



### *Special Issue*

## **Concussion Rehabilitation: Methods, Determinants, and Outcomes**

The *Journal of Sport Rehabilitation* is pleased to announce a call for manuscripts for a Special Issue entitled, *Concussion Rehabilitation: Methods, Determinants, and Outcomes*.

### **Background**

Treatment and rehabilitation of sport concussion continues to evolve. Current recommendations support early return to physical activity and a multidisciplinary

approach to caring for individuals who sustain a concussion. Studies continue to support the notion that clinicians should shift away from advising strict rest until symptom resolution. Yet, questions remain regarding how to best provide appropriate rehabilitation guidance for patients with sport concussion, following the updated recommendations of the Concussion in Sport Group's Amsterdam 2022 International Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport. We invite authors to contribute to growing this body of knowledge on treatment and rehabilitation for sport concussion in this special issue of the *Journal of Sport Rehabilitation*. In this issue, we will compile new evidence that explores methods/trial results and protocols concerning rehabilitation or intervention approaches (e.g., exercise, physical activity) relevant following concussion, factors informing rehabilitation post-concussion, and outcomes following rehabilitation, intervention, or methods relevant to the treatment of those with concussion.

### **Guest Editors**

David R. Howell, PhD, ATC

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## Suggested Topics

We desire submissions from multidisciplinary teams that focus on rehabilitation for individuals who have sustained a concussion. Here, *rehabilitation* refers to exercise, activity, and/or programming used in the management and treatment of concussion in the short- and/or the long-term. The topics for submission can include (but are not limited to): methods/trial protocols around rehabilitation approaches, studies evaluating rehabilitation interventions after a concussion, studies illustrating factors of consideration in the rehabilitation of concussion, and/or studies evaluating various activity levels or programming for post-concussion management. While intervention-based studies are encouraged, observational studies that have clear implications for future rehabilitation protocols or randomized clinical trials are appropriate.

## Types of Scholarly Work

In this special issue, we encourage multidisciplinary perspectives in all submissions utilizing any of the following methodologies and manuscript categories, or others not listed here (with permission from guest editors):

- Original research articles
- Narrative/Literature review articles (we will accept a maximum of two narrative reviews)
- Systematic review/Meta-analysis
- Critically appraised topics (we will accept a maximum of two CATs)
- [Clinical Updates or Perspectives](#) (see author guidelines below)
- [Study/Trial protocols](#) (see author guidelines below)
- Expert commentaries
- Editorials

## Submission and Publication Timelines

We intend to publish the manuscripts as a JSR Special Issue on *Concussion Rehabilitation: Methods, Determinants, and Outcome*. The target publication date for the special issue is *mid-to-late 2024*. Accepted articles will be published online Ahead of Print (approximately 6 weeks after acceptance), receive a DOI, and be deposited with indexers. Timelines are outlined below:

- October 1, 2023: Abstract deadline. Submit planned abstract using formatting guidelines outlined below.
- November 1, 2023: Authors of submitted abstracts notified whether they have received permission to submit the full manuscript.
- March 15, 2024: Deadline for initial submission to JSR
- April 15, 2024: Peer reviews completed and returned to authors
- May 15, 2024: Second round revision of manuscripts due
- June 30, 2024: Deadline for final, revised manuscripts
- 3rd quarter 2024: In print publication of special issue

## Writing and Publishing Guidelines for this JSR Special Issue

### 500-Word Proposal Abstract

We are accepting manuscripts that focus on concussion rehabilitation. We desire submissions that focus on rehabilitation post-concussion. Here, rehabilitation refers to exercise, activity, and/or programming used in the management and treatment of concussion in the short and/or the long-term. The topics for submission can include methods/trial protocols around rehabilitation, studies evaluating rehabilitation interventions post-concussion, studies illustrating factors of consideration in the rehabilitation of concussion, studies evaluating various activity levels or programming for post-concussion management.

If you would like to contribute, please email an abstract (500-word limit) to the JSR ([JSR@atsu.edu](mailto:JSR@atsu.edu)) who will forward abstract proposals to the Guest Editors. *The subject line of the email should include: "Proposal for Concussion Rehabilitation Special Issue".*

The abstract should include the following; abstracts missing key elements will not be reviewed.

- Author(s) name, title(s), and affiliation(s)
- Type of scholarly work from the list above
- Title of scholarly work
- A description of your manuscript (ie, rationale, description of methods and outcomes, data source(s); *all proposals should include some "data" to illustrate the project is in progress and will be in line with what is proposed*)
- Status of project (data collection in progress + planned completion date, data collection completed + undergoing analysis, analysis complete, etc.)
- Selected key references (<10) supporting the work. *References are not included in the word count limit.*

The Guest Editors will review the abstract, provide feedback, and, if deemed a fit for the special issue, invite authors to submit a full manuscript.

### Writing and Publishing Guidelines for this JSR Special Issue

Submission of full manuscripts should follow JSR's Authorship Guidelines, accessible at: [https://journals.humankinetics.com/view/journals/jsr/jsr-overview.xml?tab\\_body=null-10999](https://journals.humankinetics.com/view/journals/jsr/jsr-overview.xml?tab_body=null-10999).

Additional information on Clinical Updates/Perspective articles and Study/Trial protocols can be found below.

### Contact Information for Submitting Proposal Abstract and Questions:

Kellie C. Huxel Bliven, PhD, ATC

JSR Editor

[JSR@atsu.edu](mailto:JSR@atsu.edu) or [kbliven@atsu.edu](mailto:kbliven@atsu.edu)

## Author Guidelines for Clinical Updates or Perspectives

Clinical Updates or Perspectives manuscripts discuss the translation of advancements in concussion rehabilitation research into clinical practice. These manuscripts should review and summarize relevant literature to present the current state of knowledge and provide practical, evidence-based strategies for effectively implementing concussion rehabilitation recommendations by multidisciplinary teams.

Clinical Updates or Perspectives manuscripts should include the following:

- **Title page.** This should be submitted as a separate file and
  - state the manuscript title;
  - include for all authors: full name, degrees and credentials, institutional affiliation and address, and email addresses; clearly indicate the corresponding author
  - name the collaborative research group (if applicable).
- **Declarations page.** This should be submitted as a separate file. It must contain the following sections (if applicable):
  - conflicts of interest/competing interests;
  - funding; authors' contributions;
  - acknowledgements
- **Abstract.** This should be submitted during the online manuscript submission and in the body of the manuscript file. The abstract may not exceed 300 words. The use of abbreviations should be minimized. The abstract must include the following headings: Context (background and purpose of the study), Design and Methods (how the study will be performed; proposed analyses), Discussion (brief summary and potential implications), Trial registration information, Keywords
- **Manuscript file.**
  - **Abstract.**
  - **Introduction.** The introduction sets the stage by presenting the existing knowledge and understanding of the topic. Provide an overview of the topic, incorporating relevant background information and rationale to support the manuscript's main recommendations, arguments, or viewpoints. Additionally, present emerging trends and advances, highlighting recent breakthroughs, developments, or emerging patterns or guidelines related to concussion rehabilitation. The primary objective is to provide readers with current information and valuable insights that support the clinical practice recommendations.
  - **Clinical Practice Recommendations:** This section presents the practical strategies and explanations of how to implement new concussion rehabilitation care recommendations. Discuss challenges and potential barriers and offer ideas for overcoming them. Including supplemental information is permitted.
  - **Future Directions:** This section explores potential future directions or areas for further research or investigation. It may encourage further discussion on the topics by highlighting unanswered questions, suggest new avenues for exploration, or discuss potential challenges and opportunities.

- **Conclusion:** The conclusion section provides a concise summary of the main points discussed in the manuscript. It may reiterate the importance of the topic, summarize key findings or recommendations, and offer final thoughts or reflections on the clinical update or perspective.
- **References**

## Author Guidelines for Study/Trial Protocols

The publication of Study/Trial Protocols is a way for researchers (and funding bodies) to stay updated in their fields and share insights into research activities that are often not otherwise published. Thus, the research community benefits through improved transparency, reduction in redundancy of work, and collaborations may be fostered.

Study/Trial protocols of rehabilitation approaches will be considered for proposed or ongoing research studies. Protocols nearing completion of participant enrollment and/or data collection at the time of submission will be considered on a case by case basis. The status of the study should be clearly stated at submission.

Study/Trial protocols submissions must include

- Declarations evidence of ethical approval (i.e., institution review board, human subjects research review board, etc.)
- Statement of external funding, if applicable
- A completed SPIRIT checklist, which is referenced in the body of the manuscript and included as an appendix. A SPIRIT checklist can be accessed for download or use of the online tool: <https://www.spirit-statement.org/> . For checklist items that are not applicable (N/A), authors should provide a brief explanation addressing why the item is not applicable.
- A completed SPIRIT [figure](#) must be referenced in the body of the manuscript and included as a figure.

Study/Trial Protocol manuscripts should include the following:

- **Title page.** This should be submitted as a separate file and
  - state the title that describes the study design, population, interventions, and trial acronym (if applicable);
  - include for all authors: full name, degrees and credentials, institutional affiliation and address, and email addresses; clearly indicate the corresponding author
  - name the collaborative research group (if applicable).
- **Declarations page.** This should be submitted as a separate file. It must contain the following sections (if applicable):
  - ethics approval and consent to participate
  - consent for publication
  - availability of data and materials
  - competing interests
  - funding; authors' contributions
  - acknowledgements
- **Abstract.** This should be submitted during the online manuscript submission and in the body of the manuscript file. The abstract may not exceed 300 words. The use of abbreviations should be minimized. The abstract must include the following headings: Context (background and purpose of the study), Design and Methods (how the study will

be performed; proposed analyses), Discussion (brief summary and potential implications), Trial registration information, Keywords

- **Manuscript file.**

- **Abstract.**
- **Introduction.** This section should explain the relevant background and rationale for the study, its aims, a summary of the existing literature and why this study is necessary or its anticipated contribution to the field.
- **Methods/Design.** 1) The study's aim, design and setting, 2) description of participant characteristics and sample size calculation, 3) clear description of all processes, interventions, comparisons, and randomization process, 4) statistical analysis plan
- **Discussion.** This section should address practical or operational issues involved in performing the study and any issues not described in the other sections.
- **Trial status.** Report the protocol version (number and date), date participant recruitment began, and the approximate date when recruitment will be completed.
- **List of abbreviations.** It is recommended that use of abbreviations be minimized and be limited
- **References**

Resources used:

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/pages/authors/#protocol>

<https://www.spirit-statement.org/>

<https://trialsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13063-020-04771-8>