# THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IN OCCUPATIONAL STRESS

# RESEARCH IN OCCUPATIONAL STRESS AND WELL BEING

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RESEARCH IN OCCUPATIONAL STRESS AND WELL BEING VOLUME 14

## THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IN OCCUPATIONAL STRESS

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#### **OVERVIEW**

For this volume of *Research in Occupational Stress and Well Being*, we have partnered with guest editors from the *Center for Creative Leadership* to assemble a collection of unique insights examining occupational health through a leadership lens. This volume consists of seven chapters, each focusing on a different aspect of leadership and the role that leaders may play in facilitating stress and well-being in the workplace.

The first two chapters examine how certain traits and behaviors of leaders can exacerbate occupational stress. In the chapter "Workaholism among Leaders: Implications for Their Own and Their Followers' Well-Being," Malissa A. Clark, Gregory W. Stevens, Jesse S. Michel, and Lauren Zimmerman explore the issue of workaholism, and the negative impact that workaholic leaders can have in the workplace. They introduce a conceptual model linking workaholism to both leaders' and followers' well-being through affective, cognitive, and behavioral pathways. In the chapter "Stress, Well-Being, and the Dark Side of Leadership", Seth M. Spain, P. D. Harms, and Dustin Wood examine the role of dark side personality characteristics in the workplace. Using a functionalist approach, the authors provide a concise review of dark side characteristics and discuss how such characteristics might facilitate leader emergence and produce stress experiences for their followers.

The next three chapters of this volume examine the importance of interpersonal relationships to occupational health and well-being. In the chapter "The Promise and Peril of Workplace Connections: Insights for Leaders about Workplace Networks and Well-Being", Kristin L. Cullen-Lester, Alexandra Gerbasi, and Sean White focus on workplace connections and the power of leaders' networks. They propose that leaders' social connections can impact well-being through providing access to resources (e.g., information, feedback, and support) and highlight four key aspects of networks that can influence well-being – centrality, structural holes, embeddedness, and negative ties. In the chapter "Do You Believe What I Believe? A Theoretical Model of Congruence in Follower Role Orientation and Its Effects on Manager and Subordinate Outcomes", Melissa K. Carsten, Mary Uhl-Bien, and Tracy L. Griggs draw on relational leadership theory to examine a key ingredient of leadership: followership. The authors introduce a theoretical model detailing how congruence, or incongruence, between leaders' and followers' "follower role orientation" (i.e., beliefs about how to enact a follower role) can create both good and bad stress through leader-member exchange (LMX). In the chapter "An Enrichment/ Impairment Perspective on Leading in Multiple Domains: The Impact on Leader/Follower Well-Being and Stress," Michael E. Palanski, Gretchen Vogelgesang Lester, Rachel Clapp-Smith, and Michelle M. Hammond put forth a model of "multi-domain leadership" (MDL) that examines how leaders' knowledge, skills and abilities may be applied across multiple domains of life, such as work, community, and family. They describe both short-term and long-term effects of engaging in MDL, including how it may impact stress levels, self-efficacy, and self-awareness of leaders, as well as those around them.

The final section of this volume includes two chapters focusing on how leaders can promote workplace well-being. In the chapter "Resource Utilization Model: Organizational Leaders as Resource Facilitators," Jennifer K. Dimoff and E. Kevin Kelloway discuss the fact that despite high rates of health-related issues, and high availability of benefits, most employees fail to use the resources that are accessible to them. The authors introduce a perspective called "resource utilization theory" (RUT) to explain why employees do not use resources to deal with existing stressors, and propose that leaders hold a key role in facilitating the utilization of resources. In the chapter "Holistic Leader Development: A Tool for Enhancing Leader Well-Being", Cathleen Clerkin and Marian N. Ruderman argue that leader development initiatives need to be expanded to include well-being. They introduce a holistic development framework that focuses on building the intrapersonal competencies needed by modern leaders, and suggest that leader development is an underleveraged way to promote healthier work environments.

Together, these chapters illustrate the vital roles that leaders play in promoting well-being - or stress - in the workplace. Given this, we urge researchers and practitioners of occupational health to include discussions of leadership in their future work, in order to advance the field and create sustainable organizational change. We hope you enjoy this volume of *Research in Occupational Stress and Well Being*.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank our guest editors, William A. Gentry and Cathleen Clerkin for taking on the role of guest editors for this volume. They managed the process beautifully and I am sure our readers will find this volume on the role of leadership in occupational stress and well-being to be very interesting, timely, and well done.

I would also like to acknowledge the contributions and hard work of Jonathon R. B. Halbesleben as co-editor of the series for the past five volumes. Due to his increased administrative responsibilities, he will no longer be able to co-edit *Research in Occupational Stress and Well Being*. Christopher C. Rosen and I would like to thank Jonathon for helping to make this series stronger and more visible. Jonathon has been a pleasure with whom to work, and Chris and I will miss working with our friend. Our very best to you, Jonathon.

Pamela L. Perrewé Editor