

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue is devoted to the subject of technology. Technology is defined as "hardware, devices, and software used to solve practical tasks and problems. Technology can range from simple mechanical devices such as reachers to complex computer or electronic equipment" (Somerville et al., 1990, p. 44). Technology helps individuals with disabilities to function as productive workers.

For the practitioner, there are two applications of technology: therapeutic intervention (direct client care) or in support of therapy (nondirect client care). In the case of therapeutic intervention, according to Smith (1991), "Technology serves two major roles: helping and teaching. Those technologies that help an individual support their functional independence by enhancing or assisting performance in a functional activity are referred to as assistive or adaptive technologies. The second type are rehabilitative or educational technologies" (p. 749). As technological advances evolve, it is prudent for practitioners to keep pace with them so as to best serve our consumers. This issue of *WORK* is a step toward that goal. The articles address both applications of technology—therapeutic intervention and support of therapy.

Angelo has written the Perspectives column on technology. She discusses its past, present, and future use in occupational therapy. Baker et al. look at technology "through the eyes of occupational therapy." Expanding the use of technology to other disciplines, Barry has authored two arti-

cles. First, he provides a comprehensive review of ergonomic keyboards and then closes the issue with a Sounding Board column entitled "Caveat Emptor." Black et al. present a useful test-retest reliability of the work box, a work simulation device. Tello discusses "The Role of Consumer Products for Individuals with Disabilities." Hammel and Symons describe a team approach to evaluating reasonable accommodations. Finally, Truesdall provides a "hands-on" article about the use of Triwall® and plastic construction as low-tech solutions for workplace accommodations.

This issue closes the third year of *WORK*. We continue to strive to meet the needs of our readers by providing comprehensive and innovative articles on the "state of the art" of work practice. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions for future topics. I look forward to hearing from you!

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REFERENCES

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