

Preface

The Thirty-Second International Workshop on Human Subjects for Biomechanical Research was held on Sunday, October 31, 2004 in Nashville, Tennessee at the Gaylord Opryland Resort. The workshop was intended to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and the presentation of the current injury research centered around experiments involving human volunteers or surrogates.

Each year we collect together and distribute the papers presented at the Workshop. Although these have not been peer reviewed and are not formal publications, we have received very positive feedback about the value of these papers. For this year's meeting, the general sentiment was that the papers were of great interest and generally high quality. The papers represent a good reflection of the current interests of the automobile safety community. Again, this year, nearly half of the papers deal with head/neck injury research. This demonstrates that head/neck injury in both adults and children are still viewed as the main challenges for the automobile safety community. The second group of papers covers a wide range of topics from material characterization of abdominal organs of human surrogates and human cortical bone specimens to advances in experimental biomechanics and instrumentation.

Again, it is our hope that the publication of these proceedings will be useful to researchers in the field of Injury Biomechanics. But we would like to emphasize that these papers should be considered as workshop or non-formal publications, i.e., they should not be referenced in the open literature. No scientific body has screened these papers for accuracy and/or refereed them.

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I would also like to express my appreciation to Dr. Jeff Crandall, of the University of Virginia Center for Applied Biomechanics for chairing the afternoon session of the meeting. I acknowledge the Stapp Conference Advisory committee for its support. However, it should be noted that this Advisory committee neither sanctions nor approves the Workshop papers.

Thanks are also extended to the authors and presenters for their contributions to making this Workshop a very useful and beneficial experience for all the participants.

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