

## EDITORIAL

# NAJSPT - THE COMPLEMENTARY JOURNAL

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Questions that are frequently asked of me in my new role as Editor-in-Chief of *NAJSPT*: Are you replacing the *Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy (JOSPT)*? Are you replacing *Physiotherapy Canada*? I appreciate the opportunity to clarify my goals for *NAJSPT*.

Quite simply, I believe a need exists for an additional journal to publish peer reviewed information that is clinically based; to provide articles that will allow the reader information to influence the way in which they treat their patients immediately. The goal is not to replace *JOSPT* or *Physiotherapy Canada*. The goal is to be a complementary journal. The goal is to provide an additional clinical resource to the members of the Sports Physical Therapy Section (APTA) and Sports Physiotherapy Canada (a division of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association) – a readership of nearly 8,000 members.

I have the utmost respect for Dr. Guy Simoneau and Dr. Susan Harris – the Editors-in-Chief of *JOSPT* and *Physiotherapy Canada*, respectively. Founded in 1979 (as indicated in the excellent editorial by George Davies in the February issue of *NAJSPT*), *JOSPT* is a premier journal in rehabilitation with an impact factor that places it among the top 15 rehabilitation journals in the country. *Physiotherapy Canada* is seeking to be included in MEDLINE, a goal which I am sure will occur soon under the excellent leadership of Dr. Harris. The intent is not for *NAJSPT* to compete with these established journals. The goal is to provide a complementary journal that will provide peer reviewed articles that will affect the way that sports physical therapists work on a daily basis – articles that are backed by evidence.

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In a public forum last year, I was asked what more could be done to get physical therapists to treat their patients based on available evidence as opposed to treatment based on past experience. My answer is to provide a new journal that is written primarily for the sports physical therapist, is clinically based, and complements the two premier physical therapy journals published in the United States and Canada. I think it is unfortunate when quality manuscripts not accepted by *JOSPT* and *Physiotherapy Canada* are submitted and published in other journals outside of what is frequently read by members of the Sports Physical Therapy Section and Sports Physiotherapy Canada. By adding this new journal, and making it a member benefit to physical therapists from the US and Canada, it is my hope that the opportunity for physical therapists to be exposed to evidenced based clinical practice is enhanced.

One essential component in producing a quality complementary journal is the peer review process. To that end, I am very excited about the current membership of the *NAJSPT* Editorial Board and thrilled that they have agreed to participate. Thirty sports physical therapists, primarily from the US and Canada, with a nice mixture of academic degrees and advanced clinical credentials make up the current Editorial Board. Over half of the Board possess academic degrees (PhD, EdD); many have the advanced US credential of SCS, ATC, or both; and four have achieved the advanced Canadian clinical credential of diplomate. In addition, the Editorial Board has an international flavor with the inclusion of one sports physical therapist from Belgium, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, and Switzerland. I am indebted to these individuals for their commitment of time and energy to *NAJSPT*. A very impressive group!

These first issues of *NAJSPT* are a beginning. We will begin small, but will grow. With each new

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issue and with each new year, *NAJSPT* will grow in the number of articles published. The immediate goal is to provide a publication with six articles per issue, thereby providing new and clinically relevant information for the sports physical therapist each year. Progress will be slow and steady!

The recent announcement that *Pediatric Physical Therapy* (the official journal of the Pediatric Section of the APTA) and *Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy* (the official journal of the Neurologic Section of the APTA) have been included in Index Medicus is great news for physical therapy. Given that journals from other APTA Sections have sought and secured inclusion in this index, I would be remiss in my role as Editor-in-Chief if I did not set the goal that *NAJSPT* be included in Index Medicus by the end of 2008.

*NAJSPT* – The complementary journal? Yes! But, a complementary journal with high goals and expectations. Slow and steady!

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