

From the Editor

I write this *From the Editor* while in Nashville “Music City” Tennessee, USA. Although I thoroughly enjoyed experiencing the Grand Ole Opry, I am in Nashville having participated in the American Occupational Therapy Association’s (AOTA) 95th Annual Conference and Expo. The theme of the conference was, “*Giving Voice to the Distinct Value of Occupational Therapy*” and indeed there were hundreds of presentations that clearly articulated and demonstrated this distinct value. Of special note was AOTA President Virginia (Ginny) Stoffel’s inspirational presidential address that examined the importance of engagement, exploration and empowerment strategies to meet society’s occupational needs. These strategies are addressed in many of the articles contained in this issue of *WORK*.

There are 26 articles in this issue. The first article discusses *engaging* workers in musculoskeletal prevention through two interdisciplinary case studies. Another article *explores* the effect of asymmetrical backpack load on spinal curvature in school children. *Empowerment* can be considered an important strategy in two other articles. One examined the successful collaboration between occupational health service providers and client companies; and the other article looked at the lived experiences of gay men living in Cape Town with respect to their worker roles.

I encourage you to submit your manuscripts to *WORK*. Share manuscripts that examined the importance of strategies such as engagement, exploration and empowerment through your research, scholarly work, case studies, systematic reviewers and narratives of lived experiences. Please *explore* being an external reviewer of manuscripts or take the next step and feel *empowered* to submit your name as a potential Editorial Board member. Whatever you decide to, it is important to being *engaged* and you can do so by reading *WORK*.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers,
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