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In This Issue...

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In This Issue . . .

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Upcoming Aquatic Events in 2015–2016

Two major aquatic conferences are scheduled during the next 9 months in which some readers may have interest. The 2015 World Conference on Drowning Prevention will convene at the Equatorial Hotel in Penang, Malasia from November 4–6, 2015. The conference planning, under the aegis of the International Life Saving Federation, has been completed and the conference organizers are anxiously awaiting participants to arrive. For more information about attendance, readers are referred to <http://www.wcdp2015.org/>.

The 2016 NDPA Educational Conference is scheduled to be held March 29–April 1, 2016, in Phoenix, AZ. Proposals for presentations are still being accepted as of this writing. Online registration will begin later this fall at www.NDPA.org. Each year, the NDPA Educational Conference grows in terms of the number and quality of participants, exhibitors, and presentations. Its contributions to preventing drownings in the U.S. and around the world are noteworthy. Readers may want to consider submitting a proposal and/or attending.

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This second issue of this 9th volume of the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education* features an international array of aquatic studies and papers on topics certain to interest most readers. As you will read, the topics include clothed swimming and water competence, fear of drowning, cold water swimming, feedback techniques in swimming, fatal drownings in France, and a critical commentary on the role of swimming instruction in a newly-adopted national school curriculum.

This issue starts with my twin editorials related to the upcoming changes in the format and management of the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education* and my commentary on common misunderstandings about baby swimming programs. Please read both because I feel they contain important information about which readers will be interested.

Original Research Articles

The first original research article in this issue is authored by Kevin Moran, University of Auckland, and is entitled “Can You Swim in Clothes? Reflections on the Perception and Reality of the Effect of Clothing on Water Competency.” For those interested in the concept of water competence and the factors that influence

a person's expression of water competence, Dr. Moran's paper is a "must read." Because such a great number of drownings occur to persons not intending to swim and thus likely to be dressed in nonswimming apparel, this particular study is quite important to those interested in drowning prevention strategies.

The second research report comes from the research team of Carol and Dick Irwin (the University of Memphis) and Jennifer Pharr (UNLV). Their article, "Understanding Factors That Influence Fear of Drowning in Children and Adolescents," is part of the investigators' ongoing line of inquiry studying minority swimming and drowning prevention in the United States. This particular study focuses on perceptions by family and youth regarding what variables are associated with a fear of drowning which may alter the likelihood that children will learn to swim and participate in aquatic activities.

The third and fourth studies come to us from the University of Portsmouth and Queens Hospital, Essex, in the U.K. They represent interrelated studies on young swimmers' performance in cold water conducted by Flora Bird, James House, and Michael Tipton. The first study, "Adaptation of the Cold Shock Response and Cooling Rates on Swimming Following Repeated Cold Water Immersions in a Group of Children Aged 10–12 Years" examined how prepubescent children responded during experiences in cold water similar to open water swim temperatures. Its companion paper, "The Physiological Response to Immersion in Cold Water and Cooling Rates During Swimming in a Group of Children Aged 10–11 Years," studied other physiological variables associated with cold water exposure by similar-aged children.

The next research article reports a slightly different topic than we usually include in *IJARE*. David Luedtke, St. Catherine University, conducted a pilot study of competitive swimming relay teams and whether one kind of feedback produced significantly shorter relay times. "Comparison of Four Feedback Methods Used to Help Improve Swimming Relay Exchanges: A Pilot Study" is the report of his study. We decided that it fit in *IJARE* because of the focus on motor learning and feedback more than on competitive swimming, despite the use of competitive relay events as the studied behavior.

The last research article comes from France. It perhaps is the first French article ever published in *IJARE*. "Tracking Fatal Drownings in Public Swimming Pools: A Retrospective Multiscale Investigation Withing France" was authored by Elie Vignac, Bastien Soule, and Pascal Lebihain. I had the great fortune to meet Elie last year in Ireland at the drowning prevention symposium. He has worked diligently to get his significant study into standard English and describe the challenges he and others have encountered in tabulating swimming pool drowning deaths in France.

Original Educational Article

This issue has concludes with an educational article, "Australian Aquatic Curriculum Reform: Treading Water Carefully?" authored by Timothy Lynch from Monash University in Australia. The author provides a commentary and critique on the new national educational curriculum in Australia, taking particular issue with what he perceives as a serious concern: The lack of support for aquatic instruction of school children as a central part of the new curriculum.

As those who have already perused my first editorial in this issue will have discovered, our next issues of *IJARE* will be the last ones featuring a print version and using Manuscript Central as our online submission platform. Although change is always challenging, the move to the bepress ScholarWorks site will provide wider and easier open access to all articles published in the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education*. We believe that by moving away from a proprietary subscription model of publishing, the revamped open access online journal will increase circulation dramatically and lead to an enhanced reputation for published articles which will still undergo the same rigorous double-blind review process. To their great credit, Human Kinetics has been very helpful to us in making this switch by providing all the back issues for all nine volumes to be located on the ScholarWorks site in order to keep the journal housed in a single location. I will have more specific information about the journal submissions and review processes using the new ScholarWorks site in the next issues. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me directly with questions or concerns.

Until then, may you enjoy continued good reading and safe swimming.

Steve Langendorfer
Editor