

Preface

International Foundation for Industrial Ergonomics and Safety Research (IFIESR) was established and incorporated in 1986 in Ohio, USA as a non-profit organization by the founding members, Drs. Anil Mital (Founder), Biman Das, Waldemar Karwowski, Shihab S. Asfour and Fereydoun Aghazadeh. Its primary goal was to promote research and application of industrial ergonomics and safety through the organization of the Annual International Industrial Ergonomics and Safety Conference worldwide and the publication of the Proceedings of the Annual Conference, *Advances in Industrial Ergonomics and Safety* (in book form, by Taylor and Francis). Over the last decade, the conference has truly become an important yearly forum, where international researchers and industrial practitioners can meet and focus their attention to current issues and problems of occupational ergonomics and safety. The conference participants have come from various discipline areas but they all have a common objective to create productive, healthy and safe workplaces. The past annual conferences have been held worldwide (mostly in USA due to large membership concentration): Louisville, USA (1986), Miami, USA (1987), New Orleans, USA (1988), Cincinnati, USA (1989), Montreal, Canada (1990), Lake Tahoe, USA (1991), Denver, USA (1992), Copenhagen, Denmark (1993), San Antonio, USA (1994), Seattle, USA (1995), Zürich, Switzerland (1996) and Washington, DC, USA (1997).

I recall well during my tenure as President, IFIESR in 1993–94, three important decisions were made: (1) change the name of the organization from International Foundation for Industrial Ergonomics and Safety Research (IFIESR) to International Society for Occupational Ergonomics and Safety (ISOES), so that as a Society, we can solicit or invite qualified and interested ergonomists to join the Society as members, (2) publish a Society peer-reviewed international journal and (3) establish a Society Headquarters. At the time, there was considerable doubt and apprehension concerning the viability of another international journal in Occupational Ergonomics and Safety. Although, we had hoped to publish the journal in 1996, this did not materialize due to some misunderstandings with a former publisher that I personally regret.

We had hoped that the first issue of volume one of the Society journal, *Occupational Ergonomics* would be published by the new publisher, IOS Press, Netherlands, in the Fall 1997. However, the finalization of the details of the first issue of the journal took more time than initially envisaged. Also, to avoid any confusion, we decided that the first volume should have 1998 as the year of publication instead of the 1997–98. The first issue is due to be published by January 1998. Each volume will contain four issues as originally planned.

We have an outstanding editorial board of the journal comprising of eminent ergonomists around the world. The first issue contains six excellent refereed articles. We hope to maintain a good balance between research and application oriented articles in the future. This, we believe, will be the special strength of the journal. On behalf of the Society journal I wish to convey sincere thanks to the authors of this journal issue and the potential authors for their contributions. We intend to do our best, so that this journal emerges as a leading journal in the field in the years to come.

In the end, I wish to acknowledge the understanding and support of the Executive Council, ISOES and especially the continuing help provided by Dr. Waldemar Karwowski, Consulting Editor and

Ms. Cindi Hardiman, Administrative Assistant, *Occupational Ergonomics*. Special thanks are extended to Dr. Einar H. Frederiksson, Director and Mr. Fred Drissen, Production Editor, IOS Press (Publishers) for their cooperation.

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Biman Das
Editor-in-Chief