



Road  
Traffic  
Injuries  
Research  
Network

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# road research

The Newsletter of the Road Traffic Injuries  
Research Network

## Message from the RTIRN Board

Dear colleagues

Welcome to another issue of *Road Research*. This issue importantly highlights the significant activities that are being undertaken by Network Partners, supported by our key funders, the World Bank's Global Road Safety Facility. Without this support the Network would not be in a position to provide funds for our key outreach activities, namely the multicentre study, the fellowships for both junior and senior researchers, and to be announced later in the year, conference scholarships.

We take this opportunity to congratulate the three recipients of our awards for senior researchers: Dr Clotilde Ubeda, from Argentina; Dr Rafael Consunji from the Philippines; and Dr Hamid Soori from Iran. As outlined later in this issue, each will spend time with a partner organization gaining further skills and experience that they will take back to their home countries at the completion of their sabbaticals.

I would also like to welcome our new Board members: Professor Alfredo Celis from Mexico, Professor Ahmad Farhan Mohd Sadullah from Malaysia. As Partners would appreciate, Board members play a key role in the Network – with no reimbursement for their time – so we very much appreciate both their commitment and indirectly the support of their institutions in allowing them to take on this role.

Lastly I would like to formally record our farewell and thanks to Maria Ali, who as you will all know has worked with the Secretariat in Pakistan since its establishment. Maria did a superb job with the network and we wish her well in her future endeavours. However, we are thrilled to welcome a new addition to the Secretariat Ms. Shafaq Ambreen, and we look forward to working with her over the next months.

Best wishes,

**Robyn Norton**  
Chair, RTIRN Board

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## ***Introducing Our New Board Members***

### **Professor Dr. Alfredo Celis**

Dr. Alfredo Celis is a physician with a Master in Public Health degree from the University of Guadalajara and a Doctor in Epidemiology from a joint program between the University of Washington and the University of Guadalajara. Dr. Celis first became interested in the field of injury while working as an emergency physician in 1983. Since then he has published several papers related to non-intentional and intentional injuries, especially in the area of drowning and road traffic injuries.

Currently, Dr. Celis is a Senior Researcher in the Public Health Department at the Health Campus of the University of Guadalajara, where he teaches Biostatistics and Epidemiology, and serves as the Chair of the Public Health PhD program. Apart from teaching, he is also a researcher at the Social Security Mexican Institute, where he provides consultation to the “Consejo Estatal para la Prevención de los Accidentes en Jalisco” (the office in charge to prevent non-intentional injuries in the State of Jalisco, México). Dr. Celis is also on the Editorial Board of the Journal Injury Prevention.

We welcome Dr. Alfredo Celis as a new Board member to the RTIRN.

### **Professor Dr. Ahmad Farhan Mohd Sadullah**

We also welcome Dr. Ahmad Farhan Mohd Sadullah from Malaysia.

Professor Sadullah is a Civil Engineer by training. He obtained his Bachelors of Civil Engineering from the Catholic University of America, Washington DC, a Masters of Science in Transport from the Imperial College London and a PhD in Transport from the University of London, at University College London.

He brings with him 15 years of experience in transport and traffic engineering as well as road safety. He has been lecturing at the School of Civil Engineering, Universiti Sains Malaysia, since 1995. Last year, Dr. Sadullah was appointed as the Director General of the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (MIROS). He is also Chair of the World Road Association (PIARC) Technical Committee C.2 on Safer Road Operations, and the Deputy Chair for the Malaysian Global Road Safety Partnership (MGRSP).

He has been involved in numerous international and national research and consultancy projects and has contributed to published research works. His areas of research interest include sustainable transport issues, travel behaviour, traffic engineering, and road safety.

*The RTIRN would like to acknowledge the support of the World Bank Global Road Safety Facility, which makes these projects possible. For more details, visit [www.rtirn.net](http://www.rtirn.net)*

## ***RTIRN Fellowship Grant Recipients***

*The RTIRN is proud to announce the three recipients of the Grants for Fellowship funded by The World Bank*

### **Dr. Hamid Soori**

*Iran*



Dr. Hamid Soori is the Professor & Head of the Department of Epidemiology as well as the Director of the Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention Research Center at the Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran. His main research interests are in Prevention of Road Traffic Injuries.

The RTIRN Fellowship Grant will allow Dr. Soori to spend time at the Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. He will be supervised by Dr. Margie Peden, a board member of RTIRN and the coordinator of the Unintentional Injury Prevention programme at the WHO.

During his sabbatical Dr. Soori will work on various projects including Childhood Injury Prevention Programs at the country level, updating the global burden of injury booklet, adapting the WHO VIP course material to the regional context as well as write a research proposal on “Increasing the Use of Seat Belts in Iran – An Evaluation Study”.

### **Dr. Rafael De Jesus Consunji**

*Philippines*

Dr. Casunji is the Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, Chief of Division of Surgical Critical Care, and an Attending Surgeon, at Division of Trauma Department of Surgery, College of Medicine & Philippine General Hospital. Dr. Casunji is also Chairman, Study Group on Injury Prevention and Control in National Institutes of Health at University of the Philippines, Manila. His research interests are Immigrant and Migrant Health (road traffic risks and injuries in migrant worker and immigrant populations).

The projected location for his sabbatical is School of Population Health, Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences, at University of Auckland, New Zealand. During this proposed fellowship, Dr. Casunji will be mentored by Dr. Shanthi Ameratunga, Associate Professor, Epidemiology, and Deputy Head, School of Population Health, Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences. at University of Auckland.

Through this fellowship grant Dr. Casunji is expected to carry out a systematic review of published and unpublished data on RTI incidence, risks, risk factors and epidemiology of RTI's in immigrant and migrant workers populations as well as a retrospective analysis of the RTI incidence, risk factors and comparative risk of migrant workers, students and immigrants in New Zealand. He will also develop a proposal for a retrospective analysis of the RTI incidence, risk factors and comparative risk of migrant workers (OFW's) from the Philippines.

## **Dr. Clotilde Ubeda**

*Argentina*



Dr. Ubeda is in charge of the "Programa de Prevención de lesiones por Causas Externas" (Injury Prevention Program for External Causes), in Departamento de Investigación, at the Instituto Nacional de Epidemiología, and Co director of Research Group: "Promoción de la Salud" (Health Promotion) Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata. For the past 9 years she has been involved in post graduate teaching at multiple positions. Her major research interests are Epidemiology of External Causes Injuries (Traffic, Unintentional and Intentional Causes.).

Dr. Ubeda will be spending her sabbatical period in CDC Atlanta USA, where she will be supervised by Ann Dellinger (PhD), Team Leader Motor Vehicle Injury Team. The outcomes expected from the proposed activity are to:

- Prepare a report of road traffic injuries in Argentina, using data from death certificates, admitted patients, injury surveillance system in the Emergency Department, and health national survey.
- Propose some intervention strategies based on the findings of the report, and those applied successfully in the US and other places, which could be applied at national, regional or local level, with the support of the Ministry of Health, and other institutions in the country, like Police, Education, Transportation office, etc.
- Improve the data analysis using information from the injury surveillance system, addressed to local, state and national level. It is expected to move from the basic and descriptive analysis plan, to other type of analysis, which let the participants prepare periodical publications of data, and contribute in the development of informed decisions in their communities.

## ***Other World Bank Supported RTIRN Activity***

### **Grants for Junior Researchers**

As discussed in our last Newsletter, the objective of these activities was to enable young researchers in training or in early stages of their career, from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to conduct appropriate road safety projects in their country of origin supervised by a local expert or professor.

At an individual level, the grant supports the attainment of a professional degree or equivalent (masters, diplomas) with a focus on road safety. At the global level, this effort will be attempt to establish a corps of young experts trained in road traffic injury prevention who can lead future RTI prevention efforts in LMICs.

The study grants were awarded to 10 junior researchers for a one-year period. We are glad to share that all of the studies are now underway, and the process of data collection has been on track. First progress reports have been received by the RTIRN secretariat and second progress reports are in the process as we publish this Newsletter.

## Multi-Center Study

Multi-Country Study on Helmet Use in Low and Middle Income Countries represents a leading activity of the RTIRN network towards achieving capacity development through research. This model of capacity development focuses on senior researchers and uses regional workshops to strengthen specific skills in methods related to motorcycle safety. The objectives of this study are

- To achieve capacity development efforts for senior researchers and to focus regional workshops for capacity development
- To determine the first empirical result of non-standard helmet use
- To identify points of entry for policy and intervention analysis

Nine collaborating centers in Asia, Africa and Latin America are part of this study. The centers were selected based on an open call for application that was reviewed by the board of RTIRN. A coordinating center based at the University of Putra Malaysia was then identified through a competitive process. First workshop for the Multi Country study was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 7-8 May 2008. . It was attended by principle investigators from nine collaborating centers in Asia, Africa and Latin America, who are also part of the study on non-standard motorcycle helmet use.

We are glad to share that two of the three studies that comprise the MCS, have been completed. Data collection is on-going for the third study. The first draft of the report will be discussed during the second workshop scheduled for June 22nd/23rd in Nairobi, Kenya.

## Regional Workshops

The regional workshops equip local and national researchers with road safety knowledge and impart skills to write good proposals, conduct robust research, and write up results for reputable journals.

From the capacity development perspective, these workshops results in not only a large number of people being trained on specific skills but also in the development of training materials that can be used by RTIRN partners, and the dissemination and communication of good research practices in the field of road traffic injury.

The first workshop supported by the World Bank was organized in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 8 May, 2008 as a special symposium, entitled “Evaluating Road Safety Interventions for Health Outcomes”. The second workshop was held at the Aga Khan University, in Karachi, Pakistan. The title of the workshop was “Measuring the Burden of Injuries – A Cost Effective Approach”.

The next regional workshop is being planned for June 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya in which local participants will be trained on the techniques such as RTI surveillance.

## Upcoming Activities

### Scholarships for Conference Attendance

In addition to supporting research training for young professionals in LMICs, the RTIRN also aims at providing these professionals the tools and professional development necessary to help them become local and global leaders in the road traffic injury field in years to come. To this end, the network is committed to providing scholarships for young professionals and researchers in LMICs to participate in international conferences where they will be able to learn from leading experts in the field.

Watch out for an open call for applications in next few months. The Network believes that the support for such attending such meetings will be yet another step in enhancing research capacity in road traffic injuries in low and middle income countries.

### Latest publications on Road Research from LMICs

Cashman CM, Ruotsalainen JH, Greiner BA, Beirne PV, Verbeek JH., (2009), Alcohol and drug screening of occupational drivers for preventing injury, *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*, 15(2), CD006566

Mohammadi G., (2009), The influence of age, seat belt, time of day, and type of vehicles on road accidents in Kerman, Iran, *Traffic Inj Prev*, 10(2), 191-3.

Jain A, Menezes RG, Kanchan T, Gagan S, Jain R., (2009), Two wheeler accidents on Indian roads--a study from Mangalore, India, *J Forensic Leg Med*, 16(3), 130-3.

Zhao XG, He XD, Wu JS, Zhao GF, Ma YF, Zhang M, Gan JX, Xu SW, Jiang GY.,(2009), Risk factors for urban road traffic injuries in Hangzhou, China, *Arch Orthop Trauma Surg*, 129(4), 507-13.

Beyer FR, Ker K., (2009), Street lighting for preventing road traffic injuries., *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*, 21;(1), CD004728.

Fitzharris M, Dandona R, Kumar GA, Dandona L., (2009), Crash characteristics and patterns of injury among hospitalized motorised two-wheeled vehicle users in urban India, *BMC Public Health*, 9(1), 11

Subzwari S, Desapriya E, Babul-Wellar S, Pike I, Turcotte K, Rajabali F, Kinney J., (2009), Vision screening of older drivers for preventing road traffic injuries and fatalities., *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*, 21;(1), CD006252.

## New RTIRN Partners!

We welcome the new partners who have recently joined RTIRN:

**Argentina:** Clotilde Ubeda, Raghava Mohan Venkata

**Australia:** Kerry Armstrong, Mark Johann King, Barry Craig Watson, Greg Smith, Bhawna Gupta

**Bangladesh:** Muhammad Abdur Rahaman

**Brazil:** Guerra Paulo, Barbara Bezerra, Bianca Jucielly Cunha

**Cameroon:** Marceau Angui

**India:** Deepak Mohanty, Ramachandran Murali, Bhawna Gupta

**Iran:** Ali Davoudi Kiakalayeh, Zahra Tabibi

**Malaysia:** Hejar Abdul Rahman, Tamil Selvan Hari krishnan

**Nepal:** Saroj Pradhan

**New Zealand:** Roly Hermans

**Nigeria:** Razaq Alabi, Maryrose Uzoamaka Chukwu

**Pakistan:** Zia Amir Channa, Shahzad Shamim, Muhammad Imran Nisar

**South Africa:** Michelle Hobday

**Thailand:** Thaweesak Taekratok

**Tygerberg:** Mariëtte Smith

**Uganda:** Mable Nakitto, Iryne Marunga

**UK:** Joanne Hill, Aeron-Thomas

**USA:** Jerry Abraham, Stephanie Pratt, Mary Mckay

**Vietnam:** Khoa Truong

**Zambia:** Limwanya Dennis

## Have you registered for the New RTIRN Online Forum?

The new forum enables RTIRN Partners to communicate more effectively, participate in online discussions and stay updated with current network activities.

Please visit [www.rtirn.net/forum](http://www.rtirn.net/forum) to register today!

## Make the RTIRN newsletter your own!!

- Have news of road traffic injuries research in your region?
- Intervention projects?
- Upcoming events or new publications?

Share it with us at the following address: [administrator@rtirn.net](mailto:administrator@rtirn.net)

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Support for the RTIRN made Possible by:  
The Global Forum for Health Research  
The World Health Organization  
The World Bank

# Save the dates!!

**May 7-8, 2009**  
Brussels, Belgium  
Global Meeting of NGOs Advocating for Road Safety

**May 20-22, 2009**  
Montréal, Canada  
8e Séminaire Francophone International en Promotion  
de la Sécurité et en Prévention des Traumatismes

**June 15, 2009**  
New York, USA  
Launch of the Global status report on road safety

**June 22-24, 2009**  
Nairobi  
RTIRN Workshop

**July 27, 2009**  
The University of Sydney  
\*One-semester online course in Injury Epidemiology, Prevention and Control  
\*One-semester online course in Falls Prevention and the Older Person

**August 7-10, 2009**  
The University of Sydney  
\*Two-day workshop in Injury Prevention  
\*For more information on the courses above, please go to [www.thegeorgeinstitute.org](http://www.thegeorgeinstitute.org)  
or email directly via [injurycourses@george.org.au](mailto:injurycourses@george.org.au) or phone (02) 9657 0361

For the latest information about RTIRN, updates on RTIRN events, announcements for upcoming RTIRN activities and to become a partner of the network, please visit our website at [www.rtirn.net](http://www.rtirn.net)

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