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## In Volume 2, Issue 3

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## EDITORIAL

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### In Volume 2, Issue 3

I think readers will be fascinated by the variety, scope, quality, and importance of the aquatic articles appearing in this third issue of our second volume of the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education*. It appears to me that as *IJARE* matures and gains greater recognition around the world, the quality of the submitted and ultimately published articles likewise increases. Although we still have not accrued a long backlog of articles waiting to be published each quarter, we do seem to be increasing the number and quality of articles under review as the reputation of *IJARE* increases and spreads.

To lead off the several outstanding research articles in this issue, I am pleased to feature an important study, both commissioned and funded by the National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF) and authored by a dedicated group of researchers headed up by Dr. William Rowley. Dr. Rowley's colleagues and collaborators include Dr. Glen Egstrom, from UCLA; Donald Witte, NSPF Board of Directors; and Ester and Francisco Rocha, who work with Dr. Rowley. This lengthy and technical report provides the results of an extensive series of experiments using suction-entrapment tests and conducted on dual main swimming pool drains.

I would particularly encourage all readers to inspect this article *online* because there you can access digital video in which two of the authors narrate and illustrate how the experiments were conducted. They have included graphs of the test results as part of their video. This audiovisual spectacular is not available, for obvious reasons, in the print version of this issue, so if you do not subscribe to the online version (note that there is no additional cost for print, online, or combined subscriptions) please consider doing so or asking your subscribing institution to do so.

Related to this study and article, a recent federal law, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Act currently is in the process of being enacted. The results of this study likely will have strong implications for how this law is interpreted and enforced.

We have not always had the luxury of having quite so many outstanding research articles all in one issue. The second article, authored by Nancy Chase, Xuemei Sui, and Steven Blair from Exercise Science at the University of South Carolina, follows up their article in the May issue. The authors use data from the Cooper Institute's ongoing study to examine the value of regular swimming as an exercise modality as they compare men who swim with other male adults who walk, run, or are sedentary. They examine the differences among these groups in all-cause mortality risk.

Readers should note that the topic of this article will be featured in Dr. Steven Blair's keynote presentation at the World Aquatic Health Conference in Colorado Springs this October. I encourage everyone to read this article thoroughly and then come to the conference in Colorado Springs to ask Steve really tough questions after his keynote! (I am sure I will be Steve's favorite editor after this comment!)

The third research article deals with tests of reliability and validity for two aquatic assessment instruments for persons with disabilities. It was authored by Ruthy Tirosh and Michal Katz-Leurer, from Alyn Hospital, Tel Aviv University, and Miriam Getz, who is with the Kibuzzim College of Education and the Israel Sport Center for the Disabled. I was particularly impressed by the rigor with which Ruthy and her colleagues conducted their reliability and validity tests. Few other aquatic instruments, for the normally abled or those with disabilities, have received this important scrutiny. I hope other researchers and practitioners will follow their example.

The issue's fourth research article comes to us from Murcia, Spain. Juan Antonio Morena Murcia, Celestina Martínez Galindo, and Pablo Marcos Pardo from the faculty of Physical Education and Sport at the University of Murcia (Juan and Pablo) and the Catholic University of San Antonio at Murcia (Celestina). These authors have conducted an intriguing study that explored how Spanish aquatic exercisers differ across gender and age in their motivations and reasons for using the water as an exercise modality.

A diverse group of researchers and practitioners whose common link appears to be the United States Life Saving Association has conducted an analysis of the beach-related incidences and injuries from 2004 to 2006 that occurred at beaches within the Huntington Beach, CA, jurisdiction. Their purpose was to examine the evidence to determine what degree of lifeguard and first-aid certification appeared sufficient for the guards in Huntington Beach. I think you will find this study by Elly Lensch (Franciscan Skemp Healthcare/Mayo Health Systems), Daniel Jerome (University of Wisconsin–Lacrosse), Peter Chambers (Franciscan Skemp Healthcare/Mayo Health Systems), Steve Reuter (City of Huntington Beach), John Porcari (University of Wisconsin–Lacrosse), and Peter Wernicki (ProSports-Orthopedic Surgery) to be interesting and informative.

Phillip Conatser, from the University of Texas at Brownsville, authored our final research paper for Issue 3 based on a survey of the attitudes of instructors from swimming schools toward teaching persons with disabilities. Despite the relatively small number of respondents, Phil has provided a remarkable overview about enduring attitudes that block some instructors from teaching individuals with disabilities while proposing some specific ways to correct the problem.

Our third issue concludes with an interesting educational article by Lee Yarger and Steve Dalcher, both with the School of Physical Education, Sport, and Exercise Science at Ball State University. This article provides readers with a provocative essay about their vision for the appropriate pedagogy that swimming and lifeguard instructors should use to fully engage their students in learning. I will personally be surprised if their article does not draw some spirited responses from some intrigued readers.

It appears that perhaps a downside that I did not compose a quarterly editorial essay in this issue is that my introduction to the articles in Issue 3 is much lengthier and more verbose than normal. I did feel it important to spend a bit more time introducing readers to the outstanding articles in this issue in hopes that you each seriously will read, discuss, and react to them. As always, I welcome responses, either personal or for publication.

As I wrote earlier relative to the Chase, Sui, and Blair article, the National Swimming Pool Foundation hosts its fifth annual World Aquatic Health Conference

(WAHC) October 15–17, 2008, in their home city, Colorado Springs. In addition to Steve Blair’s keynote speech that will be based in part on his article in this issue, there will be, as always, a wide array of exceptional presentations taking place at WAHC, including another keynote by Michael Beach, one of *IJARE*’s editorial board members. Please accept this invitation to come and participate. I hope to see many of you there.

*Steve Langendorfer*  
*Editor*