Communications in Kinesiology

Editorial

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Editorial: A new collaboration between *Communications in Kinesiology* and the International Posture Symposium in Smolenice Castle

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In this editorial, we describe how the Scientific Committee of the 10th International Posture Symposium, the editorial board of *Communications in Kinesiology*, and the University of Ottawa Library team, who provide technical and in-kind support to the journal, collaborated to produce this special issue containing the proceedings of the symposium. We provide a brief overview of the history of the International Posture Symposium and its 2026 edition, describe the decisions that shaped this collaboration, and discuss why we consider this initiative important not only for the posture and gait research community, but also for promoting open scholarly communication in kinesiology and movement sciences more broadly.

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A brief history of the International Posture Symposium

The origins of the International Posture Symposium can be traced back to 1969, when František Hlavačka organized a meeting of leading international scientists and clinicians dedicated to the study of human balance. This meeting led to the establishment of the International Society of Posturography later that year in Amsterdam, now known as the International Society for Posture and Gait Research (ISPGR). One of the Society's earliest official meetings was held in 1973 in Smolenice under Dr. Hlavačka's leadership, further establishing Smolenice Castle as an important venue for international collaboration in posture and gait research. At the time, despite the Iron Curtain dividing Europe, the meetings brought together researchers from both the Soviet bloc and the Western bloc, providing a rare opportunity for scientific exchange across political boundaries.

Building on this tradition, Dr. Hlavačka launched the first International Posture Symposium at Smolenice Castle in 1992, with the support of Thomas Mergner (Germany). Since then, the symposium has been held regularly and reached its 10th edition in 2026. Over the years, it has consistently attracted researchers and clinicians from around the world and has benefited from the long-term support of internationally recognized scientists, including Fay Horak, Lorenzo Chiari, John Jeka, James Frank, John Allum, Christoph Maurer, and Jeffrey Hausdorff, among many others. Today, the symposium continues to serve as an international forum for presenting advances in postural control and gait research while fostering scientific discussion, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas across disciplines.

The collaboration, process, and decisions behind this special issue

The collaboration that led to this special issue began with an email asking whether the abstracts from the 10th International Posture Symposium could be published in a Diamond Open Access journal, free for both readers and authors, such as *Peer Community Journal* (https://peercommunityjournal.org/) and *Communications in Kinesiology*. Following this inquiry, the Scientific Committee of the symposium (JK, DB, ZH, RR, LA) met with the editorial team of *Communications in Kinesiology* (MPB, SMB, LAB, YC).

The journal welcomed the opportunity to collaborate. The proposal suggested that *Communications in Kinesiology* and the broader open-science initiatives supported by the Society for Transparency, Openness, Replication in Kinesiology (STORK, https://www.storkinesiology.org) were becoming increasingly visible within the kinesiology and movement sciences community. At the same time, however, the proposal raised several practical and editorial challenges.

Communications in Kinesiology maintains relatively strict publication policies that emphasize transparency, comprehensive reporting, and data availability. Because of their concise format, conference abstracts generally cannot meet these standards. Moreover, publishing each abstract as an individual manuscript would impose a substantial workload on a journal that operates entirely through volunteer efforts. Finally, it would not be feasible for *Communications in Kinesiology* to conduct its standard editorial and peer-review process for every symposium abstract, meaning that the review procedures for this special issue would necessarily differ from those typically applied to manuscripts submitted to the journal.

Despite these challenges, we recognised several important opportunities. Publishing the symposium abstracts in *Communications in Kinesiology* would introduce the journal to a broader community of researchers in posture and gait research, many of whom may not yet be familiar with STORK, which supports initiatives including *Communications in Kinesiology*, *SportRχiv*, or *Kinesiology Books* (Boisgontier, 2026). Greater visibility could encourage future submissions that fully adhere to the journal´s publication standards while expanding the community of volunteers who sustain these initiatives, including scientific editors, reviewers, and production editors. During our discussions, we therefore explored ways to maximize these benefits while maintaining transparency about the limitations of the publication process. Several decisions emerged from these discussions.

First, we agreed to write this editorial to provide transparency about the process that led to this special issue.

Second, we agreed that the abstracts would be reviewed through procedures organised by the Scientific Committee of the 10th International Posture Symposium rather than through the *Communications in*

Kinesiology's standard editorial and peer-review workflow. Each abstract was independently evaluated by four members of the Scientific Committee (JK, DB, LA, RR) using predefined criteria, including relevance to the conference theme, originality and scientific contribution, clarity of the research objectives, methodological quality, validity and presentation of results, appropriateness of the conclusions, and overall scientific quality. Based on these evaluations, abstracts were accepted for either oral or poster presentation, ensuring a balanced scientific program that reflected both methodological rigor and topical diversity. Nevertheless, conference abstracts provide only a concise summary of the underlying research and therefore cannot be evaluated with the same depth as full-length manuscripts. Consequently, the abstracts included in this special issue should not be interpreted as having undergone the same level of editorial scrutiny or as meeting the transparency and reporting standards normally required for publication in *Communications in Kinesiology*. Instead, this special issue is intended to facilitate scientific exchange by making the abstracts presented at the symposium openly accessible in a citable format.

Third, we agreed that the special issue should serve not only as a collection of symposium abstracts but also as an opportunity to introduce participants to the broader ecosystem of open and community-driven scholarly publishing in kinesiology and movement sciences. To support this goal, a representative of *Communications in Kinesiology* (SMB) would attend the symposium and present the activities of STORK, *Communications in Kinesiology, SportRχiv*, and *Kinesiology Books* (Boisgontier, 2026).

Fourth, we agreed that, to make the collaboration feasible within the practical constraints of a volunteer-run journal, all authors of this editorial agreed to share responsibility for copyediting the abstracts and preparing them for publication.

Finally, during the preparation of this editorial, we decided to invite the symposium speakers to submit full-length manuscripts for publication in *Communications in Kinesiology*.

International Posture Symposium 2026

The 10th International Posture Symposium was held from 20 to 23 September 2026 at the Congress Centre of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Smolenice Castle, under the auspices of the Institute of Normal and Pathological Physiology, Centre of Experimental Medicine, Slovak Academy of Sciences. The symposium continues a long-standing tradition of bringing together researchers in postural control and gait across basic, translational, and clinical research in an environment that encourages scientific discussion, collaboration, and exchange of ideas.

The 2026 edition brought together 44 researchers from 13 countries. The scientific program comprised 31 oral presentations and 13 poster presentations covering recent advances in human balance control, including emotional, sensory, neural, and biomechanical mechanisms underlying postural control, vestibular function, computational modelling, and the assessment of balance and gait, with applications to neurological disorders, musculoskeletal and sensory conditions, ageing, rehabilitation, and fall prevention.

The symposium opened with an invited keynote lecture by Mark Carpenter (University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada), entitled *Balancing "on edge": the effects of fear and anxiety on sensori-motor control of balance*. The other invited main speakers included Kaylena Ehgoetz Martens (University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada), Stéphane Baudry (Université libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium), Jasmine Menant (Neuroscience Research Australia and University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia), William Geoffrey Wright (Temple University, Philadelphia, USA), and Alison Oates (University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada).

Why this collaboration is important

This special issue illustrates how scientific communities can collaborate to support open, accessible, and community-driven scholarly publishing.

Communications in Kinesiology was founded as part of the broader activities of STORK, which aims to demonstrate that high-quality scholarly publishing can thrive outside traditional for-profit publishing models (Butler & Boisgontier, 2026; Zenko et al., 2020). The journal operates through volunteer contributions, support from public academic institutions, and a shared commitment to openness. Strengthening *Communications in Kinesiology* is therefore not simply about increasing the number

of submissions or readers; it is about contributing to a sustainable, community-owned publishing infrastructure for kinesiology and movement sciences (Boisgontier, 2026).

This collaboration aligns closely with these goals. By publishing the proceedings of the 10th International Posture Symposium, we aim not only to provide a permanent, citable, and openly accessible record of the research presented at the meeting, but also to increase awareness of community-driven open-science initiatives within the posture and gait research communities. This collaboration also reflects the understanding that scientific communities develop incrementally: researchers may first encounter *Communications in Kinesiology* through a symposium abstract, later read articles published in the journal, and eventually contribute as authors, editors or volunteers supporting the journal and other STORK initiatives.

An equally important aspect of this collaboration is being explicit about the publication process. The abstracts included in this special issue do not fully meet the journal's standard policies regarding reporting, transparency and openness. Rather than presenting them as equivalent to regular journal articles, we have clearly described these differences. Open science encompasses not only transparent research practices but also openness about editorial processes and the practical realities of community-led scholarly publishing.

Ultimately, this special issue represents an experiment in collaboration between a scientific meeting and a community-driven journal. We hope this collaboration will encourage further discussion on sustainable, accessible, and transparent models of scholarly communication in kinesiology, movement sciences, and related disciplines, while fostering stronger connections between scientific meetings, scholarly journals, and the broader open-science community.

Additional Information

Disclosure

Matthieu P. Boisgontier and Sjoerd M. Bruijn are co-Editors-in-Chief of Communications in Kinesiology and members of the Managing Board of Peer Community in Health & Movement Sciences.

Artificial Intelligence

ChatGPT (OpenAI) was used to refine the language and improve readability of this editorial.

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