



Road  
Traffic  
Injuries  
Research  
Network

**road research**  
The Newsletter of the Road Traffic Injuries Research Network

## A message from the RTIRN Board Chair

**T**he year 2005 has ended on a very positive note for the Road Traffic Injuries Research Network. Firstly, with the United Nations General Assembly passing a new resolution on road safety on 26 October 2005 commending WHO for its role as a coordinator on road safety issues within the United Nations system; inviting Member States to implement the recommendations of the World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention; inviting the United Nations regional commissions and WHO to jointly organize the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week (23-26 April 2007); and inviting Member States and the international community to recognize the third Sunday in November of every year as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Hopefully this resolution will facilitate continued recognition of the burden of road traffic injuries in low and middle-income countries and specifically the work that all of our partners are seeking to do. The launch of our secretariat in Kandy, Sri Lanka, in January 2006 is also a very positive end to the year, signalling a new dimension and growth in our network. We look forward to supporting Samath and his colleagues in Sri Lanka in helping make the network more responsive to colleagues, not only in Asia, but in the global community.

Robyn Norton, Board Chair ■

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# UN General Assembly Resolutions On Improving Global Road Safety

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a second historic resolution on road safety on 26 October 2005 which invites Member States to implement the recommendations of the World report on road traffic injury prevention to participate in the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week; and to recognize the third Sunday in November of every year as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. The resolution and related discussions at the UN General Assembly earlier this week commended both the United Nations Secretary General for his report on road safety as well as the World Health Organization for its collaboration and role as co-ordinator on road safety issues within the United Nations. Several speakers expressed strong satisfaction with the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration - an alliance of over 50 organizations - and the products it has delivered so far.

Further, the resolution underlines the importance for Member States to continue using the WHO/World Bank's World report on road traffic injury prevention as a framework for road safety efforts. It calls for particular attention to the five identified risk factors: safety belts and child restraints, drinking and driving, helmets, inappropriate and excessive speed and infrastructure.



The resolution also hails and endorses

the proposal of the Economic Commission for Europe in collaboration to host the first United Nations Global Road Safety Week with WHO in Geneva in April 2007 targeted at young road users, including young drivers. "We are very encouraged by this historic resolution," said Etienne Krug, Director of the Department of Injury and Violence Prevention at WHO, "the content shows an evolution in thinking and a growing awareness of the need for continued efforts to improve road safety globally".

The UN Resolution encourages Member States and the international community, including international and regional financial institutions, to lend financial, technical and political support to the United Nations and its agencies, including the World Health Organization, for their efforts to improve road safety.

■ The RTIRN would like to congratulate Dr. Chamaiparn Santikarn as she transitions to her new role with the World Health Organization, Southeast Asia Regional Office as the Regional Advisor for the Department of Disability, Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation. All the best Dr. Santikarn!

## Partner Profile:

### Son Nguyen, The World Bank

The board of the RTIRN is pleased to introduce its newest member, Dr. Son Nam Nguyen of the World Bank. Dr. Nguyen comes to the RTIRN board with much enthusiasm and a wide range of experiences. Originally from Vietnam, Dr. Nguyen was trained as a physician and later earned his Master of Public Health Degree in the United States. Since then, Dr. Nguyen has accumulated a wealth of experience in international health, having also worked with the World Health Organization. Currently, as Health Specialist, Dr. Nguyen has oversight of a number of the World Bank's health initiatives in Africa as well as in other parts of the world. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Nguyen to the network.



## A Look Back on 2005

2005 has been a wonderful year for the RTIRN. We have grown in our geographical reach and added many more partners on our listserve; we have been able to secure funds for our activities; we have profiled the work of the network at several national and international events; and we have achieved one of the most important milestones - locating a secretariat in a developing country.

This past year also brought with it some of the most devastating natural disasters that the world has witnessed. Partners of RTIRN have been involved in helping confront the health and injury challenges, in both their professional and personal capacities. Injuries take the life of over 5 million people all over the world each year; and over a million of these are from road traffic. Yet we have not succeeded in bring appropriate attention or investments to this health and development issue. That gives us a huge agenda for the coming years - our network has an important role to play - and all partners and colleagues are vital to that effort. Let us hope that 2006 will bring more success to our efforts!

Adnan Hyder  
Board Vice Chair

# save the date!

## RTIRN International Meeting of Partners April 2, 2006 Durban, South Africa

# Mumbai Workshop A Success

On September 12, 2005, the RTIRN and its local partners in India successfully carried a meeting on road traffic injury research priorities in South Asia. The meeting was attended by over 60 researchers, clinicians and policy makers, including representatives of the Indian Navy Station Health Organization, Maharashtra Health Department, the Indian National Institutes of Mental Health and Neurosciences, and the Indian Public Health Association. The all day meeting focused on identifying research gaps in South Asia and the development of a research agenda for road traffic injuries. The success of this meeting illustrated the true collaborative relationship of the RTIRN and local institutions worldwide. ■



## Recent RTI Publications

[Bishai D, Quresh A, James P, Ghaffar A](#)

National road casualties and economic development. Health Economics. September 2005

[Ray AF, Kupas DF](#)

Comparison of crashes involving ambulances with those of similar sized vehicles. Prehospital Emergency Care. October 2005

[Esivok B, Korkusuz I, Canturk G, Alkan HA, Karaman AG, Hanci IH](#)

Traffic accidents and disability: a cross-sectional study from Turkey. Disability and Rehabilitation. November 2005

[Leden L, Wikstrom PE, Garder P, Rosander P](#)

Safety and accessibility effects of code modifications and traffic calming of an arterial road. Accid Anal Prevention. December 2005



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