

Member Update ~ May 2006

Elections

Thanks to all who voted. Your new Directors as of the June 15th meeting of the SAVIR Board are: Steve Hargarten (President), Hank Weiss (President Elect), Jim Helmkamp (Secretary Treasurer), David Hemenway (Past President), Charles Branas ('08), Anara Guard ('07), Gary Lapidus ('08), Lenora Olson ('08), Corrie Peek-Asa ('06), Carol Runyan ('06), Tom Songer ('07), Huiyun Xiang ('07).

In August you will receive a call for:

- a) nominations for the 06-07 Nominations Committee and
- b) petitions to directly nominate candidates for the three Director seats. These will open up due to: one Director advancing to President Elect and two "2006 seats" becoming vacant at the end of the Annual Meeting. This election will take place in September, time to be soon announced.

2006 Annual Business Meeting

SAVIR's Annual Business Meeting- Saturday, November 4th from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm in Boston, prior to the APHA meeting. You are welcome to meet your Directors and to observe their work on your behalf.

Short Progress Overview

Last October your Board began to invite colleagues to join them in building this Society; here are some of the key points of progress since then:

Membership

SAVIR went from 12 research centers to: 16 research centers, 2 affiliated organizations, and 35 professional members. We continue to add members by invitation to those colleagues we believe can actively work to build the structure and services of SAVIR; by year's end, we expect to have a portfolio of services and the necessary infrastructure to launch a broad campaign to build membership.

Financial Support

As you know the 2006 and proposed 2007 budgets for CDC have not been growing. Many deserving programs have suffered cut backs in support. SAVIR had been slated for elimination of support for its next fiscal year; however, I am pleased to report we have received news that SAVIR will be funded next year at a level similar to its present support from CDC's NCIPC. I believe this will provide your Board a reasonable timeframe during which to grow a more broadly supported society representing the injury research community.

Governance

Last December Bylaws were passed that provide for a truly "member-driven" organization. The recent election is major evidence of this. In future reports I will share with you added detail.

Publications

We have arrived at an agreement in concept with the publishers of Injury Prevention for it to become the official publication of SAVIR. This means all SAVIR members will receive a subscription to Injury Prevention as a benefit of their membership. Your Board believe this publication is worth investing its reputation behind it and ensuring that all SAVIR members have access to it. Revisions to SAVIR's web site (www.savirweb.org): I will soon let a contract for assistance to revise SAVIR's web site on a major scale. I invite your comments about changes you wish to see in structure and services provided on our site.

Advocacy

We have worked with CDC to raise injury in the ranking of its programs by holding a pre-conference of interested organizations just prior to the March Partnership conference. We joined with Research!America in communicating to policy makers an understanding of the effects of CDC budget cuts and to reinforce the wisdom of the recent budget amendments seeking to add \$7 million to CDC's FY-07 budget. We are also partnering with Research!America to develop and distribute material on the cost effective impact of injury research on health care costs. We are partnering with the Campaign for Public Health to personally introduce House Appropriations' staff to the good works of CDC, especially the NCIPC's injury and violence research. We are cooperating with NCIPC to raise the impact of its recent Incidence and Economic Burden of Injuries in the US (if you have not had a chance to review this, please order your copy, ISBN 019517948X, from Oxford Press at: 800-445-9714; it is a great resource!).