

# FROM THE EDITOR

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No group of activities is more central to an individual's life than work. As an occupational performance area, work includes home management, caregiving, educational and vocational activities, and retirement planning.<sup>1</sup> If compared to an art form, work is analogous to a patchwork quilt. Although each section is independent, taken together they form an intricate and practical product. The patchwork design of the quilt also provides for artistic expression in both design and execution.<sup>2</sup> Work is a composite of many smaller, individual tasks. Brought together, these tasks form an infinite variety of activities we call *work*.

*WORK: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment, & Rehabilitation* is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed, quarterly journal devoted to the exchange of information on injury prevention, work assessment, and rehabilitation. The journal's subtitle has been deliberately laid out: Our first goal is injury or disability prevention. When this goal is not reachable and the client sustains a disability, we focus our attention on assessing individual needs and follow that with rehabilitation, programming, and any other form of intervention deemed necessary. Each issue of *WORK* will be thematic, with topics ranging from supported employment to industrial rehabilitation to technological advances. The articles will cover every age group from the school-aged child to the older worker, including people with disabilities across the age groups.

This first issue of *WORK* is devoted to industrial rehabilitation. The ideas put forth by the authors provide a state-of-the-art view. In the Perspectives section, Isernhagen provides a glimpse into the past, present, and future of industrial rehabilitation. Prevention is a recurrent theme throughout the issue and is explored by Schwartz in his article on risk management through injury prevention. Edwards addresses the vast subject of ergonomics and provides a valuable example of job analysis and work-site design. Melnik illustrates the techniques for enlisting participation in prevention programs. On another note, Rhomberg and Bernstein examine both the legal and clinical

perspectives of employment screening. Carlson and Means Wilson describe the evolution of an interdisciplinary industrial rehabilitation program, while Doherty discusses work hardening beyond the basics and gives her insight on the challenges of program development.

One area of wide concern in industrial rehabilitation is how guidelines for practice are made and administered. In this issue, Ellexson takes a long look at the work-hardening guidelines that were developed by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.<sup>3</sup> As a member of the national advisory committee that drafted these guidelines, Ellexson clarifies their impact on industrial rehabilitation professionals and practices. Finally, the issue is closed with a provocative article on the problems of professional accountability, written by Fontana.

Although these articles make up the substance of the first issue of the journal, the backbone of *WORK* is its editorial board. The board includes professionals in occupational and physical therapy, law, medicine, ergonomics, management, and vocational rehabilitation. Through their careful scrutiny, they maintain the integrity and relevance of articles they review. They also offer articles of their own that share their considerable insight into work practice.

The articles were written, the board reviewed and approved their content, and now they are here for you to read. Like the pieces in a patchwork quilt, each of the articles can stand on its own merits. Together they form the intricate lattice of a comprehensive text: the first issue of *WORK*.

## REFERENCES

1. Uniform terminology for occupational therapy, second edition. *AJOT* 1989; 43: 808-815.
2. Jacobs K: Forward in work: occupational therapy interventions. *Occup Ther Practice* 1990; 1(2): v-vi.
3. Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities: *1989 Standards Manual for Organizations Serving People with Disabilities*: pp. v-x, 64-66. Tucson AZ, CARF.