

The Timely Arrival of *JASPR*: An Innovative Research Publishing Enterprise

Inaugural Editorial

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Welcome to the *Journal for Advancing Sport Psychology in Research*, the Association for Applied Sport Psychology's (AASP) newest scientific publication. Affectionately known by the faculty and the student members of the inaugural Editorial Board as *JASPR* (jAS-PRr) for short, its mission is to expand the field of psychology in the domains of sport, exercise, and performance. By focusing on student-led research only, *JASPR* offers students unparalleled opportunities to engage as authors, reviewers, and editorial board members within a mentored publishing infrastructure.

Meet *JASPR*

We invite you to meet *JASPR*, who we, as the Establishing Editors of this new and innovative research publishing enterprise, warmly refer to as the "sister" to AASP's flagship publication, the *Journal of Applied Sport Psychology* (*JASP*). Born wholly in the 21st century, *JASPR* is a member of Generation Alpha. Also known as the iGeneration, Gen Alpha represent the start of something new, offering us a lens to the future. Like other Gen Alpha, *JASPR* is among the most technologically savvy and globally connected of generations ever. She is open access, freely available to all, and charges no submission or publishing fees. Determined to promote equity rather than disparity, she is truly a digital open science publication without barriers.

JASPR is also worldly and strong. She is powered by an Editorial Board whose members hail from across continents and time zones, finding strength through her diversity and safety in her inclusiveness. The image and colors on her cover are no mistake. From start to finish, with every race, she aims to advance, propelling the field forward in her own resolute way. In the realm

of psychological science, *JASPR* appreciates cognition, emotion, and behavior generally do not occur at the extreme, thus purposefully embracing the many shades of gray in between. As a modern-day science innovation, *JASPR* has been developed with grit and grace. In this, her inaugural issue, she opens herself up to the worldwide community of AASP and beyond.

Her First Prose

Authored entirely by the students and the faculty involved as members of *JASPR*'s Establishing Committee and inaugural Editorial Board, this issue: (a) pays homage to her past, (b) offers present aspiring scholars pearls of publishing wisdom, and (c) introduces an aspirational framework for her future as a promising research publishing enterprise. In the first article, we, along with our student counterparts, the Junior Editor-in-Chief and the Junior Associate Editors, introduce *ASPIRE*—the logic model that describes *JASPR*'s mentoring activities and guides her intended immediate, short-term, and long-term student scholarship impacts. Therein, using traditional academic tone and style, we describe the opportunities for, and the benefits of, student and faculty involvement with *JASPR*. In the second article, using a personal narration approach, we pay forward the many research writing and publishing lessons we have learnt along the way that can lift student scholars up in their pursuit of becoming published authors. The third and final article of this issue, authored by members of the Establishing Committee, provides a historical exposition of AASP student members' determination, and the role of AASP and the AASP Foundation, in giving life to *JASPR*. Each of the papers is distinctive in its writing style, an archetype for students that academic writing need not be consigned to a singular approach.

Nod to Her Ancestry

Our involvement in *JASPR*'s development began in 2019, 30 years after Founding AASP President, Dr. John M. Silva III passionately penned the inaugural editorial paper of AASP's first scientific publication, *JASP*, in 1989. That paper begins by defining the word *evolution* as "the process by which something changes into a more complex form" (p. 1). It recounts the genesis of our professional organization, originally known as the Association for the Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology (AAASP), and the birth of *JASP* as a turning point in the development of applied sport psychology in the United States. Silva wrote, "...the professional standards and organizational structure of this journal best represents what the membership of AAASP requested" (p. 2). To that same end, so does *JASPR*.

JASPR was born out of AASP student members' request for a publishing outlet for rigorous student-led research, whereby students are the central focal point, engaged as active learners in all phases of the scientific publishing process. *JASPR*'s mission honors AASP students' request. As the Founding President of AASP, Silva (1989) recounted it was clear to him at AASP's first organizational meeting in 1985 that AASP could "fill a void in sport psychology by addressing the needs of a growing body of students and professionals committed to scholarship and the application of knowledge" (p. 2). He viewed the birth of *JASP* four years later as an instrumental event, that decade, in the evolution of applied sport psychology. Equally, *JASPR*'s arrival three decades later in the 21st century, is meant to fulfill students' needs, engaging and training them as the next generation of professional scholars through mentored publishing experiences.

Nod to Her Creators

JASPR's debut has been made possible because of her ancestry and as a product of the efforts of her present-day creators, the Establishing Committee and the inaugural Editorial Board. Even in her embryonic stages of development, *JASPR* has always been a digital research enterprise. Our meetings with the Establishing Committee and the inaugural Editorial Board took place twice monthly. Initially, we used the Adobe Connect communication platform before transitioning to a more comprehensive collaboration tool with Microsoft Teams. As the Establishing Editors, we also met weekly via FaceTime with each other. *JASPR* is, no doubt, the result of many virtual meetings and significant achievements by her creators, composed primarily of

AASP student members under our mentoring guidance as the Establishing Editors. Herein we highlight key milestones in *JASPR*'s making.

In 2019, the Establishing Committee gave *JASPR* her sturdy frame. Through copious hours of healthy debate and wordsmithing, the committee determined *JASPR*'s vision, mission, and scope, and befitted her a name that exemplified her aim to advance sport psychology in research. Her erect posture is the result of the unique editorial board structure they created, each position thoughtfully defined by roles and responsibilities. The Establishing Committee wrote and initiated position calls that culminated in a highly competitive application and review process that gave way to her first Editorial Board, that is, the heart and lungs she would need for the races to come. Soon thereafter, they passed the relay baton to the inaugural Editorial Board and bid her farewell.

In 2020, through the COVID-19 pandemic that slowed many operations worldwide, the inaugural Editorial Board powered *JASPR* unflinchingly through to the finish line of many races. Varying in distance and pace, these included: (a) designing her cover image and Adobe InDesign manuscript template for production of published papers and issues, (b) researching and selecting the most intuitive manuscript submission and publishing platform [Scholastica], (c) establishing her manuscript submission guidelines and processes, (d) establishing her reviewer guidelines and processes, (e) creating written and audiovisual digital educational resource materials for authors and peer-reviewers, respectively, (f) selecting her open-access and copyright type, (g) learning about and completing necessary administrative requirements to establish *JASPR*'s ISSN and DOIs, (h) developing and finalizing *ASPiRE*, (i) building the front facing and backend of the Scholastica submission and publishing platform, (j) identifying and learning standards of excellence for student-led research, (k) receiving and processing *JASPR*'s first submitted manuscripts, (l) inviting peer-reviewers, and finally, (m) writing and publishing this, her first issue.

Our Guiding Credo

In Silva's (1989) inaugural editorial, he presented eight guiding principles he attributed to the organization's early juncture. He continued by stating that "the foundation of this Association can only be strengthened by continued consideration of these guidelines" (p. 3), and that "as members of an embryonic field we should not be threatened by an evolutionary process"


(p. 3). As a testament to both the timelessness of Silva's words and the evolution that has followed, we, as the Establishing Editors, humbly present the modern-era principles that have guided us in mentoring students throughout *JASPR*'s many races (see Figure 1; our principles appear in black and the original principles below). These principles also include a ninth principle that has rooted us both individually, and collectively together, in our research pursuits. Our work with *JASPR* also aims for research excellence while fostering fun in learning, doing, and achieving—together.

An Invitation

With a curious mind for research, *JASPR* is now ready to be heard. We invite you to read this, her inaugural issue, and hear her first words. She is the shared voice of students, taught and guided by faculty—her speech an amalgamated variation of resonance, pitch, intensity, and rhythm. Our aspiration for *JASPR*, as the Establishing Editors, is that she grows from becoming a promising research publishing enterprise into one that is a go-to formidable publication and progressive learning platform for students for years to come.

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Figure 1. Guiding Principles



Our Credo

- 1 It is not about me; it is about we.**
Place the needs of the Association and the general membership above those of select individuals.
- 2 Talent comes in many forms.**
Maintain a broad participator base by involving the many talented individuals who are working members of AAASP.
- 3 Diversity is our strength.**
Avoid establishing blood lines by being secure and finding strength in our heterogeneity not our homogeneity.
- 4 Difficult paths can lead to beautiful destinations.**
Political expediency should not be the basis of decisions; rather the needs and advancement of the field of sport psychology should be foremost in our motivations.
- 5 It is not about the outcome, rather the process.**
Understand that the greatest honor is not in holding a position of organizational leadership but rather in serving while in that office.
- 6 Break glass ceilings until there are none to break.**
Consider the future and future generations of sport psychologists by enhancing professional and academic standards, enacting certification procedures, initiating continuing education credit programs and accrediting graduate specializations in sport psychology.
- 7 Psychology does not happen in a vacuum.**
Retain and strengthen the interdisciplinary nature of sport psychology by enhancing the interactions between psychology and the exercise and sport sciences.
- 8 An individual who understands, acts.**
Continue to educate our colleagues who do not fully understand the true nature of applied sport psychology and who choose to ignore the significant contributions available through a merging of science and application.
- 9 Excellence and fun are not mutually exclusive.**