EDITORIAL

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THE FIRST ISSUE OF *MIND & BEHAVIOR*: A SPACE FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN SCIENCE, PRACTICE, AND HUMAN EXPERIENCE

It is with great pleasure and a profound sense of accomplishment that we present the inaugural issue of *Mind & Behavior*, our newest peer-reviewed academic journal published by the *Center for Psychological Research and Counselling* at the Faculty of Philosophy of St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo. We envision this journal as an invitation to scholarly dialogue and as a platform for fostering an academic community united by a shared commitment to understanding the complexities of the human mind and behavior. Our primary motivation has always been in forming a space where diverse theoretical perspectives, methodological approaches, and professional practices can meet, interact, and enrich one another.

Contemporary psychological science continues to evolve within an increasingly interdisciplinary framework, a characteristic that is reflected in the profile of this very first issue. Mental health and well-being are examined from multiple perspectives—through the lens of social environments and interpersonal relationships, through the need for prevention and early assessment, and through the presentation of specific therapeutic interventions and psychological practices that promote acceptance of diversity, expression of individuality, personal adaptation, and psychological support.

The contributions included in this issue address a range of broadly diverse yet interconnected topics. Although they may seem limited in number, the articles explore the role of mental health within educational institutions, including discussions of how psychoanalytic approaches may be applied to the management of students' behavioral difficulties. Drawing upon attachment theory and situated within a specific social context, one contribution presents an integrative model linking attachment patterns and adaptive capacity among young people living in small communities. Neurodevelopmental conditions in early childhood are also addressed, including clinical observations of developmental difficulties associated with Marcus Gunn syndrome and an examination of augmentative and alternative communication as one of the evidence-based intervention approaches for children within the autism spectrum disorders. Furthermore, the issue includes empirical studies and clinical analyses related to health psychology, highlighting key aspects of mental health in the context of neurological and cardiovascular conditions.

A particularly valuable feature of this inaugural issue is the diversity of authorial perspectives emerging from varied professional backgrounds and experiences but all connected to the field of psychology – *the mind and the behavior.* The contributors include university faculty members, researchers, physicians, school psychologists, each of them highly regarded practitioner. This diversity underscores the significance of psychology not only as an academic discipline but also as a science field based on both knowledge and evidence and implies practical solutions that serve individuals, families, and communities.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all authors who entrusted us with their work and contributed to the first issue of the journal, and we would like to mention them personally: Dr. Desislava Maslinkova, Svetla Staykova, Mihaela Hristova, Dr.Dora Simeonova, Harieta Manolova, Dr. Atanaska Avramova, Dr. Nadia Polnareva, Anet Marinova, Diana Christova, Vanya Racheva, Dr. Mirena Valkova, Dr. Ivanka Veleva and Dr. Slavoljub Ivanovski. To each of them we are particularly grateful for entrusting us with their work even before the journal had established its reputation.

This inaugural volume represents not only a beginning but also a commitment by the editorial team to continuous development and improvement. We are dedicated to maintaining high academic and ethical standards that will establish *Mind & Behavior* as a reliable platform for the dissemination of ideas and scholarly achievements by established academics, distinguished practitioners and emerging researchers.

We are also equally grateful to our reviewers, whose expertise made the rigorous scientific evaluation of submitted manuscripts possible. The careful and conscientious work of reviewers remains one of the fundamental guarantees of the quality, credibility, and academic value of any scholarly publication.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the members of the Editorial Board, as well as to all colleagues and institutions whose support contributed to the establishment of *Mind & Behavior*.

The advancement of science is a collective endeavor, sustained by professional expertise, intellectual curiosity, and shared dedication. We hope that *Mind & Behavior* will become a vibrant forum for scholarly exchange and will contribute meaningfully to the advancement of both psychological science and professional practice.

We wish the journal a successful and inspiring journey ahead, and to all of you — our readers, we wish you an engaging and rewarding reading experience.

Assoc. Prof. Milena Motsinova-Brachkova, PhD,
Editor-in-Chief, and the Editorial Team