

FROM THE EDITOR

Work not only transforms the environment by building bridges across rivers and cultivating barren plains; it also transforms the worker from an animal guided by instincts into a conscious goal-directed, skillful person.

—M. Csikszentmihalyi (1990)

As we move swiftly into the new millennium, it behooves us to consider the unparalleled opportunities in work practice that await us internationally. With the assistance of technology, increased global collaboration will be fostered in academic training, clinical practice, and research. Information sharing will advance the establishment of fair and accurate empirical research to support our intervention strategies (Jacobs, 1991).

Keeping with one of the missions of the journal—to provide an interdisciplinary forum to promote work practice internationally—I am delighted to begin the third year of *WORK* with an issue focusing on work practice internationally. To provide a complete picture of work practice internationally would require at least two volumes; therefore, the articles in this issue represent a snapshot of work practice in countries such as Israel, Japan, Australia, Canada, Sweden, The Netherlands, and Germany. I encourage other international readers to share their work with us so that we might increase the exchange of information and foster collaboration.

REFERENCES

1. Csikszentmihalyi, M. (1990). *Flow: The psychology of optimal experience*. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, Inc.
2. Jacobs, K. (1991). Work practice for the new millennium. *Rehabil Manag*, 5, 71-72.

This issue begins with two articles that provide comprehensive views on culture and the history of work, respectively. Carrasco has authored a "Perspectives" entitled "Toward Understanding and Improving Health Care Delivery across Cultures"; Wilcock offers "Work: An Occupational Perspective." Of the remaining nine articles, three concern work practice in Israel and two describe Japanese vocational rehabilitation for people with psychiatric or physical challenges. Söderback et al. describe occupational therapy work training programs in Sweden for individuals with head injuries, and Morrison describes and compares three international approaches to rehabilitation. Johnson and Stern provide insights regarding developing hospital-industry partnerships in their article about the railway in Canada, and Delin shares a brief report on the factor structure of an aspects of work scale. Finally, the issue concludes with "Sounding Board," featuring a letter from McFarlane on certification. Readers are reminded that "Sounding Board" does not necessarily represent the views of the editor, the publisher, or the editorial board, but provides a forum for individuals to express opinions that are intended to stimulate discussion or provoke a response.

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