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From the Editor

This issue of the *Journal of Back and Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation* presents an important paper on the classification of low back pain symptoms, authored by Dr Alison McGregor and colleagues from the United Kingdom. It raises the question of appropriate symptom assessment and subsequent grouping of patients. It is also of interest to note the differences in self assessments and classification systems between the United States and the United Kingdom. Following the paper is an Editorial Comment seeking to clarify some of the issues raised in the paper, along with the Authors' response.

The next two papers are concerned with functional capacity testing. Dr Leonard Matheson and co-authors present the results of a study investigating the concurrent validity of a method developed to evaluate the presence of symptom magnification syndrome in workers compensation recipients with chronic low back pain. Next, Dr Ira Fiebert et al. examine the relationship between

hand size and grip strength at various handle positions in women.

In our continuing effort to provide continuing education and act as a resource for our readers, we have obtained permission to reprint, in its entirety, a new *PM & R Awareness Initiative*, recently developed by the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. We believe this initiative is important in this ever-changing environment of managed care and the increasing role of medical professionals in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Finally, Kelly Pavelis again provides us with insight into how our patients may be feeling and what they need from us in order to gain our trust, understanding, and compassion as they seek to successfully travel through the healing process.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Journal.

Karen S. Rucker, MD
Editor-in-Chief