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In This Issue (13:2)

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In This Issue (13:2)

I assume some day we all will look back and think what a crazy time 2020 and 2021 was. I can say that across my life in the 20th and 21st Centuries during which I have witnessed so many amazing events I never would have envisioned a time when our travel and face-to-face personal interactions would suddenly be so limited by a worldwide pandemic. I also would never have predicted how much virtual interaction would become the norm. I am constantly amazed at how my five- and two-and-a-half-year-old grandsons have taken it all in stride. Wow!

In this long-overdue issue of the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education*, we have published another varied set of articles whose submission predated the pandemic. These contributions to the aquatic literature are nevertheless important and address many important water safety topics. I predict these articles from around the world will pique your diverse reading interests.

Research Articles

The first research article in this issue, “Water Safety Education Programs in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Seattle Communities: Program Design and Pilot Evaluation” was authored by an international set of authors, William A. Koon (University of New South Wales), Elizabeth Bennett and Sarah Stempski (both from Seattle Children's Hospital), and Jennifer Blitvich (Federation University, Australia). The paper presents a drowning prevention project that included a multi-lingual water safety education plus lifejacket use. The project was oriented toward diverse communities in Washington State where open water drownings have been a concern. I recommend its reading, especially by others aspiring to engage in successful water safety education Programs.

Another important research article, “Getting In: Safe Water Entry Competencies,” was authored by Kevin Moran, University of Auckland, and Jennifer Blitvich, Lauren Petrass, and Keith McElroy, all from the Federation University Australia. This fascinating study examines one of the important elements of water competence: water entry. It is part of an on-going line of inquiry designed to flesh out the physical skills, knowledge, and attitudes related to water competence.

The research study, “The Lifeguard Rescue Reporting System: Survey Results from a Collaborative Data Collection Method,” was authored by William Ramos, University of Indiana, Bloomington, Roy Fielding (dec.), University of North Carolina, Charlotte, Kristina R. Anderson, University of Indiana, Bloomington, and Peter G. Wernicki, American Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council. This important article is dedicated to the second author, Roy Fielding, a giant in the field of aquatics, who was unexpectedly taken from us in 2020. It presents the results of

a decade-long effort by Roy and the Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council to examine self-reports of lifeguard actions and incidents. You will want to closely read and study this tome.

Teresa Stanley and Keven Moran of Drowning Prevention Auckland and the University of Auckland have authored “Perceptions of Water Competencies, Drowning Risk and Aquatic Participation among Older Adults.” I recommend this paper to you. It provides some excellent insights into how older adults perceive their risks of drowning along with their water competencies. This information starts to understand why the over-65-year-old group is the only one in high income countries (HIC) where the drowning rate has been increasing.

Scientific Review Article

A scientific review article, titled “Surfboard Paddling Technique and Neuromechanical Control: A Narrative Review,” came from “down under” authored by a research team at Southern Cross University. The authors included Wynand Volschenk, Zachary J. Crowley-McHattan, John W. Whitting, Rudi A. Meir, and Alec K. McKenzie. The scientific review examines techniques of prone paddling on a surfboard comparing paddling on an ergometer vs. actual in-water paddling using neuromotor control variables.

Enjoy reading the excellent articles in this issue!
Steve Langendorfer
Founding Editor, *IJARE*