...*from the Editor's desk*

Welcome to the first issue of *Applied Multivariate Research* (AMR), which was formerly known as *Multivariate Experimental Clinical Research* (MECR). MECR has been in existence for over 30 years and was originally started by Raymond B. Cattell (1905 - 1998) as the Journal of Multivariate Experimental Personality & Clinical Psychology. The impetus for developing this journal appears to have been to provide an outlet for clinical and personality researchers interested in implementing multivariate statistical techniques.

The name change to AMR reflects a desire to build upon the work that Raymond Cattell started many years ago, as well as to build upon the work of Charles A. Burdsal, who served as editor for this journal for many years. In reading through previous issues of the journal, one is struck by a single theme of an adherence to showcasing examples of solid multivariate research. By perusing past issues of the journal, one can find papers ranging in topics such as an examination of the Beck Hopelessness Scale (Steer, Beck, & Brown, 1997), a comparison of approaches to item-parcelling in confirmatory factor analysis (Schallow, 2000), and an algorithm for the entry of multidimensional scaling data (Martz, 1996).

Over the past several years, this journal has suffered from a lack of attention. For some time, the publication frequency was erratic and, for the past six years, the journal ceased to be published at all. Having taken over as editor of the journal three years ago, I have encountered the difficulties involved with essentially starting a journal from scratch. In re-starting the journal, the name has been changed to reflect a slightly different direction and several measures have been taken to increase paper flow. While there is still much work to be done, things are once again moving in the right direction.

The name change reflects a desire to better capture the direction of the journal. An examination of more recent issues reveals the fact that the journal wasn't exclusively oriented to clinical and personality research. Though there have been many papers published in these areas, even in recent issues of the journal, there has been a shift toward addressing applied problems, including both applied content problems and applied methodological problems.

Consequently, the journal *Applied Multivariate Research*, which is sponsored by the Society for Applied Multivariate Research, is intended to specialize in publishing methodological and content papers that deal with the application of both classical and modern multivariate statistical techniques, as well as measurement issues, in applied settings. This may include examples of well conducted applied research where the data are analyzed using multivariate statistical techniques; methodologically oriented papers dealing with any of a variety of issues that come up in applied research (e.g., extreme sample sizes, distributional characteristics, missing data, poorly conditioned data, etc.); or, applied measurement content or method papers. In terms of methodological papers, the journal will entertain papers dealing with theoretical and mathematical issues in multivariate statistical analysis and measurement, but will give preference to papers focusing on solutions to applied problems.

In an effort to re-start the journal, the decision was made to put together some theme issues. The first theme issue deals with cluster analysis. Cluster analysis is a fairly frequently applied multivariate technique (see e.g., Hershberger, 2003). As many readers are already aware, cluster analysis refers to a group of multivariate techniques designed to discover naturally occurring groupings of objects, or to group objects according to their characteristics. The term *object* is deliberately chosen here, rather than variables. This is because the objects can be variables, people, or something else, such as insects or universities. An example of a creative use of cluster analysis is offered by Cramer and Collins (this issue), who clustered personality theorists. In addition to this paper, there are several others of interest in this issue. For instance, the first paper provides an overview of cluster analysis and introduces a multi-method approach to cluster analysis, one designed to give the researcher a greater deal of certainty about the number of clusters to interpret. The remainder of the papers deal with applications of cluster analysis, one from clinical neuro-psychology and two from industrial-organizational psychology. Thus, it is with this set of papers that Applied Multivariate Research is once again being published.

As a final note, I would like to thank those who have helped to get this journal back on track. Aside from the previous editor Charles Burdsal and the current Manuscript Editor John Cornell, I would also like to thank the Editorial Policy Board, whose names and affiliations appear below, as well as several members of the Society for Applied Multivariate Research and others who helped to review manuscripts.

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