

EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

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These days our lives are run by COVID-19. Our gymnastic family mourns Dieter Hoffman, an excellent German coach and expert, a FIG Academy lecturer, who recently died of Covid-19. We do not know what comes next but I am certain we all want to go back to our normal life.

Despite many negative effects of Covid-19, it had a positive effect on our journal. Our authors wrote as many as 16 articles for this issue which is a record for the journal.

We are all adjusting to new circumstances. As you probably already know, conferences will be held online. Bulgaria will host a symposium on rhythmic gymnastics and Portugal on gymnastics. For more detailed information please see the following pages. Please join the symposia and take an active part with your ideas and views!

For this issue our authors researched many different topics, including biomechanics, motor control, motor learning, theory of training, physiology, psychology, physical education, sociology and history, in relation to rhythmic and artistic gymnastics and trampolining.

Countries participating with articles include: USA, Slovakia, Tunisia, Germany, Brazil, Australia, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Greece, Iran and Ukraine,

Anton Gajdoš provides a short historical note on Nina Bocharova, the Olympic Champion from Russia in WAG at the Olympics 1952 in Helsinki.

Our editorial board decided to make an exception and publish a letter – manifesto of International Socio-Cultural research group on WAG lead by Natalie Barker-Ruchti (USA) to the Editor and a comment on the letter by William Sands (USA). While we believe the letter and the comment present issues that may be important to our audiences, I'd like to stress that our journal remains focused on the publication of scientific articles presenting evidence-based solutions only. Nevertheless, there should be no doubt that our journal supports the United Nations Declaration of Human and Children Rights and believes its provisions should be respected.

Just to remind you, if you quote the Journal, its abbreviation on the Web of Knowledge is SCI GYMN J.

I wish you pleasant reading and a lot of inspiration for new research projects and articles,

Ivan Čuk
Editor-in-Chief

DIETER HOFMANN (1941-2020)



Probably the most successful German coach of all times, Dieter Hofmann, passed away of COVID-19

The former head coach of the GDR national team, Dieter Hofmann, died in Freiburg on 18 April 2020 due to a lung disease caused by the Covid-19 virus.

Dieter Hofmann left his mark on several generations of gymnasts. Before German reunification, his gymnasts won 52 gold, silver and bronze medals at international competitions. The highlight of his coaching career was doubtless the Olympic Games in Seoul, where the team of the GDR won the silver medal behind the USSR in the team final. Besides this great success, his gymnasts won one gold, one silver and 3 bronze medals at the finals.

In the transition period after the fall of the Wall in Berlin, he ended the head coach of the Federal Republic of Germany, Franz Heiland, looked after the reunited German national gymnastics team at the historic cross-country friendly competition GER-USA-USSR in the no less historic Munich Olympic Hall.

After German reunification, he found a new purpose in life in the northern Swiss town of Liestal, where he expanded the local performance centre with his typical dynamism. His strategical, analytical and didactical thinking was well appreciated all over the world. Due to this endless enthusiasm, he taught in several courses of the FIG Coach Academy. His contribution to the development of gymnastics is well documented in the Age group development and competition program for Men's Artistic Gymnastics, which was created and compiled mainly by him and Hardy Fink as the Director of the Coach Academy.

After his retirement, he settled in the Black Forest near Freiburg. Not only because of its geographical proximity to the Institute for Sport and Sports Science at the University of Freiburg he was a very welcome guest at the annual Freiburg International Gymnastics Congress, an event that brings together important scientists and trainers.

Flavio Bessi