

field, one that Jerry Moller has long called for, which will incorporate the "beliefs and behaviours of individuals and the social and cultural structure" (Moller quoted in Rothe, p xviii, and originally, Moller¹) into accident prevention. Without it our understanding is that of the outsider; we fail to appreciate the intricate interplay of causes of unintentional accidents and injuries and in so doing, fail to make real headway to creating effective prevention strategies.

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1 Moller J. Major issues and debates in injury control. *Community based injury prevention. A practical guide*. Canberra: The National Safety Council of Australia, 1992: 11.

UPDATE ON ISCAIP

From the Chair of ISCAIP

As many readers will be aware, the elections for the new ISCAIP Board were held in 2000. I feel deeply honoured to have been elected Chair and wish to thank all concerned for their support. My colleagues on the Board are an outstanding team of highly respected injury prevention professionals and I am confident that we, together with the membership, can take ISCAIP into the new century with a renewed sense of purpose and urgency.

I want especially to record my appreciation of the incalculable contribution of Fred Rivara, founding Chair of ISCAIP, in laying the foundations of the organisation and in presiding over a smooth transition to the new regime. Fred's leadership has been truly inspirational and unlikely to be equalled in the foreseeable future. I am delighted to report that Fred has agreed to participate in ISCAIP Board discussions in his capacity as Immediate Past Chair and we look forward to his continuing involvement with the Society.

Since taking up the position, I have embarked on a steep learning curve. In its short life, ISCAIP has built up an impressive worldwide network of individual and corporate members all of whom are committed to the pursuit of the Society's goal, namely "To promote a significant reduction in the number and severity of injuries to children and adolescents through international collaboration".

Although progress is difficult to measure, ISCAIP's close identification with two key vehicles for international communication—*Injury Prevention* and the World Conference on Injury Prevention and Control—has been instrumental in ensuring that we are moving in the right direction. Under Barry Pless's wise editorship, the journal is now firmly established as the leading international peer reviewed publication in the field and its profound influence on the research community and service agencies around the world is widely acknowledged. The formal separation of ISCAIP from the journal did not, happily, sever the connection between the two, and the more recent broadening of the journal to include all ages has similarly caused no discernible turbulence in that mutually beneficial relationship. The Fifth World Conference on Injury Prevention and Control in New Delhi was, as always, heavily populated with ISCAIP members, some of whom

attended a satellite meeting of the Society organised by our enthusiastic Asian representative. We are confident that the international organising committee for the next conference in Montreal in 2002 will be as keen as we are to continue the tradition and ensure a strong ISCAIP presence on that occasion also.

Perhaps I should try to spell out my own hopes and aspirations for ISCAIP. Our foremost strength lies in our potential to foster collaboration and I believe we should seek, through both electronic and conventional means, to develop this role further. Second, the membership of the Society represents an unsurpassed critical mass of expertise and (to use an old fashioned phrase) sapiential authority. Let's use our collective clout to maximise the effectiveness of injury prevention policies and practices in every corner of the globe through the dissemination of research based evidence and guidelines. Finally, the Delhi conference brought home to me (and I'm sure many others) just how dramatically different are the circumstances and obstacles faced by injury prevention professionals in India and other developing countries compared with the US, Europe, or Australia. Most ISCAIP members are all too well aware of this, of course, yet how many of us have found ways of coping constructively with the implications? Dinesh Mohan has called for the institution of imaginative collaborative projects between researchers working in low income countries (containing most of the world's population) and high income countries.¹ Are injury prevention professionals ready to respond to this challenge? If so, how? Should we seek additional resources to oil the wheels of such "north-south" collaboration and, if so, where will we find them? I appeal to all readers of *Injury Prevention* to reflect on these questions and to try to articulate some answers. I can think of no more urgent task for ISCAIP—or indeed for the injury prevention community as a whole—in the 21st century.

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1 Mohan D. Injury control and safety promotion: ethics, science and practice. In: Mohan D, Tiwari G, eds. *Injury prevention and control*. London: Taylor & Francis, 2000: 11.

CALENDAR

10th Annual Conference on International Safe Communities

21–23 May 2001, Anchorage, Alaska, USA. The theme is Safe Work, Safe Play Around the Clock. *Further information and online registration:* www.alaska-ipc.org or from Conference Manager, Diana Hudson, The Alaska Injury Prevention Center, PO Box 210736, Anchorage, Alaska, USA 99521-0736 (tel: +1 907 929 3939, fax: +1 907 929 3940, email: diana_hudson@hotmail.com).

International Child Passenger Safety Technical Conference

2–6 June 2001, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. This conference will offer workshops on child

passenger safety certification, boosters and belts for school age kids, legislation and advocacy, model law enforcement programs, restraint programs for children with special needs, transportation in other vehicles, and more. Professionals and volunteers from the field of transportation, engineering, public health, education, medical services, and insurance are invited to attend. *Further information:* International Center for Injury Prevention, www.cipsafe.org.

DETR Good Practice Conference

20–22 June 2001, Bristol, UK. The DETR, the UK government department with responsibility for road safety, is staging this conference to disseminate good practice in road safety engineering and speed management, and to launch their good practice guidelines. *Further information:* Kevin Clinton, RoSPA, Road Safety Dept, Edgbaston Park, 353 Bristol Road, Birmingham B5 7ST, UK (tel: +44 (0)121 248 2125, fax: +44(0)121 248 2001).

Nordic Safe Communities Conference

21–24 August 2001, Denmark. *Further information:* Moa Sundeström, Karolinska Institutet, Department of Public Health Sciences, Division of Social Medicine, Norrbacka, SE-171 76 Stockholm, Sweden (tel: +46 8 517 77948, fax: +46 8 334693, email: moa.sundestrom@socmed.sll.se).

4th International PhD Course on Safety Promotion Research

17–29 October 2001, Stockholm. A course for researchers and PhD students in public health sciences and those interested in injury prevention and safety promotion research. *Further information:* Moa Sundeström, Karolinska Institutet, Department of Public Health Sciences, Division of Social Medicine, Norrbacka, SE-171 76 Stockholm, Sweden (tel: +46 8 517 77948, fax: +46 8 334693, email: moa.sundestrom@socmed.sll.se, web site: www.ki.se/phs/education).

1st International Course on the Global Burden of Injury

30 October–3 November 2001, Stockholm. The aim of the course is to provide a general scientific platform for the understanding of global trends and international differences in injury mortality and morbidity; for PhD and postgraduate students and senior researchers. *Further information:* Moa Sundeström, Karolinska Institutet, Department of Public Health Sciences, Division of Social Medicine, Norrbacka, SE-171 76 Stockholm, Sweden (tel: +46 8 517 77948, fax: +46 8 334693, email: moa.sundestrom@socmed.sll.se, web site: www.ki.se/research/courses/postgrad_catalogue/fall2000_en.html).

6th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Control

12–15 May, 2002, Montreal, Canada. The theme is "Injuries, Suicide and Violence: Building Knowledge, Policies and Strategies to Promote a Safer World". *Further information:* www.trauma2002.com, tel: +1 514 848 1133, fax: +1 514 288 6469.