

Collaboratively leveraging our potential

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It has been my experience that respiratory therapists, as evidence-informed practitioners, tend to seek out high-quality information sources to guide what we do. As we all know, there are an immense number of venues from which we can seek out information today. Perhaps paradoxically, it is becoming increasingly challenging to navigate the overwhelming magnitude of information sources available to us. One might therefore be forgiven for assuming that staying up to date in the knowledge of our craft should be an easy task. What many of us discover, however, is that it is often unclear where and how to find such information.

In the first instance, the ability to discern “quality” sources requires a certain degree of information literacy skill, and it is reported by many of us, at times, to be overwhelming [1]. Furthermore, we are often faced with questions regarding whether the vast amount of information we adopt from those disciplines with which our practice intersects is enough. Is knowledge developed by respiratory therapists for respiratory therapists necessary to enhance and advance our practice? Focusing on this debate from a practical perspective, I would suggest that the difficulty in applying information sources that focus on respiratory therapy is one of supply rather than of demand. As a profession we need to be cognisant of both of these unique and interrelated obstacles to evidence-informed practice and to be diligent in mobilizing our efforts to address each.

Our world is moving fast, and sustained advancement of knowledge is often described as being fundamental to ongoing social progress [2]. The knowledge society in which we now live often requires us to change course in our day-to-day lives and in our professional practice. As a collective—a community of practitioners—this new reality requires us to both reflect on our progress and to push ourselves to innovate and renew. In doing so we need to find ways of translating what we do and know into something more meaningful—those “things” that can perpetuate our profession in service to our patients and to society. In response, I see the *Canadian Journal of Respiratory Therapy* as more than an information source—it is an important way through which we inform our evolving practice, which is embedded within this new knowledge society. As the new Editor-in-Chief, I have reflected on how my role and that of the Editorial Board is to facilitate one important way of addressing these information-related challenges. In particular, I feel we are tasked with supporting the way in which practitioners can overcome some of the everyday challenges related to accessing and sharing respiratory therapy-specific knowledge.

While the journal plays a crucial role in connecting practitioners and the community to the information they need, collectively, we each need



Andrew West

to be more than just consumers of knowledge—we are now also charged with being the builders of knowledge. Knowledge building comprises not only developing and maintaining important competencies, but also coming to see ourselves as contributors to society’s efforts to advance knowledge [3]. At its core, a knowledge-building society is predicated on the idea that knowledge is a social product, created by members of a community, and that it adds some type of value to that community [3]. To move forward in collaboratively building knowledge as respiratory therapists we require a platform for exchange of ideas and a culture that sparks ideas, collaboration, and innovation.

I envision the future of the *Canadian Journal of Respiratory Therapy* as one of a continuing role in providing a platform from which respiratory therapists can be knowledge builders. The journal can be one place for respiratory therapists to exchange “information,” engage in critical discourse, and debate, spark ideas, innovate, and co-create the ideas that will support our informed practice. Ultimately, the journal can be a venue for fostering a culture of knowledge sharing that drives our practice forward and helps us to leverage the enormous capacity that exists with our profession.

As I embark on this journey with you I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the journal’s Editorial Board, under whose sage tutelage I have become acquainted with the editorial world. As the journal moves forward, its momentum is a direct result of the countless hours of hard work and the wise leadership of the board, both past and present. A special thank you to Dr. Jason Nickerson, whose dedication energizes the profession and whose expertise pushes its boundaries. He has provided exemplary leadership in his previous role of Editor-in-Chief.

I am both honoured and thrilled to have this opportunity to contribute to our profession as part of the *Canadian Journal of Respiratory Therapy*. I look forward to our ongoing efforts to leverage our community’s tremendous capacity and advance of our profession.

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