

## Postscript

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**I**t has been a distinct pleasure to work with Thomas Simon, Ph.D., in shepherding these manuscripts through the *SLTB* editorial review process and bringing them to print as a special supplement. This process began in February 2000 when Lloyd Potter, Ph.D., discussed with me the possibility of such a publication. After my review of the abstracts of the articles, we proceeded to plan for their editorial review as a set, with the expectation that if they met *SLTB* criteria, they would be published as a special supplement. Tom Simon ably assumed leadership of the project after Lloyd Potter left CDC, and we began the earnest process of editorial review in January 2001.

All the research manuscripts underwent at least one round of editorial review and revision, with five manuscripts undergoing a second editorial review and revision. This was in addition to the separate editorial reviews conducted by Tom Simon and myself at a number of points along the way. We are both grateful to the senior leadership at the CDC's Division of Violence Prevention within the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (W. Rodney Hammond, Ph.D., and James A. Mercy, Ph.D.), who supported our efforts to present the findings from this landmark study as a unified and cohesive set of papers.

In order to bring this supplement to press, many individuals were called upon to serve in a collaborative and collegial manner. I relied heavily on a carefully selected group of expert reviewers who assisted me in reviewing and editing all of the manuscripts. I am indebted to the following four experts who shared the editorial review process with me: Richard Balon, M.D., Alan L. Berman, Ph.D., Peter M.

Meyer, Ph.D., and Anthony Spirito, Ph.D. They never wavered from our usual *SLTB* editorial review standards. Meanwhile, Tom Simon worked closely with his colleagues at CDC to move the writing and revision process along to completion on time. I am most grateful to Keith Hawton, D.Sc., for agreeing to read all seven manuscripts (as well as the other published reports emanating from this study), and preparing a critique of the entire study. In addition to critiquing each paper individually, he has outlined the next steps to be answered in future studies. Of particular note is that Professor Hawton has highlighted those confirmatory findings from this study which can be readily translated into suicide prevention efforts.

The goal was to present, in one volume, the key research findings from a creative and innovative study of nearly lethal suicide attempters. The results both confirm and challenge findings from previous studies of similar individuals. Those findings which confirm prior studies are gratifying and lend weight to the research hypotheses, methodologies, and conceptual foundations that have been evolving in the study of suicide and life-threatening behavior. Those findings which challenge our existing beliefs and understanding of the suicidal process and the suicidal mind are exciting, thought-provoking, and well-worth investigating further. Now the challenge is to confirm or negate these new research findings. There is little doubt that this groundbreaking study will serve as a catalyst and template for many future studies of nearly lethal suicide attempters.

### **Call for papers**

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