



Editor-in-Chief

Tommy Boone, PhD, MBA

Review Board

Todd Astorino, PhD

Julien Baker, PhD

Steve Brock, PhD

Lance Dalleck, PhD

Eric Goulet, PhD

Robert Gotshall, PhD

Alexander Hutchison, PhD

M. Knight-Maloney, PhD

Len Kravitz, PhD

James Laskin, PhD

Yit Aun Lim, PhD

Lonnie Lowery, PhD

Derek Marks, PhD

Cristine Mermier, PhD

Robert Robergs, PhD

Chantal Vella, PhD

Dale Wagner, PhD

Frank Wyatt, PhD

Ben Zhou, PhD

Official Research Journal of
the American Society of
Exercise Physiologists

ISSN 1097-9751

JEP**online**

Editorial

A Look Back and Forward to 2011

TOMMY BOONE

Department of Exercise Physiology, The College of St. Scholastica, USA

Boone T. A Look Back and Forward to 2011. **JEPonline** 2011;14(1):i-ii. It is a cold day in Duluth, MN and for some reason I find myself thinking about the beginning of **JEPonline**. Also, as we come to the end of another year, it seems only natural to look both back and forward. As the person who created this journal, what I am going to say is a firsthand account of events that led up to where we are today. Please appreciate that, perhaps, unconsciously my thoughts then were molded by the spirit of the time which is actually only slightly different from today.

During the academic year of 1997-1998, I asked Dr. Robert Robergs to help me with my plans to develop a professional organization for exercise physiologists. During that meeting at The College of St. Scholastica, I told him that I had obtained from the Library of Congress a unique eight-digit number (ISSN 1097-9751) used to identify a print or electronic periodical publication. That is when we went to work to create the first **JEPonline** issue in April of 1998. If you know Dr. Robergs, you know that he is a man of great qualities. I have the highest respect for him. In addition to being the co-founder of ASEP in 1997, he assumed editorial responsibility for the journal. His commitment, time, and ethical guidance are unmatched. I will forever be grateful to him.

In addition to earning the Ph.D. from Ball State University, he received the master's degree from Wake Forest University, and the B.Ed. from the State College of Victoria. A native of Melbourne in Australia, Dr. Robergs studied under Dr. Alan Morton, Dr. Paul Ribisl, and Dr. David Costill. His background is an interesting mix of exercise physiology, exercise biochemistry, environmental physiology, and cardiac rehabilitation. If you are not aware of his recent transition from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM "back" to Australia, you should be. We will miss him and the work he has done on behalf of the ASEP organization and professionalism in exercise physiology.

As university commitments increased, the Editor-In-Chief position moved from Dr. Robergs to Dr. Jon K. Linderman in 2006. I have always been impressed that he is a 1991 Ph.D. graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. His dissertation advisor was Dr. George A. Brooks. Dr. Linderman is one of those gentle giants; a man who is easy to work with. I can say without reservations that as the Managing Editor of the journal since 1998, I have enjoyed working with Dr. Linderman. His work on behalf of the journal elevated the journal to an international level. In fact, in his departing December 2010 Editorial, he said: "...**JEPonline** has allowed us to cross geographical borders and expose our readers to research from a diverse number of cultures. This diversity in thought has expanded our understanding...." There is no question that he would still be in charge of the journal if it were not for his increase in academic workload at the University of Dayton.

From April 1998 to December 2010, Dr. Robergs and Dr. Linderman were responsible for overseeing the journal for 13 years. They helped publish 334 articles, 60 issues, and approximately 6 articles per issue. Of course, it would not have been possible without the help of the **JEPonline** review board, and that is why their names are listed with every issue. They are largely responsible for the acceptance of the journal nationally and internationally as a peer-reviewed scientific publication, and I am especially grateful to them for their assistance. As of 2011, the journal is in its 14th year. Although there has been the opportunity to convert the electronic journal to a print copy publication on more than one occasion, the journal will continue in the original format.

As for tomorrow, the month of February represents the first issue of the 2011 year. As the 3rd Editor-In-Chief, I hope that I can live up to what Dr. Robergs and Dr. Linderman have done for the journal and for the profession of exercise physiology. I know that they would want everyone involved with the journal to continue working in a collaborative partnership with authors throughout the United States and elsewhere. So, what will 2011 bring? For those of us who are part of the journal, we have renewed our commitment to work harder on behalf of the journal authors and their work. Also, we look forward to working with new authors who have great research papers to share with the world of exercise physiology.

Before closing I want to say something very briefly about the Impact Factor and its role in academia. No, **JEPonline** does not have an Impact Factor. Yes, it is widely recognized that the Impact Factor is used to rank and identify the so-called best journal to publish one's work. This is true today even though most researchers (and academic administrators) don't understand that the *Science Citation Index (SCI)* is frequently misunderstood, if not used indiscriminately. After a careful examination of the cumulative impact data, it is clear that the quantitative influence reflects more than the assumed quality of the journal. For more information on this point, you may want to refer to the paper I published in the January 2004 issue of the ASEP professionalization journal (**PEPonline**). The URL is <http://faculty.css.edu/tboone2/asep/journalIMPACTfactor.html>

For certain, you will want to read what the International Respiratory Journal Editors Roundtable that comprised editors of 14 journals concluded. They unanimously approved the following statement regarding the use of the Impact Factor for the academic promotion of individual scientists: "...we propose that the Impact Factor calculated for individual journals should not be used as a basis for evaluating the significance of an individual scientist's past performance or scientific potential. There are several reasons not to equate the Impact Factor of a journal in which the scientist publishes with the quality of the scientist's research." For a summary of their comments, refer to the following URL: <http://jap.physiology.org/content/107/4/1005.full>