

Guest Editorial

Forward to 3rd International Conference on Whole-body Vibration Injuries Held at the Palais des Congrès, Nancy, France 7th–9th June 2005

This multi-disciplinary conference was organised jointly by the Institut National de Recherche et de Sécurité (INRS) in France and the National Institute for Working Life (NIWL) in Sweden. Dr. P. Manu Donati (INRS) and Dr. Lage Burström (NIWL) arranged the conference programme.

The conference provided an opportunity to exchange understanding of the potential for injury from whole-body vibration and mechanical shock. It was the intention to increase understanding of the mechanisms of injury, to improve methods of investigating the effects of whole-body vibration and shock, and to disseminate understanding of means of preventing injury.

The First International Conference on Whole-body Vibration Injuries was held at the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research in Southampton, UK, in 1997 and selected papers were published in *Journal of Sound and Vibration* 215(4) in 1998.

The Second International Conference on Whole-body Vibration Injuries was held in Siena (Italy) from 7th to 9th November 2000 and selected papers were published in the *Journal of Sound and Vibration* 253(1) in 2002.

The Third International Conference on Whole-body Vibration Injuries took a similar form to the previous conferences. Papers reported measurements of vibration exposures at work and the health of exposed populations. Laboratory investigations studied the transmission of vibration through the human body, and the subjective and physiological effects. Mathematical models were produced to represent understanding of the responses of the body. Guides, standards, and legislation intended to protect workers from excessive exposure to whole-body vibration and mechanical shock were considered, together with seating standards that encourage the minimisation of the transmission of vibration and shock to the body.

There were 57 papers presented at the conference. Of those that were submitted for publication and have undergone peer review, 24 are published in this edition of the *Journal of Sound and Vibration*. On behalf of the authors, the guest editors would like to express their appreciation for the very substantial contributions made to these papers by the anonymous reviewers.

Guest Editor

Michael J. Griffin

*Human Factors Research Unit, Institute of Sound and Vibration Research,
University of Southampton, UK*

E-mail address: M.J.Griffin@soton.ac.uk

Assistant Guest Editor

Massimo Bovenzi

*Clinical Unit of Occupational Medicine, Department of Public Health Sciences,
University of Trieste, Italy*