
Preface

In 2011, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a very important and influential report, *Relieving Pain in America* (Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science, 2011). This report highlighted the urgent need for the development of better methods for pain management because the ever-increasing costs associated with current treatment approaches cannot be sustained. This report emphasized the fact that musculoskeletal pain is the most common single type of chronic pain. As a result, this *book* was developed to address some of the most important issues related to this significant epidemic of musculoskeletal pain and disability disorders. The *book* was designed to integrate the growing clinical research evidence related to the causes, assessment, treatment, and prevention of these disorders, especially those occurring in the workplace. This is especially important because of the growing costs, including social and economic, and those associated with human suffering.

The *book* will be of great interest to physicians, psychologists, occupational therapists, vocational rehabilitators, labor relations and human-resource professionals, employee and family assistance counselors, disability case managers, supervisors/employers, as well as researchers and academicians alike. As delineated in the *Table of Contents*, there is a wide array of important topics that are covered. It consists of three major parts. *Part I*, “The Most Common Occupational Musculoskeletal Pain and Disability Disorders,” will provide an overview and discussion of these major disorders, ranging from back and cervical pain to chronic widespread pain. *Part II*, “Conceptual and Methodological Issues,” will expose the reader to critical terminology and important topics in the occupational musculoskeletal disorders’ arena. In *Part III*, “Intervention Approaches and Techniques,” a comprehensive evaluation of most recent evidence-based therapeutic approaches will be reviewed.

As in the first book of this series, all contributors to this *book* were asked to provide a balance between current best-practice guidelines and evidence-based documentation of such guidelines and assessment/treatment approaches. The contributors were carefully selected for their unique knowledge, as well as their ability to meaningfully present this information in a comprehensive manner. We made it our mission to provide the most comprehensive coverage of this important area to date in the scientific literature. Each chapter added a unique thread to the overall fabric of this *book*, making it a comprehensive overview of the area.

We would like to acknowledge all of the authors for their valuable state-of-the-art contributions and for making this *book* come to fruition in a timely manner. We also especially thank Janice Stern of Springer, who has supported the vision of this *book* series and encouraged us during our journey. In addition, we are indebted to Pedro Cortes at the University of Texas at Arlington for his technical contributions to the development of the *book*.

Arlington, TX, USA
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Robert J. Gatchel
Izabela Z. Schultz

Handbook of Musculoskeletal Pain and Disability

Disorders in the Workplace

Gatchel, R.J.; Schultz, I.Z. (Eds.)

2014, XVI, 509 p. 46 illus., 20 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4939-0611-6