identified needs related to both research and professional practice. That strategic guidance is to be provided in part through the addition of four editors-in-chief (EICs) to the editorial roster.

As you can imagine, the transformative nature of all of this change will demand a collegial spirit and a desire to blaze new trails, in addition to the requisite subject matter expertise and ability to ensure that all involved are well-calibrated on any new processes and approaches that are involved. If you are interested in exploring the opportunity to become one of the four EICs for Perspectives, we encourage you to review the full details of the position as covered on the subsequent pages of this letter and submit an online application that includes your curriculum vitae or resume and a vision statement(s) indicating how as EIC you would seek to help advance the SIGs’ mission of bridging research to practice.

Although the official duties of the EIC will not begin until January 1 of 2019, there will be participation required in 2018 to ensure that editorial boards are properly constituted and calibrated in advance of that launch date, so please consider those needs when determining whether your schedule will allow for this service. Importantly, in 2018 the ASHA’s Journals Board will meet on April 3 & 4 and it is critical that the four incoming EICs for Perspectives be available to attend that meeting, which will be held at ASHA’s National Office. The term of service for each of the four new EICs will vary so that they do not all rotate off at the same time. Accordingly, one EIC will be assigned to a 2-year term, two EICs will be assigned to 3-year terms, and one EIC will be assigned to a 4-year term. If you decide to apply, please state your preference and note that the BSIGC will make the final determination of which EIC is assigned to which term length.

If you have any questions concerning these positions, please contact Mike Cannon, director, Serial Publications and Editorial Services (mcannon@asha.org) or Jeanane Ferre, chair, Board of Special Interest Group Coordinators (jmfphd@comcast.net). They would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the nature of the role. Given that we are seeking to have EIC positions all set by early
January of 2018, we can take applications through November 30, 2017. Voting by the BSIGC will take place mid-December.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Overview of Perspectives
Whereas for many years each SIG published its own Perspectives newsletter, the individual titles were consolidated in 2016 into a single publication titled Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups. Perspectives is now “continually published,” meaning each volume has an issue for each SIG that is open from January 1 through December 31 of the year (more details on this approach can be found at http://perspectives.pubs.asha.org/ss/about_perspectives.aspx).

Currently, each issue has an editor who works with an editorial review committee to review submissions and assemble and publish up to four “parts” per year for the issue, with each part accompanied by a continuing education exercise. As a scholarly review journal, nothing will change in terms of the mechanics of that publishing approach. Instead, the focus will be on the continued evolution of the content itself and the roles of the individuals involved in its development.

Establishing Editorial Boards
Because 19 SIGs are currently represented in Perspectives, the journal will be overseen by multiple editors-in-chief (EICs). Each EIC will manage a group of four to six Perspectives issues spanning related areas of the discipline and/or the population/setting covered, and each issue will continue to have its own editor.

Thus, Perspectives will have four EICs, 19 editors (one editor for each SIG), and a number (yet to be determined) of editorial board members (EBMs) who will be the individuals who conduct most of the reviews for each SIG (along with ad hoc reviewers).

EICs will oversee SIG issue groupings as follows:

EIC Group 1
1. SIG 1, Language Learning and Education
2. SIG 4, Fluency and Fluency Disorders
3. SIG 5, Craniofacial and Velopharyngeal Disorders
4. SIG 12, Augmentative and Alternative Communication
5. SIG 16, School-Based Issues

EIC Group 2
1. SIG 2, Neurogenic Communication Disorders
2. SIG 3, Voice and Voice Disorders
3. SIG 13, Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (Dysphagia)
4. SIG 15, Gerontology
5. SIG 19, Speech Science

EIC Group 3
1. SIG 6, Hearing and Hearing Disorders: Research and Diagnostics
2. SIG 7, Aural Rehabilitation and Its Instrumentation
Unlike in the editorial board model for the other ASHA journals, the *Perspectives* EICs will typically not be directly involved in assigning incoming manuscripts to editors. Authors will continue to submit manuscripts directly to the SIG issue in which they would like to publish, and those submissions will go directly to the serving editor, who will then assign them to EBMs or ad hoc reviewers as applicable. When completed reviews of manuscripts are then received, the editor will render a decision, typically only involving the EIC when there is a dispute or widely differing opinions from the EBMs or reviewers that cannot be readily resolved.

Because there are already editors serving in that capacity for all issues, and because only some of those editorial terms will be set to end on December 31, 2018, the number of editors that will need to be recruited in 2018 will vary by EIC. ASHA will work directly with EICs throughout 2018 to ensure that the full complement of editors is in place and ready to serve in 2019.

Likewise, ASHA will work with EICs and editors to ensure that the full roster of EBMs is in place for 2019. Each editor will have a number of EBMs assigned to him or her, with the number based in part on the volume of submissions received in the preceding 2 years. In some cases, individuals currently serving on a SIG *Perspectives* editorial review committee may have a term ending in 2018 or may choose not to continue as an EBM in the new model; in those cases, the currently serving or incoming editor (as applicable) will work with you and ASHA to ensure that any vacancies are filled in advance of 2019.

**Key Roles of the *Perspectives* EICs**

Absent the need to triage and assign submissions on a regular basis, the focus of the EICs will instead be on working collaboratively with the SIG issue editors in the EIC’s group to assess the prevailing needs in those areas and recruit and plan future submissions accordingly.

Planning and recruitment efforts will also be done in keeping with the strategic needs of the journal as determined through consultation with the fellow EICs of both *Perspectives* and the other ASHA journals and through work with the ASHA Journals Board and the BSIGC. It is important to stress, however, that although the EIC is empowered to guide and oversee a group of *Perspectives* issues, the range of subject areas covered in each group and the closeness of editors and EBMs to both the content and clinical practice contexts from which it stems or to which it pertains demands that content strategy development be truly bidirectional in nature rather than “top down.”

In addition to the focus on content planning and recruitment, the *Perspectives* EIC will have oversight and editorial board calibration duties very similar to those of the EICs for the other ASHA journals. These
include periodic check-ins with the editors, regular monitoring of their performance in terms of quality and timeliness of peer reviews, and recruitment and onboarding (supported by ASHA staff) of new editors.

It is envisioned that this collaborative content development approach will also expand editors’ work with authors on content enrichment approaches (e.g., multimedia, supplemental materials, interviews) that maximize the knowledge translation potential of articles, improve author engagement, and add value for SIG affiliates.

Major Duties of Perspectives EICs

- Guides—through close collaboration with editors and the other EICs—the strategic priorities for his or her group of Perspectives issues;
- Advises on and participates in the recruitment of content (forums, supplements, individual articles);
- Ensures that the editors and editorial board members receive the necessary training and ongoing mentoring to optimally perform their functions;
- Works with editors to ensure that the editorial boards are functioning optimally to achieve the strategic aims of the publication in terms of peer review and affiliate engagement (e.g., in regard to content planning, timeliness, volume produced, and calibration on level of review);
- Handles disputes and ethical issues;
- Advises on policy considerations (including methods for reconsideration of rejected manuscripts, conflict of interest and disclosure, allegations of scientific misbehavior and misconduct);
- Consults on knowledge translation/enrichment strategies and opportunities (e.g., identification of articles for broader coverage/promotion);
- Works with editors and EBMs to identify strategies for eliciting input from affiliates regarding clinical practice implementation of Perspectives content, including perceived obstacles and challenges of implementation (and in turn, these challenges will be shared with Perspectives authors/researchers so that they might be addressed in future studies);
- Works with the other Perspectives EICs to identify and develop themes or content that cuts across the SIGs;
- Consults and collaborates with editors on achieving the right mix of editorial and peer-reviewed content across the issues overseen, including writing editorials;
- Serves as a full voting member of the ASHA Journals Board and interacts with the six EICs of ASHA’s four other journals on matters of mutual interest to promote the overall quality of the ASHA Journals Program;
- Serves on the BSIGC (as nonvoting consultants) and interacts with the 19 SIG coordinators on matters of mutual interest related to the utility of Perspectives for advancing affiliate engagement and executing the journal’s mission of bridging research to practice.
Requirements for Perspectives EIC Service

| **Number** | Four people (each overseeing Perspectives issues for a minimum of four and a maximum of six SIGs) will serve concurrently as EICs. |
| **ASHA Membership Status** | ASHA membership in good standing is required; ASHA certification is not required. |
| **SIG Affiliate Status** | At least one SIG affiliation is required from among the SIG Perspectives that the EIC is to oversee. Prior volunteer experience with the SIG program is considered a highly desirable, but not necessarily required qualification. |
| **Term** | Ultimately, each EIC will serve a 3-year term. However, the initial cohort of EICs will have 2-year, 3-year, and 4-year terms so that the terms are staggered. A person may be appointed to a subsequent 3-year term, but not consecutively, for any Perspectives EIC position. |
| **Budget** | Each EIC will be reimbursed up to $5,000 per year to support content recruitment and development efforts (e.g., via conferences) and/or to provide resources for administrative support needed for the EIC to perform the duties of the position. This money cannot be used as salary. |
| **Workload** | The EIC is responsible for the effective functioning of the editorial board for each of the SIG Perspectives issues he or she oversees. The EIC handles disputes and unusual situations related to peer reviews, but the EIC does not generally perform reviews unless special circumstances dictate the need to do so, such as managing conflicts of interest. |