

CORRESPONDENCE WITH Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience

15/03/02

Dear Dr. Healy:

I am writing on behalf of Dr. Russell Joffe, co-Editor-in-Chief, who received your letter dated 6 March 2002 concerning a possible "point-counterpoint" feature on antidepressant use and suicide for an upcoming issue of our Journal.

Dr. Joffe was very pleased to read of your willingness to participate in such a feature, and would encourage you to submit a text of no more than 3000 words plus references. Please submit your manuscript in three copies, along with an electronic version, if possible. Once we receive your text, we will forward a copy to our as yet unnamed "counterpoint" author for his or her consideration. In return, you will be given the opportunity of reading that person's manuscript prior to publication.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns about the submission or publication process.

Thank you for agreeing to take up this challenge. We look forward to reading your manuscript in the coming weeks.

Best regards,
Ms Megan Sproule-Jones, MA
Managing Editor

Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience
Publications Directorate
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Tel/Fax: 613.729.9545; Email: jpn.office@sympatico.ca

----- Original Message -----

From: "David Healy" <healy_hergest@compuserve.com>
To: "Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience" <jpn.office@sympatico.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2002 11:54 AM
Subject: Point-counterpoint feature

Dear Megan Sproule-Jones

Have a manuscript for you.
Or will have by end of first week in April.

By electronic version you mean on disc or by email?

If you send me the page dimensions of your standard pages, I'll edit the version to fit that - we use A4 over here which is different to you.

David Healy

01/04/02

Thank you for your message. I was surprised (pleasantly so!) to hear that you have completed your manuscript. Please feel free to forward it to the Editorial Office either by regular mail (on diskette) or via e-mail attachment. Our standard pages are 8 1/2" by 11", which converts to 21.59 cm by 27.94 cm.

All the best,
Megan Sproule-Jones

----- Original Message -----

From: "David Healy" <healy_hergest@compuserve.com>

To: "Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience" <jpn.office@sympatico.ca>

Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2002 10:12 AM

Subject: Re: Point-counterpoint feature

Dear Megan Sproule-Jones

Attached is a copy of Antidepressants & Suicide: Risk-Benefit Conundrums in a file called JPCNDHealy.
This is a Word Document.

Also attached is a competing interests statement for me in a Word document.

I have a co-author Dr Chris Whitaker who has had input on the statistical side of the article and who stands ready to help me field statistical queries that our article may throw up.

I am happy to submit this article for your consideration for possible publication in a Point-Counterpoint publication.
Please let me know whether we need to submit anything further at this point.

Clearly should you wish to proceed,
we will both be happy to sign authorship forms or any formal competing
interest statements the journal has.

David Healy

11/04/02

Thank you and please accept my apologies. I just realized that I didn't
acknowledge your message and attachments, which came through without
difficulty last week.

I have forwarded your manuscript to Dr. Yvon Lapierre, Editor Emeritus of
the Journal, who will be drafting the opposing view for this feature. As
soon as we receive his text, I will send you a copy so that you may respond
to Dr. Lapierre's arguments should you wish.

Finally, thank you for sending us your competing interests statement. Once
your manuscript is accepted for publication, we will ask you and your
co-author to complete formal disclosure, contributor information, and
copyright transfer forms for legal purposes.

Best regards,
Megan Sproule-Jones
Managing Editor, JPN

----- Original Message -----

From: "David Healy" <healy_hergest@compuserve.com>

To: "Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience" <jpn.office@sympatico.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2002 5:11 AM

Subject: Point-counterpoint feature

Dear Megan Sproule-Jones

Just a quick check on whether there is any progress on this
point-counterpoint feature?

David Healy

31/07/02

Dear Dr. Healy:

Thank you for your message. The author of the "counterpoint" argument in this feature has, unfortunately, been bogged down by other duties but hopes to have his text ready by September. Once he submits his manuscript I will forward a copy to you to give you the opportunity to respond. If all goes well, we will plan on a January 2003 publication date.

Best regards,
Megan

Megan Sproule-Jones
Managing Editor, JPN

----- Original Message -----

From: "David Healy" <healy_hergest@compuserve.com>

To: "Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience" <jpn.office@sympatico.ca>

Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2002 10:49 AM

Subject: Re: Point-counterpoint feature

Megan

Any progress on this point-counterpoint feature?

David Healy

05/12/02

Greetings!

Thank you for your message. You've been on my mind since our Editorial Board met last week.

Unfortunately, we have run into two delays with the publication of our point-counterpoint feature. First, Dr. Yvon Lapierre was asked by the Editors to make some revisions to his half of the feature before sending it on to you for a reply. I am expecting the revised text any day. Second, our publisher has advised us that our January issue exceeds what they consider to be a cost-effective page count. As a result, we have had to postpone publication of several items until March.

I know that you are anxious to see your manuscript in print (so are we!), and I appreciate your patience during this unexpectedly lengthy process. As soon as I have Dr. Lapierre's revised manuscript in hand, I'll be in touch.

Best regards,
Megan

----- Original Message -----

From: "David Healy" <healy_hergest@compuserve.com>
To: "Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience" <jpn.office@sympatico.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2002 6:16 PM
Subject: Re: Point-counterpoint feature

Megan

Thanks for this update.
When I do get to see YLP's contribution,
do you need me to provide any response?

David

6/12/02

Hello again:

If you would like to respond to any of his arguments, please feel free to do so. This "rebuttal" could be appended to your current manuscript or it could be incorporated into the text, which would require a bit more work on your part. If, however, you feel that no rebuttal is necessary, we will publish the pieces as they are.

All the best,
Megan

----- Original Message -----

From: "David Healy" <healy_hergest@compuserve.com>
To: "Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience" <jpn.office@sympatico.ca>
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2002 3:15 PM
Subject: Re: Point-counterpoint feature

Let's see what he says
and we'll go from there

David

16/01/03

Greetings!

I am pleased, at long last, to report that we have received the "counterpoint" manuscript on antidepressant use and suicide from Dr. Yvon Lapierre. The Editorial Board will be meeting on Tuesday, January 21 to discuss this and other material. I hope to forward Dr. Lapierre's text to you for consideration shortly after that.

Best wishes to you and your family for 2003.

Megan Sproule-Jones
Managing Editor

24/01/03

Dear Dr. Healy and Dr. Lapierre:

Thank you both for submitting your manuscripts for our upcoming "point-counterpoint" feature on antidepressant use and suicide. The Editorial Board has elected to send your papers as a unit for external peer review in an effort to ensure that both sides of the debate are presented clearly and fairly. We are hoping that this process will take no more than 4 weeks; I will be in touch as soon as I have more information.

Best regards,
Megan

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See Letter January 24th Journal of Psychiatry and Neuroscience to D Healy

----- Original Message -----

From: "David Healy" <healy_hergest@compuserve.com>

To: "Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience" <jpn.office@sympatico.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2003 4:09 AM

Subject: Antidepressant use and suicide: counter argument

Megan

Have received Yvon Lapierre's counter argument.

This is a very reasonable piece and I would not want to add anything to my original draft in rebuttal.

However I can improve the scientific quality of my original in a number of minor respects.

First, I can add to Table 1 in 2 respects.

One is simply presentational - by adding a column giving percentages. Many of those I've presented this data to have said they would be helped by such an addition. Second, I have added data for venlafaxine.

The additional venlafaxine data leads to a minor change in the last paragraph on page 5 giving revised odds ratios and confidence intervals. It also leads to a similar minor change in the results section of the abstract. This seems useful in that the resulting confidence intervals are tighter. It will also give JPN a more up to date set of data than appears anywhere else.

Second, I have added confidence intervals into Table 2.

Third, I have added confidence intervals to Table 3 - and corrected some minor transcription errors in a direction that favours the counter-argument.

I do not believe that these changes should affect Dr Lapierre's commentary.

As regards the external review you have proposed, this should make my piece somewhat tighter.

A draft of the article revised as above is attached - JPCNDHealy2

With best wishes

David Healy

28/01/03

Hello! Thank you for forwarding your revised manuscript so promptly. We will send the revised version for peer review alongside Dr. Lapierre's text. I hope to be in touch again soon.

Best regards,
Megan