

## Member Update ~ December 2006

This is your fourth quarterly briefing about SAVIR-related activities. These will continue until we build a more formal news feed to members. Something you want to know more about? Visit [www.savirweb.org](http://www.savirweb.org)

–Bill O’Connell

### Membership Growth

SAVIR has grown from 12 members in November 2005 to 98! Your Board has come very close to reaching its commitment of 100 members by this quarter. To keep SAVIR growing on track, we need you to answer the question: Do you have a colleague you believe can help build this Society? Please click onto [www.savirweb.org](http://www.savirweb.org) , select “Membership” to download an application. Want to know who your fellow members are? Again, click onto [www.savirweb.org](http://www.savirweb.org), select “Membership” to view a directory of all SAVIR members. You will be pleased to note that your fellow members represent the best and brightest from all manner of organizations conducting injury and violence research.

### Board of Directors Growth and Activity

Over half of the membership cast their vote to elect three of their colleagues as new Directors of SAVIR. The three new Directors and their terms of service are: Shannon Frattaroli (2006-2008), Susan Gallagher, and Corrie Peek-Asa (both will serve 2006-2009). As part of this process, David Hemenway stepped down from his service as our Past President, a role now filled by Steve Hargarten. In November, the Directors met in Boston for SAVIR’s second annual business meeting at which they worked to develop a strategic plan based on your input through the nominal group meetings held in October. A key element in these plans is to continue to build more effective partnerships with other like-minded organizations; the Board is in active discussion to collaborate in events with STIPDA, the Elderly Falls Coalition, and the National Safety Council. During December and January your Board has been focused on reducing SAVIR’s administrative overhead and is progressing toward a more “member driven” infrastructure. This will allow SAVIR to more cost-effectively use its limited resources and to provide members an opportunity to directly participate in the direction of their society.

### Committee Growth and Activity

SAVIR works through a partnership of its staff and members serving on committees. You are invited to join any of the noted committees. Want to know more? Click onto [www.savirweb.org](http://www.savirweb.org), select “Committees”. Here, listed by Committee is a report of what is happening:

- **Advisory and Public Policy-** Under Charlie Branas’ leadership we have participated in collaboration with NCIPC about the strategic development of “injury message” communication. The Committee will develop plans for the distribution of the injury research “success stories”
- **Injury Conference Programs-** Huiyun Xiang has activated his Committee and they have reported major progress in preparation for the first SAVIR research methods conference. This is to be held in Columbus, Ohio on October 10-11, 2007.
- **Organization Development-** This Committee under the leadership of Gary Lapidus and Anara Guard has been overseeing the design and development of an entirely new web site for SAVIR, which is due to be launched during the first quarter of 2007. This Committee also has responsibility for the administration of SAVIR’s new relationship with Injury Prevention, which had become the “official publication” of SAVIR; as a result, SAVIR members will soon be receiving a digital subscription to this world class, refereed journal. It has plans to institute a regular member newsletter early in 2007. At present this Committee is developing a proposal for membership dues to become a larger proportion of SAVIR’s overall revenue, while not losing sight of its added charge, to ensure our membership growth will reinforce the growth of diversity in the cohort of injury researchers.
- **Scientific Policy and Research-** Lenora Olson and Steve Hargarten led this Committee’s effort in support of NCIPC working committees to develop logic models of research needs in elderly falls prevention, home fire prevention, and in child maltreatment.
- **Training and Infrastructure-** Corrie Peek-Asa continues to chair this Committee, which during this quarter oversaw SAVIR’s participation in workshops held in Denver to further extend the UNC-based PREVENT training programs into the field by means of distance learning methods.

Administrative Transition- SAVIR has benefited greatly from the thoughtful leadership of Bill O’Connell as our first Executive Director. Bill assumed a new position as Director of Government Affairs with the National Safety Council at the close of 2006. You may reach him at: 1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20036; 202-974-2466; [occonnell@nsc.org](mailto:occonnell@nsc.org). Your Board is now focused on reorganizing SAVIR so it may continue to grow along the same path Bill helped us design, but do it in a way that is primarily member-driven and with a lower overhead. Early signs are we can succeed in this, if we work together. To help with administrative tasks, SAVIR has hired Julie Gibbs-Long at about 15 hours/week. Julie comes to us with a great deal of knowledge of SAVIR’s inner workings and should help us through this transition period.