

## How Do We Thank Thee? Let Us (Try to) Count the Ways

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“Beggar that I am, I am even poor in thanks.”  
— *Hamlet*, II.ii.272

About four years ago, we at the *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* realized the thankless don't get thanked enough. It is, of course, built into the very definition of the category. And, yet, all those who fit this bill ceaselessly beat on—be it reviewing articles namelessly and without reward; offering guidance on papers and protocols; managing and editing manuscripts; taking on the tiring role of taskmaster; processing, paginating, promoting, and publishing; and generally engaging excitedly in the scholarly pursuit.

We thus began an annual tradition of taking a few paragraphs every year in an attempt to thank our peer reviewers by name and all those who make the *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* possible. We know that it is not much and that we are “even poor in our thanks.” As Colley Cibber (though not very successfully) once pointed out, “[w]ords are but empty thanks” (*Woman's Wit*, V.393) and offer little real compensation and recognition. Of course, we also know that everyone involved with the *JB*I assumes such responsibilities out of other, greater intentions, making the sharing of one's expertise that much more honorable.

Over the past year, several members of the *JB*I community have retired, at least from the journal, in order to

focus on different areas and contribute to other worthy goals. We cannot offer enough thanks to Margaret Otlowski, who served on our Editorial Board; Steven Wainwright, associate editor of Sociology and Bioethics; Elizabeth Peter, associate editor of Nursing and guest editor of a recent symposium on “Moral Distress”; and especially Cameron Stewart, associate editor of Law, a founding member of the journal, and a key contributor to the initial and continuing development of the entire *JB*I project.

We also have been incredibly fortunate to welcome new members to the *JB*I. Our International Advisory Board has expanded to include Amnon Carmi, UNESCO Chair of Bioethics, University of Haifa, Israel; Zabidi Hussin, Universiti Sains Malaysia; Sastrowijoto Soenarto, University of Gadjah Mada, Indonesia; and Duujian Tsai, Taipei Medical University, Taiwan.

Several new associate editors have joined the ranks as well and have been hard at work from day one: in Cross-Cultural Bioethics, Peter Omonzejele, University of Benin, Nigeria; in Globalization, Ted Schrecker, Durham University; in Nursing Ethics, Sarah Breier, University of Missouri-Columbia, and Felicia Stokes, District of Columbia Board of Nursing; in Public Bioethics, Lisa M. Lee of the U.S. Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues; and in Science and Genetics, Ainsley Newson, University of Sydney, and Robin Pierce, Harvard Law School. (Other associate editors who came on board a few years back but were never formally welcomed include Gail Van Norman, University of Washington, in Clinical Ethics and Jan Deckers, University of Newcastle, Wendy Lipworth, University

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of Sydney, and Sean M. Philpott, Union Graduate College, in Research Ethics. Jon F. Merz, University of Pennsylvania, also has been serving the *JBI* as Ombudsman since 2012.)

Moreover, the journal has grown with the addition of a second consulting editor, David Shaw, Universität Basel, Switzerland—who attends weekly and monthly conference calls in the middle of the night and has proven so indispensable we are not certain how we once survived—as well as two editorial assistants: Sheila Pham, University of Sydney, focusing on Communication and Engagement and Emma Sacks, Columbia University, focusing on Global Health.

We couldn't accomplish any of this, of course, without our countless guest editors, our copy editors Pia Smith and Bronwen Morrell, and our Springer partners. Our publishing editor, Floor Oosting, is diligent and a delight, even traveling across the globe every year to meet with us in person. Christopher Wilby, our Springer publishing assistant, is equally skilled and charming and never gets ruffled despite periodic delays on our end. We offer heartfelt thanks to Hansel Camero, publishing project officer; Carmina Cayago, journal editorial office assistant; and especially Jan deVries, our longtime production editor, who with professionalism, warmth, and a great sense of humor has accommodated and worked alongside us for many years. We also warmly welcome Catherine Murphy into this role, who already has taken over the reins without so much as a bump in the ride.

Last in line, though not in esteem, are all those who have long served the *JBI*—our vital associate editors for various portfolios, our international associate editors in Law, and members of our Editorial Board and International Advisory Board whom we haven't named here—as well as Paul Komesaroff, chair of our Editorial Board, who keeps us rowing together and the entire boat afloat; Ian Kerridge, an essential member of our Executive Committee (and trickster in the most beloved sense of the word), who repeatedly picks up everyone's slack without complaint; and Michael Ashby, consulting editor and a brilliant, inspiring, and endearing partner-in-crime.

Not enough can be said of Bronwen Morrell, the *JBI*'s longstanding (and likely long-suffering!) managing editor, who never flags in her talent, skill, intellect, wit, and simultaneous ability to herd cats and keep multiple spinning plates from crashing to the floor and thus crushing the entire enterprise. The vocation of a

managing editor is much like housework: an ongoing, unappreciated but essential round of chores that nobody notices unless you don't do it. Nearly all of her (endless) work goes unrecognized, but every aspect of every issue—and some even more than others—are held together by the threads she has sewn.

Thank you all for your continuing efforts and for making the *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* a community one cannot help but be honored and grateful (and perhaps a little amazed!) to be a part of.

Below, please find a special round of thanks to all who have served as a peer reviewer for one or more articles over the past year, from January 2014 to January 2015.

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