



From the Editor

This issue of the *Journal of Back and Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation* covers a variety of topics for readers. The first article by Zwick and colleagues demonstrates the effects of asymmetric load carrying on gait. As you will see, it is prepared by a group of Master's students in the Physical Therapy Program at the City University of New York, but we felt it would be interesting to our readers. In the second article, Dr Peter Staats from Johns Hopkins discusses the three-step analgesic ladder developed by the World Health Organization to assist health care professionals in managing cancer pain. As close to 1.5 million new cases of cancer are diagnosed each year, it is important for physicians to recognize that pain can be controlled.

Our third article takes on the topic of workers' compensation and Dr R Samuel Mayer from Rush Medical Center presents the legal aspects and various components involved with this often confusing, costly, and time consuming area of practice. In the last article, Dr Martin Childers and colleagues present a review article on the use of botulinum toxin in the treatment of painful muscle syndromes. Although further research is needed, evidence does suggest the effectiveness of BTX-A in reducing painful muscular contractions associated with a variety of neurologic conditions.

Finally, we are happy to present another installment of our Alternative Medicine Column, presented by Dr Ai and Dr Spencer from the University of Michigan. Here, the importance of stronger methods in clinical outcomes research is discussed, including the use of an advanced statistical technique to assist in this process.

As always, we continue to welcome new manuscripts, Letters to the Editor, Commentaries, etc. In addition, if there are any topical issues you would like to see presented, we welcome your input.

Karen S. Rucker, MD
Editor-in-Chief