

# Message from the Editor

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This issue of the journal brings to our attention a variety of issues encountered in the wellness and rehabilitation care of older adults. The meta-analysis by Bohannon supports the use of a simple clinical measure, grip strength, as an important tool in identifying those at risk of functional decline. Burke-Doe and colleagues explore the interplay of knowledge of risk factors for osteoporosis, fracture, and falls, suggesting that building understanding of such risk factors may be an important intervention strategy to impact activity and functional ability. Moore and colleagues provide support for low-cost walking programs as an effective means of preventing or slowing rate of functional decline in community living aging adults with limited socioeconomic resources. Further support for the importance of walking for aging adults is provided by Puthoff et al's exploration of relationship between walking in the community and lower extremity muscle performance. International colleagues from Turkey, Dr. Sahin et al, who share concerns about identifying aging adults at risk of falls and fall related injury, provide a model of developing culturally appropriate measures in their translation of the Berg Balance Scale into Turkish. Finally, the case report by Roehrig et al is a wonderful example of evidence-based practice in solving real clinical problems for an individual older patient.

As you review this first issue of 2008, please consider all of the "behind the scenes" work that must be done to bring the journal to print, in between the disciplined scholarship of our authors and the final decision making of the editor. I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the very valuable volunteer efforts of our colleagues who have provided peer review and constructive criticism for the many manuscripts that were submitted over the last year. The service these peers provide to the Journal is invaluable, and I am extremely grateful for their commitment!

- William Andrews, PT, NCS, PhD
- Dale Avers, PT, DPT, EdD
- John Barr, PT, PhD
- Michael Bemben, PhD
- Richard Bohannon, PT, NCS, FAPTA, FAHA, EdD
- Salome Brooks, PT, MBA, MS
- Marybeth Brown, PT, FAPTA, PhD
- Monica Busse, PT, PhD
- Julia Chevan, PT, OCS, PhD
- Kevin Chui, PT, GCS, PhD
- Amy Darragh, OTR/L, PhD
- Richard Fortinsky, PhD
- Timothy Hanke, PT, PhD
- Janine Hatch, PT, DPT
- Timothy Kauffman, PT, PhD
- Sarah Lamb, PT, PhD
- Sandi Levi, PT, PhD
- Kathleen Mangione, PT, GCS, PhD
- Michael Moran, PT, DPT, ScD
- Julie Reis, PT, GCS, PhD
- Cathy Sherrington, PT, PhD
- Anthony Vandervoort, PhD
- Sheila Watts, PT, GCS, MS
- Bernadette Williams, PT, DSc
- Rita Wong, PT, EdD

The response to our call for new reviewers has been very positive: we have added 20 new reviewers to the group. Sincere thanks to all who responded to our request for help. Reviewers, new and returning, gathered at APTA/Combined Sections Meeting in Nashville in early February for an update on the review process and discussion of providing effective constructive criticism to the authors who submit their work to us for consideration. As this issue goes to press, a subcommittee of editorial board members and reviewers are evaluating the efficacy of the review process, with the goal of improving rigor, efficiency, and timeliness of response to authors.

Look for some additional changes to the Journal's format in upcoming issues. We will be adding several regular features, including a column that highlights useful "evidence" for geriatric rehabilitation recently published in peer-reviewed Journals in related medical and social science fields; a clinical problems section will be written by physical therapists enrolled in a Geriatric Residency program to model application of evidence to clinical practice, as well as a section for review of relevant text and media resources for use in geriatric rehabilitation and aging-related education. Additional ideas and suggestions that readers might have about how the Journal might better meet clinical needs would be welcome!

*Michelle M. Zusardi*