

**SAVIR ANNUAL REPORT**  
**October 1, 2018- September 30, 2019**

**SAVIR MISSION**

The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR) is a professional organization that provides leadership and fosters excellence in the science of preventing and treating injury and violence. Our mission is to address issues relevant to the prevention, acute care and rehabilitation of injury and violence through multiple activities in research; research dissemination; program and policy development and evaluation; consultation; and education and training.

**SAVIR HISTORY**

SAVIR was incorporated in Maryland as a 501c(3) in 1997, emerging from organization a more information organization, the National Association of Injury Control Research Centers (NAICRC). NAICRC had formed several years earlier by the directors of the injury control research centers funded at that time by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at CDC. In creating SAVIR, the group was eager to increase engagement of all injury researchers, whether attached to a CDC-funded ICRC or not and to enhance the research focus within the field as well as continuing to collaborate with the practitioner organization, Safe States that had recently changed its name from State and Territorial Injury Prevention Association (STIPDA). Together the two organizations had begun a collaboration called the National Training Initiative that resulted in the development of core competencies for the field as well as the PREVENT (Preventing Violence through Education, Networking, and Technical Assistance) Program, operated by the University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research Center from 2002-2009.

As SAVIR has grown and matured, the Board expanded to include new seats (e.g., a seat for student and young professionals), and formed a strong cadre of committees that work hard to accomplish the mission of the organization. Over the years, SAVIR has used varied management structures including part-time administrators and contracting with a management company, as is current practice. In addition, the organization has a longstanding relationship with the international journal, Injury Prevention. It is our official journal and is included with membership.

**Letter from the President**

The following summary of the speech at the 2019 conference by Dr. Carol Runyan was published as part of the SAVIR column in the September 2019 edition of Injury Prevention. It is reproduced below as it appeared in the journal.

## SAVIR: going forward by looking back

As outgoing President of the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR), I had the opportunity in April 2019 to share some thoughts both about SAVIR work in the prior year and about moving the organization forward. I present the major points of that talk here.

SAVIR has had a rich history, emerging from an organization called the National Association of Injury Control Research Centers (NAICRC) in 1997 as a 501c(3) non-profit registered in Maryland. The purpose of the new organization was to expand beyond the boundaries of the CDC-funded centers that comprised NAICRC and engage a broader range of injury scholars in our continuing effort to build the field. During the early years, SAVIR collaborated with Safe States in developing core competencies for the field, advocated for funding for injury research, partnered with *Injury Prevention* as our official journal, and provided a forum for sharing research findings and methodologic innovations through conferences.

In the past year, SAVIR continued with these activities in order to move research forward. Additionally, we restructured our management by hiring a new management company, Management Excellence Incorporated (MEI)<sup>i</sup>. We also strengthened our financial planning by creating a Finance Committee within the Board; completed a strategic plan; updated our Bylaws; engaged in activities to stimulate more funding for the field; and expanded our communications committee which produces a SAVIR e-newsletter and is updating the SAVIR website. The Board is also implementing a plan to host annual meetings, previously held every two years, with our 2019 meeting in Cincinnati, to be followed in April, 2020 by a conference in Philadelphia. Through our SAVIR committees, we are focused on the science of injury and violence prevention, policy and advocacy, SAVIR membership, students and early career professionals, and training and infrastructure development.

Reflecting on our recent history, we need to collectively draw on principles explicated by Elizabeth Fee<sup>ii</sup>. This includes considering the importance of examining injury control in historical context. Studying history allows us to discover positive trends, help examine temporary setbacks, learn about successful strategies of prior reformers, identify patterns and continuities below the surface, gain new insights about change, and examine social forces and cultural trends – all of this enabling us to remember that change is possible and we can learn from prior mistakes. Consider the accomplishments highlighted by David Hemenway in his 2018 paper<sup>iii</sup> recounting views from multiple senior leaders in the field and think about SAVIR as a force for increasing the diversity of the funding base for the field, promoting collaborative scholarship among members, continuing to push for solid education of a new generation of injury practitioners and researchers and better integrating research with practice. SAVIR has moved the field forward over the past 22 years and will continue to do so with the dedication of its members.

As injury researchers, we are building on the foundation established by pioneers in the field. By taking a long-term perspective that appreciates the fact that change is slow and not always straightforward or steady, we can make progress. The field benefits, in my view, from realization that one should expect to continue a long term change process and not expect to achieve easy satisfaction. We also must recognize that our efforts to better integrate research and practice will require examining the cultural and organizational differences between these two environments<sup>iv</sup>.

And, finally, injury and violence prevention researchers, particularly newer scholars, should remember that sometimes more simplistic approaches are just as, or more, meaningful than more complex or “fancy” approaches. While acknowledging the value of advanced methods of both research and practice, we should avoid the temptation to become so enamored of those methods that we lose sight of the purpose, which is to produce clear and meaningful answers to practical problems. Sometimes simple is better.

Solving injury problems is the goal and as injury and violence prevention scholars we must not lose sight of that goal. Academic (or personal) promotion is not the purpose of what we do; publishing in the least possible units (LPUs)<sup>v</sup> should be avoided, particularly if it obscures the larger contextual meaning of findings.

Along with this, it is important to remember that our work as injury professionals will often go unrecognized as prevention is, by definition, hard to notice. We need to be comfortable with that – a lesson taught to me by Stephen Teret at Johns Hopkins University years ago.

## SAVIR STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (established 2018)

### **Goal: 1. Advance the science of violence and injury prevention and control.**

**Objective 1.1:** Advocate for funding for violence and injury research

**Objective 1.2:** Provide a mechanism to promote the advancement of rigorous violence and injury research.

**Objective 1.3:** Advocate for evidence-based policy and program solutions to violence and injury problems.

### **Goal: 2. Prepare and support the next generation of violence and injury researchers.**

**Objective 2.1:** Recruit new researchers into the field.

**Objective 2.2:** Nurture early-career violence and injury researchers through professional development.

**Objective 2.3:** Support curriculum, training and CE in violence and injury research, prevention and control.

### **Goal: 3. Bridge the research and practice communities within the field of violence and injury prevention and control.**

**Objective 3.1:** Increase influence, reach, and leadership of SAVIR in the field.

**Objective 3.2:** Promote and partner in evidence-based practice.

**Objective 3.3:** Enhance communication and information exchange between researchers and practitioners.

### **Goal: 4. Support the long-term sustainability and growth of SAVIR.**

**Objective 4.1:** Establish management and fiscal practices to sustain long-term sustainability of SAVIR.

**Objective 4.2:** Expand membership of SAVIR.

**Objective 4.3:** Explore development of a marketing plan to increase visibility of SAVIR.

**SAVIR PEOPLE**

**LEADERSHIP:** SAVIR is led by an Executive Committee comprised of the President, President-Elect, Past-President, and Treasurer. In addition, the current Board consists of ## seats with overlapping terms of one to three years, as described in the By Laws. Current Board membership is listed below along with information about the management company, MEI, with whom SAVIR contracts for administrative support, and also a brief description of each of the SAVIR committees. During the past year, SAVIR leadership has been as follows:

**Board members by year:**

<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>
<p><b>Executive Committee (2018-19):</b>                      President: Carol Runyan, Colorado School of Public Health                      Past-President: Shannon Frattaroli, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health                      President-Elect: Linda Degutis, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University; Consultant                      Treasurer: Jingzhen (Ginger) Yang, Nationwide Children’s Hospital</p>	<p><b>Executive Committee (2019-2020):</b>                      President: Linda Degutis, Yale School of Public Health; Rollins School of Pubic Health Emory University; Consultant                      Past-President: Carol Runyan, Colorado School of Public Health                      President-Elect: Theresa Cruz, University of New Mexico                      Treasurer: Shankar Viswanathan</p>
<p><b>Board Members:</b>                      Mary Aitken                      Shani Buggs (Student representative)                      Patrick Carter (Transitional Member)                      Andrea Gielen (Co-Chair, Council of Centers)                      Bernadette Hohl                      Ali Rohani-Rahbar                      Shankar Viswanathan                      Monica Vavilala (Co-Chair, Council of Centers)                      Michael Gitelman, (Chair, Conference Planning)                      Mark Zonfrillo</p>	<p><b>Board Members:</b>                      Kathleen Carlson                      Joel Fein                      Andrea Gielen (Co-Chair, Council of Centers)                      Bernadette Hohl                      Katelyn Jetelina (Transitional Member)                      Renee Johnson                      Tracy Mehan (student representative)                      Chisten Rexing                      Ali Rohani-Rahbar                      Monica Vavilala (Co-Chair, Council of Centers)                      Douglas Weibe (Chair, Conference Planning)                      Mark Zonfrillo</p>

**SAVIR STAFF (at Management Excellence Incorporated (MEI):**

- Maggie Barlow, Managing Director, Management Excellence Incorporated (MEI)
- Fran Rickenbach, President, Management Excellence Incorporated (MEI)
- Doug Conrad, Meetings Manager

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY COMMITTEE IN THE PAST YEAR (10/1/18- 9/30/19)

**Advocacy and Policy Committee:** **Advocacy and Policy Committee:** The objectives of the SAVIR Advocacy and Policy committee are to actively promote the discipline of injury control research and to proactively collect and disseminate injury control research findings. The committee is co-chaired by Sara Jacoby and Christen Rexing. During the past year, the committee has worked to support the funding of the CDC Injury Control Center and the capacity of membership to engage in advocacy for research funding and evidence-based policy and links between research and practice. They have expanded partnerships with other groups to address pressing injury issues, including gun safety as a priority. One example was signing on to a letter developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics to support greater attention to gun research. The group continued its active participation in the Injury and Violence Prevention Network (IVPN) and working closely with Safe States in planning a Hill Visits to help inform Congressional staff about the importance of injury and violence as issues and the need for research funding. It served as a forum in which selected researchers were able to meet with their Congressional delegations to discuss their programs' work in more detail. The committee continues to serve the membership through in-person and online trainings. It hosted a successful pre-conference workshop in March of 2019. In December 2019, they hosted a webinar on *Pathways to Advocacy for Injury & Violence Researchers*.

**Communications:** The SAVIR Communications Committee aims to assist members and committees in disseminating injury prevention announcements and streamline organizational communications to maximize SAVIR's organizational impact. It is being led by co-chairs, Tracy Mehan and Sara Brandspigel. The committee has focused on disseminating the most up-to-date violence and injury prevention research and announcements through social media channels, a quarterly newsletter, and email communications; promoting collective, educational, and scholarly activity among SAVIR membership in developing the field of injury prevention and control research, policy, and program development; encouraging new membership among injury and violence prevention professionals; and providing resources to other researchers, practitioners, and decision makers to support the development of research, program, and policy activities.

In January 2019, the SAVIR Communications committee conducted a member survey to gain feedback on the best ways to strengthen our organizational communications, increase member engagement and deepen our partnerships. Responses from 68 members revealed that the top ways members currently get information about SAVIR are email updates, annual conference, and other organizational meetings. Member also shared that their most utilized social media channels are LinkedIn, Twitter and ResearchGate and indicated they would like to see SAVIR using Twitter.

Based on this feedback, the communications committee prioritized the launch of a quarterly e-newsletter. The shift to an annual in-person conference (previously every other year) and planning for webinars and virtual events also aligns with this member feedback. The communications committee manages a social media calendar, coordinates with partner organizations like Safe States, and develops communications materials to support the annual conference, such as a social media toolkit. The committee also organizes trainings and workshops for SAVIR members on communications and is developing a strategic communications plan for the organization. Going forward, the committee will continue to work towards improved and streamlined information sharing with all members.

**Conference and Program Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to oversee planning for the annual SAVIR conference. In April 2019, the conference was to be hosted by Dr. Mike Gittleman's team at U of Cincinnati. Their work has focused on planning the meeting attended by 237 individuals, with 34 separate sessions. 180 abstracts were submitted, including 42 by students. Some innovations were incorporated including a speed science session allowing selected presenters to preview their posters. There were mentoring sessions for junior scholars, and a chance for junior scholars to meet with journal representatives to explore their questions about the publication process. The meeting also included awards for scientific presentations and a summary of the year's work and thoughts about the future by outgoing President Carol Runyan. After the Cincinnati conference, a new planning team formed to make arrangements for the 2020 conference to be held April 2020 in Philadelphia.

**Council of Centers:** The Council of Centers represents members who are affiliated with diverse types of research centers and seeks to contribute to building the field of injury research, and to provide mutual support and professional enrichment to its members. During the past year, co-chairs Andrea Gielen and Monica Vavilala led the group in developing new goals and objectives for the group, including a commitment to use the Council as a forum for sharing of best practices in center development and management. These objectives are: 1) To enhance opportunities for collaboration regionally, domestically and globally; 2) To share best practices for closing the gap between research and practice; 3) To enhance impact on the field by increasing the number and funding levels of research centers; 4) To collaborate with relevant SAVIR committees to achieve our mutual objectives; and 5) To help centers address issues of concern to increase their effectiveness. Over the past year, the group has conducted a member interest survey to learn more about the interests and needs of members and identified such interests as problem solving on engaging students and developing improved teaching approaches, sharing best practices in engaging with the practice community, and enlarging the pool of centers. A subgroup of the Council of Centers, led by Shannon Frattaroli, hired Paul Bonta, to assist with advocacy efforts on behalf of the field, with particular emphasis on funding for ICRCs. The Council has also planned a pre-conference session for the conference in Philadelphia focused on engaging trauma centers and also a session, with the Advocacy and Policy Committee, to address advocacy strategies for the field.

**Executive Committee:** The SAVIR Executive Committee is comprised of the President, President-Elect, Past-President and Treasurer to provide oversight to the entire organization. During the past year, the Executive Committee has been quite busy. A major share of the year involved making changes in how the organization is managed. After reviewing nine applications from managing companies responding to our solicitation through the AMC Institute, an organization that accredits management companies, we selected Management Excellence Incorporated (MEI) as our new contractor. Maggie Barlow of MEI assumed the role of Managing Director and, over the course of the remainder of the year, has been working with the Executive Committee to expand and improve numerous procedures. The Executive Committee initiated several infrastructure updates, including changing our bank, reinstating our non-profit status in Maryland, and updating our payment procedures. Overall, the Executive Committee continued an in-depth review of the SAVIR business operations that began with the change in our management company. As part of this process, we created a Finance Committee that has begun to map out an annual budget and create policies for spending.

Also, during 2018, we completed a strategic planning process through which each committee determined its priorities for action to achieve the goals and objectives agreed upon by the Board of Directors.

The Executive Committee has also re-examined the By Laws of the organization and re-affirmed most of the By-Laws while also proposing selected changes designed to update our practices and policies. The major changes included: specifying that Board meetings may occur via video conference, removing language about our Board being a giving Board, including regular audit procedures, stating the start of the fiscal year, and adding Finance and Membership to the list of standing committees. Importantly, this review process served to highlight for the Executive Committee some of the responsibilities specified in the bylaws, such as producing an Annual Report.

President-Elect, Linda Degutis represented SAVIR at a meeting hosted and coordinated by the American College of Surgeons that brought multiple professional organizations together in order to identify common priorities and develop strategies to decrease gun violence in America.

**Membership Committee:** The mission of the committee is to increase and sustain SAVIR memberships to create an organization inclusive of researchers and professionals from various disciplines that work to prevent and intervene with injury and violence. Rebecca Spicer and Cassandra Crifasi accepted the leadership of this committee late in the year and have assumed oversight of and responsibility for rebuilding the committee and establishing new strategies to reach out and recruit new members. This includes collaborations with other committees, including the Student and Early Career Professionals committee and Executive Committee to explore joint student memberships with Safe States and the Council of Centers to increase center memberships. Working with MEI, the Membership Committee is establishing improved methods of tracking lapsed members and reaching out to encourage renewal. The membership committee is renewing efforts to attract new members by reaching out to authors publishing on injury and violence topics in peer-reviewed journals to share information about SAVIR and encourage membership. The committee is also putting in place a process for recruiting new members through the conference registrations. As in previous conferences, the committee will coordinate the award for the best student paper.

**Student and Early Career Professionals Committee:** The purpose of the SAVIR Student and Early Career Professional Committee is to bring the voice and perspective of students/early career professionals to the SAVIR Board and to provide an outlet for education, collaboration, mentoring and professional growth and development for students and early career professionals with a shared interest in injury and violence research through information dissemination, interactive forums, and networking opportunities. Any student or transitional member is eligible to join the SAVIR Student and Young Professional Committee. Chaired by Dr. Alison Culyba, the Committee has been active in the past year in a number of activities. This included a speed mentoring session at the annual SAVIR meeting that was designed to provide a forum for students and early career professionals to ask short, targeted questions of leaders in the injury prevention field. The session was intended to help provide a structured and welcoming networking opportunity between students/early career professionals and leaders in the injury prevention field and assists students/early career professionals with career path and career growth decisions. The first annual speed mentoring session was a huge success. We paired 20 mentees with 20 mentors, and pre/post evaluation surveys indicated that both mentors and mentees found it to be an incredibly valuable opportunity.

In addition, the Committee organized a longitudinal mentoring program to provide a forum for ongoing mentorship, outside of the annual SAVIR meeting, in a group-based setting. Currently, groups consist of 2-3 senior-level mentors and 4-5 mentees. Led by members of our committee, groups meet quarterly to discuss mentee-derived topics to aid in their professional development. We launched 2 “mentoring families” at the 2019 SAVIR conference. They have also conducted a needs assessment amongst the initial groups to determine the topics that will be covered in the inaugural year of the longitudinal mentoring program. Examples of topics are anticipated to include advice related to grant writing, time management, skill building, publication, and development of short- and long-term career goals, among others.

Also at the annual meeting, the Committee planned and led a Journal Editor Roundtable discussion for students, post-doctoral fellows and early career injury researchers at the 2019 SAVIR conference. This is the 3rd time this type of session has been offered at the SAVIR conference. The session provided an excellent opportunity for the leaders to discuss in depth and at length important issues related to manuscript publication with interested colleagues. Participants had the opportunity to meet with two editors or editorial board members during the session in a small group format. Key topics of discussion included how to overcome writer’s block, choosing the right journal, addressing reviewer comments, and common mistakes made in the publication process.

“Career Paths” is an ongoing project that the committee is working on in partnership with the Training and Infrastructure committee. The overarching goals are twofold: 1) to gain insight about the career experiences of accomplished leaders in the field of injury and violence prevention and 2) to provide students and early career injury scientists exposure to leaders in the field. In 2017-2018, our committee interviewed and published the story of Dr. Linda Degutis, the past President of APHA, current Executive Director of Defense Health Horizons, and SAVIR President-Elect. During the 2017 APHA Annual meeting, Dr. Degutis sat down with our committee member and had an hour in-person interview. She shared her story of her career path, her passion and contribution to the injury and violence prevention field, as well as her suggestions to the students and early-career professionals. The Committee transcribed the whole audio-recordings and drafted the article, then worked with the Training and Infrastructure committee to release the write-up on SAVIR website. Here is the article linkage:  
<https://savir.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Degutis%20Interview.pdf>.

The Committee also launched several initiatives to gather information on career and publication opportunities for students and early career professionals, created a job search resource with links to numerous public health job boards and other training opportunities, including fellowship and internship programs. This resource has been uploaded to the SAVIR website and is being monitored and updated on a quarterly basis. Further, the Committee identified injury-related journals that have opportunities for papers and grants focused towards early career professionals and is working on a resource that includes the journal name, the opportunity (grant, paper, etc.), and the submission deadline. This resource will be uploaded to the SAVIR website and monitored on a quarterly basis.

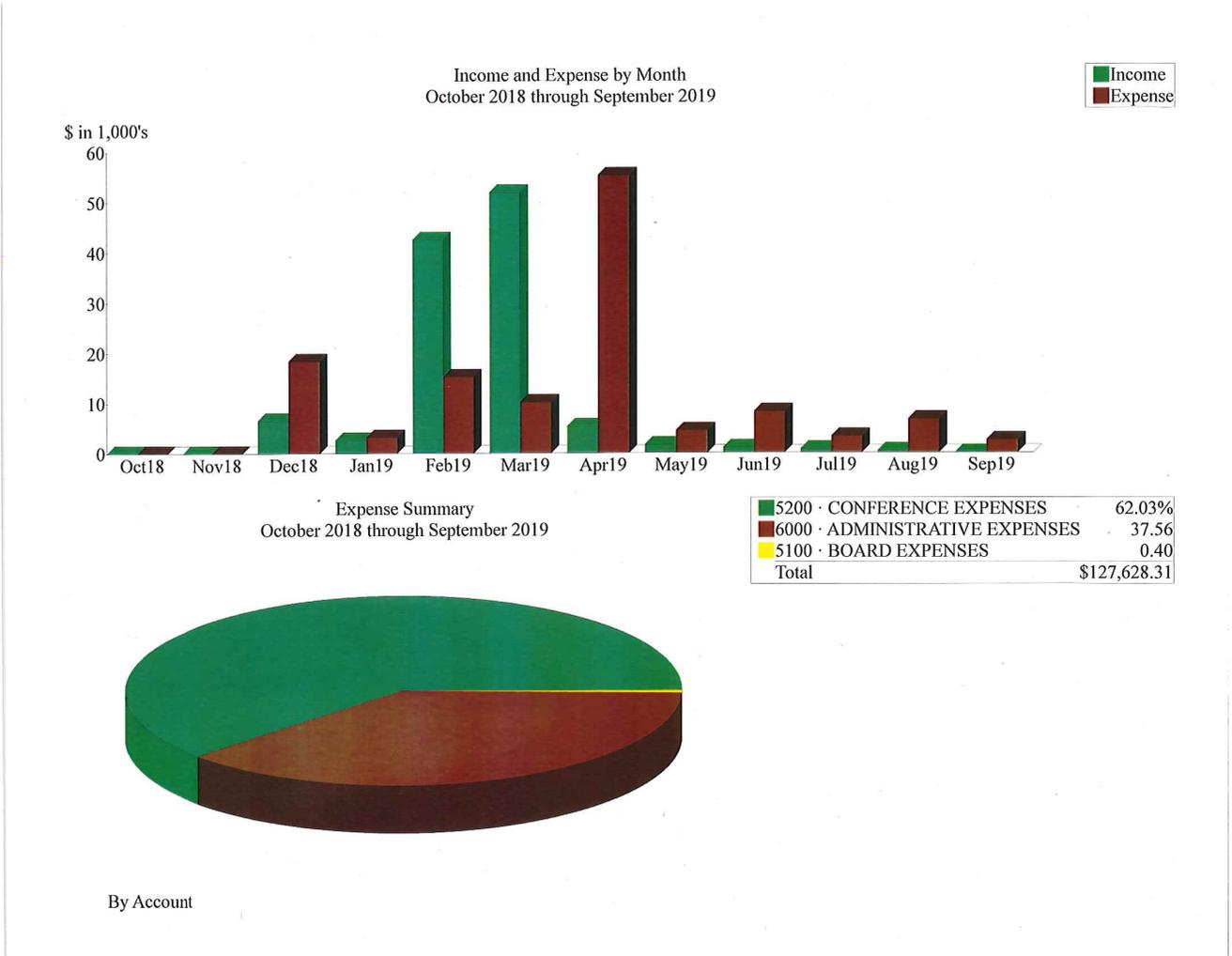
Finally, the Committee organized a happy hour event for student and early career professionals interested in injury science at the 2018 and 2019 APHA meetings. The goal of the sessions was to facilitate peer networking among early career professionals and also to provide opportunities to engage with mid-career and senior scientists and public health professionals.

**Science and Research Committee:** This committee engages with multiple partners to stimulate research collaboration and establish scientific policies and priorities by organizing the scientific program at the

annual meeting, including establishing session types, calls for abstracts, reviewing abstracts, developing sessions, and selecting moderators. Also, the committee has been responsible for recommending scientific policies and research priorities in collaboration with the Advocacy and Policy Committee. They provide advice to federal agencies (e.g., NCIPC, MCHB, NHTSA, TRB, IOM) and other public organizations (e.g., foundations, automotive safety associations, consumer product manufacturer's associations) regarding their scientific direction as it relates to injury and violence control policies, practices, documentation of injury, and research methodologies and work to initiate and foster relations between SAVIR and other members of the injury research community. Led by Eric Sigel, Karla Lawson, and Mariana Garretson, the Committee created the scientific program for the SAVIR conference in Cincinnati (April 2019) including sessions focused on traumatic brain injury, sports injury, gun violence, emergency department initiatives, suicide, intimate partner violence, transportation injuries, and more. These included 110 presenting speakers and a large poster presentation session with 34 presenters. . AT the meeting, the group worked with the Student and Early Career Professionals Committee to host a flash science initiative at the annual conference, allowing students and early career professionals the experience of presenting their scientific work in a brief elevator-speech style presentation designed to advertise their posters. The committee developed a new format for the annual conference this year including five invited symposium sessions to the conference. In the inaugural year of this program, symposia topics included effective injury and violence prevention advocacy, cannabis legislation and its impact on injury, Injury and violence programs in the Indian Health Service, Using media for advocacy of injury and violence research findings, and the Firearm Safety Among Children and Teens (FACTs) Consortium. Further, the committee reviewed and ranked submitted abstracts on a number of scientific-based parameters. Those earning top scores had their presentation scored by three members of the committee and average top scoring presentation was awarded the Best Research Presentation Award. integral part of SAVIR and its mission are its working committees. The Science committee initiated a new program to invite both new and seasoned members to join committees. Committee chairs were asked to share a committee pitch to a wider audience and then break into in-person meetings including their new members on the spot. This was highly successful, and several committees left with new members and fresh insights.

**Training and Infrastructure Committee:** The objectives of the SAVIR Training and Infrastructure Committee (TIC) are to address the professional and academic training needs of SAVIR members as well as to serve as a resource for the training needs of current and future researchers and public health professionals working in the fields of violence and injury prevention and control. Over the past year, co-chairs Lara McKenzie and Renee Johnson have led the committee's work coordinating pre-conference workshops for the annual conference in Cincinnati, and in working with the Student and Early Career Professionals committee on conducting a series of interviews with senior injury researchers in reflecting on their career trajectories. The committee has queried members about needed resources to assist in teaching about injury and violence and has begun to explore development of model curricula and further survey work in collaboration with the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health so as to be able to address where there are gaps in teaching about the topic. They have also continued their work on developing periodic webinars for the membership by soliciting webinar applications and selecting a series that addresses a range of research topics.

**Financial report as of September 30, 2019:**



<sup>i</sup> <http://www.meinet.com/home.htm> (accessed July 3, 2019).

<sup>ii</sup> Fee E, Brown TM. Editorial: Why history? *American Journal of Public Health*. 1997.87(11): 1763-1764.

<sup>iii</sup> Hemenway D. Building the injury field in North America: the perspective of some of the pioneers. *Injury Epidemiology*. 2018. 5: 47.

<sup>iv</sup> Margolis LH, Runyan CW. Understanding and reducing barriers to collaboration by academics with agencies and community organizations: a commentary. 1998. 4:132-134.

<sup>v</sup> Yankauer A: Editor's report: LPU, The Nation's Health and Other Matters. *American Journal of Public Health*. 1983. 73:247.