A CALL TO DUTY

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As many of you have known for a couple of years, I have had a hard time keeping up with the increasing work required as editor-in-chief of JEPonline. This year revealed this difficulty, and it became obvious that it was time to hand over the editor-in-chief responsibility to someone new.

This development was very problematic, as my initial thoughts on this dilemma consisted of: who would volunteer to commit the energy and time needed to do this job? Is this the end of JEPonline? After all, one thing ASEP has revealed since 1998 is that there is little Ph.D. support for the professional development of exercise physiology within the U.S.

Given that I had become terribly behind in processing manuscript reviews, I had to inform all submitters of this development so that manuscripts could be withdrawn. I also offered the possibility for a new editor-in-chief to be found, and that once this happened manuscripts and JEPonline could continue to flourish.

Successfully, notification to all submitters produced a flurry of support for my work and the need for JEPonline to remain an option for research, review and commentary publication for exercise physiologists, both in the U.S. and internationally. Such support led to numerous offers of assistance, as well as a life saving offer for staffing a new editor-in-chief from Jon Linderman and his departmental chair, Paul Vanderburgh from the University of Dayton. This was the life vest that JEPonline needed, and to be honest, that I did not think would happen.

Thanks to Jon, ASEP can continue to support JEPonline and the research needs of exercise physiologists. Thanks to Jon, the role of JEPonline in scientific peer review can be retained, with the message
that unbiased, free and open access to research is in the best interests of science and exercise physiology. I will be working with Jon to place JEPonline back on a bi-monthly publication track, and to pursue applications for the inclusion of JEPonline into electronic databases such as Pub Med. Yes, 2007 is to be a big year for JEPonline.

I am remaining managing editor, and will be responsible for posting issues to the web. This December, 2006 issue is evidence of a revitalized JEPonline, and I encourage all exercise physiologists to support our work. It is with your support that JEPonline can continue to grow.

Thank you for your support.

Rob Robergs
Managing Editor, JEPonline