

Message from the RTIRN Board

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings! First, on behalf of RTIRN and the board, may I wish all partners and colleagues a very Happy Christmas, Eid, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or other celebration at this time of the year! In many parts of the world this time is to relish with families and reflect on the wonderful gifts life has given us; and to remember those who have less and try and do something for them. I hope that each one of us in our own way will make a difference!

This newsletter reports on many events over the past few months. A very successful transition was made from the previous RTIRN secretariat in Sri Lanka, to colleagues at the Aga Khan University, in Karachi, Pakistan. I wish them great success in coordinating and promoting the work of this network. Several partners and board members of RTIRN were present at the annual meeting (Forum 11) of the Global Forum for Health Research in Beijing, China in October 2007. The Global Forum is a valued supporter of RTIRN and it was great to be in discussion with many colleagues at their meeting.

The coming months bring many exciting events for those of us committed to the prevention and control of road traffic injuries globally. The 9th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion will be held in Mexico on 15-18 March 2008. Dr. Martha Hajar, RTIRN board member, is organizing this global event and I hope that many RTIRN partners will be participating in this important event. Please see inside for more details on RTIRN-related activities and let us know if you will be there! The core objective of RTIRN is to build a strong network of professionals conducting research on road traffic injuries across low and middle income countries. As part of that mission, I hope that all of us will not only continue our own work, but reach out and assist other colleagues, junior researchers, and students as they make their careers.

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The board of RTIRN is seeking new funds for the network to support such capacity development activities, and we hope that we will have such resources available in 2008.

Happy New Year!

Adnan A. Hyder, MD MPH PhD

Vice Chair, RTIRN ■

Message from the RTIRN Secretary

Dear Partners

It gives me great pleasure to write to you in my capacity as the new Secretary of the Road Traffic Injury Research Network.

The Network continues to support and promote research “through partnership” in order to reduce the burden of road traffic injuries in low and middle income countries. Those of us in the business of research and advocacy in low and middle income countries know how difficult it is to carry out high quality research that can effect changes in practice..

Reasons for this difficulty are many and include more macro level issues like lack of human or financial resources and poor support at the institutional, regional or national levels. On more micro level, issues include setting up an injury research team; designing high quality research; securing funding; identifying mentors for upcoming researchers; and maintaining and upgrading our own skill set.

We believe that the collective wisdom of the Network partners have answers to these generic questions. We at the secretariat would like to encourage and support such discussions. We plan to use RTIRN website, the mailing list and this newsletter to raise some of these issues and discuss some possible solutions.

Those of you who will be at the Mexico Meeting, I look forward to meeting with you personally at the RTIRN sponsored business meeting and at the special session on RTIs in low and middle income countries.

I wish you success in your research and advocacy endeavors in the New Year.

Junaid Razzak, MD PhD

Secretary, RTIRN ■

Events past in Review

Preventing and Treating Trauma and Injuries in Challenging Environments



The ICTIRT Research Symposium at the Aga Khan University – From Left to right: Dr Nhan Tran, Dr Abdul Ghaffar, Dr Adnan Hyder, Dr Junaid Razzak.

The 2nd Annual Johns Hopkins- Aga Khan International Collaborative Trauma and Injury Research Training Program (ICTIRT) Research Symposium was held on the 24 October 2007 at the Aga Khan University, Karachi. Two of the RTIRN board members, Dr Adnan Hyder and Dr Abdul Ghaffar, as well as the RTIRN Secretary Dr Junaid Razzak made presentations. The presentations focused on a number of important public health aspects including the burden of injuries in low income countries, the economic and social costs of such injuries, their surveillance and response methods. The symposium served well to highlight the obstacles faced in low income countries in the surveillance and treatment of road traffic injuries and in decreasing their prevalence and attributable mortality. At the same time, the discussions generated creative and thought-provoking solutions for these problems.

Road Safety on Four Continents

Held in Bangkok, Thailand on 14-16 November 2007, the 14th International Conference Road Safety on Four Continents was one of a series taking place since 1987. The continents covered are Europe, North America, Africa and Asia. The main objective of the conference was to explore emerging research and development in the area of road safety. One of RTIRN's partners, Dr Kulanthayan, presented a paper on "Factors leading to violation of traffic light rules among motorists in Malaysia." An interesting aspect of the conference was a focus on the pros and cost of applying research done in high income countries to that in the low and middle income countries. <http://www.vti.se/RS4C> ■

Forum 11: Equitable Access – Research Challenges for health in Developing countries

Global Forum for Health Research, a major partner and supporter of RTIRN activities organized their 2007 annual meeting - "Forum 11" in Beijing. The annual meeting brought together policy-makers and researchers as well as representatives of development agencies, research institutions and the private sector from around the world. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, RTIRN Board Member and a Health System Specialist at the Global Forum, was a key player in the organization of this meeting. Drs. Adnan Hyder and Nhan Tran spoke on Motorcycle safety interventions in Malaysia, and moving research to practice, respectively. RTIRN was represented at the meeting by its new secretary, Dr Junaid Razzak.

<http://www.globalforumhealth.org> ■

Other events:

Road Safety and Simulation International Conference - Rome, 7 - 9 November

<http://www.rss2007.org>

3rd International Road Safety Conference – Perth, 29 - 30 November 2007

<http://www.roadsafetypert2007.com>

5th International Festival for Road Safety

Campaigns - Tunis, 28 November to 1 December 2007

<http://www.tunis2007.net/> ■

Road Safety in Action

Student Traffic Volunteer's Scheme, India

The Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE) in India launched its **Student Traffic Volunteer's scheme for the year 2007-2008**. Short listed students were given one week of intensive training in traffic management and control and deployed at important intersections of Delhi during morning and evening peak hours. For developing countries with limited resources and exponentially increasing traffic loads, this scheme provides a workable, economical and sustainable solution to the road traffic problem.

For further information visit:

<http://www.irte.com> ■

Partner Profile:

Wu Fan

The RTIRN is pleased to introduce Dr. Wu Fan, Director of National Centre For Chronic and Non communicable Disease Control and Prevention, China CDC. She graduated with a MS degree from Fu Dan University in Social Medicine and Public Health Management in 2000. Dr Wu Fan has engaged in the works of injury prevention and led NCNCD in developing the Chinese injury surveillance system. As the principle investigator, she was responsible for multiple surveys on road safety issues in China. Moreover, she was invited to draft the National Strategy on NCD Control and Prevention, and National Report on Injury under the commission of Chinese MOH. In 2007, as the response for the United Nations Global Road Safety Week, she organized and implemented the series of national activities sponsored by seven Chinese ministries in China. Dr. Wu Fan also contributes to the works of Chinese chronic and non communicable disease control and prevention. As the principal investigator, she led the National Adult NCD Related Risk Factor Surveillance in 2004 and 2007 respectively. She developed the National Death Cause Surveillance System, as well as organized and conducted the National Retrospective Death Cause Survey.



Road Safety Innovations

Illusory Pavement Markings

Road safety engineers in the US have developed a system of marking pavements called Optical Speed Bars that are a series of lines painted at decreasing intervals. The markings give drivers the illusion that the car is driving faster than it really is! Early results have shown optimistic results in their ability to slow drivers down.

<http://www.aip.org/dbis/> ■

Events to come

9th World Conference on Injury prevention and Safety Promotion

Taking place in Merida, Mexico from 15 – 18 March, the world conference is being hosted by the Instituto Nacional de Salud Publica and cosponsored by the World Health Organization. With its focus on globalization and its impact on injuries and violence, and special emphasis on traffic accidents and the proposition of international collaborations as a strategy for design and promotion of related policies, the World Conference provides an ideal forum in which RTIRN will actively participate.

<http://www.safety2008mx.info> ■

RTIRN at Safety 2008, Mexico

Road Traffic Injuries:

Confronting Disparities to address a global health problem

The symposium is aimed at addressing the paucity of research and knowledge to facilitate reductions in mortality and morbidity in vulnerable road users, particularly in low and middle-income countries through a presentation of the problem, evidence-based solutions and an open discussion.

For Further Information, log on to
<http://www.insp.mx/safety2008/ing/>
Or
<http://www.rtirn.net>

Symposium hosted by the Road Traffic Injuries Research Network ■

Road Traffic Injuries Research Network

Business Meeting

March 17th, 2008

1400-1600

Mérida, Mexico

All existing and potential partners are cordially invited.

The purpose of the meeting is to inform the participants about the current and future programs of RTIRN, introduce our new Secretariat, and seek input of our partners on the functioning of the Network.

All those interested are requested to preregister by using the form available soon at the website or by writing to secretariat@rtirn.net ■

Recent RTI Publications from Low and Middle Income Countries

[Bener A, Hyder A A , Schenk E](#)

Trends in childhood injury mortality in a developing country: United Arab Emirates *Accident and Emergency Nursing* 2007; 15: 228–233

[Bener A, AL Humoud S, Price P, Azhar A, Khalid M, Rysavy M, Crundall D](#)

The effect of seatbelt legislation on hospital admissions with road traffic injuries in an oil-rich, fast-developing country *International Journal of Injury Control and Safety Promotion* 2007; 14 (2): 103 – 107

[Bener A, Justham D, Azhar A, Rysavy M, Hamad Al-Mulla F](#)

Femoral fractures in children related to motor vehicle injuries *Journal of Orthopedic Nursing* 2007; 11: 146–150

[Bener A, Crundall D, Haigney D, Bensiali A K, Al-Falasi A S](#)

Driving behavior, lapses, errors and violations on the road: United Arab Emirates study *Advances in Transportation Studies* 2007; 12

[Sze NN, Wong SC](#)

Diagnostic analysis of the logistic model for pedestrian injury severity in traffic crashes *Accident Analysis and Prevention* 2007; 39(6):1267-78

[Kulanthayan S., Phang W.K., Hayati K.](#)

Traffic Light Violation among Motorists in Malaysia

Journal of International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences Research 2007; 31 (2): 67-73 ■

Please Share Your Publications with us by sending details to the address below.

For further inquiries or to join the RTIRN, please contact:

Dr. Junaid Razzak

RTIRN Secretary

The Aga Khan University

Stadium Road, P.O. Box 3500

Karachi - 74800, Pakistan

Tel: +92 21 4864384 - 4864573

Fax: +92 21 4934294

Email: secretariat@rtirn.net ■