



ADVANCING CORRECTIONS

Journal of the International Corrections and Prisons Association

Call for Papers for Issue #13

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ICPA
International Corrections
& Prisons Association

**Innovation in Correctional
Healthcare**

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Issue # 13: "What Else Works ..."
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PLEASE SUBMIT BY FEBRUARY 15TH, 2022

AIMS AND SCOPE OF ADVANCING CORRECTIONS

The ICPA believes that development of a professional and humane corrections should be grounded in evidence. Respect for evidence is a hallmark of the ICPA. But evidence is of little value unless it is understood and put into action. Our semi-annual Journal *Advancing Corrections* is intended to fill the need for researchers to speak more clearly to practitioners and practitioners to speak in a more evidence-informed way to their colleagues. We want to provide a forum for both researchers and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines (criminal justice, education, psychology, sociology, political science, economics, public health, and social work) to publish papers that examine issues from a unique, interdisciplinary and global perspective. Your paper could be an evidence-informed discussion of an important correctional issue, an overview of some new research findings and their implications for practice, a description of an innovative program or approach, or an informed commentary on some aspect of managing a key issue in corrections.

The Journal invites submission of papers that can be digested and appreciated by practitioners, managers, policy-makers and other correctional professionals. Authors are welcomed to submit papers for one of three sections of the Journal. *Featured Research Articles* should be more research oriented and scholarly, including the usual practice of referencing the relevant literature. Another section called *Views and Reviews* welcomes shorter and thoughtful discussions of a particularly relevant or emerging issue/topic. And finally, a section we are calling *Practice Innovation in Corrections* would like to profile what is going on in a given agency/jurisdiction that is especially innovative and can be of interest broadly to others.

THEME for the 13th Edition: "What Else Works ..."

For the last several decades, correctional agencies more or less around the world, in both custody and community settings, have focused on implementing various features of the 'What Works' paradigm in order to reduce re-offending. What Works was coined to encompass *what* programmatic services corrections should deliver (e.g., structured cognitive-behavioural interventions), with *whom* (the highest risk offenders), and with *what aims* (to change dynamic risk factors demonstrated to be criminogenic). This is no longer merely a trend but a broadly accepted set of practices. There is no doubt that implementing What Works has given corrections some clear evidence-informed direction. On the other hand, the impact of these strategies on re-offending has been varied, often only modest, and frequently exposing some of their limitations and constraints. It can be argued as well that the singular focus on What Works and offending-behaviour programs may have seriously limited creativity and innovation in exploring the potential of alternative strategies ... sometimes perhaps too

quickly dismissed by What Works proponents as 'correctional quackery'.

A balanced and fair-minded assessment would suggest that we are a far-cry from having discovered the golden goose of What Works in recidivism reduction. Other rehabilitative perspectives have been having a strong influence in modifying and adjusting What Works practice over the last number of years ... Desistance theory and research, the Good Lives Model, motivational theory more generally, and the emphasis on other interpersonal forces of influence that can impinge on offenders within a humane, respectful, procedurally just and broadly rehabilitative correctional culture.

This Edition # 13 of *Advancing Corrections* would like to explore the theme of "What Else Works ..." what types of programs, services, activities, policies and/or practices seem to be making a difference (or could be making a difference) even if direct evidence in affecting re-offending may not be easily determined.

- We invite reasoned arguments for why What Works approaches should be modified and how;
- Descriptions of 'system-level' innovation and how rehabilitative services can be connected and delivered 'as an integrated whole' – either in prison or in the community;
- Attempts to change prison or community corrections culture and its impact on both staff and offenders;
- Creative approaches for occupying offenders or for sparking or enhancing motivation for change;
- Approaches that may impinge on 'change in identity' in offenders as a first step towards desistance;
- Well integrated and readily available community support and services to help offenders overcome barriers and the challenges of reintegration;
- The benefits of partnerships with NGOs, other government sectors, research institutions and other stakeholders in introducing change and improving correctional performance;
- Importantly, there should be some clear theoretical coherence and/or qualitative or quantitative evaluation data to support the models or frameworks that are described.
- New research findings are especially welcomed where there is clear implication for **What Else May Work** in helping shape corrections towards excellence.

HOW SHOULD YOU SUBMIT YOUR PAPER?

Manuscripts should follow the Guidelines for Authors for the Journal. Suggested page length is from 7 to 15 pages (about 2,000 to 5,000 word-count), although lengthier research-oriented manuscripts or reviews may be considered based on merit. Whenever appropriate, papers should include referencing of other related scholarly work, though it is emphasized that *Advancing Corrections* is not intended as an academic publication. Papers should be respectful of evidence but they should be written in a way that appeals to practitioners. Manuscripts should be submitted electronically to **Dr. Frank Porporino, Ph.D.**, Chair of the ICPA Research and Development Network and Editor of *Advancing Corrections* (fporporino@rogers.com). A copy should also be forwarded to the ICPA Communications Officer, **Alex Petrov**, at the ICPA Head Office (alexpetrov@icpa.org).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR PAPER?

Advancing Corrections has an international Editorial Review Board and submitted papers **will undergo a formal and rigorous 'peer review' process**. The ICPA Research and Development (R&D) Network is committed to finding more and better ways of communicating research-informed knowledge to the ICPA membership. Many of the members of the group serve as reviewers of submitted manuscripts.

The Editor of *Advancing Corrections* will manage the process of selecting manuscripts for review and choosing the final set of papers to be included in the Edition. Papers that may not be suitable for the publication may nonetheless be posted on the ICPA Web Site or included in the ICPA Newsletter for the information of ICPA members.

Please note that we will not accept papers that are submitted after the deadline for a given Edition of *Advancing Corrections*. We will also not accept papers that simply attempt to promote a particular product or market a particular method or service without supportive evidence of effectiveness. *Advancing Corrections* is not a marketing vehicle. It is a professional Journal intended to broaden our knowledge base in corrections.

If you believe that evidence and facts should be the drivers for change in corrections rather than ungrounded opinion or ideology, please make an effort to support our ICPA Journal.



Sincerely,

Frank J. Porporino, Ph.D.

Editor *Advancing Corrections* and Chair, ICPA Research & Development Network

