



## From the Editor . . .



**Linda Grainger,  
Editor**

**W**e will be well into 2012 by the time you read this issue. Once again, we wish you a productive and satisfying year in which you are able to make significant contributions to building health and safety in the workplace.

The first article in this issue is a Back to basics one that deals with the interpretation of spirometry in the occupational setting. It is based

on a well-received presentation given by Van der Linden at a SASOHN Academic Day last year. She takes the reader through the logical and systematic process of checks and considerations, which are necessary to arrive at a correct and educated interpretation. Given the complexity of this process, the article does not purport to cover every aspect in detail. Readers are encouraged to consult the references provided in the article, especially the ACOEM Guidance Statement, the SANS 451 Standard, the SATS guideline, and the Mines Health and Safety Inspectorate's Guidance Note for Occupational Medical Practitioners: Lung Function Testing.

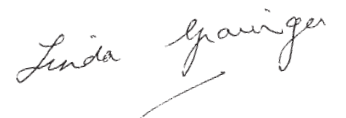
Grace, Wilders, Strydom and Ellis describe their comparison of the effect of two health promotion strategies on coronary prone colliery executives from six collieries in South Africa. Both had a physical fitness component, and one was enhanced with an educational component. The study is encouraging because it showed how a relatively short and simple intervention can make a substantial improvement in people with high-risk factors. This should motivate our practitioners in their health promotion programmes.

In the third article, Ntsiea, van Aswegen, Lord and Olorunju report their findings on the perceptions of therapists' perceived barriers and enablers of return to work (RTW) by survivors after stroke. This cross sectional study, conducted in stroke rehabilitation facilities in Gauteng, is part of an ongoing study to establish, amongst other objectives, the

effect of a workplace intervention programme on the rate of RTW after stroke. Given the prevalence of hypertension and incidence of strokes in the working population, and the need for effective occupational rehabilitation, this study is likely to be most valuable.

On the news front, congratulations are due to Mohamed Jheebay of the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research, School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town. He was recently elected to the Collegium Ramazzini. Leslie London, Head of the Department, writes that the "Collegium is an independent, international academy ... to advance the study of occupational and environmental health issues and to be a bridge between the world of scientific discovery and the social and political centres which must act on the discoveries of science to protect public health. ... The Collegium is comprised of about 180 fellows from around the world, elected in recognition of their expertise in the fields of occupational and environmental health." Leslie, Jonny Myers and Rodney Ehrlich are all fellows of the Collegium, and it is gratifying to have our colleagues recognised in this manner.

Please consider submitting papers in response to the call below. Although we have a healthy number of papers coming in, we are also very interested in featuring the listed topics. The Editorial Board has been working on the further development of the journal. One of the exciting initiatives is to have it listed on international databases so that the content is more visible and accessible. At this stage, the African Index Medicus has agreed to include our journal, which means that it will also be part of the Global Index Medicus. Finally, we would like to encourage more of our readers to send letters to the editor concerning articles which we have published. Your participation will be most welcome.



## Call for papers for 2012

We are particularly keen to publish papers that present effective interventions relating to the disciplines of occupational hygiene, medicine and nursing. In addition to publishing papers on any

relevant topic, we have planned subthemes for four issues as shown below. Please ensure that we receive your submissions no later than the dates indicated alongside the topic.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Submission date</b>
May/June 2012	Infections and occupational health	29 March 2012
July/August 2012	Ethics and occupational health	27 May 2012
September/October 2012	Reproductive health and occupational health	14 July 2012
November/December 2012	Chronic diseases and occupational health	13 September 2012

We therefore invite you to submit original research, review, case study, or back to basics papers for consideration for publication in this issue. The authors' guidelines are available on the website, [www.occhealth.co.za](http://www.occhealth.co.za). All papers are peer-reviewed before publication. Should you be interested in submitting a paper, please indicate this by e-mailing the Editor at [lindagsw@gmail.com](mailto:lindagsw@gmail.com). Please provide some basic details about what you envisage would be included in the paper.