

Certificate of Recognition

Presented to:
Roy Bechtel
PT, PhD

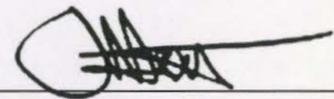
Reviewer of the Year
2016

Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy

JOSPT

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Date



J. Haxby Abbott, DPT, PhD, FNZCP
Editor-in-Chief

2016 JOSPT Reviewer of the Year Award

J. HAXBY ABBOTT, DPT, PhD, FNZCP
Editor-in-Chief

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Peer review has been a central, defining characteristic of the publication process since scholarly journals began. The world's oldest scientific journal—*Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society of London—initiated peer review from its inception in 1665, and it has changed only a little over the intervening 350 years.⁵ Since around the mid-1800s, the process of peer review has settled on an essential form that persists now as the gold standard for ensuring the rigor, importance, and novelty of scientific contributions.⁵

The role of reviewer is central to the 3 core values at the *Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy* (JOSPT): providing rigorous and novel content, an informative and engaging reader experience, and a constructive and highly valued author experience.¹ Providing high-quality peer review is a demanding task. To do an excellent job requires sound training and practical knowledge in methodological principles, expert knowledge of the topic area in relation to novel and useful content, and a constructive, respectful manner of conveying critical feedback to authors.

The *Journal* values greatly the expertise and service of all our peer reviewers.³ Last year, JOSPT started a new tradition of recognizing outstanding performance among this dedicated group.¹ In order to objectively evaluate the relative performance of a large number of reviewers, we use a metric consisting of 3 factors crucially important to both the *Journal* and our authors: (1) willingness to serve the *Journal* by conducting reviews, (2) insightfulness

and constructiveness of the reviews, and (3) promptness of turnaround. We capture data on these 3 factors in the form of the (1) number of reviews performed by the reviewer; (2) quality rating of each review (R-score), as rated by the assigned Associate Editor; and (3) days to complete the review. All 3 of these factors are similarly important to the *Journal* and our authors, so we calculate an index intended to allow each of the 3 factors to have an approximately equal overall influence. This contains the proportion of all JOSPT reviews submitted by each reviewer; each reviewer's average R-score; and average turnaround time subtracted from the standard, expected turnaround time. The product of these variables is then multiplied by a constant so that a hypothetical perfect reviewer would score 1.000.

Similar to Major League Baseball batting,⁶ a perfect score of 1.000 over a season is practically impossible to achieve. To do so, a reviewer would need to consistently provide such high-quality reviews that his or her average

R-score was 10/10, complete and submit every review in less than a day, and complete more reviews than any other reviewer. These are competing imperatives, as to complete an insightful, high-quality review in less than a day—consistently, several times a year—would be exceptionally challenging given the exacting task and the busy professional lives of our volunteer reviewers. However, last year, like every year, we had several reviewers who achieved an average R-score of 10/10 over all their reviews completed during 2016; we also had several reviewers complete reviews immediately on the day of request; and several exceptional reviewers completed 10 or more reviews in 2016. But ultimately, the winner of the award for JOSPT Reviewer of the Year was again won by an individual who did not top the charts on any 1 of these 3 criteria, but rather performed with consistent excellence across all 3. The winner of the 2016 JOSPT Reviewer of the Year Award, presented at the recent American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting in San Antonio, TX, February 15-18, 2017, is Roy Bechtel, PT, PhD.

Dr Bechtel taught orthopaedic physical therapy at the University of Maryland School of Medicine for over 30 years before retiring as course director for the orthopaedic physical therapy curriculum in 2011. Dr Bechtel currently owns Yes! Physical Therapy, LLC and

[EDITOR'S NOTE]



Roy Bechtel, PT, PhD.

practices part-time in Clarksville, MD, in the facilities of Physical Therapy First. Over his long career, Dr Bechtel had previously practiced at New York University Medical Center, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, and, most recently, the University of Maryland

Medical Center, from which he retired in 2015 as a clinical specialist in orthopaedics. Dr Bechtel has published 5 articles in the peer-reviewed literature, including a 2006 *JOSPT* editorial.⁴

We are very grateful to all of the many reviewers who served the *Journal* during 2016 by providing excellent, timely, and constructive reviews,³ and, in particular, thank and congratulate Dr Bechtel for so consistently providing high-quality peer reviews for *JOSPT* and the authors who submit their work to our *Journal*.

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