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In This Issue...

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EDITORIALS

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In This Issue . . .

I am pleased to introduce readers to this second issue of the 5th volume of the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education*. You are about to be treated to a fine collection of original research articles.

World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2011

Readers will discover a strong drowning prevention theme among many of the articles published in this issue. I think it marks an important resurgence of interest in a core focus area within aquatics and water safety. The drowning prevention theme is indeed timely because shortly after subscribers receive this issue, the World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2011 will convene on May 10-13 in Danang, Viet Nam. Organizers of the World Conference have asked me to invite readers of *IJARE* even at this late date to register and participate in the Conference. You can get information at the organizers' website: <http://www.worldconferenceondrowningprevention.org/>. I am anticipating being able to publish a number of papers from the World Conference in upcoming issues of *IJARE*.

In This Issue

I lead off this issue with an editorial that focuses on the role of statistical analyses in drawing inferences and building a strong evidence basis for aquatic and swimming sciences. Over the first four years of publishing the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education*, we have printed a wide range of articles that have employed an equally wide range of statistical analyses ranging from descriptive statistics (e.g., means, percentages) to sophisticated inferential statistics (e.g., *t* tests, ANOVA, MANOVA). Recently, some questions have arisen about the appropriate techniques for interpreting statistics. I have written an editorial to overview some of the issues.

Original Research Articles

Readers will find seven very interesting research articles in this May issue. The first article, "Float First": Trapped air Between Clothing Layers Significantly Improves Buoyancy Upon Immersion in Adults, Adolescents and Children," was authored by a research group from Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Portsmouth in the UK. Those authors include Martin J. Barwood, Victoria Bates, Geoffrey Long, and Michael Tipton. They conducted a two-part study investigating the degree to which clothing improved buoyancy during accidental immersions by children and adults. Their "Float First" principle is in keeping with other cold water immersion research.

The newest *IJARE* Board member, Kevin Moran, from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, has followed up an earlier study with "Rock-Based Fisher

Safety Promotion: Five Years On.” The study documents at least one significant change that the rock fisher safety project has engendered while acknowledging that other behavioral changes are very slow in being enacted.

The third and fourth papers are part of a series of investigations by Andrew Cornett, Josh White, Alexander Willmott, Brian Wright, and Joel Stager, all from Indiana University’s Department of Kinesiology and the Councilman Center for Aquatic Research. The first study, ‘Block height influences the head depth of competitive racing starts,’ finds a most perplexing and non-intuitive outcome: that lowering starting block height alone is not sufficient to reduce the depth of a racing start. The second of their studies in this issue, with Josh White as lead author, explores the degree to which swimmers can adjust the depth of their racing starts (Surprise? They can!) as well as whether there is a difference between more and less experienced swimmers (There is!).

Another terrific study from “down under,” authored by Lauren Petrass, Jenny Blitvich, and Caroline Finch, School of Human Movement and Sport Sciences, University of Ballarat in Victoria, Australia, is entitled “Self-Reported Supervisory Behavior and Beliefs, Validated Against Actual Observations of Caregiver Behavior at Beaches.” The authors have investigated how well caregivers at beaches accurately reported their supervisory behaviors of children as compared to observations of what they actually did. It was heartening to learn that parents and caregivers generally were accurate in their self reports, which will support further use of self report instruments in water safety studies.

David Schwebel, Heather Jones, Erika Holder, and Francesca Marciani from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (and Oberlin College) conducted an important study about the impact of simulated drowning audits at aquatic facilities. The study, “The Influence of Simulated Drowning Audits on Lifeguard Surveillance and Swimmer Risk-Taking Behaviors at Public Swimming Pools,” demonstrated the efficacy of using inspections and so-called “simulated drowning audits” on the wider behaviors at swimming pools.

The final research article in this issue, “Parent/Caregiver Lack of Knowledge: A Barrier for Perceived Youth Swimming Ability?” comes from the Department of Health and Sport Sciences at the University of Memphis. Authors Timothy Ryan, Carol Irwin, Joris Drayer, and Richard Irwin have added another fascinating study to their line of work with USA Swimming to understand that SES factors and other community situations seem to prevent some youth from gaining swimming skill.

As always, I hope you enjoy the reading.

*Steve Langendorfer, Editor
International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education*