

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue marks the introduction of the first Guest Editor to *WORK*. The role of guest editor has been very ably performed by Richard Schwartz, MS, OTR, an expert in the area of prevention and industrial rehabilitation. In "Perspectives," Schwartz provides an overview of return-to-work programs.

The articles contained in this "Return-to-Work" issue vary in nature. Two articles describe or evaluate return-to-work programs. Baran-Ettipio, the employee relations manager and ADA coordinator at Sony Microelectronics and Centeno, a vocational specialist, combine their expertise to describe an early return-to-work program with a case study example. Padgett, Hollander, Warden and Coleman thoroughly evaluate a model return-to-work program in Texas.

Work hardening is intervention that has been used in return-to-work programs. Moffroid, Aja, Laffin, Haugh, and Henry write about the efficacy of a part-time work hardening program for persons with low-back pain. Mangine, Maurer, Nelson, and Bauer discuss the effects of music on subjective reports of pain in a work hardening setting.

Sharp, Harman, Boutilier, Bovee, and Kraemer examine the effectiveness of a progressive resistance training (PRT), or weight training, for improving occupational performance.

Ergonomics is an important aspect of return to work. It provides a work environment that matches the individual worker rather than the worker to the job. However, who is to provide ergonomics remains controversial. Hart, Isernhagen, and Matheson provide their perspective and rationale to the formation of a health ergonomic certification.

Bloom (1990, p. iii) writes that, "During the past decade, millions of American workers have lost stable, well-paying jobs due to structural economic changes caused by major advances in production technology and rapidly increasing international competition. These displaced workers often remained unemployed for long periods of time, and when they finally become reemployed, it was frequently in jobs that paid less than those that were lost." Small addresses the issue of the disenfranchised worker in "Sounding Board." It behooves us all to understand being disenfranchised from work and the role we play in responding to this problem.

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REFERENCE

Bloom, H. (1990). *Back to work*. Kalamazoo: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.