

June 2008 – Member Update



Dear SAVIR Members,

We have made outstanding progress over the past few months and I am taking this opportunity to share our successes and future work with you. Please enjoy a safe and pleasant summer!

Please welcome our new SAVIR Board members

From a first-rate field of nominees, Dawn Comstock, Steve Marshall, and Richard Sattin were elected by the SAVIR membership to serve on the Board of Directors. We thank everyone who was nominated and these three excellent new Board members for their expanded commitment and leadership. We also sincerely thank Anara Guard, Tom Songer, and Huiyun Xiang whose elected terms ended and who have now stepped down from the Board. Over their tenure, Anara, Tom, and Huiyun helped SAVIR greatly progress. We are indebted to them for their leadership and pleased that they have chosen to remain active on SAVIR committees and planning efforts.

The SAVIR Board will have three vacant seats in the fall of 2008. Board Elections will be over the next few months and the Nominations Committee is beginning to solicit candidate names for the open Board seats. Members interested in nominating someone or themselves should email Charlie Branas (cbranas@upenn.edu). This fall's election of SAVIR Board members will be especially important given that the Board, with its newly elected members, will hold their annual vote for SAVIR President-Elect as well as their vote for SAVIR Secretary-Treasurer, which occurs every three years. The elections process will be finished by September 2008 to enable newly elected members to assume their positions by November 2008.

SAVIR Board hard at work implementing new Strategic Plan

With the new SAVIR strategic plan in place since December 2007, the Board of Directors is busy checking committee assignments, deliverables, and deadlines. Each month the strategic plan is reviewed by the SAVIR Board and Executive Committee to gauge progress and the plan's implementation timeline.

Professional fundraiser hired and new Sustainability Committee formed

A Development Proposal agreement was executed between SAVIR and the Mason Group (www.masongroup.org) in May 2008. Joan Mason, Founder and President of the Mason Group in Denver, Colorado, is in the process of developing a "white paper" and projected fundraising budget outlining key fundraising strategies for SAVIR. Her company's services will include: a fundraising plan, development of a case statement, training, coordination of a direct mailing targeting corporations, industry, foundations and individual donors, and direct solicitation of potential donors. We have high hopes for the Mason Group's success and will soon be asking SAVIR members to participate in our upcoming fundraising campaign for injury prevention research.

In order to make the most of our new fundraising resources and skills, the SAVIR Board has chartered a SAVIR Sustainability Committee whose charge is to creatively seek out resources and guide strategies that will maintain the organization and encourage growth for the field of injury and violence research. Members interested in joining this new and very prominent SAVIR committee are encouraged to contact Lenora Olson (Lenora.olson@hsc.utah.edu) or Corrie Peek-Asa (cpeek-asa@mail.public-health.uiowa.edu).

2009 SAVIR Conference hosted by Emory University and the NCIPC

As many of you have already heard, the 2009 SAVIR Conference is scheduled for March 5 & 6, 2009 at the Emory Conference Center Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. There will also be a reception the evening of March 5th. This year's conference theme will be *From Discovery to Practice: Innovative Translational Approaches to Injury Prevention and Care*. Scientific abstracts will be broadly solicited from injury researchers in the upcoming months and we look forward to submissions from our members, their students and advisees, and any other injury researchers from the US or around the world interested in presenting their work.

Pre-conference workshops will also be held on March 4th; current workshop topics being considered include grant-writing, advocacy, fundraising, study design, manuscript preparation, data analysis, global research. The conference is being very ably hosted by Debra Houry from the Emory University Department of Emergency Medicine along with the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Conference *Save the Date* information is now posted on the SAVIR website and reminder cards have been distributed.

The SAVIR Council of Injury Centers along with the Conference and Programs Committee are charged with identifying the host for the SAVIR Conference every two years. Our hosts for the 2007 SAVIR Conference, the Nationwide Children's Hospital Center for Injury Research and Policy, provided an outstanding model for future SAVIR Conferences and subsequently highlighted their important leadership of the conference in their Annual Report. Injury Research Centers and other institutions interested in hosting future SAVIR Conferences should contact Shannon Frattaroli (sfrattar@jhsph.edu) or Mike Mello (mjmello@lifespan.org). Host sites are now being considered for the 2011, 2013, and 2015 SAVIR conferences and beyond.

SAVIR makes advocacy and outreach high priorities

A new Advocacy Alert process has been developed and approved by the SAVIR Board. SAVIR Advocacy Alerts will be brief emails to our members that focus on advocacy activities relevant to injury and violence research. Advocacy Alerts will be sent to members when appropriate and will clearly request timely, needed action on a particular injury or violence research issue of national importance. In the not too distant future we will also offer online training so that members will be familiar with the alerts and be able to appropriately act on them.

In addition, the SAVIR Advocacy and Public Policy Committee Chair, along with similar Policy Committee Chairs at STIPDA and APHA-ICEHS, will be forming a formal advocacy network to more broadly advance injury prevention research and practice activities nationally and globally. Other advocacy and outreach activities that SAVIR has been conducting include:

- Support of Congressional staff briefings, including with CDC Director Julie Gerberding & NCIPC Director Ileana Arias.
- Visits to Congressional staffers to raise awareness and increase funding dedicated to injury research.
- Support of the *Campaign for Public Health* for new Congressional appropriations to injury research.
- Support of the International Society for Violence & Injury Prevention at the World Injury Conference.
- Article from SAVIR on injury research advocacy in the BMJ journal *Injury Prevention*.
- Support of the NIH Translating Research into Public Policy for Population Health (TRIPP) initiative.
- Support of Falls Free Coalition Congressional request to fund falls prevention research.
- Support of the CDC's NCIPC for their Coordinated Communications Project.
- Contributions to the CDC's NCHS for the activity status of E-codes for military operations.
- Support of the American College of Emergency Physicians' (ACEP) Research Priorities Conference.
- Support of the Coalition for American Trauma Care (CATC) Congressional petition for funding a national research agenda at the National Trauma Institute.
- Support of Trust for America's Health *Vision for a Healthier America* initiative.
- Support of the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association's (STIPDA) conference.
- Support of future initiatives with the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE).
- Support of initiatives at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP).
- Renewal of SAVIR's Research! America membership.

New Injury and Violence Research and Trauma Center members recruited

Although SAVIR has nearly two dozen Injury Research Center members, we are always interested in expanding this group to bring more centers into our injury research network. Hospital Trauma Centers, Youth Violence Centers, Prevention Research Centers, Injury Free Centers, Suicide Prevention Resource Centers, and Centers for Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, and others are all welcome to join our ever-growing group of SAVIR Center Members. With this in mind, the SAVIR Council of Centers and the Organizational Development Committee have reinvigorated our membership drive for new center members.

As part of this, the Center dues structure has been made more appealing with discounts for signing up multiple individuals within the same center (descriptions can be found at www.savirweb.org). SAVIR Injury Research Center members also receive many other benefits such as: a voting seat on the SAVIR Council of Centers, the opportunity to host future SAVIR National Conferences, high-profile networking with dozens of injury and trauma centers, collaboration with hundreds of other injury researchers, training and education opportunities for future injury researchers, free on-line access to the BMJ journal *Injury Prevention*, access to SAVIR's Research Project Bank, access to SAVIR's injury course syllabi, access to advocacy training and resources, alerts on national injury research policy activities, disseminating information about your Center through SAVIR's website, and individual membership for your Center Director. If you are a Center Director or know a Center Director interested in taking advantage of what SAVIR has to offer, please contact Mike Mello (mjmello@lifespan.org).

Submit your injury course and training materials

The SAVIR Training and Research Committee is encouraging all members to post their class syllabi and other teaching materials they deem appropriate on the SAVIR website. These class and training materials should be injury-oriented in some way and describe the overall topic of class and the level of the class (graduate, medical, undergraduate, etc.). This is an important member benefit and will dovetail with analyses of the Training and Infrastructure Committee survey that was sent to members this past March. The survey captures detailed educational information about injury education and training in the US and its data are currently being analyzed at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, whom SAVIR thanks deeply for their generous contribution. Members with questions about the submission of their injury course and training materials should contact Dawn Comstock (dawn.comstock@nationwidechildrens.org).

Read the "From SAVIR" page in every issue of *Injury Prevention*

Please read the "From SAVIR" page in every issue of *Injury Prevention*, SAVIR's official journal and a member of the BMJ Publishing Group. Members can access the From SAVIR page as part of their subscriptions to the journal as well as on the SAVIR homepage (www.savirweb.org). Topics addressed thus far on the From SAVIR page have included the National Injury and Violence Research Conference, the opening of the SAVIR website, the World Injury Conference, and injury research advocacy.

Yours Truly,

Charlie Branas, PhD

President, Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research

Associate Professor of Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Contact Information

Julie Gibbs-Long

SAVIR Administrator

admin@savirweb.org