
Editorial

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The long-awaited inauguration issue of the *International Journal of Vehicle Safety (IJVS)* has finally come to a complete edition. Thanks to Dr Mohammed Dorgham who initiated the *Journal* in 2003 after I was the Guest Editor for a special issue on vehicle safety for the *International Journal of Vehicle Design (IJVD)*. Jim Corlett and Sue O'Mara of Inderscience Publishers have helped to design the cover for the *Journal* and set up the website and online paper submission for the *Journal*. Now the *International Journal of Vehicle Safety (IJVS)* is ready to serve our readers and authors.

I was deeply moved by the overwhelming responses from the regional editors and the members of editorial board when I asked them to join and lend their professional support to the *Journal*. Thank you all! An even greater honour for myself and the *Journal* is that we have the distinguished Professor Dr Albert I. King and WHO official Dr Margie Peden colour the *Journal* with their blessing in the prefaces. All these strike me as working hard to make this journal successful.

As sincere help can also come with critical questions, I have been asked why we needed an *International Journal of Vehicle Safety*, since we already have a myriad of automotive safety journals and public policy/health journals related to automotive safety. My simple answer to the question is: international. The stakeholders of the *Journal* are international; the readership and authorship of the *Journal* is international. The research topics covered by the *Journal* and the solutions to vehicle safety are in an international landscape.

In 2004, a global road safety campaign was launched under the sponsorship of the United Nations. The World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Bank have published the very first report on road traffic safety: *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*. These initiatives underscore the need for this *International Journal of Vehicle Safety*.

Going forward, I see challenges and opportunities in vehicle safety research and development. The science of vehicle safety is a multidisciplinary and rapidly expanding area of engineering, medical science, material science, applied mathematics and physics. Current scientific research in vehicle safety addresses accident avoidance, intelligent driving systems, human body responses to impact, human tolerance to crash loads, injury criterion, occupant/pedestrian protection, road-traffic injury data acquisition and case analysis, vehicle crashworthiness, mathematical modelling, and the establishment of vehicle safety standards and driving regulations. The results of this research contribute to safer vehicles and

safer roads and ultimately make for a more peaceful society and a better world.

I am looking forward to meeting the challenges and exploring the opportunities. I, together with the dedicated regional editors and the expert panel of editorial board, are committed to make the *Journal* an international forum for those who are concerned with vehicle safety.