NATA Annual Meeting to Highlight Athletic Training–Focused Peer-Reviewed Journals

I must first apologize for the “radio silence” these last few issues. The journal has been fortunate to have received some very good and thought-provoking guest editorial submissions that have been published in the last few issues of Athletic Training & Sports Health Care, so I have been on hiatus. I am back now!

As June approaches, I am beginning to gear up for the summer conference travel circuit. I have many trips lined up over the next several months, including Melbourne, Australia, for the 8th World Congress on Science and Football, the 70th NATA Clinical Symposia & AT Expo in Las Vegas, Nevada, the SWATA Meeting in Arlington, Texas, and the 8th International Ankle Symposium in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. These opportunities allow me to visit with colleagues, meet new friends, expand my knowledge of sports health care, advocate for athletic trainers, and, most importantly, get the word out about Athletic Training & Sports Health Care!

At this year’s 70th NATA Clinical Symposia & AT Expo in Las Vegas, my colleague and editor-in-chief of the Journal of Athletic Training, Dr. Jay Hertel, has put together a 2-hour Feature Presentation titled “Evidence Straight from the Source: Peer-Reviewed Publications in Athletic Training.” Jay has assembled a group of editors from seven peer-reviewed publications that have athletic trainers as their primary audience, including Journal of Athletic Training, Athletic Training Education Journal, Sports Health, Journal of Sport Rehabilitation, International Journal of Athletic Training & Therapy, Athletic Training & Sports Health Care, and Clinical Practice in Athletic Training. The forum will provide each of the editors a chance to inform attendees about how each journal provides unique evidence that influences the clinical practice of athletic training and processes for searching, accessing, and interacting with their journal content. This first of its kind event will be an excellent opportunity for me to highlight and showcase our journal and the significant niche it has carved for itself in the sports health care world.

The session looks to inform participants on how they can overcome the difficulties finding and accessing research evidence that is relevant to their clinical practice and weaken the barriers to implementing evidence-based practice in their own settings. Objectives of the session include: (1) appraise their current means of searching and accessing evidence from peer-reviewed journals; (2) apply strategies for searching, accessing, and interacting with content from the
seven primary peer-reviewed athletic training journals; and (3) discriminate among the clinical and scientific foci of the seven primary peer-reviewed athletic training journals. I personally look forward to conversations with other journal editors to learn about their best practices and helpful tips in the editorial process, get a better understanding of how to influence the “global” sports health care community, and gain a greater perspective on the use of social media in the digital age. I cannot thank Jay enough for moving forward with such a terrific idea for a forum and am optimistic that it will be an informative and interactive session.

In concluding, I would like to acknowledge the departure from the journalistic world of my good friend and colleague Dr. Carl Mattingola, who is stepping down as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Sport Rehabilitation after 12 years at the helm. A terrific editorial piece authored by his predecessor Dr. Kellie C. Huxel Bliven in the May 2019 issue says it all (https://journals.humankinetics.com/doi/pdf/10.1123/jsr.2019-0132). Good luck, Carl, as you begin as the Dean of the School of Health and Human Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro on June 1, 2019.

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