

Summer 2010 Member Update

Summertime greetings from SAVIR. Although summer is traditionally a time for relaxation and vacations SAVIR has been very active during this warm weather and here are some of the ongoing activities within the organization.

SAVIR Conference

The excitement about the 2011 SAVIR conference is growing. Cori Peek-Asa and her team have been tirelessly working on preparing for next years conference. The conference will be jointly held with Safe States Alliance (formerly STIPDA) next April and looks to be our best conference ever. Look forward to a save the date card being sent to you soon. The meeting will be held in Iowa City, IA from April 6-8, 2011. Also, expect soon an announcement calling for abstracts for the conference. The science and conference committees have put considerable effort into preparing for conference abstract submissions. They could use more assistance in review of abstracts so anyone interested in participating in the abstract review process is encouraged to contact SAVIR (admin@savirweb.org). It is a minimal time commitment over a short period and one that will benefit SAVIR, the conference, and our field.

Leadership Opportunity

The SAVIR Board of Directors will have two opening this fall. The SAVIR Board has a vital role in our organization in voting on important organizational issues confronting SAVIR, advising the President, and charting the course for SAVIR. It is an interesting opportunity to work along side a stimulating group of dedicated individuals in the field. Most work is done during monthly conference calls and there is one face to face annual meeting that occurs during another conference. It is three year commitment and one that I and others have found interesting and invigorating. If you are interested in nominating yourself or another SAVIR member, please contact us (admin@savirweb.org) so we can discuss it more.

Join a SAVIR Committee

All members should consider becoming more active within SAVIR. The easiest and best way to accomplish this is to join a SAVIR committee. There is much exciting work going on within all of our committees currently. We are planning conferences, coordinating advocacy efforts, reviewing abstracts, and interacting with our partners in the field. The membership committee is developing some wonderful proposals to increase our membership ranks especially among students. The Advocacy Committee has also been very active and will remain so as it works with SAVIR Task Force examining having a congressional briefing (see below). Both of these committees could benefit from your energy and ideas. Members at any level of professional development- students, junior or senior level faculty, are welcome on all of our committees. Please follow this link to see a description of our committees (<http://www.savirweb.org/content/index.php?pid=19>). Feel free to email the Committee Chair with any questions and to join one.

Injury and Violence Prevention Advocacy

With Congress's successful passage of health care legislation there is wide spread discussion of how it will get enacted within the health care system. SAVIR is very interested in being part of those discussions and ensuring that injury and violence prevention research are included as health care reform moves forward. SAVIR leadership, including the Executive Committee and Advocacy committee, has been working on this issue. I have appointed a task force to examine SAVIR having a congressional briefing on the topic and it is being chaired by SAVIR's Advocacy Committee Co-Chair Sue Gallagher. Other efforts including writing letters to and meeting with key federal policy makers as well as submitting editorials to major news outlets.

Sue Baker Receives Award

In May, Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health awarded its highest prize in public health, the Frank A. Calderone Prize, to SAVIR member Susan P. Baker, the pioneering researcher and advocate whose extraordinary career spanning close to five decades has been instrumental in bringing the prevention of injuries to the forefront of public health and public policy. Professor Baker is Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University and a founder of the School's Center for Injury Research and Policy. SAVIR congratulates her on this well deserved recognition.

Safety 2010 World Conference

SAVIR members are encouraged to join injury prevention colleagues throughout the world at the Safety 2010 World Conference being held in London this September 21-24. SAVIR is partnering with APHA-ICEHS, Safe States Alliance, and ISVIP to hold a workshop session - Global Injury Surveillance Opportunities and Challenges on Thursday September 23 at 10am. This interactive workshop will utilize a panel of global injury experts to discuss strengths and limitations of existing strategies, as well as lessons learned and their applicability in different settings. Three distinct topic areas will be covered by two expert panelists for each area. Topics include: 1) Methodology for population-based injury surveillance depending on available resources; 2) Garnering resources and political will to create an injury surveillance infrastructure; 3) Providing timely access to surveillance data for use in injury prevention efforts. Panelists in each area will provide case examples from countries of varying resources. We hope you will be able to attend the conference and this interesting workshop session.

As you see SAVIR continues to be a leading organization for violence and injury prevention researchers. Please be sure to visit our website for more information and as always contact me with any concerns that you might have.

Best Regards,
Michael J. Mello, MD, MPH
SAVIR President