

## Preface



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*Guest Editor*

It is my great privilege to be editing the first edition of *Clinics in Sports Medicine* that is dedicated to international perspectives on sports medicine.

People the world over are passionate about sports. This devotion persists even in times of strife and conflagration. Witness the enthusiasm for the Iraqi national soccer team in that war-torn country. It should be no surprise that the field of sports medicine should be taking hold in all corners of the world.

The emergence of sports medicine has been assisted by the revolution in electronic communications. This has invigorated sports medicine bodies such as the International Federation of Sports Medicine (FIMS) and enabled us to disseminate information and promote membership more easily than ever has been possible.

FIMS (also known as Federation International de Medicine de Sport) is the oldest of the international sports medicine associations, with origins in the very first international sports medicine meeting, held in 1928 in St Moritz, Switzerland. As of now, more than 120 national sports medicine organizations are members of FIMS. In addition to sharing scientific information and sports medicine training, FIMS initiated a Team Physician Development Course that hosts programs on all five continents. From its inception, FIMS has been closely allied with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and has the privilege of bearing the Olympic rings on its crest. Many members of the IOC Medical Commission are past or present officers of FIMS.

The International Council of Sports Sciences and Physical Education was founded in Paris in 1958, and it is a partner with FIMS and the IOC Medical Commission in fostering its goals among its members worldwide.

The newest addition to our family is the International Society of Arthroscopy, Knee Surgery, and Orthopedic Sports Medicine (ISAKOS), which was

founded in 1995. With the energy that comes with its relative youth, ISAKOS has been especially active, and in May 2007, 700 delegates attended its superb world congress in Florence, Italy.

In addition to international sports medicine organizations, such as the ones just mentioned, there has been a rise in regional and national organizations, such as the Asian Federation of Sports Medicine and the growth of sports medicine branches of individual sports governing bodies, such as FIFA and the International Rugby Board.

One of the most exciting outcomes of this burgeoning global interest in sports medicine undoubtedly has been the exciting research taking place outside the borders of what many people consider the bastions of sports medicine academia.

The excellent contributions featured in this issue provide an insight into that vast amount of first-rate sports medicine research taking place around the world, which remind us of the vibrancy of our chosen field.

I urge anyone reading this to become active in is/her local sports medicine chapter as a first step toward participation in your national sports medicine governing body. From first hand experience, I can assure you that such professional affiliations can provide you with experiences and opportunities that will enhance your sports medicine career. Thanks to the hospitality of our sports medicine colleagues throughout the world, when the opportunity comes to travel overseas to educate or be educated, your horizons will be expanded not just professionally, but also culturally. In so doing, the better doctor also becomes the more complete person.

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