

GUEST EDITORIAL

The Rehabilitation Icon

Computer icons and jargon have become imbedded in our visual and oral language. To the array of file folders, magnifying glasses, and scissors that head many computer screens, a three-legged stool might be added to symbolize contemporary rehabilitation service. The “pull-down” menu for this icon would feature choices relating to each leg of the stool—research, education, and administration. The icon suggests that rehabilitation has a three-fold support. When all supports are sturdy, rehabilitation service is well sustained. But, if one leg is rickety, the stool is likely to collapse. No leg is more important than any other, each must carry its load. Clicking the computer mouse on this icon would enable one to open the file entitled *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development*, for this publication addresses all elements of the rehabilitation model and has done so long before a mouse was anything other than a household pest and icons were found only in monasteries.

Rehabilitation is supported by research. Without ongoing questioning, investigating, and linking new findings with previous experience, our patients would not benefit from new types of prosthetic feet or better means of controlling a painful knee or more effective means of speaking. The scientific articles in the pages of the *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development* reflect the ever broadening scope of rehabilitation.

Education is the second leg. Timely dissemination of research results at scientific meetings and through journals of high integrity, such as the *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development* enables clinicians distant from the research centers to improve their rehabilitation services to the benefit of the patients they serve.

The third support is administration. Without responsible management of fiscal and human resources, the rehabilitation endeavor collapses. Just as the ongoing excellence of the *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development* reflects the high quality of its direction, the entire rehabilitation effort depends on skillful administration.



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Although the stool icon does not flash on the computer screen, the three-fold construct of rehabilitation is a code which reveals itself in the well-being of our patients.

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