

MOTOR LEARNING & CONTROL (MLC) ONLINE RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES A PROPOSAL FOR NASPSPA

2020-2021 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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OVERVIEW



The proposed research seminar series will support the Society's function to advance scientific study, improve research quality and facilitate research information dissemination in the area of motor learning and control.

The organizing committee for the Motor Learning & Control (MLC) Online Research Seminar Series submit this proposal for consideration by the Society's Executive Committee for approval to conduct the research seminar series as a NASPSPA affiliated activity. The proposed MLC Online Research Seminar Series is well aligned with the Society's Mission Statement and three functions. Moreover, the proposed MLC Online Research Seminar Series will add value to Society membership and strengthen the scholarly community within the Society.

What we plan to do

We are proposing **an annual online research seminar series season that would run between September and May** to coincide with the start of the Fall semester and the end of the Spring semester in North American universities as well as the lead up to the annual NASPSPA Conference.

We would like to canvass professional and student members with interests in motor learning and control research for potential research topics to cover in the seminar series. The Organizing Committee has also discussed possible topics to deliver for the membership. These relate to research quality (transparency, openness, and replication) - research methods (web-based experiments in the time of COVID restrictions) and data science (conducting analyses in R), for example. **Although the focus of the seminar series would be on motor learning and control research themes, some topics will be sufficiently general to be of interest to a wide membership audience.**

We propose to **commence the inaugural season in November 2020 with the first of a series of 3 online research seminars** (4 seminars per season from 2021-2022). Below, we present a proposed process for planning, delivering and evaluating a program of seminars for the inaugural September 2020 to May 2021 season, which would

be organized and hosted by members of the organizing committee using the Zoom/Microsoft Teams platform similar to the 2020 Virtual NASPSPA Conference.

As a NASPSPA affiliated activity, the MLC Online Research Seminar Series would ask for the following support from the Society:

- use of NASPSPA branding during seminar event (e.g., NASPSPA virtual background images)
- promotion of seminar events through NASPSPA communication and social media channels (the organizing committee will provide relevant content and information to the NASPSPA Communications Director via the committee's communications liaisons)
- promotion of membership feedback surveys for evaluating seminar events

The organizing committee would be responsible for programming and delivery of the MCL Research Seminar Series, collecting participation feedback, and annual reporting of outcomes to NASPSPA Executive Committee.

The Objective



The MLC online research seminar series organizing committee will deliver an annual Motor Learning & Control Online Research Seminar Series as a NASPSPA affiliated activity to facilitate the development, advancement and dissemination of high-quality research in the area of motor learning and control

- Need #1: research engagement opportunities in between annual NASPSPA Conferences for scholars and students with interests in motor learning and control
- Need #2: increase NASPSPA profile and membership offerings across the year
- Need #3: a platform to bring together the motor learning and control international research community across geographic locations to discuss historical and emerging topics
- Need #4: a forum to develop awareness and promote ideas relevant to motor learning and control research in the lead up to the annual NASPSPA Conference (e.g., developing themes for Conference symposia)

The Opportunity



The 2020 Virtual NASPSPA Conference demonstrated the effectiveness of using online conferencing technology (e.g., Zoom/Microsoft Teams) to present, discuss and interact as research scholars and students. We propose to leverage this technology to bring together the international motor learning and control research community in the months between the annual NASPA Conference.

- Goal #1: Deliver 4 hosted online research seminar events between September and May (a condensed program of 3 seminars for the 2020-2021 inaugural season)
- Goal #2: Deliver a program of online research seminars that meets the needs of NASPSPA membership and reflects the development and advancement of motor learning and control research
- Goal #3: Attract high participation from NASPSPA membership
- Goal #4: Deliver a high-quality research seminar series as reflected by positive participant feedback
- Goal #5: Provide NASPSPA Executive Committee with an annual report of research seminar outcomes (can report at annual Business Meeting as well)

Execution & Sustainability Strategy



The annual MLC Online Research Seminar Series will be planned, delivered, evaluated and reported on by the MLC Online Research Seminar Series Organizing Committee. Sustainability will be based on a succession plan for membership in the Organizing Committee.

We propose the MLC Online Research Seminar Series to be planned, delivered, evaluated and reported on by the MLC Online Research Seminar Series Organizing Committee.

The Organizing Committee will be formed by the 5 NASPSPA professional members and 1 NASPSPA student member in the MLC area listed as proposers.

Professional members would complete 2 years of membership on the Organizing Committee. We propose to stagger openings on the Organizing Committee to allow succession with 2-3 members leading their second series of seminars and 2-3 members leading their first season. The student member would complete 1 year on the Organizing Committee. Re-nomination/re-election would be possible for both professional and student members.

The MLC Online Research Seminar Series Organizing Committee would be responsible for:

- holding regular organizing committee meetings via online conferencing, documenting and maintaining documentation related to meetings, planning, seminar delivery and participation data and feedback
- planning the annual MLC Online Research Seminar Series program
- canvassing input from membership for suggested topics, presenters for seminar events as part of planning
- delivery and hosting of the MLC Online Research Seminar Series events (events to be hosted via Organizing Committee members' institutional access Zoom/Teams etc)
- participant registration for seminars: organizing committee creates online registration form, monitors participation rates, participant data (location, institution, membership status etc) and maintains contact list for seminar event feedback
- canvassing seminar event participant feedback
- acting on a necessary follow-up from seminar events
- developing seminar event promotion and feedback information (text to include in announcements)
- collating participation data (participant numbers, feedback) for program evaluation and annual reporting
- providing NASPSPA with an annual written report for the previous MLC Online Research Seminar Series
- canvassing expressions of interest to fill Organizing Committee openings for professional and student members
- electing new professional and student members for the organizing committee

We propose the Society be responsible for:

- assisting the Organizing Committee on details relevant to delivering a research event through an online conferencing platform (based on knowledge gained from Virtual Conferences)
- announcement and promotion of surveys to get membership ideas for topics (organizing committee is responsible for creating announcement and promotion content which will be provided to the NASPSPA Communications Director via organizing committee communication liaisons)
- announcement and promotion of online seminar events to the membership as well as other relevant scholars and students (organizing committee is responsible for creating announcement and promotion content which will be provided to the NASPSPA Communications Director via organizing committee communication liaisons)
- provision of a mechanism to allow members to register prior to a seminar event (e.g., behind a pay wall)
- announcement and promotion of openings in the organizing committee (organizing committee is responsible for creating announcement and promotion content which will be provided to the NASPSPA Communications Director via organizing committee communication liaisons)
- provide relevant NASPSPA branded resources (e.g., virtual background images) to use in seminar events
- accept annual reporting from the organizing committee, provide feedback to the organizing committee, and communicate relevant information to the membership

Organizing Committee Communications Liaisons

The organizing committee will have 2 communications liaisons, one of these being a professional member on the committee and the other the student representative. The committee communications liaisons will have 1-year terms, with provision to complete additional terms so long as they are on the organizing committee. Communications liaisons are selected by the organizing committee.

The committee communications liaisons are responsible for ensuring timely provision of relevant communication from the committee to the NASPSPA Executive Committee and conversely to disseminate information from the NASPSPA Executive Committee to members of the organizing committee.

The committee communications liaisons are also responsible for assisting the NASPSPA Communications Director including through provision of content to be included in members' announcements, social media posts and email campaigns for seminar related events (promotion, registration, surveys).

For the inaugural seminar season, the communications liaisons will be Maarten Immink (professional committee member) and Harjiv Singh (student committee member).

Sustainability: election of organizing committee members

The organizing committee will consist of six members, with five of these being professional members and one a student member. We will attempt to include a post-doctoral scholar on the committee but not make this a requirement of the committee membership. Organizing committee members will have demonstrated alignment with motor learning and control research through their research track record and/or NASPSPA conference abstracts in the motor learning and control program.

Committee terms will be for 2 years for professional members and 1 year for the student member. There will be the exception of 2 members of the inaugural committee who will serve 3 years to ensure we can stagger new members.

We can solicit nominations of new members in the spring newsletter 2022, 2023, 2024, etc and the standing committee will vote on the incoming member nominations.

Deliverables

Following is a list of proposed deliverables for each annual MLC Online Research Seminar Series. Note that the inaugural 2020-2021 series will follow a condensed program consisting of 3 seminars.

Deliverable	When
Seminar #1	September
Seminar #2	November
Seminar #3	February
Seminar #4	April
Written Report	May
Example Seminar Activities (1-2 hour duration): Speaker(s) + Q&A Mini symposium Discussion Panel Open Discussion Debate 3-minute or 5 slides x 5 minutes presentations	

Scope and Selection of Seminar Series Topics

Motor learning and control research themes represents the scope of topics for the seminar series. While some topics covered in the seminar series might be specific to motor learning and control research, **we anticipate inclusion of interdisciplinary research that will be of interest to a wide membership audience, as well as general research-based skills/questions that apply to all research.**

The organizing committee will be responsible for gathering input from the membership to inform selection of topics for seminar series. Based on this input and the experience of the organizing committee, the organizing committee will program topics that are appealing to members and meet the scope of the seminar series.

For the inaugural 2020-2021 series, the organizing committee has selected the topic of *Transparency, openness and replication of motor learning and control research* for the first seminar of the inaugural series.

This topic was selected on the basis of the importance of the topic to motor learning and control research, the inter-disciplinary appeal of the topic and the availability of a research leader on this topic within Society to present the first seminar. Prior to the first seminar, we will canvass the membership for interests in other motor learning and control or inter-disciplinary research topics to inform topic selection for the subsequent two seminars of the inaugural series as well as seminars in subsequent series. This selection process for seminar topics is described in the next section. Note that the process is modified for the inaugural season as described in the timeline for the 2020-2021 series.

Annual Procedure for MLC Online Seminar Series Topic Selection

Note: The inaugural 2020-2021 will follow an interim procedure for topic selection as outlined in the timeline for the inaugural 2020-2021 series. The procedure below will commence in June 2021.

When	Action
June	After NASPSPA Conference, members surveyed online for suggested MLC online research seminar series. Organizing committee collates survey responses and aggregates topic themes according to frequency of input from surveys. Organizing committee discussion of popular topics and considers feasibility and level of topic appeal, including across Society disciplines. Research topics short-listed by the organizing committee based on majority vote.
July	For short-listed topics, potential presenters identified, seminar structure and dates considered. Potential presenters contacted for availability. Scheduling arrangements made.
August	Organizing committee finalises seminar series program for the year based on majority vote. Seminar series is announced to membership.
September - April	Ongoing evaluation of engagement, appeal and satisfaction for seminars through post-seminar surveys. This input is used to inform future topic selection.

Timeline for the inaugural 2020-2021 Series

Key tasks and dates are proposed below for the delivery of the inaugural 2020-2021 MLC Online Research Seminar Series and preparation for succession for the 2021-2022 series.

Description	Date
NASPSPA EC approval	TBA
With EC approval, organizing committee announces the MLC Online Research Seminar Series with a save the date for the first seminar in November Organizing Committee Has Agreed on Seminar #1 Topic for November Transparency, openness and replication of motor learning and control research. Hosted by Diane Ste-Marie, Presenter: Keith Lohse with Q&A, discussion	September, 2020
Through NASPSPA, Organizing Committee surveys membership for topics for second and third seminars as well as future series	early October, 2020
Through NASPSPA, Organizing Committee commences promotion and registration for Seminar #1	October 19, 2020
Organizing Committee agrees on topics for second and third seminars with presenters and dates confirmed.	November 6, 2020
Seminar #1 - Transparency, openness and replication of motor learning and control research. Hosted by Diane Ste-Marie, Presenter: Keith Lohse with Q&A, discussion Second and third seminars announced to attendees.	November 20, 2020, 2:00 pm EST
Seminar #1 Attendees canvassed for feedback (online survey) Second and third seminars announced to membership through NASPSPA	November 21 – December 4, 2020
Through NASPSPA, Organizing Committee commences promotion and registration for Seminar #2	mid-January, 2021
Seminar #2	February 18, 2021 (actual date might change)
Seminar #2 Attendees canvassed for feedback (online survey)	February 19 – 26, 2021
Through NASPSPA, Organizing Committee commences promotion and registration for Seminar #3	March 26, 2021
Seminar #3	April 22, 2021 (actual date might change)
Seminar #3 Attendees canvassed for feedback (online survey)	April 23 – 30, 2021
Invite expressions of interest for 2-3 professional committee member (2-year), 1 student member (1-year) for the '21-'22 Series We need to commence staggered election of organizing committee to allow some succession of members (second year and first year OC members)	end of April, 2021
Professional and student Organizing Committee members elected	mid May, 2021

Written Report for the 2020-2021 MLC Research Seminar Series outcomes, new Organizing Committee Members and future plans for '21-'22 season submitted to NASPSPA EC

end of May, 2021 or as required by EC

IN CLOSING



An MLC Online Research Seminar Series would support the Society's Mission Statement and three functions, would value add to Society membership and strengthen the motor learning and control scholarly community within the Society.

The proposed online research seminar series would meet several need areas for members with interests in motor learning and control research including:

- NASPSPA engagement across the year
- bringing together the motor learning and control international research community
- a forum to develop awareness and promote ideas relevant to motor learning and control research

We are confident that our plan is feasible, sustainable and can deliver high quality seminars which are relevant to the membership.

Thank you in advance for considering our proposal and we look forward to receiving feedback from the NASPSPA Executive Committee.