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In This Issue ...

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In This Issue . . .

World Conference on Drowning Prevention, 2013

The 2013 International Life Saving Federation World Conference on Drowning Prevention is scheduled for Saturday, 19 October, 2013, to Tuesday, 22 October, 2013, in Potsdam/Berlin, Germany (organized by the [German Life Saving Association](#)). More information about registration can be found at the following URL: <http://www.worldconferenceondrowningprevention.org/>. The early bird registration deadline is past, but you can still make regular registrations and room reservations. When visiting the Web site, if you are an English speaker like me, be sure to use the English registration version. I got into the German version, and my German is much too rusty to successfully navigate it. From the sessions in which I am involved, it sounds like this will be an outstanding group of individuals and research papers dealing with drowning and drowning prevention. I hope to see you there in October!

Biomechanics and Medicine in Swimming 2014

The XII International Symposium on Biomechanics and Medicine in Swimming will be held at the Australian Institute of Sport, Canberra, Australia from Monday, 28 April through Friday, 2 May, 2014. According to a Web post, this is the very first time that the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) has ever hosted an international conference.

Abstracts from aquatic biomechanical and medical research will be accepted in areas including Computational Fluid Dynamics, Physiology including Recovery, Medicine including Physiotherapy, Nutrition, Strength & Conditioning, Coaching, and Technology. Both oral and poster presentations will be accommodated at the conference. A book of proceedings will publish six-page papers from researchers whose research proposals are accepted. To receive updates on the symposium and to express your interest in attending, you are encouraged to email BMS2014@ausport.gov.au or visit the Web site at <http://ausport.gov.au/bms2014/>.

In This Issue

This third issue of the seventh volume of the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education* features a strong and diverse collection of well-written aquatic studies including six evidence-based articles and one review paper. I invite subscribers and other readers alike to explore these fine pieces of scholarship. I suspect that several, if not all, of these papers may become well-cited in their particular research areas.

To kick off the issue, I offer another in my series of personal editorials for your inspection and consideration. The idea for this particular editorial topic came to mind over the last few months as I helped review and edit manuscripts to the journal. I noticed a series of terms being used for which I suggested alternatives for a variety of reasons. Several authors engaged me in some dialogue over the appropriateness of my suggested alternative terms. Sometimes they convinced me to retract my suggestions, sometimes they didn't. I decided nevertheless that it was worth expanding the dialogue to all readers of *IJARE*, both to provoke discussion and perhaps some reflection regarding how we use language.

Original Research Articles

The first of this issue's research articles comes from Kevin Moran, one of our most prolific authors, and senior lecturer at University of Auckland, with Jonathan Webber, also from The University of Auckland. The study, "Surfing Injuries Requiring First Aid in New Zealand, 2007–2012," examines the nonfatal side of aquatic injuries that happen on a regular basis at surf beaches in New Zealand. By relying on lifesaver incident reports rather than hospital admissions or other data, the authors have described what may be a more realistic and accurate picture of what kinds of first aid beach guards regularly administer.

Our second research article titled, "Unobtrusive Observation of Caregiver-Child Pairs at Public Pools and Playgrounds: Implications for Child Unintentional Injury Risk," is authored by Lauren A. Petrass and Jennifer D. Blitvich, both from the University of Ballarat in Australia (and an institution I would love to visit if I manage to attend BMS 2014!). Both of these authors have established an excellent line of inquiry relative to supervision in aquatic settings that is illustrating how much educational work we need to do to educate the public about risks in the aquatic setting and the need to much more closely supervise children. I wouldn't have guessed that most caregivers tend to supervise their children more closely on playgrounds than they do in aquatic settings! You will undoubtedly want to investigate this study closely.

The third research article is one of the culminating studies done in an extensive line of inquiry investigating racing start safety. Andrew Cornett of Eastern Michigan University, and Joel Stager and Hiroki Naganobori, both from Indiana University's Councilman Center for the Science of Swimming, have contributed, "Vertical Head Velocity During Worst-Case Scenario Swim Starts." After studying a number of other variables that seem to impact the depth of swimming racing starts (a.k.a., long-shallow dives), this study asked swimmers to perform a start from a block, but purposefully dive straight down (fortunately into a deep diving well). By using this methodology, these investigators determined that virtually no current starting depth in competitive swimming eliminates the possibility of a catastrophic injury especially for full-grown individuals with a typical body mass. I know this study, along with their previous studies that *IJARE* has been privileged to publish, have altered my own personal water entry behavior in favor of feet first entries most of the time!

The next study, "Scan Time Goals With Analysis of Scan Times From Aquatic Facilities," was authored by Scott Davison and John Hunsucker, both from the National Aquatic Safety Company (NASCO). This study has perhaps the

largest sample size in *IJARE*'s history with over 15,000 records, accumulated over a number of years and from hundreds of aquatic facilities (both water parks and pools). Referencing signal detection theory, the authors have investigated how well guards actually perform targeted scanning time goals. As you will discover from reading the paper, they have some good news and some bad news (as the old cliché goes). I think their carefully articulated document should provide challenges and raise new questions for other investigators of lifeguard training as well as agencies who train lifeguards.

William D. Ramos and Craig M. Ross, from the Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies Department at Indiana University, have contributed a fascinating study, "Impact of an Indoor Waterpark on Physical Activity Levels and Use Patterns of Youth Participants." Coming from a recreation and leisure perspective, the authors argue that, based on the observational evidence from this study, at least some waterpark venues may provide sufficient physical activity to partially counteract the growing concern over obesity in the high-income countries (HICs) such as the United States, Canada, western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. I found the results of which waterpark events promote more activity to be somewhat counterintuitive until I read the discussion and explanation. I also was intrigued with how a recreation and leisure scholar approaches the study of physical activity in comparison to exercise and fitness scholars. I was gratified that Bronfenbrenner's Ecological System Theory has not been entirely abandoned as a theoretical framework.

The final research article in this issue is the first to provide any information from the continent of Africa that *IJARE* has published. According to some statistics, Africa may have the highest rates of drowning in the world. Without more information such as contained in "Approaches for Beach Safety and Education in Ghana: A Case Study for Developing Countries with a Surf Coast," awareness of these tragic fatalities may go overlooked, which in itself is a tragedy. This study (which is still in progress) comes to *IJARE* from Australian authors Cara Hammerton, Robert Brander, Nicholas Dawe, Craig Riddington, and Roger Engel. Cara, Nicholas, and Craig all represent Surf Educators International from Sydney, while Rob is from the School of Biological, Earth, and Environmental Sciences at The University of New South Wales. Roger is from Macquarie University, Department of Chiropractic, Sydney. For anyone concerned about the high rate of drowning especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), this article ought to be interesting and provide hope that there are some practical solutions for drowning prevention. I expect to hear more ideas and details during our meetings in October in Potsdam.

Educational/Review Article

This issue concludes with an interesting educational literature review that comes to us from Lori Anne Sherlock and colleagues, W. Guyton Hornsby, Jr. and James Rye, all from West Virginia University. In the process of accepting this paper for publication, I discovered Lori shares my own love for the NYS Adirondack Preserve and that she is a passionate triathlete. More importantly, Lori is an excellent writer. Despite the technically-challenging nature of some of the concepts and terms in their review, "Physiological Effects of Aquatic Exercise on Cognitive Function in the Aging Population: A Review of Literature," I felt she and her co-authors conveyed her information in a very straightforward and easily-readable manner.

Moreover, their reference list regarding cognitive functioning, aging, and exercise is extensive while also illustrating a dearth of aquatic exercise studies that have investigated the potential impact of water exercise on cognitive functioning. I think you will want to read this article, both for its information and for identifying future research questions needing to be addressed in this area.

Welcome, Kathleen!

Last issue I bid a sad personal farewell, but happy retirement to Margery Kane, *IJARE*'s longstanding managing editor (i.e., the person who does all the really hard technical work to make all of our articles look like scholarly works should, both in print and online). In this issue, I have the good fortune of welcoming **Kathleen Bernard** as *IJARE*'s new managing editor. In fact, the authors of this current issue already have received a friendly, welcoming email from Kathleen upon the acceptance of their manuscripts, so perhaps they already may recognize her name and email. I am confident that Kathleen will uphold the high standards and quality editing that we all have come to expect from the editors at Human Kinetics. So, welcome, Kathleen! We are glad to have you as part of our scholarly community.

Until I see many of you in Potsdam or when you read our next issue in November 2013, may you enjoy continued good reading and safe swimming.

Steve Langendorfer, Editor
International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education