



Jan M Bjordal, PT, PhD
President to WALT 2016 - 2018

Current academic position: Professor
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Prof. Jan M. Bjordal is trained as a physical therapist, with a PhD from University of Bergen, Norway in 2003. His current affiliations are Professor at University of Bergen and Bergen University College, and visiting professor at Leeds Beckett University, UK. His main area of research is to identify mechanisms and optimal doses for low level laser therapy (LLLT) in musculoskeletal pain management.

He has authored 81 scientific publications, some of them in high-ranked journals like The Lancet, British Medical Journal and Annals of Intern Medicine, and his publications are cited more than 3800 times. Prof. Bjordal has made 43 international congress presentations, several of them as keynote or invited speaker. He is the author of the textbook “Clinical Electrotherapy” and has authored several chapters in pain management and laser phototherapy textbooks. He is on the editorial board of three scientific journals, and he has been acting as referee for more than forty Medline-listed journals.

Through his work with LLLT he was acting advisor for the Norwegian Physical Therapy Association when LLLT approval was given approval for reimbursement by the Ministry of Health in Norway in 2001, and he lead the expert group in the Norwegian Health Technology Assessment which concluded that LLLT was effective in knee osteoarthritis in 2004. In 2008 he was awarded both the Muscle & Skeletal prize by the Norwegian Manual Therapist Association, and the Neck & Back Pain prize at the first multidisciplinary Norwegian Neck & Back Pain congress. His comments on recommendations of medication in the 2007 US guidelines for low back pain, resulted in an erratum and downgrading of the evidence level for acetaminophen. Two of his publications have also been cited in guidelines for management of osteoarthritis of the knee and hip which were developed by Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI).

He has been acting as external referee for two Cochrane reviews, and external advisor for the Norwegian guidelines for low back pain management. His comments have led to the withdrawal of 3 Cochrane reviews.

Prof. Bjordal was the President of World Association for Laser Therapy (WALT) during 2008-2010, and President of the 8th WALT 2010 congress in Bergen, Norway (www.walt.nu). Prof. Bjordal served as Scientific Secretary to WALT since 2004 and he has been leading WALT’s development of guidelines for research and clinical applications of LLLT since 2005. He is also current President in International Society for Electro Physical Agents in Physical Therapy, a specialist subgroup in World Confederation for Physical Therapy (www.wcpt.org/iseapt).