



ELSEVIER

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From the Editor

An individual's productive role is greatly valued in society. In the late 20th century, a dependence on the automobile has, in some cases, facilitated this ability to be productive. In today's society, the 'right' to drive enables individuals to be independent in many occupational performance areas, including self-care, work/productive activities, and play/leisure activities (Jacobs, 1994).

For older drivers, loss of this 'right' can be the loss of independence and the ability to be a productive, contributing member of society. While many older drivers have little or no difficulty driving as they age, others do. Many older drivers will continue to drive despite impaired abilities that make driving difficult and often dangerous. Difficulties have been found to arise from a variety of sources: vision disorders and eye diseases (Klein, 1991; Shinar and Schieber, 1991); dementia such as Alzheimer's (Kaszniak et al., 1991; Parasuraman and Nestor, 1991); motor and neuromuscular disorders such as Parkinson's disease; and age-related changes (Brouwer et al., 1991). The potential effects of these problems on an individual's driving can be devastating. Some of the effects can be counteracted with driver evaluation and retraining, while some effects mean no more driving. Yet these disorders and diseases affect individuals differently, and while their potential impacts on driving cannot be discounted, generalization is not fair either. Since the older population is growing, there is a need for more complete driver programs, including methods of evaluating older drivers to determine if they can still safely drive, as well as programs to retrain drivers and teach methods of compensation to older drivers with disabilities and disorders af-

fecting their driving, such as participation-oriented education.

This thematic issue of *WORK* is devoted to driving rehabilitation. We hope you enjoy the various articles on driving, as well as the columns *Global Health Issues* and *Rehabilitation Ergonomics*. *WORK* continues to strive to meet the needs of our readers by providing comprehensive and innovative articles related to work. As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions. Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Jackie Anapole for sparking my interest in driving rehabilitation.

Karen Jacobs
(President-Elect)
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Association (AOTA)

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Gary Kielhofner will be the Guest Editor of a special issue of **WORK** devoted to the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO). Interested authors should contact Dr. Kielhofner at the University of Illinois at Chicago, IL USA at (312) 996-6901 or e-mail: kielhfnr@uic.edu