EDITORIAL

Trends of Publication in the Education and Practice Sections of the IJTMB: a Call to Action

Ann Blair Kennedy, LMT, BCTMB, DrPH, Executive Editor/Editor-in-Chief, IJTMB

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville and Prisma Health Family Medicine, Greenville, SC, USA

The scope of the IJTMB includes not only publishing scientific research studies, but also to publish education innovation and practice-oriented approaches for all allied health providers whose practice include manually applied therapeutic massage and bodywork. The aims of the Practice and Education sections of the Journal are described in this editorial. The Education section covers topics including curriculum and competencies development, instructional design and delivery, instructional technology, distance learning, and testing/evaluative procedures for both initial education as well as continuing education. Planning, organization, marketing, and management of a successful practice, the incorporation of new scientific findings and methods into clinical practice, new clinical approaches to prevention and treatment of specific health conditions, and ethical issues are included in the Practice section. In an effort to increase publication within these sections we have put forth this call to action. We invite educators and practitioners to submit manuscripts discussing innovations in massage therapy education, how schools and students dealt with the Covid-19 pandemic, practitioners and clients adapted to the pandemic, investigations of the massage therapy profession and about massage therapists, as well as interesting case studies.

EDUCATION

At the IJTMB, our aims are to publish peer-reviewed content that encompasses scientific research, education innovations, and practice-oriented approaches for all allied health providers whose practice include manually applied therapeutic massage and bodywork. In the evaluation of the past two years of publications of IJTMB, we have noted that nearly half of the published articles are in the Research section; however, the Practice and Education sections combined make up less than a quarter of the rest of the published papers (Figure 1). Therefore, while in my last editorial(1) I discussed one of the editorial goals for improving efficiency and the process of peer review at the Journal, the other goals identified by the team were to increase submissions and publication of papers to both our Education and Practice sections. Described herein are the aims and scope of both the Practice and Education sections of the Journal, as well as a call for papers for those sections.

The scope of the Education section covers topics including curriculum and competencies development, instructional design and delivery, instructional technology, distance learning, and testing/evaluative procedures. This can be during the initial education years (pre-licensure) or continuing education. Past published papers include topics such as online massage therapy education, the implementation of a research curriculum, developing curricula for hospital-based massage therapy, teaching about case studies. The five top viewed articles in the Education section published since 2016 are listed in Table 1.

PRACTICE

Appropriate topics for the Practice section include the planning, organization, marketing, and management of a successful practice, the incorporation of new scientific findings and methods into clinical practice, new clinical approaches to prevention and treatment of specific health conditions, and ethical issues. Case reports and case series are also placed in...
The Practice section of the Journal; just over half (55.6%) of the papers published in this section are case reports. The remaining articles address topics such as the practice patterns of massage therapists, attitudes and beliefs of massage therapists about different topics, ethical issues, and treatment and protocols for treating a variety of conditions. Table 1 lists the titles and issue of the top five viewed articles since 2016 in the Practice Section.

**MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION**

For those who are interested in writing a paper to potentially be included in one of the two aforementioned sections, specific guidelines are in place for the structure of the manuscripts. We previously changed our submission guidelines to make submitting a manuscript easier including allowing authors to determine how they would like to format their articles; however all manuscripts, with the exception of case reports, should follow the IMRD

| Rank | Title                                                                 | Issue       | Date Published |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1    | Evaluation of a Gait Assessment Module Using 3D Motion Capture Technology | Vol. 10 No. 1 | September 2017 |
| 2    | Improving Body Mechanics Using Experiential Learning and Ergonomic Tools in Massage Therapy Education | Vol. 11 No. 4 | December 2018  |
| 3    | Developing Capability: Transforming Massage Therapy Education through Inquiry-based Learning | Vol. 11 No. 3 | September 2018 |
| 4    | What Should We Do Different, More, Start and Stop? Systematic Collection and Dissemination of Massage Education Stakeholder Views from the 2017 Alliance for Massage Therapy Educational Congress | Vol. 12 No. 1 | March 2019     |
| 5    | A Canadian Massage Therapy Education Environmental Scan | Vol. 13 No. 4 | December 2020 |

**Practice**

| Rank | Title                                                                 | Issue       | Date Published |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1    | Case Study: The Use of Massage Therapy to Relieve Chronic Low-Back Pain | Vol. 9 No. 3 | September 2016 |
| 2    | Experienced Practitioners’ Beliefs Utilized to Create a Successful Massage Therapist Conceptual Model: a Qualitative Investigation | Vol. 10 No. 2 | June 2017      |
| 3    | Utilizing Chair Massage to Address One Woman’s Health in Rural Ghana West Africa: a Case Report | Vol. 9 No. 4 | December 2016  |
| 4    | The Potential Utility for Massage Therapy During Pregnancy to Decrease Stress and Tobacco Use | Vol. 11 No. 3 | September 2018 |
| 5    | Visceral Manipulation Decreases Pain, Increases Cervical Mobility and Electromyographic Activity of the Upper Trapezius Muscle in Non-Specific Neck Pain Subjects with Functional Dyspepsia: Two Case Reports | Vol. 12 No. 2 | June 2019      |
CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

As previously mentioned, we would like to invite you, our readers, to submit manuscripts to either the Practice or Education sections of the IJTMB. As a reminder, there are no submission or publication fees for authors. Specifically, we are looking for papers that discuss innovations in massage therapy education and for papers addressing how schools and students dealt with the Covid-19 pandemic. For the Practice section, we are interested how practitioners and clients adapted to the pandemic, investigations of the massage therapy profession and about massage therapists, as well as interesting case studies.

We hope you will consider developing a manuscript in one of these areas and submit it to the IJTMB.

COPYRIGHT

Published under the CreativeCommons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 License.

REFERENCES

1. Kennedy AB. Evaluating, improving, and appreciating peer review at IJTMB. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2021;14(1):1–3.
2. McQuillan DJ. Massage therapy education online: student satisfaction and achievement, Part I. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2010;3(2):3–13.
3. Schwartz J. Faculty perception of and resistance to online education in the fields of acupuncture, chiropractic, and massage therapy. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2010;3(3):20–31.
4. Hamm M. Case Study: A year in the life of a massage research curriculum. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2011;4(2):7–8.
5. Dion LJ, Cutshall SM, Rodgers NJ, Hauschulz JL, Dreyer NE, Thomley BS, et al. Development of a hospital-based massage therapy course at an academic medical center. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2015;8(1):25–30.
6. Baskwill A. Facilitating case studies in massage therapy clinical education. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2013;6(2):20–23.
7. Smith JM, Sullivan SJ, Baxter GD. A descriptive study of the practice patterns of Massage New Zealand massage therapists. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2011;4(1):18–27.
8. Footracer KG, Monaghan M, Wisniewski NP, Mandel E. Attitudes and practices of massage therapists as related to conventional medicine. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2012;5(1):18–24.
9. Kennedy AB, Munk N. Experienced practitioners’ beliefs utilized to create a successful massage therapist conceptual model: a qualitative investigation. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2017;10(2):9–19.
10. Porcino AJ, Page SA, Boon HS, Verhoef MJ. Negotiating consent: exploring ethical issues when therapeutic massage bodywork practitioners are trained in multiple therapies. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2014;7(4):15–22.
11. Zalta J. Orthopedic massage protocol for post ACL reconstruction patellofemoral pain syndrome. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2008;11(2):11–21.
12. Winslow J. Treatment of lateral knee pain using soft tissue mobilization in four female triathletes. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2014;7(3):25–31.
13. Baskwill AJ, Belli P, Kelleher L. Evaluation of a gait assessment module using 3D motion capture technology. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2017;10(1):3–9.
14. Anderson RB. Improving body mechanics using experiential learning and ergonomic tools in massage therapy education. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2018;11(4):23–31.
15. Baskwill A. Developing capability: transforming massage therapy education through inquiry-based learning. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2018;11(3):10–14.
16. Munk N, Dyson-Drake J, Mastnardo D. What should we do different, more, start and stop? Systematic collection and dissemination of massage education stakeholder views from the 2017 Alliance for Massage Therapy Educational Congress. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2019;12(1):29–39.
17. Baskwill A, Sumpton B, Shipwright S, Atack L, Maher J. A Canadian Massage Therapy Education Environmental Scan. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2020;13(4):12–24.
18. Allen L. Case Study: The use of massage therapy to relieve chronic low-back pain. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2016;9(3):27–30.
19. Meryanos CJ. Utilizing chair massage to address one woman’s health in rural Ghana West Africa: a case report. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2016;9(4):22–29.
20. O’Hair CM, Armstrong K, Rutherford HJV. The potential utility for massage therapy during pregnancy to decrease stress and tobacco use. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2018;11(3):15–19.
21. Silva ACO, Oliveira CS, Biasotto-Gonzalez DA, Fumagalli MA, Politti F. Visceral manipulation decreases pain, increases cervical mobility and electromyographic activity of the upper trapezius muscle in non-specific neck pain subjects with functional dyspepsia: two case reports. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2019;12(2):25–30.
22. Kennedy AB. “Let’s make submissions easier”: revised author guidelines at IJTMB. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2020;13(1):1–3.
23. Munk N, Boulanger K. Adaptation of the CARE Guidelines for therapeutic massage and bodywork publications: efforts to improve the impact of case reports. Int J Ther Massage Bodyw. 2014;7(3):32–40.

Corresponding author: Ann Blair Kennedy, LMT, BCTMB, DrPH, University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville, 701 Grove Road, Greenville, SC 29605, USA
E-mail: ExecEditor@IJTMB.org