

Communications in Kinesiology

Editorial



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STORK Publications: Communications in Kinesiology, SportRxiv, and Kinesiology Books

Editorial from the Chair of Publications

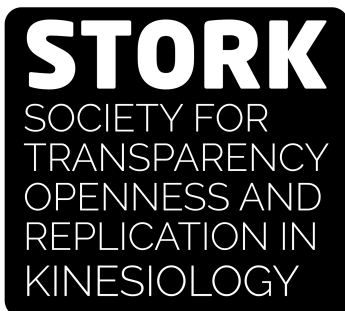
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This editorial provides an overview of recent developments in the publication ecosystem of the Society of Transparency, Openness, and Replication in Kinesiology (STORK), including Communications in Kinesiology (CiK), SportRxiv, and Kinesiology Books. A major milestone is the migration to the University of Ottawa Library, ensuring long-term financial sustainability and technical support while maintaining editorial independence. The editorial highlights ongoing efforts to enhance transparency and research quality of the articles published by CiK, including mandatory open data and code policies, open peer review, and guidelines for the responsible use of artificial intelligence. It also outlines progress in indexing, editorial restructuring, and platform growth, alongside current challenges such as increasing submission volume. Developments across CiK, SportRxiv, and Kinesiology Books further reflect STORK's commitment to accessible and scholarly publishing to strengthen a sustainable publishing model aimed at advancing transparency, openness, and reproducibility in kinesiology, health, and rehabilitation research.



As the new Chair of Publications, I am pleased to provide an update on the Society of Transparency, Openness, and Replication in Kinesiology (STORK)'s three core publication initiatives: *Communications in Kinesiology* (CiK), *SportRxiv*, and *Kinesiology Books*. Having been involved with STORK since its inception in 2019 as Co-Chair of the Society and as a Steering Board Member for *SportRxiv* (2018–2019), and subsequently as Section Editor (2019–2021) and Co-Editor-in-Chief of CiK (since 2022), it is a privilege to now take on responsibility for overseeing and coordinating these three pillars of our publication ecosystem.

STORK's publications have undergone several important developments in recent months. Most notably, all three publications have been successfully migrated to the University of Ottawa Library. This migration enables the Library, via its consortial membership with Scholars Portal, to fully cover Public Knowledge Project [PKP; Public Knowledge Project (2026)] hosting costs across Open Journals Systems (OJS) for CiK, Open Preprint Systems (OPS) for *SportRxiv*, and Open Monograph Press (OMP) for *Kinesiology Books*. In addition, the University of Ottawa Library covers CrossRef DOI registration fees and provides technical support for platform management and DOI-related issues. Importantly, this in-kind support secures the long-term financial sustainability of our publications while preserving full editorial independence. This achievement was initiated by the author and made possible through the dedicated efforts of Leigh-Ann Butler and Yohann Cottin at the University of Ottawa Library, Bart Kawula at the University of Toronto Libraries/Scholars Portal, as well as Aaron Caldwell and Sjoerd Bruins from STORK.

Communications in Kinesiology (CiK) continues to evolve as STORK's flagship journal. Sjoerd Bruijn remains Editor-in-Chief, and article production is led by Aaron Caldwell with support from Simon Nolte. The Editorial Board has recently been renewed, with ongoing efforts to broaden its diversity and expertise, particularly in areas such as exercise physiology and rehabilitation where coverage remains limited. The journal remains free to publish for authors and free to readers (diamond open access), supported by memberships and institutional contributions, including those from the University of Ottawa Library, the Free Journal Network, and VU University. We continue to encourage preregistration, the submission of registered reports and replication studies, and the reporting of both null and significant results, with the aim of reducing publication bias and advancing metascience (Zenko et al., 2020).

Instead of "strongly encouraging" the sharing of data and code, we have made it the default. CiK aims to be "as open as possible and as closed as necessary" (Hardwicke & Vazire, 2024). Accordingly, authors are now required to make data and code openly available in a trusted third-party repository for all empirical work, with a dedicated "Data and Code Accessibility" section, referencing the DOI of the data and code, included in each published article. This policy promotes reproducibility and increases the value of published research. If sharing is not possible, authors must provide a clear justification in the manuscript. We believe this policy is at the core of STORK's mission for enhancing reproducibility, replicability, and transparency.

To further enhance transparency, CiK now publishes open peer reviews alongside accepted articles, including reviewer reports, author responses, and editorial decisions, as supplementary material. Reviewers may choose to disclose their name or remain anonymous. We consider this policy essential in the current publishing landscape, where some journals maintain the appearance of standard peer-review workflows (i.e., they have an editorial board, invite reviewers, and provide editorial decision), yet deliver excessively rapid reviews, often at the expense of research quality, with peer review reduced to a mere formality (Brainard, 2023; Petrou, 2020, 2023). The policy also serves to highlight the quality of the peer reviews and editorial process at CiK.

We have introduced a policy on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in submissions. In the essence, our policy is that the use of AI is acceptable for tasks such to translate, correct, or improve text or software code, provided outputs are carefully reviewed, transparent, and properly documented. However, when AI is used to generate text and code, the authors must carefully check for plagiarism, hallucinations, and other errors, disclose how they used AI in a dedicated section, and not generate illustrations using AI due to plagiarism issues.

CiK is now affiliated with Peer Community In (PCI) as a PCI-friendly journal (Category 1). Through this affiliation, CiK endorses PCI's review criteria and agrees to accept, without further peer review, manuscripts that receive a positive final recommendation from PCI and fall within CiK's scope. In such cases, CiK will indicate that the evaluation process was conducted by PCI. We support the PCI initiative because it reinforces the preprint ecosystem through the peer review of preprints. PCI also contributes to centralizing peer-review, allowing authors to submit their manuscripts to another PCI-friendly journal

without restarting the review process after rejection, thereby reducing the burden on reviewers. PCI is a trustworthy, scholar-led initiative, supported by over 200 universities, research institutes, university libraries, learned societies, and doctoral schools ([Peer Community In, 2026](#)).

Indexing progress has been particularly encouraging. After several years of effort, CiK has been included in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and has also been indexed in OpenAlex, Semantic Scholar, the Open Journals Collective, and the Free Journal Network. We are grateful to the latter for providing CiK with USD 3,000 to support its production team. Despite these positive developments, challenges remain. In 2025, CiK published four articles, compared to ten in 2024, which is below our desired level. Increasing the volume of high-quality publications therefore remains a priority. Potential barriers include the absence of PubMed indexing and a journal impact factor, with the latter continuing to influence author decisions despite well-documented limitations ([Larivière & Sugimoto, 2018](#); [Seglen, 1997](#)). Although eligibility for indexing to PubMed depends primarily on editorial quality and publishing standards rather than publication volume, maintaining a minimum and consistent output and ensuring diversity among contributing authors will be important for strengthening the journal's credibility and apply for PubMed indexing. Clarifying the relationship between CiK and *SportRxiv* across our websites and communications, as well as exploring the development of an in-house preprint peer-review service similar to what PCI offers, may also help address these challenges. Finally, we should make clear to our colleagues that submitting a manuscript to a journal implicitly endorses that journal. Each published article not only advances knowledge but also supports a particular publishing model and its underlying values ([Butler & Boisgontier, 2026](#)). Choosing to publish in CiK, a journal that is free for both authors and readers, led by scholars, and supported by a university library, contributes to strengthen a sustainable and equitable publishing system, which can be highlighted in applications for positions, awards, and grants.

SportRxiv continues to grow as the central platform for preprints in sport, exercise, health, and rehabilitation research. Layan Fessler has recently taken over as Moderator-in-Chief, succeeding Aaron Caldwell, who was an early moderator of the platform when it was founded by John P. Mills as a discipline-specific server for the Open Science Framework's preprint service and who led the transition of *SportRxiv* to an independent server on PKP's Open Preprint System in 2021. Aaron remains involved during the transition, ensuring continuity. In 2025, *SportRxiv* received 180 submissions, of which 37 were rejected. Notably, there has been an increase in low-quality submissions generated using artificial intelligence, particularly toward the end of the year, highlighting the need for continued vigilance in moderation. To improve outreach and visibility, a LinkedIn presence has recently been established, providing updates on newly posted preprints.

Kinesiology Books is also entering a new phase of development under the leadership of Zachary Zenko as Editor-in-Chief. Work is currently underway to formalize policies for book proposals and establish a more structured review process. At the same time, the second edition of *Essentials of Exercise and Sport Psychology* ([Zenko & Jones, 2021](#)) is in progress, with Zachary Zenko, Leighton Jones, and Patricia Jackman serving as co-editors. Of note, this project was initiated prior to Zachary's appointment as Editor-in-Chief of *Kinesiology Books*.

None of these developments would have been possible without the collective efforts of many contributors over the years. STORK's origins can be traced back to the initiative of John P. Mills, whose early vision, supported by the remarkable involvement of Zachary Zenko as Publications Chair at the time, laid the foundation for what has become the current publication ecosystem. The Society has since been sustained and advanced through the leadership of successive Chairs, including Vanessa Yingling, Michael Carter, James Steele, and Job Fransen. A central figure throughout this journey has been Aaron Caldwell, whose technical expertise has underpinned nearly every aspect of our infrastructure. Finally, the contributions of early-career researchers have been outstanding, with individuals such as Jennifer Sherwood, Jennifer Murphy, and François Jabouille helping to shaping and supporting STORK's activities.

Together, these efforts have positioned STORK's publications as a sustainable, independent, and evolving ecosystem. Building on this foundation, we will continue to strengthen the quality and accessibility of our publication initiatives in the years to come.

Additional Information

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Disclosure

Matthieu P. Boisgontier is a professor at the University of Ottawa (Canada) and serves as Director of the School of Rehabilitation Sciences in the Faculty of Health Sciences. In addition to his contributions to STORK, he is the founder, representative, and principal manager of PCI Health & Movement Sciences, and serves as a Recommender for PCI Neuroscience and PCI Registered Reports. He is also associate editor for the *European Rehabilitation Journal*.

Artificial Intelligence

ChatGPT (OpenAI) and DeepL were used to refine the language and improve readability of this manuscript.

Preprint

The pre-publication version of this manuscript can be found on SportRxiv (<https://doi.org/10.51224/SportRxiv.784>).

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