Author Guidelines

About Family Therapy magazine (FTM)
FTM is the AAMFT’s bimonthly magazine produced exclusively for members of the association. FTM's readers are clinicians at the postgraduate (master's and doctoral) level who have an average of 10-15 years of professional experience. Current circulation is approximately 25,000. The FTM is a feature-oriented publication that focuses on trends in family therapy, best practices in the field, emerging knowledge, research, clinical advances, and special populations. The FTM also aims to connect practitioners of family therapy with the broader mental health and practice context—news of the mental health world, policies, or social and demographic data that might inform or impact family therapy.

Please let editorial staff know that you are considering writing and get approval for your topic before you begin to assure that you are not overlapping topics with another author and that you are addressing a topic that is relevant for MFTs.

Content Level
One of the most important things to consider as you write your article is that the majority of FTM's readers are clinicians at the postgraduate level who have 10–15 years of professional experience. The article’s content should be advanced and appropriate for this audience.

Submission Checklist
To ensure that your article is complete and to facilitate the production of the FTM, please be certain that your submission includes the following items:

1. Byline(s)— This should include author's full name and highest degree held. Do not include licenses (LMFT, LCSW, etc).
2. Author(s) Biography— A brief biography should be placed at the end of the article, before any references. The bio should include: full name (with degrees and licenses), AAMFT membership affiliation (if any) (Clinical Fellow, Approved Supervisor, etc.), current employer and position, and recent books you authored (relevant to article's topic). If you will be presenting on the topic in an upcoming AAMFT conference, please mention that fact.
3. References— Please use APA style when preparing your reference list and try to limit references to no more than 10-15.
4. Photo— Color photo is required. Your photo will appear next to your bio. Please email it in electronic format (JPEG, TIFF, PNG, EPS; resolution: 300 dpi).
5. Style Check— Please be sure that your article adheres to the style guidelines below.

Once your article is completed and ready for submission, please e-mail it as an attachment to ftm@aamft.org, along with your photo.

Style
As you compose your article, please keep in mind that FTM is a magazine, rather than a scholarly journal. Magazine articles are generally shorter, less structured, and at times more subjective than journal articles. Simple, straightforward writing—concise, logical, and clear—is best. Use examples to capture readers’ interest and to stimulate their thinking. Avoid jargon and passive voice, and clarify technical terms. At the same time, keep in mind that your audience is composed of advanced
and experienced clinicians. Avoid excessive documentation and provide a brief listing of major references. Tables, charts, and photographs are welcome, but will be used at the editor's discretion.

Additionally, please adhere to the following stylistic guidelines.

BOOK and JOURNAL TITLES: These should be italicized.

FOREIGN WORDS OR TERMS: These should be italicized if possible.

MFTs: First mention is always marriage and family therapists (MFTs). Next is MFTs (the same applies for marriage and family therapy). No apostrophe.

NATION: Remember that our members and readers include Canadians and a smattering of other nationalities. Always write the U.S. instead of “the country” or “the nation,” American instead of national.

NUMBERS: Spell out one through nine and use numbers for the rest.

PASSIVE VOICE: Avoid it as much as possible. Write “The U.S. Congress voted to pass legislation,” rather than “The legislation was passed.” Readers want to know agents, that is, who did what.

PROOFREADING: Please proofread your own copy before submission, paying close attention to the spelling of names, checking of degrees, etc. We greatly value “clean copy.” Please be certain that each in-text citation has a corresponding reference at the end. Please use APA formatting only. Footnote/endnote citations will not be accepted, as they require extensive time and effort to convert to APA.

QUOTATIONS: When quoting from someone, begin and end the quote with a quotation mark. If the quote goes on for more than one paragraph, begin the first, second and all successive paragraphs with a quotation mark, but do not put a final quotation mark until the quote is finished. Also put all punctuation inside the end quotation mark.

RUN ON SENTENCES: If your sentence is more than three lines long, it’s probably too long. Try to separate into shorter sentences. Use dashes and commas to set off clauses. Condense when possible. Vary sentence structure and length.

SPACING: Leave one space after a period.

Please give your article a title.

**Advocating for your profession:** Your contribution to FTM is an important part of supporting the MFT identity. MFTs are sometimes improperly conflated with counselors, social workers, or psychotherapists. While there are intersections among these mental health professions, MFTs have their own distinctive character. The more we emphasize the traits that are special to us, the more we solidify the message that we are MFTs!

The content of your article needs to reflect this identity. We ask that you include:

1. Specific content that indicates how MFT’s are uniquely qualified to work with the population discussed in your writing.
2. Language that aligns with our expertise as systemic thinkers. For example, if writing about the importance of premarital counseling, underscore the relational knowledge that MFTs offer and how it differs from that of other mental health professionals.
3. Research to support MFTs as uniquely qualified providers.
Your submission is an opportunity to differentiate our profession. The systemic lens that anchors our profession is particularly beneficial to improving individual, couple and family functioning. As AAMFT strives to promote the profession of MFT and advocate before legislators, we need to send a strong message about our difference. We can demonstrate through our research and communications that MFTs are exceptionally qualified to address issues that their counterparts in other mental health professions approach with different tools.