

Guest Editorial

Soldier Rehabilitation

I am pleased to present the 50th special volume of *WORK: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment and Rehabilitation*. This special issue addresses the timely and important topic of soldier rehabilitation.

While veterans and soldiers are often viewed as celebrated figures that receive preferential treatment in employment, enjoy public recognition and are eligible for lifelong public benefits, veterans returning from combat often face a multitude of challenges, both internal and external. Many suffer from debilitating physical and psychological conditions that render their lives forever changed. Others return home from wars to a civil society that does not support and even actively criticizes the war from which the soldiers just returned. Some veterans struggle with personal and family circumstances that changed while they were away. These and many other factors can create a situation in which veterans are unable to re-integrate into civilian life as they had planned and hoped.

After returning from combat, rehabilitation and reintegration into civilian life are paramount to veterans' long-term healing and lifelong success. This special issue addresses the challenges that soldiers and veterans face in their rehabilitation and reintegration, and offers solutions to this important transition in their lives. It begins with a personal narrative written by Kraft, a clinical psychologist in the U.S. Navy, painting a detailed picture of the wartime experiences that many soldiers face. Next, Campbell and colleagues describe the military workplace culture, providing context for readers who are not familiar with the culture.

Next, authors discuss challenges that individuals face as a result of military involvement, including preventable deaths, gender-related stress and disability. Gallaway and colleagues utilize a mixed methods epidemiological study to investigate preventable deaths among U.S. Army soldiers assigned to a rehabilitative Warrior Transition Unit. Huss and Cwikel provide a gendered perspective and discuss women's stress in compulsory army service in Israel. Griffin and Stein

examine self-perceptions of disability and how such perceptions affect prospects for employment among U.S. veterans. Araten-Bergman, Tal-Katz and Stein address the question of whether employment status matters for psychosocial adjustment of Israeli veterans with disabilities.

Several authors discuss reintegration into civilian life. Wilcox and colleagues identify post-deployment reintegration challenges in a National Guard unit. Griffith addresses re-employment and financial status of returning Army National Guard soldiers from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Linstad and Schafer tell the story of one veteran's journey diligently working daily to reclaim his life and pursuing community employment after surviving a severe brain injury from an improvised explosive device blast.

Finally, many authors propose and evaluate a variety of treatment options for challenges that veterans face in their rehabilitation and reintegration. Zimmermann and colleagues evaluate an inpatient preventive treatment program for soldiers returning from deployment. Zeylemaker, Linn and Vermetten discuss a functional rehabilitation program with blended care elements embedded in a day treatment setting. Collins and colleagues report on the use and effectiveness of the computer-assisted rehabilitation environment for research and rehabilitation as it relates to wounded warriors. Sullivan and colleagues evaluate the feasibility of conducting a computer-based, cognitive rehabilitation study in a military treatment facility. Bosco, Murphy, Peters and Clark describe the symptomatic, functional and systemic challenges inherent to post-deployment multi-symptom disorder conceptualization and treatment. Wolbring, Martin, Tynedal, Ball and Yumakulov explore discourse surrounding therapeutic enhancement of veterans and soldiers with injuries. Westlund examines interactions between humans and nature during post-conflict recovery.

We are proud to provide a broad scope of challenges and solutions presented by a diverse group of authors

from a wide array of disciplines. We hope that this special issue inspires others to pursue scholarship, promote policymaking and increase dialogue about potential solutions to challenges that soldiers and veterans face in their rehabilitation and reintegration processes. We welcome your feedback and partnership in these endeavors.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Wolf, JD, MPH
Guest Editor

Harvard Law School Project on Disability
Northern Arizona University
Department of Occupational Therapy
Phoenix, AZ, USA
E-mail: rwolf@post.harvard.edu;
rebecca.wolf@nau.edu