



ELSEVIER

www.elsevier.com/locate/jsr

Journal of Safety Research 39 (2008) 111



www.nsc.org

## A Note from the Editor

Prevention through Design has long been recognized as a core element of injury prevention. “Designing out” hazards and minimizing risks that can potentially cause fatalities, injuries, and illnesses are the most effective approaches in injury prevention as well as the cost involved. Prevention through Design is a cross-cutting concept, affecting the practice of safety in all industries. On a smaller scale, the success of Prevention through Design within an organization relies on multi-level inter-departmental cooperation. On a larger scale, the success of Prevention through Design depends upon the joint effort among business owners, engineering designers, researchers, educators, manufacturers, policy-makers, practitioners, legal advisors, and other stakeholders. By collaborating and sharing the opportunities, challenges, and strategies for Prevention through Design that face them today, progress on this critical element of injury prevention can be made.

Thus, I am excited that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has given such focus to this important initiative by convening and inviting input from the various stakeholders through the first Prevention through Design Workshop in July 2007. We are most pleased to join NIOSH and other partner organizations in this endeavor, and hope that this special issue of the *Journal of Safety Research* may serve as spokesperson for the Workshop and provide documentation to help chart the course of the future Prevention through Design effort.

In this special issue of the *Journal of Safety Research*, you will find six full-length peer-reviewed papers on Prevention through Design. In order to achieve a balance of values and viewpoints, the peer-review panel who examined these papers consisted of a select group of researchers, as well as safety professionals and practitioners; their names and affiliations are listed on the front inside cover. This unique review panel was instituted to ensure that the cross-cutting issues and different

functional aspects of Prevention through Design were captured in full.

Also published in this special issue are non-peer-reviewed reports and proceedings from the Workshop. This Workshop generated insightful commentary on Prevention through Design. You will find proceedings from the Workshop’s plenary session as well as reports from each of the eight NIOSH Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) business sectors (agriculture, forestry, and fishing; construction; health care and social assistance; manufacturing; mining; services; transportation, warehousing, and utilities; and wholesale and retail trade) regarding industry-specific opportunities, challenges, and strategies for Prevention through Design. Also included are reports from cross-sector sessions that discussed strategic Prevention through Design issues facing the four functional areas — research, policy, education, and practice. Taken together, these reports represent a wide-ranging and diverse collection of perspectives that demonstrate the cross-cutting nature of Prevention through Design.

I would like to thank NIOSH and all participating partners for organizing and contributing to the Prevention through Design Workshop, and for making available the documents and reports contained in this issue. Again, I am pleased to be able to provide this special issue of the *Journal of Safety Research* as a platform for the continuation of the Prevention through Design national initiative, and as a means to trigger further discussions and research. I encourage those in the academic community to continue to devote attention to Prevention through Design and welcome submissions on this topic.

With sincere enthusiasm,  
Mei-Li Lin, Ph.D.  
*Editor, Journal of Safety Research*