

FROM THE EDITOR

In the past decade work-related injuries have increased to epidemic proportions in the United States. The coming decade will see businesses spend billions of dollars in medical expenses, disability compensation, and lost productivity. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (cited in Feuerstein, 1991), the number of injuries and illnesses caused by a work accident or exposure to other related work factors has decreased from 10.9 cases per 100 full-time workers in 1972 to 7.9 cases in 1986 and has remained fairly stable as of 1989. Concurrently, the number of lost work days per 100 workers has steadily increased from 47.9 in 1972 to 65.8 in 1986 to 74.2 in 1989, signifying that the number of lost work days has gone up dramatically over the past 15 years. What can be done? One solution is the application of ergonomic principles in the workplace.

This issue of *WORK* is devoted to ergonomics. The articles provide a variety of ergonomics-related research, clinical application, and perspectives. These articles can serve as resources to the reader—with the ideal goal of preventing and reducing workplace injuries.

As always, I welcome hearing from you through the submission of articles, suggestions for issue topics, and, in general, your feedback on the journal.

Karen Jacobs, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

REFERENCE

- Feuerstein, M. (1991). A multidisciplinary approach to the prevention, evaluation, and management of work disability. *J Occup Rehab* 1(1), 5-12.