

How Did We Get Here?

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I joined the editorial board of the *Journal of Athletic Training* in 1989. It was an honor to be invited as a young faculty member fresh from completing doctoral studies. Over these many years, I have been privileged to serve 3 editors-in-chief. My roles have changed, and the *Journal* has changed. In 1989, before the Internet, the *Journal* was published quarterly and combined association news with scholarly publications. The number of manuscripts submitted for review was barely sufficient to yield enough papers to fill the pages.

In 2012, the *Journal* is published bimonthly, is indexed in 15 electronic databases, and receives, on average, more than a paper each day for consideration. The number of quality papers exceeds the capacity for timely publication, and we will soon be able to publish papers in electronic format once the copyediting process is completed. Certainly there has been great growth in the quality and recognition of the *Journal*, but how did we get here?

As with any major advance, multiple factors have contributed to the success of the *Journal*. However, success is not an accident, and successful organizations have great leaders. For the past 32 years, the *Journal* has been led by 3 editors-in-chief: Ken Knight, PhD, ATC, FNATA, FACSM; Dave Perrin, PhD, ATC, FNATA, FACSM; and Chris Ingersoll, PhD, ATC, FNATA, FACSM. Each is a mentor and friend to many, many scholars in athletic training, including me. Each faced very different challenges during his tenure as editor-in-chief.

Dr Knight led the transition of the *Journal* to a publication solely devoted to disseminating contemporary research and scholarship and extending recognition of this work beyond the confines of athletic training. He recruited young scholars to build an editorial board and delegated responsibilities for editorial decisions. The organizational structure he created allowed the *Journal* to manage the

increase in volume without changing processes, which has ensured continued editorial and publication quality.

Dr Perrin became editor-in-chief at a time of change. His wisdom led to the establishment of a permanent editorial office and strengthened the role of our managing editor. Growth required an expanded editorial board, and associate editors were appointed to manage the review of submitted papers. The editorial process also became fully electronic, helping to control costs and boost efficiency. Under Dr Perrin, the *Journal* continued to evolve, setting the stage for inclusion in MEDLINE.

Most recently, Dr Ingersoll assumed the position of editor-in-chief at a time of unprecedented growth. He led the final charge in the lengthy campaign to earn acceptance of the *Journal* in MEDLINE and then to secure funding for more frequent and larger publications. His vision set the stage for success in an increasingly electronic world of professional communications. Dr Ingersoll's diplomacy guided the editorial board through challenges it had never encountered, with a firm resolve that scholarly integrity be paramount.

As I begin my tenure as editor-in-chief, I look forward to continuing in the traditions of my predecessors. The pace of growth and change seems to increase constantly, but the quality of editorial work cannot be compromised to fit the changing times. The *Journal* will adapt to change, serve the authors whose work makes it possible, and represent athletic training to an international audience of clinicians and scholars. But in getting started—and I look forward to sharing my thoughts and ideas in future editorials—I want to look back to say thanks to Ken, Dave, and Chris for jobs very well done.

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