

# Welcome to the June 2015 Issue of the *IJTMB*

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This issue of the *IJTMB* offers two articles, a research article describing a survey of the massage profession in Australia, and a practice article of a case study of massage for mild traumatic brain injury/concussion. The first article provides a snapshot of the state of a profession in a given area in a given time—who is practicing, their education and income levels, and the stability of the population. I have been reading profession-level survey reports and articles since 2000, and believe the information in them to be critical to the profession from several perspectives. Comparison between locales and data shifts over time shows effects on the profession resulting from regulation and differences or changes in standards, and in population beliefs about the value of the profession. In addition to assessing common practitioner descriptors, authors of this article also focus on the integration of research into the profession. Their reflections on whether active interest in research is one determinant of successful practice or a proxy representing the practitioner's overall professionalism captures an intriguing concept that has a number of implications for the development of the profession, and leaves us to wonder if practice success would be changed by increasing access to—and interest in—research. I hope more studies about the state of the profession include questions like these: How do local education, integration of research into practice, and health care integration relate to and affect the use, accessibility, and practice of massage?

Sylvia Burns' article on concussion treatment shows the importance of both training and experience on successful outcomes. Critically, massage is likely not the first line of treatment that would be considered for concussion, and some etiologies of concussion complications or damage would not be prime candidates for massage. The outcomes of this case study strongly indicate that, for some instances, massage is exactly the right intervention. I would like to see

more studies of this nature, and an increased focus, likely from a composite view of multiple case studies and expert experience, on how one might identify likely responders to massage for concussion. Taking advantage of opportunities, such as the American Academy of Neuroscience call as recommended in the article, is an excellent way to start focus on the next stage of work.

Finally, I would like to thank the volunteers who contribute to the success of this Journal: our Manuscript Review Board and the International Advisory Council. The Manuscript Review Board comprises the many people who register as researchers or content experts to provide feedback on submitted articles—a critical way of developing rigor in published research. A journal such as the *IJTMB* requires a large pool of reviewers who are able to occasionally jump in for an intense few hours of work. If you believe your research or clinical experience may be of value for reviewing articles, please send me an email introducing yourself and your interest in reviewing for the Journal.

Enjoy this issue of the *IJTMB*.

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