

To the WJ Readers:

A few months ago, via the Massage Therapy Foundation E-mail newsletter, I was informed of the upcoming peer-reviewed journal tailored to our profession, scheduled for publication in August 2008. Needless to say, I am extremely excited about this opportunity and the recognition of its necessity for our field. As Wellington College's Research Literacy Instructor and Journal Editor, I am often confronted with frustration from students on the accessibility to Evidence-based Research for the Massage Therapy Field. Although MT Research is definitely on the rise as professionals are becoming educated in the process of research and aware of the importance for the development and recognition of our field as an evidence-based modality, there is still some difficulty in accessing beneficial statistical evidence for MT research performed by Massage Therapists.

With permission from the IJTMB's Editorial Board, I have compiled some information from their website so as to make the Wellington Journal Readers aware of this important milestone in our profession. I encourage you to subscribe to the IJTMB to stay informed in current research, which will aid in your professional development to become a more efficient and effective therapist providing quality and safe treatments for your clientele.

To health,



Leanne Scalliff, Editor

IJTMB

The *International Journal of Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork: Research, Education, & Practice (IJTMB)* is a peer-reviewed, open access, quarterly publication of the Massage Therapy Foundation. The journal strives to accommodate the diverse needs of the rapidly-expanding therapeutic massage and bodywork community as well as related healthcare professions. This is accomplished by advancing the research, education, and practice aspects of the massage profession through rigorous scientific inquiry while maintaining the integrity of clinical experience and client input.

Specified guidelines consonant with the ICMJE's* *Uniform Requirements* provide the criteria on which the journal's referees base their objective, double-blind, peer-reviewed evaluation of each submitted manuscript. Their efforts at reviewing and providing evaluative input are coordinated with the appropriate Section Editor. Two or more referees for a submitted manuscript, in consultation with the appropriate Section Editor, make a recommendation to the Executive Editor and the Editor-in-Chief regarding publication. The final decision regarding publication is collaborative and rests with the appropriate Section Editor, Editor-in-Chief, and Executive Editor. In matters of dispute, an appropriate member of the International Advisory Council will serve as arbiter.

The *IJTMB* represents an open access approach to scholarly publishing in the interest of disseminating the scientific findings of researchers, educators, and practitioners in as far-reaching and cost-

effective a manner as possible. Accordingly, the journal is subscription-free, devoid of per page processing costs for contributing authors, and electronically accessible via a simple registration process. For further information on the open access publishing movement, please see the following sources: the Budapest Open Access Initiative, the Public Knowledge Project, and the Directory of Open Access Journals.

The *International Journal of Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork* will be published in 2009 on a quarterly basis in the months of March, June, September, and December. During its inaugural year of 2008, however, the first issue will appear in August with a follow-up issue planned for December.

The IJTMB provides a professional forum for editorial input; scientifically-based articles of a research, educational, and practice-oriented nature; readers' commentaries on journal content and related professional matters; and pertinent news and announcements.

IJTMB section policies

Editorial [Indexed, peer reviewed]

Editorials contributed by one or more members of the Editorial Board and/or invited colleagues serve to provide a context for a given issue's content and inform readers of anticipated professional themes that might guide future journal content.

Research [Open submissions, indexed, peer reviewed]

The Research Section of the journal is open to manuscripts representing any of the several possibilities included in the complete range of quantitative, qualitative, and integrative studies. This latitude is intended to accommodate the continually expanding research methodology options available to scholars in the various health science arenas. For example, in the quantitative research category, several representative research methodologies among many are the following: randomized controlled trial, quasi-experimental, single-case experimental, nonexperimental comparative groups, correlational, predictive, single-case quantitative analysis, survey, naturalistic/structured observational and case report. In the qualitative research category, prevalent investigative options include the case study method, phenomenological method, grounded theory method, and ethnographic method. And in the integrative research category, possible study options include the traditional narrative review, critical systematic review, meta-analytic systematic review, best-evidence synthesis, and qualitative systematic review methods. In the context of each and every one of these methodological options, the rigorous application of standard criteria governing the ethical and professional conduct of scientific research is obviously the sine qua non for the consideration and eventual acceptance of any manuscript for publication.

Education [Open submissions, indexed, peer reviewed]

The Education Section of the IJTMB provides a forum in which therapeutic massage and bodywork educators share their experiences, research, and resulting insights on topics including curriculum development, instructional design and delivery, instructional technology, distance learning, and testing/evaluative procedures. The focus here is on both pre-service and in-service educational and training programs. The over-arching theme of evidence/competency-based education is encompassing enough to give direction to prospective authors interested in addressing the myriad topics of concern to instructors in classroom, clinical, and continuing education settings.

Practice [Open submissions, indexed, peer reviewed]

The Practice Section of the journal provides a venue for practitioners/clinicians to remain current regarding the diverse issues that present themselves as the science and practice of massage continues to advance and clients become

more informed and demanding regarding the services they receive. Topics appropriate for this 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.

Commentaries [Open submissions, indexed, peer reviewed]

Reader input is encouraged via commentaries in the form of (a) letters to the editors regarding any aspect of the journal, (b) book reviews, and (c) reactions to specific published articles. In the latter case, authors likewise have the prerogative of responding in the interest of clarifying points that are addressed in this sector of the journal.

News / Announcements [Open submissions, indexed, peer reviewed]

Professional matters deemed newsworthy and justifying announcements are encouraged as an additional feature of the journal. Announcements of forthcoming professional conferences as well as the accomplishments of colleagues are examples on the intent of this sector of the journal. This is not a venue, however, for the advertising of services or products. □

Announcing the *International Journal of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork Research, Education, & Practice (IJTMB)*, a publication of the Massage Therapy Foundation.

International Journal of Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork Research, Education, & Practice

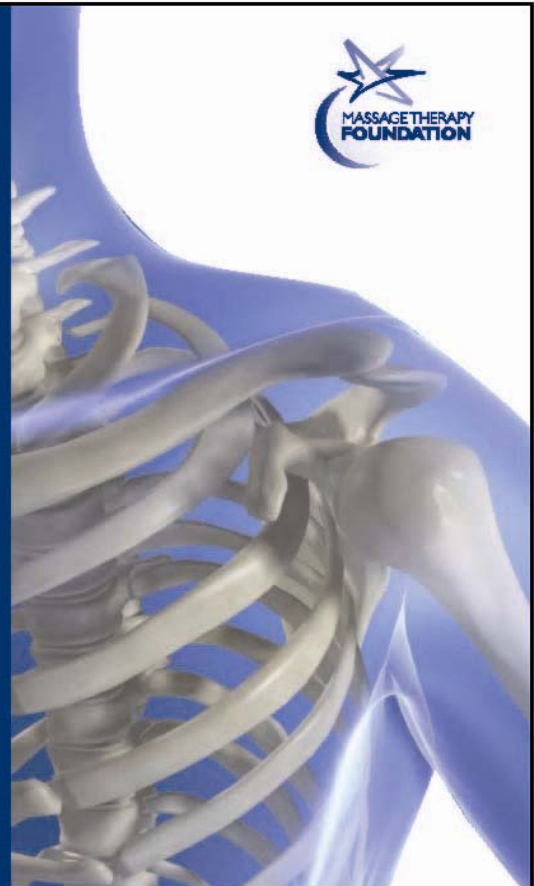
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IJTMB contains three principal sections: Research-Education-Practice

Look for the first issue in the summer of 2008.

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- IJTMB is published by the Massage Therapy Foundation: www.massagetherapyfoundation.org



Prospective authors are invited to submit manuscripts for publication consideration to the IJTMB at the following URL <http://journals.sfu.ca/ijtmb>