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## Editor's Note

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## Walters: Editor's Note

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As this issue goes to press it brings to a close our fourth year of publishing the Journal. During these years, many topics of **importance** have been shared. Yet, today, it seems there are many more trends and issues which may have a tremendous impact on our educational system as well as our health delivery system that need to be studied and reported to our readers. The authors included in this issue have responded to some of these needs in their writings.

Realizing the importance of leadership in the health professions, **Akroyd** and Stadt examined leadership styles of allied health deans in academic health care centers and the relationship of perceived styles to department chairperson's job satisfactions. Findings revealed that higher satisfaction levels for chairpersons were associated with high task/high consideration leadership style. Similar studies may have implications for other education levels and health care agencies.

In response to the delivery system of home health care, Singleton, **Bredow**, and Henkin focused on the elderly as major beneficiaries of the system. While studying cost containment policies and the residual effects, it appears that the severity of illness of acutely ill patients receiving home health care increased after the implementation of hospital-based prospective payment systems, however, the level of home care remained in a steady state. Perhaps, one may pose the question to leadership in this venture: "Is this the direction needed in health care?"

Another topic of concern throughout the nation is keeping the curriculum of all health care training programs up-to-date. For assistance with this issue, O'Brien addressed the potential value of the "Developing a Curriculum" occupational analysis methodology for health programs. This approach appears to compensate for many problematic aspects of conventional occupational analysis and provides an alternative for curriculum development specialists in health occupations education programs.

Another problem occurring in the health delivery system is a shortage of health care workers. One solution may be in the training of multi-skilled health practitioners. Bamberg and **Blayney** identified programs that are providing training at basic and sophisticated levels, which include training for certification as well as non-certification training through a diversity of approaches. Baker revealed that the time has arrived to reassess the other avenues of career development, especially work experience, to alleviate shortages of health care workers. However, as reported, barriers to certification through experience are evident due to eligibility requirements established **by** certifying agencies.

Problems associated with **finding** available books **may** also be alleviated **by** reading the various book reviews **in** this issue. As **health** professionals, we all can certainly understand the benefits received from having our Journal to share the latest knowledge. Keep up the good work!

Norma J. Walters  
Editor

