

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *WORK* is devoted to industrial rehabilitation. The authors provide the lens through which to view the many responsibilities and roles service providers can play in this area of practice. In their proactive "Perspectives" article, Niemeyer, Foto, and Holmes-Enix discuss managed care in industrial rehabilitation.

Since the 1980s, work hardening has been an important service under the umbrella of industrial rehabilitation. A propos to this, this issue contains two articles on work hardening by Graly et al. and Ambrosius et al.

Prevention is another important service in industrial rehabilitation. Thompson et al. discuss the use of back belts in the workplace as one preventive strategy. Ergonomics certification continues to be a provocative subject, addressed by occupational therapist and ergonomist Major Val Rice, in "Sounding Board." This subject will be continually updated in upcoming issues of *WORK*.

To survive in this changing health care-reform climate, industrial rehabilitation professionals will need to communicate and market their services effectively. Baldwin provides a guide for communication as a marketing tool for industrial rehabilitation.

Expanding the use of technology, O'Connell,

Holmes, Santos, Jordon, and Acosta provide the results of research on "The Effects of Plinth Height and an Assistive Device on the Energy Cost of the Manual Therapy Provider".

Additional articles by Roberts and Zimbrich on job accommodations and Carifio and Lanza on bench-marking effects in the blaming of professionals for incidents of aggression and assault round out the issue.

This issue heralds in the fourth year of *WORK*. This year we are proud to initiate an annual *WORK* Writers Award. All articles received within a calendar year of the journal will be eligible for this award. Selection will be made by members of the *WORK* Editorial Board and will be based on quality of style, content, and the article's general contribution to the advancement of knowledge or skills in work practice. A \$100 honorarium and a year's subscription to *WORK* will be given to the author of the selected article.

Finally, we continue to strive to meet the needs of our readers by providing comprehensive and innovative articles on "state-of-the-art" of work practice. We look forward to the coming year with issues on ergonomics, women at work, and technology. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions for future topics.

Karen Jacobs, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA