[Editorial]

Welcome to *Sports Health*!

Edward M. Wojtys, MD

Happy New Year and welcome to *Sports Health*! As we begin 2009, *Sports Health* has made one New Year's resolution: to meet the need for a multidisciplinary, clinically based journal focused on the care of the competitive and recreational athlete. The American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine's (AOSSM) Executive Editor Bruce Reider, MD, Executive Director Irv Bomberger, Board of Directors, and Medical Publishing Board of Trustees, chaired by T. David Sisk, MD, identified this need a little more than 2 years ago and worked hard to create a journal that would meet it. This inaugural issue of *Sports Health* is a testament to their dedication and persistence. From neuropsych testing to foot care, *Sports Health* will strive to cover topics important to the care of the athlete from head to toe.

Realizing that it would be very difficult for any one organization to make this goal a reality, I am very grateful to the organizations that have partnered with the AOSSM to bring this journal to life. Recognizing the needs that this journal could fulfill, the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM), the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), and the Sports Physical Therapy Section (SPTS) invested with the AOSSM in this effort. More recently, the American Academy of Pediatrics' Council on Sports Medicine and Fitness and the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine have begun participation, emphasizing the diverse and expanding role that this journal could play in sports medicine. We look forward to the contributions of our collaborating partners and many more professional organizations in the future as we strive to make this journal complete.

As we look to the future, no doubt the long-term value of this publication will be dependent upon the clinical and scientific value of its content. To help us hit that mark, we have selected 3 highly talented associate editors from our original collaborating organizations: George Davies, DPT, ACT, CSCS, from the SPTS, Matthew Gammons, MD, from the AMSSM, and Riann Palmieri-Smith, PhD, ATC, from the NATA. George brings a wealth of editorial expertise as he has long been an integral player in the SPTS. Matt is a very busy primary care clinician who is well aware of the challenges facing frontline sports practitioners. Riann is a skilled researcher with keen insight into the clinical challenges of athletic training.

Because sports medicine in the 21st century is highly dependent upon imaging technology, we are very fortunate to feature Hollis Potter, MD, as the assistant editor for imaging. Hollis is a magnetic resonance expert, well known for her musculoskeletal expertise.

The clinical challenges in sports medicine today are diverse and vary by sport and geography. Directing the interests of *Sports Health* to timely and pertinent topics will be our international editorial board. Yes, we are interested in and appreciate the complexity of sports medicine beyond North America and recognize that "football" is not played in a helmet and shoulder pads beyond our shores. We value international perspective and global knowledge and look forward to diverse participation from our colleagues abroad.

For those of you who glanced at this first issue's table of contents and thought that this was just another knee journal because the focus of this edition is the anterior cruciate ligament, allow me to assure you that it is not just another knee journal. Future editions will focus on the upper extremity, medical emergencies, training and rehabilitation issues, as well as featuring pertinent topics for the pediatric and the geriatric athlete. Substance abuse, cardiac emergencies, the clinical course of bone bruising and the treatment of heel pain are but a few of the upcoming features.

Lastly, as for the format of the journal, I realize that many controversial and timely topics cannot be easily addressed through original research. While we will strive to maintain a scientific format and wish to emphasize evidence-based medical decision-making, we will incorporate features to address such controversies as game-day injections and the safety of medical products on the market today. Because separating opinion from scientific fact in clinical reviews can be challenging but helpful for the clinician, the Strength of Recommendation Taxonomy (SORT, developed by the American Academy of Family Physicians¹) classification system will be a regular feature. This grading scale will be used to measure the strength of the evidence for clinical recommendations.

My hope is that you will find this journal of great help in attending to the athletes entrusted to your care. I look forward to your input on how we can continuously achieve this goal.

—Edward M. Wojtys, MD
Editor-in-Chief

REFERENCES

1. Ebell MH, Siwek J, Weiss BD, et al. Strength of Recommendation Taxonomy (SORT): a patient-centered approach to grading evidence in the medical literature. *Am Fam Physician*. 2004;69:549-557.