

11-1-2011

In This Issue...

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Recommended Citation

Langendorfer, Stephen J. (2011) "In This Issue...," *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education*: Vol. 5: No. 4, Article 1.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25035/ijare.05.04.01>

Available at: <https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ijare/vol5/iss4/1>

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EDITORIALS

International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education, 2011, 5, 369-371
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In This Issue . . .

Welcome to this fourth issue that wraps up our fifth volume of the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education*. I hope readers enjoy the diverse contents representing a wide variety of interesting and important aquatic topics and issues. In fact, these topics represent some of the most wide-ranging we have collected in a single issue in recent volumes.

The issue starts with my editorial on the scholarly review process in which I purposefully contrast the recent push to adopt quantitative “impact factors” for journals with more qualitative individualized procedures using a set of scholarly criteria originally proposed by Ernest Boyer of the Carnegie Foundation. I will enjoy any feedback from readers similar to that we received after the last issue and editorial.

Letters to the Editor

You will find two letters to the editor in this issue. Chris Brewster from the U.S. Lifesaving Association has composed a letter titled, “Elevating Scholarly Standards” that reacts to last issue’s editorial plus the letter of response from John Hunsucker and Scott Davison. The second letter comes from Ann Gresswell of the International Halliwick Association. Ms. Gresswell comments on a paper by author Susan Grosse that she criticizes for using some terminology about the “Halliwick Concept” that differs from that currently advocated by the International Halliwick Association.

Research Articles

The first of five research articles in the current issue, “The Impact of an Aquatic Exercise Protocol on Physiologic Measures Within an Asthmatic Population,” was authored by a team of authors from Washington State University including Kasee Hildenbrand, Timothy Freson, Celestina Barbosa-Leiker, Sara Nordio, Bruce Becker, and Ashley Miller. The authors propose a new aquatic exercise protocol for exercisers suffering from asthma and explore the impact of the exercises on several physiological measures.

The second research paper is another in a line of studies regarding the safety of headfirst entries, a.k.a., racing starts, conducted by a team of researchers at Indiana University’s Councilman Center for Aquatic Research including Andrew Cornett (now of Eastern Michigan University), Josh White, Brian Wright, Alexander Willmott, and Joel Stager. This study, “Racing Start Safety: Head Depth and Head Speed During Competitive Backstroke Starts,” is the first to my knowledge to look at the influence of head depth, distance, and speed related to safety in backstroke starts.

Angela Beale and Susan Lynn have authored “Swimming in New Waters: Profiling K-12 Aquatic Physical Activity in Florida as a Viable Lifesaving Force

in Physical Education.” In their study they have surveyed K-12 physical education instructors in Florida to understand why so few schools conduct instructional aquatic activity programs and how they might be better promoted.

In the first paper published in *IJARE* by authors from Japan, Koichi Kaneda, Yuji Ohgi, and Chiaki Tanaka, have authored “Gender Differences in Metabolic Responses During Water Walking.” They explored the degree to which males and females differed in their responses to different water walking conditions. I am sure aquatic exercise researchers will find their paper of interest.

In the final research paper of this issue, Susan Oh, Melissa Licari, Brendan Lay, and Brian Blanksby from the University of Western Australia have explored “Effects of Teaching Methods on Swimming Skill Acquisition in Children With Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD).” I suspect that many American readers are unfamiliar with DCD. These authors investigated whether two different types of pedagogies had different impacts on children diagnosed with DCD. Surprisingly, the children made similar gains in their swimming skills, regardless of the type of pedagogy employed.

Educational Articles

This fourth issue features two extraordinarily well written and interesting educational articles on two very different topics. Steven Waller and Dawn Norwood have written a challenging paper, “What African Americans Can Do to Bridge the Swimming Gap: A Call to Action” as a means to address why African Americans as a group apparently have lower levels of swimming skill and higher rates of drowning than other groups, especially compared to European-Americans. The second educational paper, written by Robert Brander, Anthony Bradstreet, Shauna Sherker, and Jamie MacMahan, is entitled “Responses of Swimmers Caught in Rip Currents: Perspectives on Mitigating the Global Rip Current Hazard.” Regular readers may recall the media review in the previous issue on the same topic of rip currents. The author of that book and the current lead author, Rob Brander, are one and the same person, Australia’s so-called “Dr. Rip.”

Scientific Review

This issue publishes a recently-completed scientific review and instructor advisory conducted by members of the American Red Cross’s Scientific Advisory Council (SAC). I have to confess that this review causes me to smile because it deals with one of those longstanding swimming “myths”: waiting to swim after having eaten. My mother used to attempt to enforce “this rule” on my siblings and me as children, although with limited success. Now we have a real scientific review providing evidence that my Mom and many other mothers were unduly concerned because there is no evidence that having a full stomach has any deleterious effects on swimmers. Peter Chambers, Linda Quan, Peter G. Wernicki, and David Markenson authored the scientific review and instructor advisory on “Swimming after Eating” that proudly debunks the old myth (I promise not to tell my mother “See. I told you so!”).

Indexes

This issue concludes in the same fashion as all 4th issues of each of our volumes: publishing an author index for that volume and a list of our *IJARE* peer reviewers of manuscripts published in Volume 5. This is an appropriate time to once again thank members of the Editorial Board and all of our many manuscript reviewers for their invaluable service in providing the requisite peer reviews of all articles that are published in the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education*.

Until our next new volume in February of 2012, good reading and safe swimming.

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