

editorial - response

One step up

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I was delighted to see Christopher France's reply (this issue) as the editor of *Journal of Behavioral Medicine* to [my editorial](#) on the invisibility of international health psychology research. He has clearly also seen the potential benefits for increasing the engagement of international health psychologists with his journal.

The defensive response of Christensen and Kaplan (this issue) was harder to fathom. Firstly, it is important to say that nowhere in my editorial did I claim that their journals were biased or in any way discriminated against publishing non-US contributions. The fact that they don't publish as many international papers as *Psychosomatic Medicine* is a matter of record, but there may be many reasons for this. My editorial was trying to comment on why this may be the case.

I did however point out that the make up of their editorial boards is largely North American. If anything their response underlines this. No more so than their statement pointing out that there are actually five *Annals of Behavioral Medicine* editorial board members "from non-US institutions" – in fact four of these are from Canada and one is from Australia. This means only one of the journal's 40 or so editorial board members is from outside North America. This to me looks as international as the major league baseball World Series.

Their comparison with general journals from Australia, Germany and Canada also is spurious. It would be more reasonable to compare their journals to other health psychology publications such as the *British Journal of Health Psychology* or *Psychology and Health*. A glance at the compositions of these journals' editorial boards (Google "editorial board" and the journal name) does show up the weakness of their argument.

While the policy of *Annals* and *Health Psychology* is clearly unlikely to change in the near future, I believe changes towards adopting a more international



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perspective are inevitable. Greater use of electronic databases and internet access to the journals means these changes will come eventually and the field as a whole will benefit from an increased visibility of European and other international health psychologists.

References

- France, C.R. (2007). Advancing the international perspective in behavioural medicine and health psychology: a response to Prof. Keith Petrie. *The European Health Psychologist*, 9, 66.
- Kaplan, R.M. & Christensen, A.J. (2007). The internationalization of the editorial process: a response to Keith Petrie. *The European Health Psychologist*, 9, 64-65.

If any of the pieces in this or past issues of the **European Health Psychologist** have inspired you to want to write a reply, please contact the editorial team!

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