

***Peter Layde, MD, MSc, Professor, Emergency Medicine and Co-Director of the Injury Research Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin.*** Peter has over 30 years of experience conducting epidemiologic research, primarily in the area of injury control. Prior to coming to MCW, Dr. Layde was Director of the Division of Chronic Disease Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Marshfield Clinic. His research interests include agricultural injuries, motor vehicle crash injuries, policy evaluation, and fall injury prevention. Translation of research findings into policy and community practice are a current focus of his research. Peter teaches and mentors graduate students, post-docs, and junior faculty on epidemiologic methods and research careers.

As the leading membership organization for injury and violence researchers, SAVIR faces the daunting challenge of living up to its name: how can it best advance injury and violence research, underappreciated and underfunded fields? What SAVIR currently does, promoting high quality research through scientific conferences, supporting education and training, and participating in public policy advocacy, are good and should continue. To complement these activities, I believe a focused effort to increase injury and violence research funding is needed, specifically at NIH. The leadership in injury research and funding from CDC must grow but at its core, CDC is a public health agency where research is subordinate to program. The applied research supported by CDC needs to be complemented by foundational behavioral, engineering, intervention research, ideally at the National Institutes of Health. In light of the burden of injury, a growing role in injury at NIH should be an easy sell but it won't be. SAVIR should work with our partners, ASPH, APTR, APHA, and others to start the long process of establishing a National Institute of Violence and Injury Research at NIH.

I have been a member of SAVIR since its inception. In its initial year I served as chair of its Policy Committee, which was the predecessor of the current Advocacy and Public Policy Committee.