

Editorial

This year, *Isokinetics and Exercise Science* celebrates its 20th volume.

The idea behind the establishment of a new journal stemmed from a real need. Isokinetic technology came of age in the late 80s after some 20 years of impressive development both in terms of the number of dynamometers and the growing awareness that this technology had become the standard for quantitative evaluation of muscle performance. This awareness was coupled with the understanding that a large number of issues pertaining to the application of this technology remained unsolved. Hence the applied science component. However, it had also become apparent that the range of applications of isokinetic dynamometry was vast indeed, as variations in muscle performance are typically an integral expression of many pathologies/disorders. Hence the clinical component. As a result of the growing number of research and clinical studies, a feeling emerged that a new venue in the form of a dedicated journal was necessary. This trend was similar to the developments other biomed technologies have experienced, e.g., a dedicated journal to medical ultrasound.

During the span of 20 years IES has published hundreds of papers. And whereas in the beginning most had originated from the US, as this was also the birthplace of the technology and the world center of its manufacturing, progressively contributions from other parts of the world have appeared. Currently the journal is truly international with contributions coming from the North America, Europe, Asia, Australia and Latin America. The range of topics covered is wide, from the purely methodological to the highly clinical, as is also reflected by the professional identity of the authors.

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, the journal has invited a number of prominent experts to contribute a review that relates to a specific muscle performance-related topic, albeit not exclusively of an isokinetic nature, e.g., Bohannon's paper on hand-held dynamometry. Moreover, some reviews reflect extensive personal experience with the topic, e.g. Lexell at al.'s review on isokinetic aspects of neurological disorders, while other are of a more general character: Caruso et al.'s paper on reproducibility and Mayer et al.'s on validity of isokinetic findings. Two other reviews touch on a specific but very pertinent topic: De St. Croix' paper on isokinetic testing in children and the review by Hadjic and Dervisevic on typical isokinetic profiles of ball game players.

As clearly evident, these reviews do not cover all relevant domains of the journal. In particular, as its name implies, *exercise* is a major component, also reflected by the growing number of submissions relating to research in human effort. However, as exercise is a much wider field, focusing on the first component – isokinetic dynamometry – could be more beneficial and relevant to the journal's readership.

I would like to take this opportunity and express my deep appreciation to all those who have contributed to this important issue. In the same spirit, thanks are extended to the many who have supported the journal since its inception.

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Editor-in-Chief