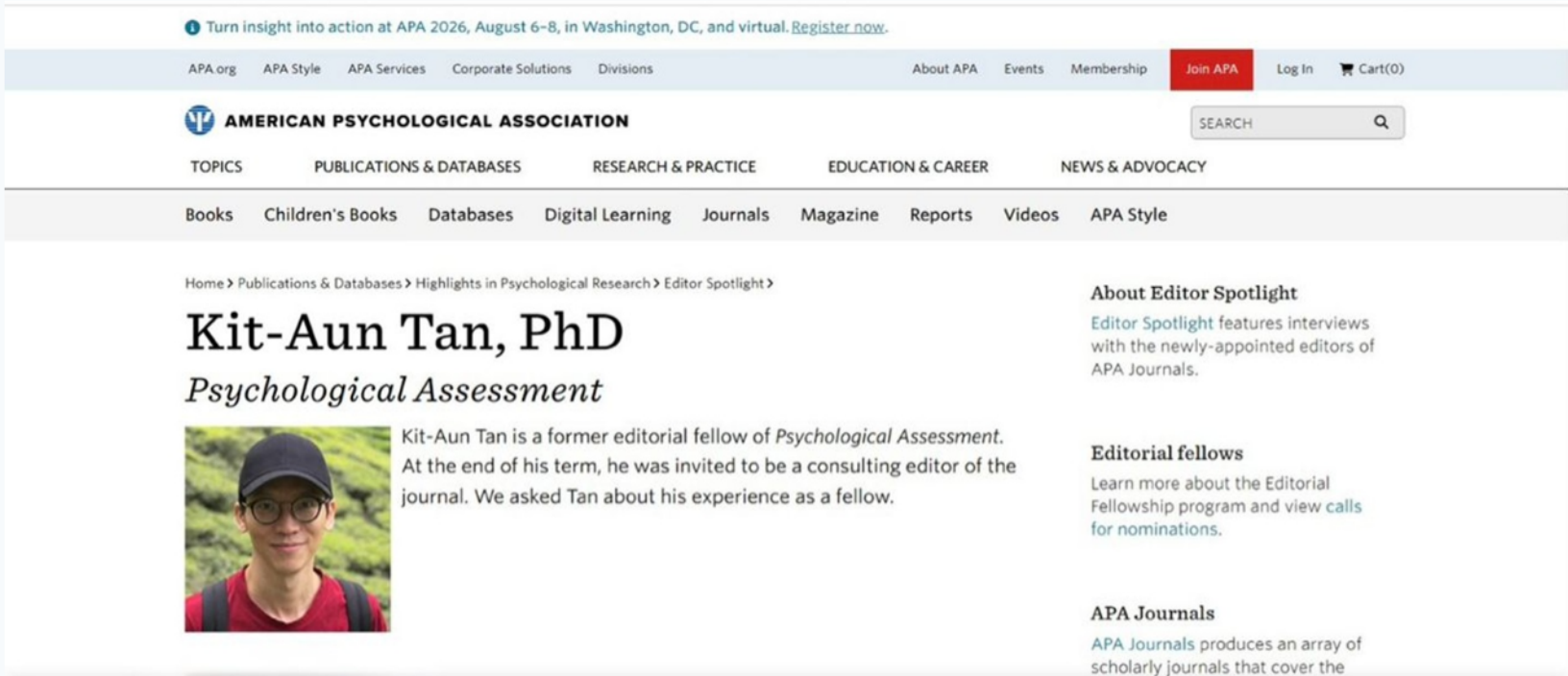




UPM Lecturer Featured in APA 'Editor Spotlight' for Editorial Fellowship Excellence



By: Noor Eszereen Juferi

SERDANG, 25 May – Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) continues to strengthen its international academic standing as a senior lecturer from the Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FPSK), Dr. Tan Kit-Aun, was recently selected for the prestigious “Editor Spotlight” by the American Psychological Association (APA).

The recognition was awarded in acknowledgement of his outstanding contribution to the APA Editorial Fellowship Programme, an international initiative designed to nurture leadership talent in scholarly publishing and journal peer review.

The achievement reflects UPM’s continued commitment to advancing research excellence, international collaboration, and academic leadership on the global stage.

According to Dr. Tan, his participation in the fellowship provided a meaningful platform to expand international academic networks, particularly as a researcher from Southeast Asia.

“This programme gave me the opportunity to engage directly with international scholars and editors beyond my local academic circles. It not only enhanced my editorial skills but also strengthened my confidence to contribute more actively to the global scholarly publishing community,” he said.

Dr. Tan’s research interests focus on two key areas: the development and validation of psychological instruments, particularly in relation to problematic internet use, as well as the effectiveness of online psychoeducational programmes for psychiatric patients and their caregivers.

Throughout the fellowship, he gained extensive exposure to the editorial process, including manuscript evaluation, reviewer selection, editorial decision-making, management of journal peer review processes, and publication ethics.

He described the mentorship received during the fellowship as one of its most valuable aspects, particularly under the guidance of Editor-in-Chief Professor Julie A. Suhr and peer review coordinator Angela Clinton.

“The guidance I received helped me better understand how effective editorial leadership balances methodological rigour, fairness in the editorial process, and mentorship for manuscript authors,” he added.

Following the completion of the fellowship, Dr. Tan was invited to continue serving as a consulting editor and is now part of the editorial boards of several international journals.

He also intends to remain actively involved with APA as a reviewer and contributor to editorial activities, while advocating for greater inclusion of researchers from underrepresented countries and regions in global scholarly publishing.

“Young researchers should seize opportunities that broaden their academic horizons. Participation in peer review and editorial processes is one of the most important ways to contribute to the advancement of knowledge at the global level,” he said.

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