



ELSEVIER

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From the editor

As I stare at my computer screen to write this editorial, I am distracted by the beauty of the lightly falling snow visible beyond the computer through my window. The scene is very reminiscent of Robert Frost poems — ‘Dust of Snow’, ‘Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening’, or ‘A Patch of Old Snow’ — all my childhood favorites. However, of all Frost’s poems, ‘The Road Not Taken’ is most memorable. For those of you unfamiliar with this poem, it ends with the often quoted lines... ‘I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.’

We all have choices to make in life, sometimes they are volitional and at other times forced upon us. As health professionals, we are constantly working with individuals who are at crossroads in their lives, enabling them to make good choices to enhance the quality of their lives.

I would like to use the remainder of my column to share with you a paper written by Rachel Goldenberg, a freshman occupational therapy student at Boston University. Rachel has beautifully captured the enabling process.

A young man, standing at the beginning of a narrow path, gazed out at the dense woods which lay before him. He was here on a mission, but stood in wonder as to what the end goal would be. He had played video games like this before, where the mastery of manipulating a two dimensional creature throughout the thickets of a pictorial screen would result in either accomplishing an end goal or getting stuck along the way. He had

to manipulate this video creature on the road to safety against the many obstacles set out to obstruct it. Along the way, there were many tools designed to help it succeed. Some were hidden, while others were right there for its convenience. However, the young man, after being the victim of a motorcycle accident, knew his life was not a video game. This was now reality, and it was up to him to strategically follow the path of light and find his way out of the dense woods. He knew that the path was not always straightforward, and he could easily find himself lost. The more he thought about the situation, the more he realized it was indeed like that video game he had mastered so many times. He knew that he was not alone in his journey, for he had help along this complex path. With the aid of physical therapists, physicians and other needed medical staff, he knew he had the beginning of a successful journey. He started to move along the road at a rapid pace, and even discovered gold coins (which would aid considerably in his health care costs) along the pathway. Soon he had come very far and he began to see the clearing towards the end filled with a beautiful white light. However, it was at this point where he had stopped and found himself unable to continue. Filled with fear, he began to wonder what would happen when he was forced to fend for himself without the aid he had found along the pathway. He knew he could never fully leave the darkness of the woods until he completed the final, and perhaps the most difficult

obstacle. It was here where he found the warmth of occupational therapy, the last hidden treasure the woods had to offer. With the aid of the occupational therapist, he soon discovered new and creative ways to fully emerge from the darkness and continue on living a productive life again, given the skills he had built up or retained. Now as he walked, the path got wider and wider, the bright light surrounded him and the darkness

of the woods faded, becoming a mere shadow of the past.

Karen Jacobs
Editor

CALL FOR PAPERS

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