

Translating research into practice: resources available, researchers needed!

Decades of research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of injuries have yielded remarkable knowledge and effective interventions. While important questions about injuries and their prevention and control remain, as scientists, we need to ensure that the knowledge about effective strategies for reducing the injury burden is translated and used.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest among biomedical and public health researchers (and those who fund our work) in the process of translating research findings into practice. This interest includes both the practice (doing) of translation and engaging in research designed to understand translation processes. We are encouraged by this development and the opportunity for injury prevention and control researchers to be more deliberate about ensuring that what we learn through our science is effectively translated, disseminated, and implemented by policy makers, administrators, clinicians, practitioners, advocates, health educators, and community leaders.

The good news is that excellent resources are available for injury researchers seeking to incorporate more translational

approaches into their work. The chapter concentrating on conceptual issues co-authored by Ellen Sogolow, David Sleet, and Janet Saul in the 2007 *Handbook of injury and violence prevention* is one oft-cited example. Another example is the journal *Evaluation and the Health Professions*, which published a special issue on translational research that included a chapter on child and adolescent transportation by Bruce Simons-Morton and Flora Winston. With translational research a clear emphasis among government agencies including the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and the National Institutes of Health in the USA, resources are available that will increase our understanding about the adoption of best practices.

In recognition of this trend, and of the need to provide guidance and support to injury researchers interested in translation, the second SAVIR conference will focus on translation. "From Discovery to Practice: Innovative Translational Approaches to Injury Prevention and Care" will take place on 5 and 6 March 2009 at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta. The conference is co-sponsored

by SAVIR, the Emory Center for Injury Control, and the CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and will feature speakers on translational research and presentations from the latest injury translation research projects. Non-translational research will also be included as presentations and posters. A half-day pre-conference workshop (4 March) entitled "Advocacy and Science: The Injury and Violence Prevention Professional's Role" will complement the main conference focus by offering researchers in-depth training on the skills needed to effectively advocate for injury prevention research, policies, programs, and funding.

Please join us in Atlanta for the second SAVIR conference on 5 and 6 March 2009.

Information about the conference can be found at: <http://www.emorycenterforinjurycontrol.org> and <http://www.savirweb.org>.

S Frattaroli¹, M Yonas,² L Olson³

¹The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, USA

²University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

³Intermountain Injury Control Research Center, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, USA

Correspondence to: Dr S Frattaroli, 624 North Broadway, #545, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA; SFrattar@jhsph.edu

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