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Editorial



Communications in Kinesiology: A new open access journal from the Society for Transparency, Openness, and Replication in Kinesiology

Visit the journal at:
<https://storkjournals.org/index.php/cik>

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Please cite as: Zenko, Z., Steele, J., & Mills, J. P. (2020). Communications in Kinesiology: A new open access journal from the Society for Transparency, Openness, and Replication in Kinesiology. *Communications in Kinesiology*, 1(1), 1-3. <https://doi.org/10.5526/cik.v1i1.26>

All authors have read and approved this version of the manuscript. This article was last modified on May 10th, 2020.

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been increased scrutiny on the way science is performed and communicated. This has led many to believe science is in a state of “crisis”. However, one could view this as the natural process of science maturing, becoming better at creating and communicating new knowledge, and improving the mechanisms of self-correction. One area we believe that needs improvement is the system of *communicating* new scientific knowledge, mainly through academic, peer-reviewed journals. The first scientific journals, *Journal des Sçavans* and *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, were published just over 350 years ago; despite this, modern academic journals remain as largely archaic copies of these original templates. It makes sense that, with generations of scientists relying upon this system, we have found flaws and deficits that require correction. Moreover, technology has vastly changed how we are able to communicate and critique scientific studies. Though advances in technology allow journals to produce content available at a low cost (Van Noorden, 2013), some journals in our field have become less open, by raising article processing fees, restricting the flow of working documents, or charging non-refundable submission fees.

To address these barriers and to make research in kinesiology open and accessible for all, the [Society of Transparency, Openness, and Replication in Kinesiology](#) (STORK) has launched a new peer-reviewed and open access journal called [Communications in Kinesiology](#) (CiK). The journal welcomes research from all disciplines of kinesiology¹ and will make all articles openly available to all.

Beyond removing financial barriers, Communications in Kinesiology (CiK) also makes an effort to reduce publication bias and improve metascience. That is, at CiK, null and significant results are equally welcome. Authors are encouraged to submit their rigorously conducted research regardless of the outcome. We make this change as we believe null findings are important and that researchers deserve credit for the work they do irrespective of its outcomes.

Second, echoing the call for openly shared data and code (Borg et al., 2020), emphasis is placed on full reporting, transparency, disclosure, and data sharing when applicable. Although authors may request exceptions for highly unusual circumstances (e.g., based on local regulations or restrictions on data), Communications in Kinesiology expects data, code, and research materials to be clearly and precisely documented and made publicly available to researchers who wish to reproduce or replicate the procedure. Therefore, data and code used to produce the analyses, text, tables, and figures must be made available in a repository.

¹ Sections in CiK include (a) biomechanics, (b) coaching and sports pedagogy, (c) exercise and sport psychology, (d) physical activity, health, and disease, (e) physiology and nutrition, (f) sensorimotor control, (g) sports medicine and rehabilitation, and (h) training, testing, and performance analysis.

Third, *Communications in Kinesiology* encourages the preregistration of study design, variables, treatment conditions, and hypotheses prior to data collection. Authors who preregister are encouraged to share links to the time-stamped preregistration. This will allow other researchers and members of the public to compare the final study methods and hypotheses with the preregistration.

Fourth, research will be accessible. As a journal that is owned and operated by an academic society that puts science before profit, STORK, in collaboration with the University of Essex, will cover the costs of running the journal. Unlike many other open access journals, authors will not be expected to pay large article processing fees to ensure that members of the public can access their research. Currently, there are no article processing fees associated with submission or publication with *Communications in Kinesiology*. We hope that membership will continue to grow, which will allow us to develop a sustainable approach to the journal's financing. STORK is a member-led organisation and it is members of STORK who have dedicated many of their efforts in the past year to create this opportunity for you, our fellow researchers. Although we cannot guarantee we will be able to fund the journal from members' fees alone forever, openness is a core value of the society, and therefore we will do our best to make sure fees do not prevent a researcher from sharing their high-quality work.

Fifth, the submission and publication process has been streamlined. Authors are welcome to submit manuscripts using any reference and citation style; after acceptance, authors will be asked to format following the guidelines of the American Psychological Association. This eliminates the possibility (and indeed experience of many) of reformatting specifically to meet formatting requirements of a journal, only to get rejected. Accepted articles will be published and made available almost immediately. There will be no need to wait for weeks or even months until publication.

Sixth, authors who post their work to the preprint server SportRxiv will have an even more streamlined submission process. Soon, we hope to have the ability to create an Open Access Overlay journal in which manuscripts submitted to SportRxiv can efficiently be submitted for formal peer-review to *Communications in Kinesiology*. Thus, speeding up the dissemination process and reducing the form-filling burden on researchers.

Lastly, *Communications in Kinesiology* encourages (but does not require) open peer review, in which referees sign their reports. Referee reports and editorial comments will accompany published manuscripts so that readers are aware of the issues, suggestions, and improvements discussed during the peer-review process. However, to ensure that authors are not hindered from publication in other journals after rejection, reviewer reports, decision letters, and author responses for rejected papers will not be published.

Conclusion

With the creation of Communications in Kinesiology (CiK), we hope to encourage better research practices and provide a peer-reviewed journal with the academic scientists in mind. Authors interested in submitting to Communications in Kinesiology can do so by visiting <https://storkjournals.org/index.php/cik>. This is an open-access, streamlined, low-cost journal that we hope will improve scientific communication, scientific quality, and the publication process for researchers in Kinesiology.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Aaron Caldwell, the Publications Chair of the Society for Transparency, Openness, and Replication in Kinesiology, for his comments on drafts of this Editorial.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

All authors helped draft this manuscript.

FUNDING INFORMATION

There was no funding for this manuscript.

DATA AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

There are no data or supplementary materials associated with this project.

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