

Editorial

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The editorial board of *APAQ* and our many reviewers provide the journal with enormous assistance by offering authors honest and constructive feedback regarding their manuscripts. In addition, the feedback is incorporated into the decision as to the acceptability of the paper for publication. Moreover, the editorial board assists the editor and associate editors in establishing policies for the journal. This brief comment will outline some expectations and anticipated changes in the review process and editorial board appointments.

Manuscripts received by the editor are sent to two or three reviewers who are scholars with expertise in the content of the article. Reviewers are those identified as adapted physical activity specialists as well as individuals most of us associate with related fields of study within the physical activity sciences. While editorial board members can certainly expect to receive more papers than a typical reviewer, papers are not necessarily reviewed by a board member.

Every author who entrusts a manuscript with a journal expects timely, thoughtful, constructive, and ethical criticism. Reviewing is a highly respected responsibility of committed scholars that is done freely in the spirit of improving one's chosen profession. The letter to the author containing the editorial decision and reviews is usually greatly anticipated. And, after some initial frustration (occasionally levied at the reviewers and editor), most of us modify our work. Upon reflection, distanced by time possibly, we come to realize that the paper is improved as a function of the feedback received. Thus, the process of reviewing is beneficial to us all.

The associate editors and I have decided to draw up guidelines for *APAQ* reviewers, including an example of an excellent review. These should lead to even better reviews of papers submitted to *APAQ*. Our guidelines may prove to be old wine to our experienced reviewers, but they will provide an important "in-service" to young scholars who are only beginning to take part in this important dimension of the publication process. If we can upgrade our reviewing, then authors will submit their work to *APAQ* in the knowledge that regardless of the publication decision, the specific paper and possibly their future research will be enhanced.

Editorial board members not only function as reviewers but also help develop policy for the journal. Since their counsel and contributions are so highly valued, we have developed some principles to guide our appointment of future editorial board members. Most important, the individual must possess an extensive refereed journal publication record in adapted physical activity as well as having been an author in *APAQ*. A potential board member would also have a history as a timely and constructive reviewer for the journal. Appointed board members

will be expected to submit a minimum of one paper to *APAQ* every 2 years. We should also strive for an equitable distribution of both sexes, include persons with a disability who meet the above criteria, become increasingly international, and have a variety of areas of inquiry represented.

Individuals who meet these criteria and who would like to make a greater commitment to *APAQ* should send their curriculum vitae to the editor. Associate editors will be consulted on all decisions. Reviewers and editorial board members are indispensable. We must be open in our expectations of them and helpful in our guidance to them. In this manner, everyone benefits in adapted physical activity.