

## From the Guest Editor

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This is the first of two issues dedicated to comprehensive, multidisciplinary, scientific viewpoints on matching work and worker. Experts from the rehabilitation, medical and ergonomic world have contributed to this resource for work injury management and prevention professionals. The programs described will minimize potential injury and foster maximized productivity in the workplace. By understanding components, programs, systems and philosophies, the readers will learn methods that allow the worker to produce work safely, with longevity, and to return effectively if injured. The articles, when read sequentially, offer a continuum of action.

- Dennis Isernhagen begins the first issue with a comprehensive, clear look at an innovative continuum of services that match the worker and work.
- Wellness in industry is the basis for the workers to maintain a productive work and home life. Allen Wicken defines and describes wellness programs in industry.
- In order to maintain wellness or health of the worker, matching workers to jobs prior to being placed is described by Jean Gassoway. Her insights and outcomes regarding a program that reduced work injury and employee turnover is timely and pivotal.
- Ergonomics is covered from two perspectives. Melanie Ellexson and Barbara Larson provide a blueprint for ergonomics. Mark Anderson adds his ergonomic design method for the workplace. All three authors add dimension to the ergonomic process.
- Steve McKenney presents perspective on reducing injury and matching work and worker with team members in industry, occupational health nurses and safety managers.
- The benefits of a comprehensive system are covered in an article focused on industry and employee points of view by Susan Isernhagen.
- Two unique medical models, the physical and psy-

chological, are presented by specialty physicians. In the first edition we include the physical model by Dr. Barbara Toeppen-Sprigg, which identifies the importance of job analysis in medical case management. In the second edition we will look at the psychological perspective.

The second issue will cover continued scientific and societal topics:

- Continuing the unique medical models presented by specialty physicians in the previous edition, we now take a look at the psychological perspective by Marie-Claude Rigaud, MD, who provides a psychological fitness for duty structure.
- Complementing fitness for duty information, the functional capacity evaluation adds physical performance to the mix and is described comprehensively by Margot Miller and Laurie Johnson.
- Janalee Reineke-Lyth describes a system of disability case resolution, enhanced by matching work and worker.
- Societal perspectives add broad view to the issue of work and worker work injury causation and remediation aspects. Michiel Reneman identifies issues in back injuries that will be helpful in designing management systems. Eva Schoenstein brings into perspective the holistic look at the worker in the workplace from an injury prevention and management standpoint.
- If injury management has been effective, this will be able to be demonstrated by outcomes. Dennis Hart provides information on an important new outcome system that evaluates variables in return to work.

This creative group of authors collectively share their individual expertise and desire to be part of a total system that progressively moves science and art forward for benefit of employee and employer.

Susan J. Isernhagen