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CATA Research Foundation: On the Progression of Research North of the 49th Parallel

The author is from the Canadian Athletic Therapists Association Research Foundation, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

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The Research Foundation of the Canadian Athletic Therapists Association (CATA Research Foundation) is pleased that *Athletic Training & Sports Health Care* (ATSHC) is supportive of our efforts to promote research within our association, especially at our national educational conference. You may have noticed in previous volumes of ATSHC that you had the opportunity to read abstracts submitted to the CATA conferences, as well as at the biannual World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy meetings. The support of ATSHC is beneficial in several ways; first, the audience is expanded beyond those who attend the conference, so the ideas and results presented herein can be used to develop knowledge and progress our profession. Second, the authors are more receptive to submitting their work at our conference knowing that abstract publication in a reputable journal is part of the process. This alone will help to increase the submission rate for our conference in years to come. Finally, publication in ATSHC creates a long-term record of these projects, again sharing knowledge beyond the conference attendees.

We must remember that abstracts are just that. For the CATA conference, the CATA Research

Foundation accepts and reviews research to be presented. Although we adhere to a specific format, including the need to provide results, there is not the rigorous review that the published manuscripts in this and other journals receive. One must remember this when assessing the merit and value of the abstracts for the preliminary information they provide.

That said, the readers of this editorial should know that the review process for abstracts is much like that of other conferences. A call for abstracts is made in the autumn, with a deadline early in the following year. Masked abstracts are sent out to be reviewed by CATA Research Foundation members and additional credentialed individuals. A mechanical review occurs in addition to examination of the content. Following acceptance and notification to authors, the abstracts are sent to ATSHC for editorial review and publication.

Our presentation format is a bit different from the usual. We ask presenters for a 5-minute verbal summary, which allows for only superficial information to be reported. This generally creates an interest that spurs conversation and idea sharing at the poster session that follows, and it allows conference attendees to focus quickly on

those projects that are of higher interest to them. It works well for us, and it could be a consideration for some of the other smaller regional conferences.

In this issue of ATSHC, you will see the abstracts that were accepted

for presentation at the CATA conference in May 2012. Although there aren't too many submissions, we think sharing the process and format of presentation will aid the number of submissions in the future and stimulate athletic trainers

and other health care professionals to discuss and share ideas for the betterment of health care globally. Our thanks go again to ATSHC and its publisher, SLACK Incorporated, for support of our research endeavors. ■