



REPORTER

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

Message from the ICADTS President

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On September 1, 2021, ICADTS held their second Virtual Symposium on the topic of the “Effects of COVID-19 on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety.” The symposium had three presentations from the United States (US) and one each from Germany, Australia and Brazil. I know many of you attended that symposium and since then we have learned more about the effects the pandemic had on traffic safety. For example, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety (AAAFTS) in the US conducted a survey in the Fall of 2020 and published the results in February 2022 in a Research Brief entitled: “Self-Reported Risky Driving in Relation to Changes in the Amount of Driving During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Among other results, only 4% of drivers in the US reported that they increased their driving during the pandemic. But that small group of drivers tended to be young males who reported engaging in a wide variety of risky driving behaviors including substance-impaired driving, distracted driving, speeding, seat-belt non-use and aggressive driving. That group of drivers certainly contributed to the increase in traffic fatalities in the US from 36,355 in 2019 to 38,824 in 2020, a 7% increase. We will learn much more about the effects of the pandemic in the US and other countries at our 23rd Conference of the International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety (ICATS) in Rotterdam, The Netherlands on August 28-31, 2022 (www.T2022.org). I hope you all will join us there.

At that symposium, I had the privilege to give my first speech as ICADTS President to the attendees. In case you missed it (or forgot it already!), here it is:

“It is an honor and a privilege to serve as ICADTS President for the next three years. First, I want to thank Jan Ramaekers for the outstanding job he has done for the Council as President over the past 3 years. He experienced numerous barriers over his tenure, not the least of which is the world-wide pandemic we are still going through. We just hope we can be close to normal by August of 2022 for our 23rd International Conference (T2022) in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and organized by Jan himself. Jan, you are going to be a tough act to follow!

I have three goals for my term as President and I will need all members help to achieve them. These are not necessarily new but are important.

GOAL #1: We are the INTERNATIONAL Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety, with the emphasis on INTERNATIONAL. I want to continue our efforts to interest and recruit members from all over the World. We are very much a North American Council, but we are making progress with members joining from Europe, Australia and some low - and middle - income countries (LMICs). But not enough. If you have contacts in other countries with potential as ICADTS Members, please recruit them and refer them to the ICADTS website: www.icadtsinternational.com.

GOAL #2: When it is safe, I would like to see at least one SYMPOSIUM a year at an other-than-North-American site and hopefully at a LMIC site on a timely ICADTS subject. Going three years without meeting is too long a time. And speaking of three years, we still do not have a location for T2025. (However, we have a very viable candidate as we go to press).

GOAL #3: I would like to see ICADTS become a leader by taking positions or recommending policies on various alcohol, drugs and traffic safety issues. We have the foremost experts in the world on these issues and we should pass that expertise on to countries and officials who would very much appreciate our positions or policies on a number of issues. We have that expertise and I believe we should disseminate it where it is wanted and needed.

www.icadtsinternational.com

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.

Message from the ICADTS President (cont.)

So, if you are not an ICADTS Member, please consider joining. If you are a member and are interested in recruiting other members, especially from LMICs, or hosting a symposium, or writing an expert position or policy on an issue, please contact me and let me know. I look forward to working with you over the next three years. Thank you.”

James C. Fell, ICADTS President

T2022 UPDATES

Dear colleagues,

Here are some exciting updates on the 23rd **International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety (ICADTS) Conference** (<https://t2022.org/>).

Meet another one of our exciting Keynote speakers, Dr Jodie Gilman!

Watch this interview by Frederick Vinckenbosch with Keynote speaker Dr Jodi Gilman, where they discuss current challenges in determining impairment in drivers that tested positive for cannabis use.

Jodie Gilman is an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School and the Director of Neuroscience at the Center for Addiction Medicine.

<https://t2022.org/meet-our-speakers/>

Register by 30 June and save on your registration fee!

Be sure to secure your spot at the lower Early-bird price and register by 30 June! For a full listing of registration fees and deadlines and to register today, visit <https://t2022.org/registration/>

The final programme is almost ready

The Local Organising Committee has been busy this month reviewing all the abstracts that were submitted in early April. Stay tuned – the complete programme will be revealed shortly!

View the preliminary programme here: <https://t2022.org/program/>

Social excursion: Discover Pittoresque Delfshaven

Delfshaven is a special Rotterdam heritage area with old Dutch facades lining the canal. It is a charming and interesting neighbourhood with its layered stories, from the Pilgrim fathers and historical wealth to today’s multicultural diversity. Its corridor layout with bridges crossing the canal forms the perfect stage for an informal and extraordinary ICADTS T2022 networking afternoon. A very complete Discover Delfshaven excursion will top off your Rotterdam ICADTS T2022! For more info see: <https://t2022.org/social-program/>

Thank you

A big thank you to our Supporting Institutes sponsors and endorsing partners. We could not be organising this event without your generous support. For a complete list, click here (<https://t2022.org/sponsors-and-partners-icadts/>)



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FUTURE ICADTS CONFERENCES

We have all seen over the past two and a half years how uncertain life can be. The organizers of T2022 are moving forward with confidence that we can once again meet with new colleagues and old friends in person (not just on Zoom!). These personal interactions are such an important part of any conference. Often the conversations we have during coffee breaks lead to the most innovative ideas and valuable partnerships.

With these thoughts in mind, ICADTS is looking to the future of our international meetings. We have a possible venue for T2025 (which will arrive sooner than you expect!), but the ICADTS Executive Board is soliciting proposals to host meetings in the next few years.

In addition to our major conferences every three years, we have enriched the exchange of ideas and partnerships through more frequent regional meetings. These meetings tend to be smaller and sometimes focus on a particular theme or interest. We want to encourage any institute or agency with an interest in hosting such a meeting to contact us.

As an international organization, we try to spread our meetings with wide geographic reach. In recent years we have had meetings in North America, South America, Australia and various European countries. This geographic diversity allows for easier travel for people from that region as well as imparting a local flavor to both the scientific and social aspects of the meeting. We hope that members from countries and regions all over the world will be willing and able to invite your ICADTS colleagues to conferences in your local area.

We look forward to seeing you in Rotterdam in August and hope that you will contact us, either there or by email, to discuss possibly hosting a meeting in the next few years.

Jim Fell, ICADTS President
Flavio Pechansky, ICADTS President-elect

LOSS OF TWO DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

We were saddened to learn of the recent deaths of two valuable colleagues and good friends, Robert Mann and Andrew Murie. Descriptions of their careers and contributions appear below.

Robert Mann – 1952-2022

Dr. Robert Mann joined the Addiction Research Foundation (ARF) in 1980. He was appointed as Scientist in 1985 and has served as Senior Scientist since 1994 at ARF, which later became the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) upon its amalgamation with other institutions in 1998. Dr. Mann's world renowned and impactful research on impaired driving began over forty years ago with laboratory studies of the development of behavioural tolerance to alcohol on psychomotor tasks and impaired memory in young male social drinkers. His contributions to the field of impaired driving, traffic safety, and affective states impacting collision risk and injury, are vast and numerous, including sought-after evidence and expertise informing the legal limits for alcohol- and cannabis-impaired driving; the evaluation of impaired driving policies; the development and evaluation of educational and rehabilitative programs including Back on Track, which is Ontario's remedial measures program for impaired drivers; the establishment of Canada's leading driving simulation laboratory at CAMH; and co-lead of one of Canada's first clinical trials examining the effects of cannabis on simulated driver behaviour. Dr. Mann's research has resulted in over 325 publications in peer-reviewed journals. He worked closely with government and community groups on impaired driving issues for many years, including the American Medical Association and the World Health Organization, and served as Chair of MADD Canada's National Board of Directors (2011-2013). He was the recipient of several prestigious awards for his contributions to impaired driving research, including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, MADD Canada's Citizen of Distinction Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals.

Dr. Mann taught numerous courses on addictions and mental health and served as supervisor to many trainees. As many of his trainees and colleagues can attest, Dr. Mann was an extraordinary mentor, providing valuable support and guidance. A humble and kind person, he always put others before himself. He leaves behind numerous trainees and scholars who benefited from his generous encouragement and support.



Andrew Murie – 1955-2022

Andrew Murie was the Chief Executive Officer of MADD Canada for 25 years. He was widely respected as a leading voice in the fight against impaired driving both in Canada and internationally. His leadership has been key to MADD Canada's many milestones and achievements to reduce the incidence of death and injury on Canada's roads. When progress was stalled, he called on those who could help to get it back on track in a manner that was positive and insightful. He understood the value of collaboration in delivering on our mission.

Andy's direction ensured that MADD Canada's mission to eliminate impaired driving and to support victims and survivors of this crime remained front and centre among researchers, governments, policymakers, scientists, lawyers, automobile makers and innovators, advocates, sponsors and indeed all Canadians. He is remembered especially for his work to reach our youngest and most vulnerable new drivers with the creation of MADD Canada's school education programs, which are now a regular rite of passage for youth.

Andy was a strong and pragmatic leader whose straight-forward approach supported the great passion he had for this cause and the people affected by it. In his role as CEO he personally helped countless individuals during some of the darkest moments of their lives.

He will be dearly missed by all within MADD Canada and the broader community of individuals working to prevent needless and avoidable injury and death on Canada's roads.

FINAL REPORT ON PROJECT IN MALAWI

A new report has been released on the project partially supported by ICADTS, "Road Traffic Injuries in Malawi: With Special Focus on the Role of Alcohol", funded by ICADTS and the World Bank/Global Road Safety Facility/UKaid. This project could not have been completed without the dedicated work of colleagues in Norway. The report was written by Asbjørg S. Christophersen and Elin H. Wyller from the Department of Global Health, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Stig Tore Bogstrand and Hallvard Gjerde from the Section of Drug Abuse Research, Oslo University Hospital, and Mads Sundet from the Department of Surgery, Diakonhjemmet Hospital in Oslo, Norway.

The results of the study show a rather high prevalence of alcohol use among several injured road user groups, particularly among those injured during weekend nights and evenings, but also during weekday evenings. It was estimated that about 15 percent of injured motor vehicle drivers and riders had BACs above the legal limit at the time of the crash. The findings also show that it is important to focus on bus/minibus/lorry drivers who often carry passengers, where about one of five tested positive for alcohol. It is worth noting that pedestrians had the highest prevalence of alcohol use before being injured. They constitute a vulnerable group; they often walk in the dark with no road lighting, no pavements, walkways or safe places to cross the road. Combined with alcohol use their injury risk is even higher.

The following actions are recommended in the report: 1. Malawi has a high BAC legal limit (0.08g/dl). Authorities should consider lowering the BAC legal limit to 0.05% in accordance with recommendations from WHO, like most European countries, Canada and other countries have done, as well as the state of Utah in the USA. Any changes must be followed by sustained and widely disseminated information and educational campaigns. 2. The findings show that approximately one out of five commercial drivers, particularly drivers carrying passengers, were involved in alcohol related crashes. For this group, a lower legal BAC limit should be considered. A lower BAC limit for commercial drivers has been implemented in many countries. 3. The Malawi Road Traffic Offences and Penalties for driving a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs needs to be enforced. To ensure such enforcement, adequate resources need to be allocated to traffic police. 4. Findings from map registrations showed that many RTCs were recorded in clusters, which varied for the different road user groups. Safety improvement of those areas should therefore be prioritized. 5. The police should focus their controls on time periods with high frequency of alcohol related crashes, primarily weekend nights but also weekday nights. In order to do so, the police must be provided with the necessary testing equipment. 6. Reflective gear for pedestrians should be recommended and provided, as well as installment of road lighting, speed calming measures, and safer pedestrian crossings. 7. The data from this study should be disseminated, shared and discussed by stakeholders in Malawi from the different sectors: health, transport, police and education. 8. It is important information and educational campaign on alcohol use as an important risk factor for road traffic safety.



Upcoming Events

Research Society on Alcoholism
45th Annual Scientific Meeting
June 25-29, 2022
Orlando, Florida USA
www.rsoa.org

T2022
28-31 August 2022
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
www.t2022.org

Alcohol Policy 19
Evidence to Action: Building a Framework for Change
September 14-16, 2022
Arlington, Virginia USA
www.alcoholpolicy.org

IFDAT 2022
18-20 September 2022
Saltzburg, Austria
<https://ifdat.com/>

Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine
66th Annual Conference
October 11-14, 2022
Portland, Oregon USA
www.aaam.org



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<http://www.icadtsinternational.com/pages/icadts-reporter.php>



9. In addition, corruption must be avoided and replaced with a Culture of Road Safety that joins forces across sectors to combat drunk driving and injurious and fatal RTCs.

Based on a recent article in the newspaper “Nation”, published in the capital Lilongwe, it seems that several of the recommendation points have been implemented: The Police have recently received several new breathalyzers, they have increased their controls on the roads, especially at times when a lot of alcohol related traffic crashes have been documented; weekend nights and weekday nights, with reference to results from our project. In addition, fines have been increased significantly, towards monthly salary for some people, which is also according to the recommendations.

In addition, the Media has started to inform about the use of alcohol in road traffic as an important risk factor, which is also according to the recommendation.

To read the full report, go to

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/551881622620798593/pdf/Road-Traffic-Injuries-in-Malawi-With-Special-Focus-on-the-Role-of-Alcohol.pdf>

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD SUMMER MEETING

There will be a mid-year meeting sponsored by the TRB Committee on Impairment and Transportation on the theme Novel Methods for Assessing the Prevalence of Drugged Driving, July 19th – July 20th at the Keck Center of the National Academies of Science, Washington, DC. For more information, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VSWH2WB>



2022
Salzburg, Austria
September 18th - 20th

IFDAT 2022 - 11th Annual International Forum for Drug and Alcohol Testing Conference

In 2022, Salzburg, Austria – the City of Mozart, the shooting location for The Sound of Music, the epitome of picture-book Austria – will host the 11th Annual International Forum for Drug and Alcohol Testing (IFDAT). The city will act as the historical backdrop for this meeting of experts, stakeholders, authorities, and pundits to discuss the issues and potential solutions in workplace drug and alcohol testing.



Fortress, palaces, churches, parks, museums, and a breathtaking panorama – the beauty of Salzburg has many different faces. Immerse yourself in the city's rich history as you get to know this internationally acclaimed UNESCO World Heritage-listed place from its most charming, historical, and cultural side!

The conference will be held at the Imlauer Hotel Pitter in the heart of Salzburg, within walking distance of

many renowned sites. The 4-star superior hotel combines all the amenities of a grand hotel with modern technology and flexible service.

Our social program will include dinner in Europe's oldest restaurant, a chance to explore Hohensalzburg Fortress, a visit to the mysterious caverns of the 500-year old Berchtesgaden Salt Mine, a golf competition on Sunday for a small group of players.