Dear ICADTS members,



# REPORTER

The Newsletter of The International Council on Alcohol, Drugs & Traffic Safety

# **Message from the ICADTS President**

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Message from the ICADTS
PresidentP.1
T2019 HighlightsP.2
T2022 in Rotterdam, the NetherlandsP.3
Save the Date for CoimbraP.3
ICADTS AwardsP.
T2019 Stipend WinnersP.4
Join ICADTS Interest GroupsP.5
Spotlight on Stipend Winners P.6
Prevention Activities in Portugal.P.7

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The International Council on Alcohol, Drugs & Traffic Safety (ICADTS) is an independent nonprofit body whose only goal is to reduce mortality and morbidity brought about by misuse of alcohol and drugs by operators of vehicles in all modes of transportation. T2019 has been a major succes! The quality and diversity of the program has been been outstanding and the level of participation and accessibility of attendees from 29 countries has been heartwarming. Once again it has become evident that the tri-annual meetings of ICADTS provide an unique platform where professionals from academia, government, industy and advocacy groups meet to present and evaluate the newest trends in research, education, policy and law enforcement in the field of alcohol, drugs and traffic safety. Moreover, a substantial contribution was noted from representatives of low and middle income countries. Two excellent plenary lectures from Juliana Scherer (Brazil) and Benacer Boulaajoul (Morocco) sharply defined current traffic safety practises and needs in their homelands, which once again stresses the importance for ICADTS to connect with low and middle income countries and to share expertise. More notable moments occurred at T2019 such as the opening

plenary of Robert Palser who successfully used memes and science fiction analogies to explain cannabis legislation and the introduction of per se limits for driving under the influence of cannabis in Canada.

The pre-conference workshops on cannabis legalization in Canada and for young scientists sparked great interest and were well attended. Not suprisingly, cannabis legalization and its impact on traffic safety was one of the major themes of the current meeting. It will probably remain a major area of attention in future meetings too, as the world will be watching Canada closely in the coming years in order to learn from its potential successes and problems with legalization of cannabis.

T2019 has also provided a great opportunity to update the status of the working groups within ICADTS. Prior to the meeting, chairs of the working groups have been contacted to reflect on follow-on activity. Several chairs indicated that their working group had been inactive for some time, which is why the ICADTS board decided to formally sunset their activities and stimulate the development of novel interest groups. The ICADTS membership already generated several new initiatives at T2019 that are presented in the current edition of the *Reporter*. These include a focus group for young scientists (chaired by Juliana Scherer) and interest groups on automated drug impairment detection (chaired by Amie Hayley) and on rehabiliation measures for DUI offenders (chaired by Sjoerd Houwing). More initiatives are likely to follow. Members are welcome to participate in these interest groups or to suggest additional initiatives to the board. The board is very pleased with the new energy that T2019 has generated and trusts that it will become an inspiration for years to come. The board is also very grateful for the excellent work of the former working groups and will make sure that their achievements and deliverables will be acknowledged and remain accesible through our new website, launched by ICADTS Secretary Edward Ogden. [www.icadtsinternational.com]

The post-conference tour to Aurora Sky was very informative and impressive. The sheer scale of operation of this cannabis growing facility was mind-boggling. Aurora holds over 15 facilities in Canada that collectively produce 625.000 kg of cannabis per year, and the company is still expanding. Other Canadian producers of cannabis such as Canope are even bigger. This just goes to show that Canada quickly has become a world leader in the production and distribution of medicinal and recreational cannabis and that cannabis consumption has become a very successfull and commercial business model, much like alcohol and cigarettes. Novel products such as cannabis infusions in foods and beverages are expected to be released on the market soon. In this contect it is remarkable that the current wave of legalization of medical and recreational cannabis in North America has not also triggered the legalization of cannabis in academic research. Federal governments in North Amerca still impose strict regulations on cannabis research in their laboratories which hamper or delay the assessment of public health questions that arise from legalization, including studies on the impact of cannabis on driving.

# T2019 Edmonton, Alberta, Canada August 18-21, 2019

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#### **Message from the ICADTS President (cont.)**

I thoroughly enjoyed T2019. The escort of dignitaries and myself to the opening ceremony by the Edmonton Police Service Pipe Band was a pleasant surprise. The opening and closing prayers by the First Nation Elder Ron Arcand were sincere and respectful of the heritage of indigenous people around Edmonton. The personal and tragical accounts of DUI victems on behalf of MADD Canada were highly confronting, but a strong reminder of our purpose. The organisation of T2019 was smooth and flawless under the supervision of Laura Thue and her team at the City of Edmonton. Their dedication and involvement in T2019 has been exemplary and I am very grateful for the time and effort that they have spent to make this meeting a success. My thanks extend to everyone who participated in T2019. You made this a great conference for all! I look forward to meet again in the near future. Next opportunities will be regional meetings hosted in Coimba (Portugal, 2020) and Istanbul (Turkey, 2021). If you cannot attend those, make sure that we see each other again at the 23rd tri-annual meeting of ICADTS that will be hosted between 28-31 August 2022 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Kind regards to all, Jan Ramaekers, ICADTS President

# **T2019 Highlights**

The City of Edmonton, Traffic Safety Section is honored to have had the opportunity to host the 22<sup>nd</sup> ICADTS Conference in Edmonton, Canada. More than 260 speakers, delegates, exhibitors and sponsors from 29 countries participated in the meeting. We were thrilled to see many students, new scientists, and researchers from low and middle income countries among our delegates.

The theme of T2019 was "Global Action for Vision Zero." The spirit of this theme lies within the recognition that it will require a global resolve to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways and it was this theme that inspired the conference program.

T2019 kicked off on Sunday with two exceptional workshops. First was a session dedicated to our young scientists, entitled "Young and New Scientists Special Session: Promising Minds, ICADTS and the Impaired Driving Field working Together," chaired by Flavio Pechansky. Flavio opened the session where our newest and brightest young scientists heard from the current and past presidents of ICADTS, Jan Ramaekers and Kathryn Stewart respectively, as well as Hallvard Gjerde, member of the ICADTS Executive Board, and a very accomplished young scientist, Juliana Scherer. In the afternoon it was time for the new scientists to share their own research. A Scholar's luncheon was also well attended and allowed for more informal networking among the workshop participants.

A second workshop entitled "Drug Driving and the Legalization of Recreational Cannabis in Canada: the Impact on Policing, Challenges for Enforcement and What We Have Learned So Far," was very timely given the current state of affairs in Canada. Chaired by Inspector Chris Narbonne, our speakers shared insights from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) related to the legalization of cannabis and the impact on traffic safety. Traffic Safety Section's own Shewkar Ibrahim also provided an overview of Vision Zero.

With the conference fully underway, our delegates were treated to five diverse keynote speakers including Juliana Scherer (Brazil), Benacer Boulaajoul (Morocco), Robert Palser and Neil Dubord (Canada), and Johannes Ramaekers (the Netherlands), who closed out the conference. Each keynote spoke to their unique experiences and conveyed the challenges of achieving Vision Zero to our international audience.

In addition to the workshops, plenaries and working group meetings, with more than 100 oral and poster presentations, spread over 28 concurrent sessions, the conference program was rich and comprehensive. Session topics ranged from roadside drug testing, to mental health and impaired driving, cannabis and driving performance, drink driving policy and toxicology, to name just a few. The program also included two "Ask the Experts" sessions where delegates had an opportunity to direct the dialogue via their own questions to a panel of experts. Also featured were a special sessions dedicated to the E-Survey on Road User's Attitudes (ESRA), presented by VIAS and TIRF and sponsored by AAAFTS, Impaired Driving in Low and Middle Income Countries, and research from the working group, Research on Trends of Alcohol and Other Drug Involvement in Fatally Injured Drivers.



When not attending sessions our delegates were encouraged to explore the exhibit hall and visit with our many fabulous sponsors and exhibitors. There was much to be learned about the newest technologies and innovative best practices from around the world.

The conference also granted delegates time to network with fellow attendees. Delegates were treated to a Welcome Reception that included a chance to check out a few of our historical police vehicles and uniforms, illustrating the history of policing in Edmonton and among the RCMP. The gala dinner, which included the ICADTS awards ceremony, was another conference highlight. After sharing in the success of the many prestigious award winners, delegates celebrated by dancing (and singing!) the night away to the *Retrofitz* (my shoes are officially retired!). It was such a pleasure to see everyone break away from the work of the day and just have some fun. Somehow music and dance (and apparently cowboy hats) are universal.

It was years in the making, yet the conference was over in the blink of an eye. The sessions were excellent of course, but perhaps even better was the time we were able to spend with the many wonderful people who traveled to Edmonton from all across the globe. Regardless of where we call home, we are all just people trying to make our way in the world, and among the ICADTS family, part of that journey is dedicating our work to saving lives.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, thank you for the privilege of hosting T2019 in Edmonton. We hope that you all enjoyed a safe trip home and we are already looking forward to T2022!

Laura Thue, Chair, T2019 Organizing Committee

# **T2022** in Rotterdam, The Netherlands

We are very pleased to announce that the ICADTS board selected Rotterdam to host the 23rd International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety Conference (T2022). T2022 will bring together experts in alcohol, drugs and traffic safety who operate in the fields of law, law enforcement, toxicology, pharmacy, medicine, psychology, traffic safety, public health and administration. The goal of the meeting is to develop a better understanding of the current problems with identifying, educating and prosecuting drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs (licit or illicit) and to evaluate strategies to reduce driving under the influence. T2022 will be hosted by Prof dr Jan Ramaekers and Prof dr Han de Gier. In addition, the local organizing committee will include Dr. Sjoerd Houwing, Dr. Eef Theunissen, Dr. Joris Verster, Dr. Beitske Smink and Ine Buuron.

Rotterdam is a young and dynamic city with an energetic and creative mindset - a city with world class architecture, an open and cosmopolitan atmosphere and a hip & happening art festival and culinary scene. There's always something to see or do in Rotterdam, making it the perfect city to organize T2022.

# Save the Date for Coimbra, Portugal!

28 June -1 July 2020: An ICADTS Regional Conference: Alcohol and Drugs in Traffic: Commit to act for safe mobility

28 June- Pre-conference Workshop29-30 June - Conference1 July- Post-conference visit to Coimbra and Coimbra University

Stay tuned for more details.











President Jan Ramaekers with Borkenstein winners Asbjørg Christopersen from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Mary Sheehan and Barry Watson from CARRS-Q and Past President Kathryn Stewart



Haddon Award:Tara Kelley-Baker and Lindsay Arnold for the AAA Foundation, James Fell and Douglas Beirness



Widmark Award winners Mary Sheehan, Hallvard Gjerde and Richard Compton



LMIC Winners Jinky Lu, Ahsan Ul Haq Kayani and Gabriel Andreuccetti with Jan Ramaekers and Kathryn Stewart.

Below: Nevicia Case, Marcelo Rocha, Stefan Lakämper Natalie Gastin and Amie Hayley.



#### **T2019 ICADTS Awards**

One of the highlights of the triennial meetings is the presentation of awards to colleagues and organizations who have made major contributions to the field. Winners of these awards at T2019 are listed below.

#### **Borkenstein Award**

The Borkenstein Award recognizes individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to international cooperation in alcohol and drug-related traffic safety programs.

Centre for Accident Research & Road Safety - Queensland (CARRS-Q), Australia The Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway

#### The Haddon Award

The Haddon Award recognizes individuals and organizations for successfully implementing scientific based changes in public policy that reduce the effects of alcohol and drugs on traffic safety.

Douglas Beirness, Beirness and Associates, Canada James Fell, NORC, United States AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, United States

#### The Widmark Award

The Widmark Award honours those who have made an outstanding, sustained and meritorious contribution to the field that has led to international standing and respect. Candidates must have an impressive record of accomplishments that signify pre-eminence in the field.

Richard Compton, United States

Hallvard Gjerde, Oslo University Hospital, Norway

Mary Sheehan, CARRS-Q, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

# **Winners of T2019 Stipends**

The ICADTS Foundation and the City of Edmonton awarded stipends to outstanding participants from low-or middle-income countries along with promising new investigators to attend T2019 in Edmonton.

#### Low and Middle Income Country Winners:

Ahsan Ul Haq Kayani, Government of Pakistan, Pakistan Jinky Leilanie Lu, National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines Manila, Philippines Gabriel Andreuccetti, University of Sao Paulo Medical School, Brazil

#### **Young and New Researchers Winners:**

Amie Hayley, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia Stefan Lakämper, University of Zürich, Switzerland Natalie Gastin, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia Marcelo Rocha, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil Michelle Tomczak, University of Alberta, Canada Nevicia Case, McGill University, Canada

Best Working Paper by a Researcher from a Low-or Middle-Income Country: Leticia Fara, Center for Drug and Alcohol Research, Brazil

**Best Working Paper by a Young or New Researcher** Heather Woods-Fry, Traffic Injury Research Foundation, Canada

Best Poster: Matt Webster, University of Kentucky, United States

### **Upcoming Events**

DGVP und DGVM 10-12 October 2019 Bonn, Germany www.verkehr-symposium.de

63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scientific Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine 15-18 October 2019 Madrid, Spain www.aaam.org

Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board

12-16 January 2020 Washington, DC USA www.trb.org

IFDAT 2020- 10th Annual International Forum for Drug and Alcohol Testing

6-8 September 2020 Salzburg, Austria www.ifdat.com

#### T2022

28-31 August 2022 Rotterdam, The Netherlands www.t2022.org

To view past issues of the Reporter, go to http://www.icadtsinternationa l.com/pages/icadtsreporter.php



# Join the renewed ICADTS Interest Groups!

ICADTS Interest Groups are designed to provide an opportunity for individuals to work together on a particular area of interest, with a view to researching and discussing and/or preparing a report on the current status of that field of interest.

The following describes current Interest Groups in ICADTS. All groups are willing to accept new members and the contribution of time and talent to help achieve group objectives. Groups can meet to deliberate in any of a variety of ways, including email or video conferencing. Most convene during or before ICADTS or related meetings. Interest Groups can be either initiated by the ICADTS Executive Board or proposed by members and approved by the Executive Board. The board welcomes ideas for new interest groups.

#### Standardization of Reporting Alcohol and Drug Involvement in Fatal Crashes

Chair: Jim Fell (contact: <a href="mailto:fell-jim@norc.org">fell-jim@norc.org</a>)

The major aim of this interest group is to develop international guidelines on reporting drug and alcohol involvement in fatal (and serious injury) crashes so that meaningful comparisons can be made with regard to the involvement of alcohol (and in the future, other drugs) in fatal crashes. In order to determine the magnitude of the alcohol impaired driving problem, help measure the effectiveness of various impaired driving countermeasures, and to enable countries from around the world to compare their alcohol-impaired driving problem with other countries of interest, the group recommends that each country require blood alcohol concentration (BAC) testing of all passenger car and truck drivers, motorcycle operators, pedestrians, and pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes and report alcohol involvement at relevant BAC levels. The standardized reporting of impairing drugs in traffic fatalities is a future goal of this group.

#### Rehabilitation measures\

Chair: Sjoerd Houwing (contact: Sjoerd.Houwing@cbr.nl)

Rehabilitation measures vary largely in design, target groups, goals, costs, etc. There is a lack of scientific overview on existing rehabilitation measures and their effects on reducing recidivism. Moreover, there is a need for clear guidelines for policy makers, practitioners, researchers and other professionals to aid them in deciding which design would be most effective given all relevant circumstances in their specific situation. To provide these insights ICADTS started an interest group on rehabilitation measures. The main goal of this group is to write a position paper on rehabilitation measures that will provide best practice options for road safety professionals with respect to different legislative systems, target groups and budgets. Potential new members are invited to get in touch with the chair by e-mail and include a short bio.

#### **Young Investigators Network Group**

Chair: Juliana Scherer (contact: juliananscherer@gmail.com)

This group aims to foster deeper and more frequent exchanges among the new generation of alcohol, drug and traffic safety experts. Specifically, it aims to: 1) promote research conducted by early-career scientists, clinicians, policymakers, and health care professionals within ICADTS; 2) integrate the interests of young investigators within ICADTS objectives; 3) develop an online platform for networking and collaboration among international young investigators; 4) provide better opportunities for networking, mentoring and training for young investigators in the field; and 5) attract new young investigators and promote their active involvement in ICADTS. We consider Young Investigators as a researcher under the age of 40, no matter their years of experience in the field. Young Investigators from all countries are encouraged to integrate this group. Specific actions of our agenda will be developed, according to members' priorities and needs.

#### Driver state monitoring systems and road safety

Chair: Amie Hayley (contact: ahayley@swin.edu.au)

Driver state monitoring systems (DSMS) are the next generation of safety features in vehicle technology. DSMS refer to the tools that collect observable information about the human driver in order to assess driver's capability to perform the driving task in a safe manner. Developing and refining objective methods of quantifying driver state through these technologies may provide a means to detect driver impairment associated not only with drowsiness and distraction, but also other common factors such as drug and alcohol intoxication. The main goals for the special interest group are: 1) facilitate discussion on the potential of driver state monitoring systems in assessing, quantifying and predicting impaired driving; 2) support international collaboration between researchers interested in the field of driver monitoring systems to enable cross-disciplinary partnerships; 3) develop reliable catalogues as to the effect of common factors such as drug and alcohol intoxication, cognitive distraction and overall inattention on driver state, and how these can be examined using emergent driver monitoring objective technologies; and 4) provide international leadership in developing standards and procedures relating to the reliable and translational dissemination of research related to driver state monitoring and road safety.



In this and future editions of the *ICADTS Reporter* we will feature brief articles by Young Researcher stipend winners and winners from Low and Middle Income Countries.

#### Stephan Lakämper, Switzerland

When I switched fields to establishing a research unit in Traffic Medicine in 2017, one of my first clear milestones was to submit and present efforts so far at the ICADTS 2019 in Edmonton. If not to already present data - somewhat naïvely, we had hoped for that at that point – this meeting would certainly offer the possibility to put our thoughts and projects to the test in a welcoming and supportive environment. Therefore, I was very excited and happy to have had two abstracts and one working paper accepted for presentation or publication, respectively. The surprising news to have received a very generous Young Investigators Stipend from the City of Edmonton definitely crowned this two-year project and boosted the motivation for writing - yet another - round of grant applications between the news and the actual conference.

My welcome in the community could not have been any warmer! Starting from the wonderful Scholars Lunch, via very constructive discussions during and after the sessions, and a great gala dinner, I did receive a lot of supportive and motivating feedback on the way, displaying genuine interest in our simulation-based clinical study on Cannabidiol and Driving. Coming back with the feeling that "we are on the right track", I feel positively obliged to "deliver" and present data on this project at the next ICADTS, 2022 in Rotterdam. At that point, I might also follow the enthusiastic invitation to the young colleagues to participate actively in current and/or future interest groups.

I come from Biophyics and Cell Biology, with super large-scale conferences, where it is often difficult to find time and contact colleagues to advance ideas. ICADTS 2019 showed the opposite: it is impressive and energizing to see, how agile and accessible the international community is. I am very grateful for this experience and happy to grow into being part of it.

#### Amie Haley, Australia

I am an NHMRC Early Career Research Fellow at the Centre for Human Psychopharmacology at Swinburne University of Technology, Australia. My research focuses on elucidating the neural, biological and neurocognitive processes that underlie performance degradation related to psychoactive substance usage. I am particularly interested in examining novel ways to monitor and detect impaired driving. At present, I am examining the appropriateness of objective eye-tracking technology to assess driving impairment in acutely drug-affected drivers. I also lead a collaborative research stream aimed at examining the acute and residual effects of common anaesthetic and sedating medications to inform postoperative driving abstinence protocols.

My time at T2019 in Edmonton was informative, rewarding, and extremely productive. During this meeting, I presented the results of two original research programs. The first of my two presentations, entitled 'Risky driving practices among stimulant drug users; the role of aggression', was invited as part of the new and young investigators special session. This invitation was a fantastic opportunity to meet with influential upcoming researchers in the field of drug driving research and road trauma prevention. My second presentation, 'Analgesic doses of ketamine with dexmedetomidine but not fentanyl produce postoperative driving impairment equivalent to a BAC of 0.05%' disseminated key findings from my ongoing collaborative partnerships in primary healthcare.

During the T2019 meeting, I reconnected with colleagues and peers whom I first met during the T2016 meeting, and developed new connections with both young and senior investigators from around the world. Most notably, during this meeting, I initiated (and was appointed president) of the new special interest group for those working in the field of 'Driver Monitoring' research.

I am extremely grateful to the continued support and mentorship from both the ICADTS board members and the wider ICADTS community, and am looking forward to the T2022 in Rotterdam.













# Gabriel Andreuccetti, University of Sao Paulo Medical School, Brazil

Participating in T2019 gave me the perception that the field of forensic toxicology applied to relevant public health issues such as impaired driving has greatly progressed over this decade, and there is much more to come. Moreover, I was particularly impressed by the high quality of the forensic work presented by a varied public of scientists from all over the world. The great advantage of forming a diverse community of scientists tackling the same issue is that every member competes to give a more rapid and effective answer to the problem in question, thus favoring the scientific development and the society as a whole, which I believe was exactly the case of this last August in Edmonton, Canada.

I am sure the size of the challenge ahead represented by the harmful consequences of alcohol and other drug use in our roads will demand this kind of "effervescent" gathering among scientists and practitioners, and I was glad to be a member of ICADTS participating in my third consecutive meeting. I could not think in a better discussion platform to debate drugged driving than being in Canada, one of the first countries in the world to fully legalize recreational cannabis, hearing from local specialists and police authorities who gave a detailed testimony of this singular moment in history.

I am also grateful that I was able to share my work representing the enormous social burden that impaired driving has caused in low- to middle-income countries such as Brazil, especially regarding the issues that police enforcement has faced to enhance the deterrence effect of laws for substance use among drivers. Finally, I am hopeful that the efforts maintained by institutions like ICADTS will continue in the direction of nurturing this kind of environment that we all participated in T2019, so we can also celebrate safer roads for all eventually.

# **Prevention Activities in Portugal**

ICADTS has a strong goal: to reduce mortality and morbidity due to misuse of alcohol and drugs by vehicle operators in all modes of transport (including pedestrians). Recent activities in Portugal were led by an ICADTS Board Member, Fátima Pereira da Silva. She has won the Entrepreneurship Award from the International Association of Entrepreneurial Women Europe / Africa, as well as the Citizenship Award at the Alcoa Newspaper in the Alcoa Golden Gala (Alcobaça / Portugal), For the past five years she has been developing an awareness program for young people. The program is carried out in cooperation with InOutCister, and a multidisciplinary team and public and private entities and focuses on the dangers of alcohol / drugs and driving, especially in party contexts (university parties and others). More than 4000 young people have been involved. The program recently included two major events, with partners that value safety in all forms of mobility: 1) "Welcome Spring-- Vespista Day 2019" – 23/24 h March 2019 (Viseu) in partnership with Vespa Clube Portugal; and 2)- Popular Festivities (Santos Populares) in partnership with UFAV (Parish Council Union of Alcobaça and Vestiaria) on June 21/22 h 2019 in Alcobaça / Vestiaria.

A survey of participants at the second event included 116 respondents who answered the questionnaire and performed an alcohol test yielded the following findings: 95 (81.9%) were men and 21 (18%) were women. Respondents were mostly from 18 to 24 years old, followed by people from 36 to 45 years old. The mean blood alcohol value (BAC) was 0.526 g/l, with a a maximum of 2.05 g/l. Most participants, although showing alcohol content, weren't driving to the party. Many of the participants praised the initiative with 99% saying they were very satisfied with the action and 98% rated the action as very important.

The findings emphasize the importance of carrying out actions of this nature. Leisure and social contexts are of paramount importance for raising awareness of the dangers of alcohol / drugs and mobility including among pedestrians.

#### **ICADTS Joins Road to Zero Coalition**

ICADTS has joined the Road to Zero Coalition hosted by the National Safety Council in the United States. The coalition will focus on examining and promoting behavior-change strategies and develop a strategic plan for self-driving cars and human-vehicle-roadway communications. ICADTS joins over 400 organizations in the coalition.