

# National Injury & Violence Prevention Research Conference a resounding success

The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR) is devoted to promoting scholarly activity in injury control and addressing issues relevant to the prevention, acute care, and rehabilitation of traumatic injury. These aims are achieved through the work of individual and center members who conduct injury research, research dissemination, program evaluation, consultation, education, and training. New individual and injury center members from around the world are welcome and encouraged to join SAVIR by visiting [www.savirweb.org](http://www.savirweb.org).

As part of its continued success, SAVIR organized the 2007 National Injury & Violence Prevention Research Conference in partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital, and the hospital's Center for Injury Research and Policy in October in Columbus, Ohio, USA. The conference drew more than 120 professionals from North America and around the world for 2 days of in-depth discussion on recent developments in qualitative, quantitative, and translational injury research methods.

The theme of "methods" was woven through invited presentations and all subsequent sessions. One goal shared by members of the conference committee was that SAVIR's inaugural conference would provide a forum for research leaders to present recent developments and at the same time allow for lively discussion about current and future directions of injury and

violence prevention research. With many regional, national, and international injury conferences held each year, the SAVIR research conference aimed to be unique by fulfilling SAVIR's mission to promote scholarly activity in injury and violence prevention.<sup>1</sup>

The main conference started with a keynote speaker, Roger Johansson, PhD, Chief Strategist for Traffic Safety at the Swedish Road Administration, who spoke about the success of Vision Zero, a program designed to eliminate serious injuries and deaths on Sweden's roads. The conference committee decided not to have parallel sessions, which can result in low audience attendance and attendees having to choose between presentations that are running at the same time.<sup>2</sup> Instead, each of the main sessions started with an invited 1-hour presentation followed by several 30-minute oral presentations selected from the submitted abstracts. Senior scientists in injury and violence research moderated the sessions and stimulated discussion by steering questions from the audience. Attendees also heard from American Public Health Association President Dr Linda Degutis, who used first-hand experience to discuss the importance of translating injury research into policies that can save lives. Over 40 scientists presented their research in the poster sessions.

Another important mission of SAVIR is to foster the next generation of researchers

in injury and violence prevention. With that in mind, a pre-conference workshop was held on October 9. This half-day workshop, "Show me the money; strategies for getting your proposal funded," attracted more than 30 scientists, who took advantage of the opportunity to sharpen their grant-writing skills.

As pointed out by Drs Barry Pless and Fred Rivara, there is simply no way to judge with certainty the success of a conference.<sup>3</sup> Although that is undoubtedly true, several aspects of the 2007 National Injury & Violence Prevention Research Conference—significantly more attendees than expected, highly positive conference evaluation feedback, and a good balance sheet—indicate that our efforts paid off with resounding success.

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## REFERENCES

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2. **Langley J.** International injury control conferences: surely we can do better? *Inj Prev* 1998;**4**:247–8.
3. **Pless B, Rivara F.** Do world conferences live up to their promise? *Inj Prev* 2004;**10**:129–30.