FOREWORD

The physiotherapy department of Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, was started in 1995 to provide physiotherapy and rehabilitation sciences education. The Kasturba Medical College is a part of the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (Institution of Eminence-Deemed to be University), Manipal, Karnataka, India.

The physiotherapy department is associated with 850 beds at Kasturba Medical College Hospital in Mangaluru, where students fine-tune their clinical skills under the close supervision of experienced faculty members. Nearly 50 physiotherapists graduate each year with expertise in various clinical therapy specialties such as pediatric, cardiopulmonary, neurological, musculoskeletal, and cancer rehabilitation; health promotion; and community reintegration.

The Kasturba Medical College Hospital at Mangaluru serves a population of 700,000 (as of the 2021 census). A total of 704 undergraduate students (2022), 291 postgraduate students (2023), and nine doctoral students (2022) have received their degrees. In the past 5 years, faculty members of the department have published one book, two book chapters, 15 conference papers, and 144 research papers.

The physical therapy practice empowers patients to optimize their resilience in the face of adversity due to their compromised health status and supports them to live with optimum function through their chronic disease. This issue of *Critical Reviews™ in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* features eight papers originating from the departments of physiotherapy, audiology, and speech therapy at Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore. The papers reflect diversity across the departments and demonstrate the conceptual thoughts of integrating knowledge based on evidence, clinically focused expertise, and collaborative research practices.

These research papers are written succinctly to provide a meaningful refresher for a practice topic. There are three papers on children with cerebral palsy. The first paper, by Hassan et al., examines the reliability of segmental assessment of trunk control (SATCo), the paper by Khadeeja et al. assesses the predictive validity of parent-reported PEDI-CAT mobility and gross motor function measures, and the paper by Bhatia et al. examines speech impairment profiles.

Alkhashrami et al. review the outcome of core stability exercises versus general exercises in chronic low back pain. Shenoy et al. review the effect of eccentric and concentric strength training in patients with knee osteoarthritis. Nayak et al. review factors that predict reintegration of community-dwelling subacute stroke subjects. The two papers from our institution’s audiology and speech therapy wing elaborate on rehabilitation research in their respective fields: Malik et al. review the impact of hearing aids on balance, and Varghese et al. explain the tests for the assessment of stuttering.

All eight research papers included in this issue have been critically peer-reviewed. They endeavor to fill in the knowledge gaps for providers of highly specialized rehabilitative services, those who need to remain updated about general rehabilitation information, trainees wanting to understand the specialty, and those who desire a quick refresher.
I am indebted to all of the authors for providing superb papers based on scientific evidence provided by their studies covered in this issue. I also thank all patients who participated in the research presented herein.

Guest Editor:

Amitesh Narayan, PhD, PT
Professor, Department of Physiotherapy, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, Karnataka, India; Manipal Academy of Higher Education (Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University), Manipal, India