

## From the Guest Editor

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One of the most complex set of issues in worker health care involves return to work. If variables are straightforward, injured or ill workers recover work ability and return to work as soon as they are able. The complexities that interfere are questionable physical aptitude, psychological health, incomplete communication between the medical world and employer, failure of the medical system to appropriately designate and treat, and employee inability or unwillingness to provide correct work task levels upon return.

The authors in this *WORK* issue discuss these challenging issues and provide the reader with thoughts and programs that will make a difference today and, more importantly, in years to come. The second issue covers these scientific and societal topics:

- Continuing the unique medical models presented by specialty physicians in the previous edition, we now take a look at the psychological perspective by Marie-Claude Rigaud, MD, who provides a psychological fitness for duty structure.
- Complementing fitness for duty information, the functional capacity evaluation adds physical performance to the mix and is described comprehensively by Margot Miller and Laurie Johnson.

- Janalee Reineke-Lyth describes a system of disability case resolution, enhanced by matching work and worker.
- Societal perspectives add a broad view to the issue of work and worker work injury causation and remediation aspects. Michiel Reneman identifies issues in back injuries that will be helpful in designing management systems. Eva Schoenstein brings into perspective the holistic look at the worker in the workplace from an injury prevention and management standpoint.
- If injury management has been effective, this will be able to be demonstrated by outcomes. Dennis Hart provides information on an important new outcome system that evaluates variables in return to work.

The ideas presented provide an opportunity for professionals to devise, implement and measure increasingly positive outcomes for our two primary foci: employees and employers.

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