

## Editorial: The Reliability and Accuracy of Human Judgment

Each of the contributing authors has published extensively on this topic. The four articles range in content from very specific attention to the reliability and accuracy of binary bio-behavioral diagnoses (Cicchetti); nosological issues pertinent to bettering our understanding of Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) (Smith, Cicchetti, & Volkmar); the negative impact upon the reported accuracy of Autism and ASD, when longitudinal investigations utilize single, rather than multiple measurements at successive developmental time periods (Klin & Jones); and, finally, the contribution of Kraemer provides valuable insights into the necessity of basing social policy decisions upon sound bio-statistical and bio-behavioral principles. Her research demonstrates that when flawed research methodologies are utilized by one group of research scientists and then re-utilized by additional investigators, the social policies that are based upon them, are equally flawed. Here we are faced with reliable, albeit flawed, methodologies leading to invalid, flawed, or inaccurate social policy decisions. While Kraemer's research focus is on the putative relationship between exposure to low levels of lead and IQ levels, her sound methodological approach clearly has relevance to a much broader classification of clinical phenomena.

**Dom Cicchetti**

Department of Biometry,  
Yale University School of Medicine,  
New Haven, CT 06520,  
USA;  
Tel: 1 203 488 6563;  
Fax: 1 203 488 4218;  
E-mail: dom.cicchetti@yale.edu