

SAVIR makes global connections at World Injury Conference

Corinne Peek-Asa,¹ Charles C Branas²

The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR) and many of our members took part in the Ninth World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion that was held in Merida, Mexico this past March. The conference was a great success, ably hosted by the Mexican Instituto Nacional de Salud Publica and the Secretaria Salud and co-sponsored by the World Health Organization. Our participation in the World Injury Conference expanded SAVIR's global presence and promoted our organization as well as violence and injury research in Latin America and around the world.

Several notable activities and sessions were coordinated by SAVIR and many of its Injury Research Center members. Among these was a global injury infrastructure development through training session, moderated by Drs Corinne Peek-Asa and Adnan Hyder. This session formally introduced programs in the

Fogarty International Collaboration in Trauma and Injury Research Training to a global audience. The US National Institutes of Health Fogarty International Center sponsors injury training programs that involve partnerships between US institutions and institutions in low-income or middle-income countries. The session was very well received and featured a discussion of evaluation strategies for infrastructure building, research examples from Fogarty program trainees, and a panel discussion with five program directors.

SAVIR leadership and members also notably met with leadership from the International Society for Violence and Injury Prevention (ISVIP). The ISVIP had invited SAVIR to begin a dialogue that would ultimately lead to more collaborative relationships among researchers and a global research agenda on injury prevention and safety promotion. The session was attended by some 40 researchers from around the world, indicating the importance of building links between SAVIR and researchers within ISVIP. A future ISVIP-SAVIR collaborative partnership is an excellent and especially synergistic idea given our common interests in injury research and the fact that many of our members are quite active in ISVIP and vice versa. SAVIR thus looks forward to a strong partnership with ISVIP and is eager to see

the growth of this important collaboration to include injury research organizations from other nations and parts of the world.

Other noteworthy World Injury Conference activities in which SAVIR members played leading roles included an evaluation session of the US Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) featuring Dr Ileana Arias, Director of the NCIPC, and Drs Carol Runyan, Andrea Gielen and Beth Ebel. Dr Rick Waxweiler of the NCIPC moderated the session, which provided examples of how sustained collaborations can lead successfully from research to policy change and program implementation. SAVIR member Dr Andrea Gielen also organized another well-attended session on behavioral strategies and injury reduction.

Current SAVIR activities are primarily focused on building our US membership base and identifying activities that are beneficial to our members. However, SAVIR clearly recognizes the importance of maintaining a global perspective for injury prevention, and we will continue to build ties and collaborations with international organizations such as ISVIP and the World Health Organization. We are keen to identify SAVIR members to participate in our burgeoning global injury research and prevention activities. Please contact us if you are interested. Global injury research and prevention is a multi-national responsibility that SAVIR and its members eagerly undertake now and for the many World Injury Conferences to come.

Competing interests: None.

Injury Prevention 2008;**14**:213.
doi:10.1136/ip.2008.019141

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Inj Prev 2008 14: 213

doi: 10.1136/ip.2008.019141

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