

J LETTERS

Dear Prof. Glannon,

I just discovered with gratitude your newly inaugurated -- and amazing -- Journal of Ethics in Mental Health (JEMH), as some of its articles (including yours on neurodiversity, and Fenton and Krahn's relating to autism, both in Vol. 2, No. 2) seem to provide hope for the beginnings of a rigorous academic basis for the ideas that a mentally disabled scientist, technologist, engineer, or mathematician is innately as cognitively functional (and thus, for example, ideationally creative and productive) as a 'non disabled' or so-called normal one, and that a change in societal, medical, and other (even maladaptive!) attitudes towards the mentally disabled in the STEM professions and in related careers such as architecture and economics that are also quantitative-model based, could lead to greater acceptance of them as neuro-equal representatives of a heretofore unwarrantably pathologized part of the spectrum of what it means to be truly human, and thus, through greater neurodiversity and accordingly greater cognitive diversity, to greater productivity of a country's or nation's socio-economy.

The idea of acceptance of mentally disabled persons as needed representatives of cognitive diversity in the STEM workforce, however, seems from my U.S. perspective to be way ahead of the curve for the latest thinking on how to solve the important problem of achieving better representation of disabled scientists, etc., in science and education, whether that disability is commonly recognized as mental or physical in character -- a distinction which, in my view, is an artificial one as generally a disability is actually a composite of both.

So, then, back to your journal, JEMH: Are any forthcoming issues programmed to deal with the combined theme of "neurodiversity and cognitive disability in science and education," or with a theme like it?

Thank you for helping.

Sincerely,

Harold "Hal" Frost, Ph.D.

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Response

Dear Dr. Frost,

At the moment there are no planned theme issues on the topic you suggest, but we would certainly welcome articles related to these topics.

Ron Ballantyne
Editor-in-Chief