

New injury and violence research website open to the world

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The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR) recently launched its new website at <http://www.savirweb.org>. This is a great step forward in the short life of our unique organization of injury and violence researchers and research centers. Please visit the new website, as we have content and features for both SAVIR members and non-members.

The public side of the website contains information about the organization: scientific mission, leadership, structure, committees, organizational member listings, and the like. Please also visit the "research conference" page (<http://www.savirweb.org/content/index.php?pid=89>) to download multimedia presentations from our recent

conference in Columbus, Ohio. Another important resource is the SAVIR Amazon Store (<http://astore.amazon.com/s0db-20>). Any item (books, computers, cameras, clothing, etc.) purchased through the Amazon Store qualifies for a 4% donation to SAVIR. Have your students, family, and friends do all their Amazon shopping here to help SAVIR grow.

While public visitors will see the top-end content displayed smartly in a dynamic set of web pages, there is a lot more going on beneath the surface. For members, the website offers access to special content such as maintaining your member profile and course syllabi listings. In addition, what the casual visitor does not see is that the website provides the information technology infrastructure needed to operate a modern distributed virtual organization. What the public sees is just one of these modules, that which controls the content of the website. But beyond just the look and feel, the content manager allows many different people with limited knowledge of web design and HTML to become content providers. This means that scientific committee chairs, organizational leaders, and authorized members with the need to update

part of the website can do so with minimal training. With little central office staff, this becomes more than just convenient; it is necessary to keep the public web face of SAVIR fresh and alive while keeping members involved in the website and the organization.

There are other modules that have gone live at the same time to help us with key aspects of the organization. We now have a modern multichannel communication delivery system that allows leaders and administrators to target any defined group within SAVIR or everyone at once with messages. With the new member database, we can keep better track of membership, and members can help update their own member profiles for better bilateral communication. The back-end also adds the capability for on-line financial transactions for membership renewals, monetary donations, and future conference registrations. It also adds a complete tool for organizing events and conferences and a database to manage publications and documents.

So we celebrate the launch of our new website as we also mark a milestone in our evolution as a cutting-edge scientific organization ready for the ultra-information age. We can now take SAVIR to this next level and beyond with a scalable yet approachable information infrastructure.

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