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The Return of “The Research Mentor” Column

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Mentoring generally consists of a complex, multifaceted relationship between a more professionally experienced colleague and a less experienced colleague.^{1,2} While a mentor might be more mature biologically, there are plenty of exceptions in the everyday work life of information practitioners.

Between 2008 and 2014 the author edited “The Research Mentor” column as a regular feature in *Hypothesis*. Web analytics and direct feedback suggested that it was a popular column. The titles of individual columns reveal the subjects and tone of the 12 installments of this column:

Finding time for research. 2008
Interview with library researcher Jo Dorsch. 2008
Interview with library researcher Gary Byrd. 2009
The Institutional Review Board (IRB): a primer. 2009
Authorship part one: defining the article author. 2009
Authorship part two: order of authors. 2010
Creativity in research: an introduction. 2010
Creativity in research, part 2: classifying creativity. 2011
Creativity in research, Part 3: age and creative potential. 2012
Interview with Phillip Eaton, M.D., on creativity in research. 2012
Top-ranked research questions and systematic reviews. 2013
The long reach of a mentor’s influence. 2014

Most of these columns were either authored or co-authored by the editor (JE). The column editor sought to provide useful guidance for less experienced researchers in these columns. At the time he was one of only a few researchers in the ranks of the health information practitioners experienced with a diversity of study designs and with conducting numerous research projects. He stepped down from his column editorship mostly due to adverse circumstances at his own workplace that required his full attention. A succession of *Hypothesis* editors asked him to resuscitate “The Research Mentor” column since 2014. The current *Hypothesis* Editor, Margaret Hoogland, prevailed in persuading him to re-launch the column.

The new column will continue to offer advice to researchers. The column for this issue explains some fundamental concepts in research statistics. Future columns might cover formulating research questions, selecting an appropriate research study design, aligning one’s own research with institutional priorities, assembling a research team, selecting a

research population, recruiting study participants, identifying grant sources, managing multisite research studies, preparing a conference poster, presenting a conference paper, selecting an appropriate journal to publish one's research results, interacting with journal editors, handling feedback from editorial peer reviewers, and reaching as many potential readers as possible. If you would like to author a column on one of these topics or another possible topic, please email the Column Editor at jeldredge@salud.unm.edu

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References

1. Johnson WB. On being a mentor: A guide for higher education faculty. Mahwah (NJ): Lawrence Erlbaum Associates; 2007.
2. Ragins BR, Kram KE. The handbook of mentoring at work: Theory, research, and practice. Los Angeles (CA): Sage Publications; 2007.