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## In This Issue...

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## In This Issue . . .

The final issue of this second volume of the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education* marks a landmark of sort for our publication. Because of our many authors, dedicated Editorial Board members, and reviewers, we continue to publish a wide variety of interesting aquatic research and professional articles for an expanding readership. Our subscriptions have increased by over 50% in the past year, although we still want to continue to expand our availability. (If your institution does not subscribe and is willing to add another serial, please request it; if you know another aquatic professional who could benefit from IJARE, pass along the information or better, buy them a subscription as a holiday present!) At the end of this issue, we provide an index to the publications that have appeared during this past year as well as a list of our many dedicated reviewers. Congratulations to our many authors and a sincere thank you to our Editorial Board and reviewers.

I am pleased with the variety and diversity of aquatic-related articles that you will find in this fourth issue of Volume 2. You already will have noted and read J.B. Smith's (from Indiana University of Pennsylvania) guest editorial, the first of several planned editorials by our Editorial Board members. As always, we hope that some of you may feel strongly enough to react to J.B.'s opinion and compose a letter to the editor in response.

The research articles continue to emphasize the diverse and international nature of the journal. Dawn Hall, Tom Elliott, Eric Nehl, and Karen Glanz, from Emory University's School of Public Health, have co-authored "Effectiveness of a Targeted, Peer-Driven Skin Cancer Prevention Program for Lifeguards." Their study examined how well a peer educational program could alter the behaviors of lifeguards to decrease their potential risk of skin cancer. For those readers who are outdoor lifeguards or in charge of those guards, you will want to examine the results of this study.

Nancy Hritz from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington and William Ramos from Indiana University have authored "To Travel or to Compete? Motivations of Masters Swimmers." They surveyed participants in a recent Masters National Championships about their motivations for traveling to participate in the championship meet. I think Masters swimmers will read some surprising and some not-so-surprising insights about why most adults may participate in championship events.

Juan Antonio Moreno-Murcia from the University of Murcia and Luis Miguel Ruiz Perez, University of Castilla la Mancha, both in Spain, describe their efforts to create and validate a pictorial scale for young swimmers for measuring their perceived competence in swimming in the article, "Aquatic Perceived Competence Analysis in Children: Development and Preliminary Validation of a Pictorial Scale." I think this unique article will intrigue both swimming instructors as well as sport psychologists. It marks an important contribution because of the need for valid and reliable measures related to all manners of aquatic behaviors.

The final research article is authored by Jan Prins and Nathan Murata from the University of Hawaii. Their “Kinematic Analysis of Swimmers With Permanent Physical Disabilities” should intrigue adapted aquatic instructors, adapted physical activity professionals, and many other aquatic experts. They have examined how differently-abled individuals adapt to their unique movement needs using biomechanical analyses. You will want to take time to read this article as well as examine the video that can be viewed through the online version of this issue.

Our old friend, Stathis Avramidis, from Leeds Metropolitan University and the European Lifeguard Academy, has authored two interesting educational articles I think readers will want to read. The first, “Animal rescuers: A review,” co-authored with Eleftheria Avramidou from the European Lifeguard Academy, provides a historical review of how a variety of different animals from horses to doves to dolphins have been involved in aquatic lifesaving efforts. Stathis’ second contribution, co-authored with his Leeds Metropolitan University colleague, Ronald Butterly, “Drowning Survival in Icy Water: A Review,” provides an overview and a survey about how cold water induced hypothermia may have altered the probability of drowning victims’ survivability. I think the authors began this article convinced that hypothermia induced by immersion in cold water actually improved the likelihood that young drowning victims would survive only to discover that the evidence is ambivalent at best. While there certainly is anecdotal evidence, the statistical evidence does not indicate any significant or meaningful differences. You will want to read this article and its conclusions.

Brook MacMillan from Lancaster, California has submitted her first article to our journal, “Overcoming Lifeguard Shortages: Strategies to Effectively Recruit and Retain Lifeguard Candidates.” Brook has proposed a few strategies to address the increasingly problematic issue related to a lack of lifeguard candidates to staff our aquatic facilities. Her article compliments previous studies and professional articles in earlier issues of the journal. I think the number of submitted articles indicates the pervasiveness and seriousness of this aquatic crisis.

For the first time in our journal’s short history, we have three very intriguing “invited reviews” within a single issue. Barbara Bushman from Missouri State University was invited to submit her article that reinforces topics addressed in several of my earlier editorials. Her review, “How to Get Answers to Our Questions: Finding and Understanding Scientific Literature,” addresses the need for employing the scientific method and for evaluating the quality of scientific references as applied to research in the exercise science and aquatic areas.

Bob Stallman along with co-authors M. Junge and Turid Blixt from the Norwegian Life Saving Association, Norwegian School of Sports Science, and Norwegian Swimming Federation, respectively, provide this article, derived from Bob’s presentation to the World Water Safety Congress in Porto, Portugal in 2007: “The Teaching of Swimming Based on a Model Derived From the Causes of Drowning.” The content of the article is a proposed model for swimming instruction that is based upon their observations, review, and inferences from the causes of drowning. One of the peer reviewers for Bob’s paper strongly suggested that this model needed to be disseminated widely in order to provoke international discussion among aquatic agencies about the design of our learn-to-swim programs and how they can best teach swimming while maximally reducing the risk of drowning. I heartily agree with the reviewer and strongly recommend you read and reflect upon

this provocative article. I think this may end up being one of the most important articles we have published.

Our invited review section wraps up with Dean Witman's article, "U.S. Adoption of the Uniform Definition of Drowning." Dean, from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, has single-handedly challenged several agencies within the U.S. government to apply the uniform definition of drowning proposed by the World Water Safety Congress in 2003. I was impressed that congressional representatives seriously paid attention to Dean's inquiry and provided him with some very specific and informative feedback. If you are not someone who is familiar with the international effort to standardize the definition of drowning and how to collect accurate information about its incidence, you need to read Dean's invited contribution.

We complete the articles in this final issue of Volume 2 with my media review of one of the several recent Human Kinetics aquatic publications. This review provides an in-depth description of David Salo and Scott A. Riewald's *Complete Conditioning for Swimming*. I think the review speaks for itself. If you are a serious swimmer or triathlete or a coach, you will want to read this review and probably purchase a copy of the text and its accompanying DVD.

Enjoy this issue!

Stephen J. Langendorfer  
Editor, *International Journal of  
Aquatic Research and Education*