With this first issue of 2015, the Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology enters its 37th year as an official journal of the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity. Its national and international reputation as the premier journal in the subdiscipline remains unchallenged, and Volume 36 again provided evidence that JSEP establishes the standard for excellence in research for advancing knowledge in the discipline. It is the preferred publication venue for researchers in sport and exercise psychology and I fully expect that tradition to be maintained as Volume 37 issues are filled in 2015.

As highlighted in my editorial comments last year, the number of articles published in JSEP each year was substantially increased starting with Volume 35. Volumes 35 and 36 have now each featured approximately a dozen more articles than appeared in Volume 34. These increases have facilitated my interest in ensuring that expeditious communication of important research findings occurs in JSEP by allowing more space for the acceptance of groundbreaking research reports while also ensuring maintenance of the exceptionally short publication lag periods between acceptance and publication that have been a hallmark of the JSEP publication process. I had forecast the possibility that the increased number of articles included in Volume 35 might result in a 1-year drop in the 2014 journal’s impact factor (arriving in June 2015) but that decrease, to whatever extent it occurs, will not be indicative of a change in journal quality in any way. If anything, I think the quality of articles published in Volumes 34 and 35 (used in calculation of the 2014 impact factor) was at least as high as those in any previous 2-year impact factor cycle. Any decrease in the 2014 impact factor will instead be a function of the nature of the statistic. Specifically, citations in a target year (2014 in this instance) of manuscripts published in the two preceding years (i.e., 2012, 2013) tend to be influenced by the article exposure time, so the second year of any impact factor calculation period (2012 in this instance) tends to be more heavily cited than the first year (2013 in this instance). The averaging of 2014 citations across the imbalance in number of articles published in 2012 and 2013 will likely result in an attenuated 2014 impact factor being reported in 2015. To the extent that decrease occurs, I believe it will be erased in the 2016 reporting of the journal’s 2015 impact rating, when the number of articles published in each volume in the calculation will be again equivalent. Therefore, any decrease in the 2014 impact factor that might result from increasing the number of articles published should be temporary and the result of the way the statistic is calculated rather than anything meaningful. In any event, the journal’s present (i.e., the value for 2013) Thompson Reuters ISI Web of Knowledge Impact Factor is 2.593 (5-year impact factor of 3.787)—once again the highest among journals focused on publication of sport and exercise psychology research.

Articles ultimately progressing into publication in 2014 were all conceptually and theoretically sophisticated, as required by the JSEP mission, and methodologically rigorous, as would be expected in the premier research outlet in the subdiscipline. I do not believe that a stronger cohort of articles has appeared in a single JSEP volume prior to this year. One example of the strength of the research available in Volume 36 can be found in an article entitled The Teacher Benefits From Giving Autonomy During Physical Education Instruction, submitted by Sung Hyeon Cheon, Johnmarshall Reeve, Tae Ho Yu, and Hue Ryen Jang, that was published in Issue 4. These authors will be awarded the 2014 JSEP Excellence in Research Award at the 2015 NASPSPA meeting in Portland, Oregon. This newly established award is sponsored by Human Kinetics, and this article, reporting on a multicenter three-wave longitudinal design experiment exemplifies the strength of research available across the entire volume. The authors have my congratulations and I look forward to seeing how 2014’s exceptionally strong cohort of articles is built upon in the coming years.

The number of new submissions (N = 330) to JSEP in 2014 was the highest in journal history and impressively strong. These submissions were received from across the globe, including Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East, and North and South America; thus, the extent of the geographic representation of authors and participants was impressive. Moreover, the array of topics covered in those submissions touched upon virtually every topic and area of psychological inquiry of potential relevance to the JSEP mission. The topical range of these submissions was challenging from an editorial perspective, but the strong flow of submissions combined with the strength of the authors and the JSEP review process foreshadow the possibility of yet another very good year for the journal in 2015.

As the preferred publication venue in sport and exercise psychology, JSEP effectively establishes the standard of quality in communication of important research findings in the discipline. Accomplishing this feat is challenging. It requires the maintenance of efficient and timely publication processes, and an ability to obtain authoritative reviews affording timely decision-making processes that also provide constructive feedback to authors on their submissions. The JSEP peer review processes were efficient in 2014, with the 330 submitted manuscripts all being handled in a timely and authoritative manner. The preliminary screening of submitted manuscripts typically occurred within a week of submission. During that period, the manuscripts were either assigned to an action editor,
or letters informing the authors of the screening decisions 

(n = 102) were forwarded (M = 3 days, SD = 3). Full 
complements of reviewers for manuscripts (i.e., two to 
four reviewers each) entered into the review process were 
typically secured within an additional 2 weeks. Despite 
this prompt action upon submission, the efficient timeli-
ness of the review process at JSEP is largely attributable 
to the many scholars who reviewed submissions for 
JSEP in 2014—including the Editorial Board members and 
the extensive and diverse array of ad hoc reviewers who 
participate in the journal’s peer review. Aside from the 
constructive high quality of their reviews (a matter of high 
importance at JSEP), the speed of reviewers’ contribu-
tions was fundamental to the efficiency of the process 
because notification of authors on decisions necessarily 
awaits the arrival of the last review. JSEP reviewers, on 
average, returned their feedback to the journal within an 
impressive 25 days (SD = 13) of acceptance of invitations 
to review manuscripts.

As a related matter, Human Kinetics has sponsored a 
second new JSEP annual award: Excellence in Reviewing. 
This award is given to a scholar who provided excellent 
and extensive service as an ad hoc reviewer for the journal 
in a given year. JSEP Editorial Board members are not 
considered for this award because membership on the 
Editorial Board, in itself, is inherent recognition of each 
member’s history of excellent and extensive service to the 
journal; in short, reviewing excellence is a requirement 
for JSEP Editorial Board membership. Recognition of 
similar excellence in service to the journal, perhaps even 
leading to Editorial Board membership at some point in 
the future, through an award for guest reviewers seems 
entirely appropriate and warranted. In excess of 250 guest 
reviewers provided review service to JSEP in 2014, with 
many scholars providing multiple excellent reviews over 
the course of the year. Selecting a single award recipient 
under these circumstances was daunting, perhaps even a 
fool’s errand (albeit an important one!) given the wealth 
of reviewing excellence that has benefited JSEP over 
the past year. All action editors were asked to provide 
nominations on reviewers worthy of receiving the award 
for this year. Among the many excellent candidates identi-
fied, Athanasios Mouratidis—formerly of the University 
of Leuven, in Belgium, and presently at Hacettepe Uni-
versity, in Turkey—has been selected as the recipient of 
this award. His contributions to the journal as an ad hoc 
reviewer have been extensive and insightful. His reviews 
have been outstanding in facilitating editorial decisions 
on manuscripts and in consistently providing constructive 
feedback to authors so that their manuscripts can be 
refined for further consideration at JSEP or another 
publishation outlet. This award provides recognition of the 
JSEP editorial team’s appreciation of his contributions 
to the journal. His award will also be presented at the 
NASPSPA meeting this year in Portland, Oregon.

The 2014 JSEP editorial team, including Associate 
Editors Mark Beauchamp (January through June), Ian 
Boardley (June through December), Lew Hardy, Fuzhong 
Li, Meghan McDonough, and Catherine Sabiston, also 
played a very important role in the journal’s efficiency 
by ensuring that well-considered but prompt decision 
making supported the preceding efficiencies in the pro-
cess. Upon receipt of all reviews, editorial decisions were 
typically forwarded to authors within the following week. 
Consequently, authors received JSEP decisions within 
50 days (SD = 16) of initial manuscript submission, and 
within 36 days (SD = 16) of resubmission for a second 
review. Maintaining the high standards established in 
preceding years at JSEP is always a bracing challenge, 
but it is one that JSEP editors and Editorial Board mem-
bers have committed to again in 2015. I fully expect 
that the informed decision making on JSEP submissions 
and desirable turnaround times of previous years will be 
maintained, perhaps even enhanced, in 2015.

Ben Jackson has moved from the JSEP Editorial 
Board to join Ian, Fuzhong, Meghan, and Catherine in 
serving as a JSEP associate editor for 2015. His extensive 
previous service as a JSEP Editorial Board member and 
guest reviewer means that he is well experienced and well 
seasoned for undertaking and fulfilling these responsi-
bilities. After stalwart service an associate editor since 
2011, Lew Hardy has decided that the time has come to 
dedicate his energies to his not-so-guilty pleasures of 
mountaineering, skiing, sailing, and generally seeking 
adventure, as well as having the freedom to do all of the 
other things he wants to do otherwise. I look forward to 
hearing the stories of his richly deserved adventures and 
misadventures in great detail in the coming years. His 
investments of time, energy, and insight as a JSEP associ-
ate editor amidst delivering on his many other profes-
sional responsibilities during that time has been greatly 
appreciated. Fortunately, I will not need to forgo his sage 
advise and feedback in the future, as he has assured me 
of his willingness to continue working to advance the 
journal albeit from the vantage points of being an informal 
advisor and an expert reviewer.

As occurs in some degree on an annual basis, there 
has also been turnover on the JSEP Editorial Board for 
the coming year. It will be diminished in 2015 by the 
absence of Larry Brawley, who has served on the JSEP 
Editorial Board since 1991. His acumen and his incisive 
reviews have served the journal and all of the editors 
for more than two decades. The support and insight he 
has offered during my time as editor have been greatly 
appreciated and I stand in his debt as a consequence. The 
JSEP Editorial Board will also be diminished in 2015 by 
the absences of Martin Hagger and Nick Myers, who, 
incidentally, has recently accepted an appointment as 
the new editor for Measurement in Physical Education 
and Exercise Science. Their contributions and support as 
members of the Editorial Board have also been greatly 
appreciated. It goes without saying that Larry’s, Martin’s, 
and Nick’s experience cannot be replaced, but the 2015 
JSEP Editorial Board has, nonetheless, been replenished 
by enthusiastic scholars with excellent and extensive track 
records of guest review service for the journal, including 
Brandon Alderman (Rutgers, the State University of New 
Jersey), Pete Coffee (University of Stirling in Scotland),
Anne Cox (Washington State University), Alexandre Morin (Australian Catholic University), and Ian Taylor (Loughborough University in England). Moreover, Mark Beauchamp (University of British Columbia), who stepped down from associate editor responsibilities last summer to facilitate his study leave adventures, has agreed to again take up JSEP Editorial Board responsibilities in the coming year.

Among other changes for 2015, I note that after a couple of very successful years as the JSEP Digest Editor, Christopher Shields has decided to accept new challenges and thus will be relinquishing his responsibilities with the Digest. This important section of the journal has thrived under his leadership. I have greatly appreciated his service, and I wish him the best. Kimberley Gammage has agreed to shoulder Digest Editor responsibilities in the coming year. Her previous service as a Digest Compiler leaves her well prepared to provide leadership going forward. I have every reason to anticipate that she will carry Christopher’s fine work forward while also further advancing this important section of the journal.

Finally, it is likely that this is the last “From the Editor” commentary that I will have the pleasure of writing. I announced at JSEP Editorial Board at the Minneapolis NASPSPA meeting last year that I had decided to step aside from JSEP editorial responsibilities. I had come to the conclusion that the time had arrived for a new editor with fresh ideas to advance the journal in the important role it plays in the discipline. It was a bitter-sweet decision because I have enjoyed every minute of the 12 years I’ve spent at the helm. It has been an immense pleasure on innumerable accounts. A search has been underway since that meeting to identify the new JSEP editor-in-chief. The expressions of interest in assuming the responsibilities have been entirely satisfying. A bright future is on the horizon for the journal regardless of who among the excellent candidates is ultimately appointed. The processes involved in the appointment are managed by Human Kinetics in conjunction with the NASPSPA Executive Committee. I will continue fulfilling editorial responsibilities until an appointment is made and the transition procedures are finalized. It is anticipated that the transition point could be as early as the NASPSPA conference in Portland but perhaps not until a later point that is consistent with the appointment agreement with the new editor. Nonetheless, I will certainly enjoy my remaining time in this position, regardless of its presently ambiguous length, because, even after a dozen years of service, being the JSEP editor continues to be a privilege that I value greatly.

In closing, as always, I wish to thank in advance the many authors who will submit their research to JSEP for publication consideration in the upcoming year, as well as the many scholars who will provide critiques of those manuscripts to inform JSEP publication decisions. JSEP is successful only because of the many contributions and widespread participation of scholars interested in sport and exercise psychology. That support is greatly appreciated and it makes being the JSEP editor-in-chief a great pleasure. All the best in 2015.

Robert C. Eklund, PhD FACSM FNAA
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology