

From the Co-Editors...

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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. We do believe that the journal has stabilized in its current form and is beginning to experience a stage of growth.

We continuously work to improve the journal. And to have a greater online presence, we are excited to announce that the journal is now indexed in ERIC. According to the organization, the ERIC database is “used by over 11 million students and researchers around the world each year”. *JSESD* is also indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and Google Scholar. As the journal continues to grow, we plan to seek additional databases for indexing.

The current volume of *JSESD* (Volume #21) represents another milestone for the journal as it will be the first full issue that will be co-edited by Dr. Sami Kahn who joined the *JSESD* editorial team during 2017. Dr. Kahn, who currently serves as Assistant Professor of Science Education at the Gladys W. and David H. Patton College of Education at Ohio University, comes with considerable experience in ensuring quality science opportunities for all students through her efforts in teaching, research, scholarship, and advocacy. Her nearly thirty-year career has included service as president of Science Education for Students with Disabilities (SESD), chair of the National Science Teachers Association’s (NSTA) Special Needs Advisory Board, member of NSTA’s Committee on Multicultural/Equity in Science Education, and chair of SEDS’s awards committee for the Scadden Teacher of the Year Award. In addition, she currently serves as chair of the Inclusive Science Education Forum for the Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE) and as an advisor for inclusive science education projects throughout the U.S. Dr. Kahn is thrilled to contribute to the critical work of the *JSESD* as co-editor.

The journal enthusiastically seeks new manuscript submissions. 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 post-secondary). One of the largest challenges to the journal currently is the solicitation of peer-reviewers/referees for manuscripts. Please email us 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 few 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/>.
- Manuscripts can be submitted online at <http://scholarworks.rit.edu/jsesd/>.

- There are currently no fees charged to authors for publication in *JSESD*. As an open access journal, articles are also free for anyone to read.

We 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 and Sami Kahn

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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.