



**Biased Reporting**

I JUST RECEIVED the June issue of T+D that contained the article titled “Obesity Affects Workplace Productivity” by Paula Ketter. What a great commercial for Leade Health!

Their white paper is merely ammunition for employers to further discriminate against heavy employees, a class which is currently unprotected. I can’t believe that ASTD would see their press release as newsworthy when the numbers of employees affected by obesity is relatively small.

There is no way that Leade can link the health problems described at the beginning of the article to obesity when so many of them are also attributable to genetics. Thanks for perpetuating the myth that obese workers are costly by distributing this obviously biased piece.

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**Response**

T+D’s editor, and the author of the article, Paula Ketter, responds: Thanks for your letter. While I agree that I could have added another source to the article, I don’t agree that the article about obesity affects a relatively small number of employees or that obesity is not linked to many health conditions.

According to the World Health Organisation, more than 1 billion adults around the world are overweight and 300 million of them are obese, putting them at a much higher risk of diabetes, heart problems, high blood pressure, stroke, and some forms of cancer.

While it is true that the health problems mentioned can be attributed to genetics, they can also be attributed to obesity. Genetic, environmental, cultural, socioeconomic, and psychological influences may all be contributing factors to obesity.

According to WebMD, someone who is 40 percent overweight is twice as likely to die prematurely as is an average-weight person.

**Team Building**

I TRULY ENJOYED the “Effective Team Building: More Than Just Fun at Work” Fundamentals article in the August issue of T+D. I have been working with teams for many years and have learned that team building is more than just doing group activities that facilitate conversations and build trust.

At the end of the day, the activity is unimportant—it’s the learning and application that pay off—even insights have little value if they’re not acted upon. What really matters is being able to answer the question “What will you and your team do differently when you return to work?” If you can’t answer that question, then it was really just entertainment, or as you put it, “an extended lunch break.”

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**Mistated Information**

After reading the article “Boomers Fill Gap” in the Intelligence section of your July issue, I went to AARP’s site to read further about their survey. The research data in the article has been misstated. The sentence in question reads, “According to a survey by AARP, 68 percent of workers between the ages of 50 and 70 said they plan to work full time after the traditional retirement age of 65.”

It is more accurate to say that 46 percent of those surveyed plan to work part time, 10 percent plan to start their own business, 7 percent plan to work full time, and 5 percent never expect to retire.

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**Response**

Thank you for pointing out the misstated information. In the sentence in question, the words “full time” should not have been used. We regret the error.

**Errata**

Patrice Putman’s name was misspelled in the September New Guard column. We regret the error.

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