Introducing a Practitioner-focused Publication in Exercise Science and Kinesiology

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Abstract

- The purpose is to introduce *Topics in Exercise and Science Kinesiology* (TESK) as an outlet for practical information.
- We searched available journals in the field to determine practitioner-focused options, we also determined the percentage of presented abstracts at a popular meeting compared to the number of published papers in a leading peer-reviewed scientific journal.
- **Point of application 1**: Only 2% of publication options in kinesiology or exercise science have a practitioner focus.
- **Point of application 2**: A relatively small number of peer-reviewed conference abstracts (less than 10%) are deemed publication-worthy following journal peer-review.
- **Point of application 3**: To be more inclusive, we announce the International Community of Scholars in Kinesiology (ICSK); and to provide students with important information on professional development and trending research, we will host a virtual Student Research Week each year.
- **Key Words**: Practical dissemination, poster to publication pathway, student-focused initiatives
TOPICS IN EXERCISE AND SCIENCE KINESIOLOGY

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to introduce a new method of disseminating knowledge in the area of kinesiology and exercise science. The field of kinesiology has a number of scientific-based journals, but a relative dearth of publications dedicated to relaying information to the practitioner in an open access format (see point of application 1). Furthermore, this repository is designed as an expanded poster (rather than a traditional scientific manuscript) with the aim of allowing practical information to be more easily read and understood by a wider audience. As very few peer-reviewed abstracts presented at conferences make it through the peer-review journal process (see point of application 2), this process can be considered as a “poster to publication” pathway for dissemination of practical information. To foster a sense of inclusion to all in our field, the International Community of Scholars in Kinesiology (ICSK) is introduced (see point of application 3). Finally, as our mission has been to serve students and young professionals (1), we also announce Student Research Week that will provide high-quality content in a digital format available world-wide.

Methods and Results

For point of application 1 we sought to identify practitioner-based journals using a standard Google search, and then Google Scholar search (2). As these did not return any hits, the search was redirected to include journals from leading organizations in the field of kinesiology and exercise science, obtained from the organization websites and the key word “practice” (3, 4). To gain insight into the total number of journals in the field, we consulted two sources: 1) SJR Scimago Journal Ranking for “Sports Science” (5), and 2) Journals listed in SportSci 2017 Impact Factors (6). We performed a simple percentage based calculation and found a very small number of practitioner-based publications (around 2%). For point of application 2 we collected the number of conference abstracts presented over the past five years at the Annual American College of Sports Medicine conference, compared to the number of published manuscripts in the organization’s primary journal, Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise (7), during that full year. Again, a percentage-based calculation was performed, and it was determined that less than 10% of the conference abstract volume is represented as a published manuscript in the organization journal. It should be noted that this does not represent manuscripts that are published in other journals, and we were unable to determine the number of submitted versus number rejected.

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We have been able to identify very few content sharing modalities that are directed specifically toward sharing information to the practitioners of exercise science and kinesiology. Journals that meet this criteria are housed within professional organizations: American College of Sports Medicine – *Health & Fitness Journal* (written for front-line health and fitness professionals) (8), and the *Translational Journal of the American College of Sports Medicine* (specific to clinical practice) (9); National Strength and Conditioning Association – *Strength and Conditioning Journal* (practical applications of research findings for strength and conditioning professionals) (10). Compared to the abundance of scientific offerings in exercise and sport science, these practitioner-based journals represent only a small portion of dissemination options (1.84% – 2.36%, see figure 1). Therefore, we feel that it is important to provide a straightforward, practitioner-based, completely open access repository: we introduce here *Topics in Exercise Science and Kinesiology*.

Figure 1. Left panel displays a representation of practitioner-based journals in exercise science and kinesiology from the total number of SportSci 2017 Impact Factors journals (3/164). Right panel displays a similar representation from the total number of “Sports Science” journals listed from the SJR Scimago Journal and Country Rank (3/127).

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Our aim is to present this publication outlet as an option for disseminating information, in an **expanded poster format**. In this format, the goal is to focus on supplying key points of application for practitioners of exercise science and kinesiology in a **visually appealing presentation**. This should also break down publication barriers for young investigators. We feel there is compelling evidence for a **poster to publication pathway**, as very few poster presentations end up as published manuscripts. For example, over the last five years, there were a total of 18,203 abstracts presented at the Annual American College of Sports Medicine conference (3) (not including regional or chapter conferences), however only 1,459 manuscripts published in *Medicine and Science and Sports and Exercise* (or 8.02%, see figure 2) (7). More investigation would be needed to determine whether these abstracts were published elsewhere.

**Figure 2.** Comparison of abstracts presented at the American College of Sports Medicine Annual conference each year to papers published in the organization’s journal.

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3. Point of application

Our sister publication, the *International Journal of Exercise Science* (1) is dedicated to providing students with opportunities to experience and be involved with the research/review process in an authentic. *Topics in Exercise Science and Kinesiology* is aligned with this aim, extending our focus to a user-friendly interface for practitioners on our field, including students and young professionals. To be inclusive, we are also announcing two initiatives that we invite all to join.

1) The **International Community of Scholars in Kinesiology** (ICSK) (11): This organization is envisioned as a collection of individuals contributing to knowledge, collaboration, and the understanding of kinesiological concepts in a global community. Click [here](http://www.ijes-srw.com) for more information, or follow this link http://www.ijes-srw.com

2) **Student Research Week** (12): The aim is to engage students in cutting edge keynote addresses, tutorials specific to the needs of students in exercise science and kinesiology, and to provide students throughout the world with an opportunity to share their research in a non-intimidating environment. It is anticipated that Student Research Week will be hosted in September each year. Click [here](http://www.ijes-srw.com/srw) for more information, or follow this link http://www.ijes-srw.com/srw
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12. Student Research Week

Equipment Utilized

- None