

From the Editor...

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Dear JSESD Readers and Supporters,

The Journal of Science Education for Students with Disabilities (JSESD) has been through several periods of transition, but has remained a venue for the dissemination of research and practice related to the education of students with disabilities in the science classroom and laboratory since 1998. Volumes #1 through 11 were published in a print format. Starting with Volume #12, the journal has been published online and Open Access. We have experienced a period of maturation since moving the journal to this format as we shifted from different journal management systems. I do believe that the journal has stabilized in its current form. Further, I feel that the journal is beginning to experience a stage of growth. Already in Volume #19, we have seen a substantial increase in the number of submissions (and in my opinion, most manuscripts have been of very high quality). However, the journal still enthusiastically seeks new manuscript submissions. As such, we are asking the journal's readership to assist us in advertising the journal. If you are familiar with individuals who might be interested in submitting a manuscript, please pass along the *JSESD* author link provided below. We are especially interested in articles on science education for students with varying types of disabilities and at a full range of grade

levels (K-12 and postsecondary). Also, with the recent increase in manuscript submission rates, one of the largest challenges to the journal is the solicitation of peer-reviewers/referees for manuscripts. Please [email](#) me if you'd be willing to be considered for future reviewing assignments.

Having *JSESD* in the Open Access format maximizes access for readers and authors and allows the journal to remain economically sustainable. The journal is currently hosted by *bepress Digital Commons*. The journal management system is maintained by the very talented group at RIT's Scholarly Publishing Studio led by Nicholas Paulus. This team has proved to be indispensable in the sustained publication of *JSESD*.

A couple reminders:

- The journal will reside online and free-of-charge on Rochester Institute of Technology's (RIT) Wallace Library server, and can be found at <http://scholarworks.rit.edu/jsesd/>.
- Online submissions are preferred at <http://scholarworks.rit.edu/jsesd/>. However, submissions can still be sent to the editor (tepnts@rit.edu).

I am pleased that the average time from

manuscript submission to the first decision for the recent volume (#18) was 31 days. I am grateful to all of the manuscript reviewers who submitted timely reviews. The journal cannot have success without the efforts of these peer-reviewers.

I know that there is a considerable amount of high quality scholarship that is being conducted in the field of science education for students with disabilities. *JSESD* remains a mechanism for the dissemination of such efforts/work.

As always, we appreciate your support in maintaining *JSESD* as a quality peer-reviewed journal.

Sincerely,

Todd Pagano

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About the JSESD logo/cover:

Cathy Chou (Prof. of Imaging Arts & Sciences at RIT/NTID) created the *JSESD* cover. The background DNA image was strategically chosen to symbolize the interplay of *JSESD*'s readership; that of experts in various fields of disabilities along with experts in the disciplines of science. The two intertwined sides of the double helix backbone represent this relationship. The rungs of the DNA structure represent the various age groups (K-Postsecondary) of students on which the journal focuses.