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## From the Editor

This issue is entitled "*The Injured Spine*". We cover a variety of issues which relate to dealing with the injured spine. This issue is not intended to be comprehensive. We hope this final product is useful in your clinical practice.

To begin with, Ernie Johnson with tongue in cheek, tells us how to avoid a cervical neck sprain from wearing bifocal glasses. On a more serious note, David Fishbain reviews the literature of assessing work capacity which has resulted in much of the current research done by the *Comprehensive Pain and Rehabilitation Center* in Miami Beach, Florida. We wish we could share more of their research.

Next Steven Sanders et al., give us specific guidelines for clinical management of chronic pain syndrome. These guidelines were commissioned in 1994 by the American Pain Society (APS) and are the result of a joint effort between government and experts in the field of pain practice. The APS board of directors did not adopt these guidelines and released them for independent publication. We are excited to have the opportunity to publish this in the *Journal of Back and Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation*.

Phillip Marion next reviews the effectiveness of many treatments for low back pain. This is of course the most common worker injury. Along the same line, Scott Richards describes a very effective chronic pain program with longitudinal outcomes from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The next two articles are clinical in nature. Shoichi Kokubun from the Tohoku University School of Medicine in Japan discusses the different types of disc herniation and their relationship to radiculopathy. Ib Odderson presents a case study of intraspinal gas and lumbar radiculopathy.

The next three commentaries are by lawyers known for their expertise in dealing with workers' compensation issues. Geoffrey McDonald shares his thoughts on how to best handle your workers' compensation cases to benefit both your patient and yourself. A guide to being an effective expert witness is written by Thomas Williamson. Another necessary evil of dealing with workers' compensation is the written medical legal issues; Thomas Stark deals with this very effectively.

Lastly, in another of his radiological commentaries, Curtis Hayes discusses cervical injuries and radiological implications for treatment.

As always, we welcome your letters to the editor.

*Karen S. Rucker*