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25 Candles

Adapted Physical Activity Quarterly is celebrating its Silver Anniversary. Over the years *APAQ* has become an international, cross-disciplinary journal, intended to stimulate and communicate scholarly inquiry and discourse related to individuals with disabling conditions, physical activity, and sport. *APAQ* is recognized as the official journal of the International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity (IFAPA). As such, *APAQ* is responsible for presenting the most contemporary and rigorous scholarly research concerning physical activity and individuals with disabling conditions.

APAQ's 25th anniversary represents the collaborative efforts of many dedicated people. However, special recognition is warranted for a few particular people. Enormous gratitude is extended to our dear friend and founding editor, Professor Geoffrey D. Broadhead, as well as to the founding father of Human Kinetics, Rainer Martens, both of whom first conceptualized and developed the journal in the early 1980s. The founders established the journal and its mission with the vision that *APAQ* would influence the theory and practice of adapted physical activity for future generations to come. Since its inception, *APAQ* has enjoyed successful growth in both circulation and standing within the discipline, thanks to the efforts of outstanding former editors: Greg Reid, Claudine Sherrill, and David L. Porretta. These distinguished individuals sustained the leadership set by Professor Broadhead and advanced the mission of *APAQ*. As a result, *APAQ* continues to publish timely, accurate, and provocative lines of research in adapted physical activity. The combined efforts of these dedicated professionals have made *APAQ* the premier international journal in our field.

It is an honor to serve *APAQ* as the fifth Editor, and while I recognize that the status of the journal is exceptional, I admit that there can and must always be new ways to promote improved levels of scholarship published in *APAQ*. The prerequisite building blocks for *APAQ* to achieve excellence exist. We have an outstanding commitment from Human Kinetics Publishing along with the dedication of many professionals to serve the journal in various roles. Nevertheless, the need for colleges and universities to prepare high quality researchers with the vision and commitment to establish and expand upon a consistent line of research is essential. *APAQ*'s reputation will continue its exemplary scholarly course as long as professionals from the international community use it as the primary source to advance the best science.

APAQ has experienced significant improvements over the past two years. A few of the recent achievements include the following:

- Human Kinetics Journal Archive project was completed in 2007, and as a result, all back issues of *APAQ* (starting with Volume 1, Issue 1) are available to online-only and print-plus-online subscribers;
- *APAQ* now appears in 17 international indices;

- *APAQ* now uses Manuscript Central (MC) to streamline the peer-review process and simplify data monitoring tasks of the field editors, resulting in an unprecedented increase in manuscript submissions and subsequent processing of papers;
- Since *APAQ* began using the Manuscript Central system in January, 2007, 321 manuscripts from 32 countries have been submitted. In fact, other countries may be represented in the authorship of manuscripts submitted, but MC lists only the country of the submitting author;
- Also since using MC, our data bank of qualified scholars to serve as peer reviewers has grown to an astonishing 394 reviewers from all over the world. This does not reflect the work of our Editorial Board who continues to give their time and expertise in reviewing manuscripts for *APAQ*;
- Because of the unprecedented growth in the number of manuscripts submitted, the ranks of our Associated Editors have grown to five from the traditional one or two Associate Editors position;
- Human Kinetics personnel have established a process to publish authors' *APAQ* manuscripts on line in PDF soon after acceptance. The articles appear at the HK Web site (www.hkusa.com/journals) under the heading Online Preview. Although not necessarily assigned volume, issue, or page numbers, the articles are considered published, are viewable by all online subscribers, and are citable as "in press." Subsequently, the articles are assembled into the next available print issue making recognition of *APAQ* easier for professionals. This accessibility to accepted but not yet published manuscripts should enhance *APAQ*'s stature in adapted physical activity around the world;
- In 2007, Human Kinetics signed an agreement with Sheridan Press to work toward the publication in 2008 of *APAQ* articles in XML, which will improve *APAQ*'s searchability, including live links to references available online;
- *APAQ* is the official journal of the International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity (IFAPA); and
- *APAQ* now has policies that summarize the process for developing a "special issue" for the journal and another policy outlining criteria for editorial board membership.

APAQ's continued excellence will be ensured as university faculty and others demonstrate genuine leadership that inspires passion for their work and clear direction for research and professional practice. Future leaders must act from a place of devotion to the endeavor of scholarly excellence in research. To these ends, together we will establish theoretically driven lines of research that advance knowledge in the profession and discipline.

APAQ seeks to publish papers associated with research across the lifespan associated with physical activity and individuals with disabilities. Indeed *APAQ* seeks more experimental research related to clinical and applied settings than it currently receives. As the leading multidisciplinary international journal in adapted physical activity, *APAQ* must present papers with generalizability of results. This will confirm the collaborative and collective notion that regardless of differences the various papers report, there continue to be links across interest areas, national boundaries, professions, and disciplines.

The journal welcomes “Viewpoint,” papers that challenge assumptions associated with the field, as well as tutorials about research designs and statistical applications. Furthermore, *APAQ* will sustain its commitment to publish the highest quality research available because it can offer the best forum for leaders to show their commitment to establishing and developing careful science in adapted physical activity.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank the Editorial Council (i.e., Emeriti Editors, Associate Editors, Digest Editor, and the Books and Media Review Editor) for the extraordinary direction and guidance they have afforded me over the past two years, always counseling with enthusiasm and without hesitation. Similarly, the exceptional support from Human Kinetics Publishing, especially Managing Editor, Margery Kane and Journal Division Director, Greg Reed, who make it possible for us to continue to produce an excellent journal. Closer to home, I want to extend my sincere expression of appreciation to my assistant and friend, Vicki Carlson. Without her continued support and constant prodding we would never have accomplished so much in two years. Most of all, I want to thank my Provost and dear friend, Louis Fernandez, for his enduring support during my tenure with *APAQ*.

This is the time for us to celebrate the future of *APAQ* that has been built on the past 25 years of excellence and to recognize the people that have contributed so much to the success of the journal. Notwithstanding the relative youthfulness of the journal, *APAQ* offers the international community a rich history as well as many opportunities to contribute to adapted physical activity research. Let us work together for the next 25 years to ensure that this trend continues.

Terry L. Rizzo

APAQ Editor

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