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

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WWW.ICADTS.ORG

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.

LETTER FROM THE ICADTS PRESIDENT: WOLF NICKEL

Dear ICADTS members,

I would like to begin my letter with a quotation from the ICADTS Constitution: *"The purposes and functions of ICADTS are: (1) to sponsor the International Conference approximately every three years "Sponsoring" implies active soliciting, reviewing, and accepting invitations as well as participating in the formulation of the scientific programs; (2) to provide continuity in the collection and, dissemination of essential information in the field of alcohol, other drugs and traffic safety on a global basis; and, (3) to recognize exceptional contributions to the field of alcohol, other drugs and traffic safety, through the Widmark Award."*

Many participants of the past conference in Oslo, Norway, approached me to congratulate ICADTS and the host organizers on a successful international meeting. With this conference the three above mentioned purposes and functions of ICADTS have been achieved: the structure and content of the scientific program was influenced by ICADTS members to a large degree, the dissemination of essential information on a global basis by means of oral and poster presentations was achieved and exceptional contributions to our field were recognized through the Widmark Award.

Prior to the conference the ICADTS Executive Board met to discuss a variety of topics. At this meeting, the Board installed a strategic planning group with the main goal of renewal and modernization of ICADTS and to present a proposal on refurbishing our guidelines and rules in order to facilitate and streamline processes in international communication. ICADTS needs new approaches to increase its attractiveness for new members from around the world, in particular from developing and transitional countries.

Once again I would like to encourage you to participate in this process. I ask that you take a minute and let me know your thoughts/suggestions on how to initiate change for the sake of fulfilling the above mentioned ICADTS goals. ■

T2010 BRINGS TOGETHER DELEGATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD FOR THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ICADTS

The triennial ICADTS conference took place in Oslo, Norway in August, bringing together delegates from 44 countries. A diverse program was presented, including a special session from low and middle income countries sponsored in part by the ICADTS Foundation. In addition to an outstanding scientific program, delegates were given the opportunity to experience the warm hospitality and beauty of Oslo. The organizers from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, and in particular Asbjørg Christophersen, along with the Scientific Program Committee are to be commended for this memorable and valuable conference. Abstracts of papers presented at the conference are available at www.icadts.org. ■

WIDMARK AWARDS PRESENTED IN OSLO

As part of the T2010 conference, ICADTS presented its highest award for outstanding, sustained and meritorious contribution to the field of alcohol, drugs and traffic safety, to two individuals and one institution. Individual awardees were Evelyn Vingilis from the University of Western Ontario, Canada, and Johan de Gier, (Past President of ICADTS) from the Netherlands. The Institutional award was given to the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety- Queensland (CARRS-Q) in Australia. ■

MEETINGS OF ICADTS EXECUTIVE BOARD AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Meetings of the ICADTS Executive Board and the general membership were held as part of the conference in Oslo. A variety of topics were discussed, including ways of facilitating expanding ICADTS membership through making the application process easier and offering reduced dues to members from low and middle income countries. In addition, a motion was carried to change the name of the ICADTS Presidential Award to the ICADTS Borkenstein Award, to honor Robert Borkenstein, one of the founders of ICADTS.

A topic discussed at the General Membership meeting was the need to post all proceedings from ICADTS meetings on the ICADTS website. In order to do so, additional copies of early proceedings must be located so that they can be scanned and posted electronically. ■

LOOKING BACK AND INTO THE FUTURE: 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ICADTS

At the Oslo conference, ICADTS President Wolf Nickel gave an address entitled “ICADTS - Looking back and into the future.” In it, he recounted the founding of ICADTS in 1950 and highlighted the key role played by Robert Borkenstein in establishing and sustaining the organization through its early years. He also described Borkenstein’s wider contribution to the field in inventing the Breathalyzer and carrying out the Grand Rapids study measuring the relative crash risk of alcohol impaired drivers. The address went on to describe the evolution of ICADTS from an “International Committee” to an “International Council” with wider membership and a written constitution. The organization has sponsored 18 international meetings in venues around the world, as well as co-sponsoring numerous other conferences and symposia on related topics. The institution of working groups on key issues has further expanded the contribution of ICADTS to the safety field. More recent efforts to support the involvement of young scientists and colleagues from low and middle income countries have also expanded the reach of the organization. President Nickel set as a goal for the future to increase membership further and to enhance cooperation and coordination with other organizations in the traffic safety field. He concluded by saying that “. . . ICADTS will stay on the road to success.” ■

PARTICIPATION IN T2010

By Renata Torquato

I am a master student in traffic psychology in Brazil and I won the stipend to attend the ICADTS conference in Oslo this year. There are few scientific events about traffic safety in Brazil, especially concerning drunk/drug driving. In the meeting I had the opportunity to be familiar with research from other countries and learn from their methods and results. The conference was an important way for me to establish contact and partnerships with international researchers. I could talk with researchers from all over the world and hope to keep contact with them to develop projects or do cross culture comparisons in the future.

Since 2008, Brazil has adopted zero tolerance policy regarding drink and driving but low levels of enforcement and poor awareness of risk, contribute to increase the mortality rates of drunken driving accidents. Another problem is that, in Brazil, drink and driving is socially acceptable. A big effort need to be done to change this culture. Increase enforcement and more expensive fees to those who break the law are the ways to start this change. I think that it is required to have a new culture concerning traffic safety research in Brazil and I hope to be part of this. If I can contribute or help in any way with ICADTS in my country, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Thank you very much for this wonderful opportunity and hope to see you in the near future! ■



ICADTS FOUNDATION AWARDS STIPENDS

The ICADTS Foundation funded stipends to bring young scientists and scientists from developing and transitional countries to Oslo for T2010. The program in Oslo was much enriched by the contributions of these new attendees. We hope to highlight the work of these scientists in upcoming newsletters and further expand participation in ICADTS over the coming years. A brief report from one of the awardees appears below.

Awardees from developing and transitional countries included: Renata Torquato from Brazil, Ajmal Ichoso from Pakistan, and Khaled Mohamed from Egypt. Young scientist awardees included Tanya Smyth from Australia, Saji Saraswathy Gopalan from India, and Monique Mets from the Netherlands. ■



From left to right: Ajmal Ichoso, Khaled Mohamed, Tanya Smyth, Monique Mes, Renata Torquato, Sara Gopalan.

UPDATE ON ICADTS WORKING GROUPS

Paul Marques, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

At the recent meeting of the ICADTS Board in Oslo, it was generally agreed that it would be useful for us to summarize the nature and purpose of the current ICADTS Working Groups. Accordingly, this summary is provided with the hope that it may inspire some to join one of our existing Working Groups, or perhaps to propose a new one if there is an important topic that appears to need attention.

The following describes a little bit about Working Groups in general, followed by the title and goal statements of the currently active groups. Most groups are willing to accept new members for participation 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 however, convene during or before ICADTS or related meetings when a Working Group chair or co-chair is present.

Working Groups: What they are and how are they Formed?

Working Groups can be either initiated by the ICADTS Executive Board, or be a membership-initiated activity that is proposed to and approved by the Executive Board. The activity usually addresses a specific topic that is deemed of sufficient importance to warrant the time and attention of our membership. Most topical areas are timely and have a broad relevance that transcends national borders. Expertise may be drawn from either within or outside of ICADTS in an effort to accomplish the groups' missions.

A typical Working Group is suggested around a specific topic. Members with the desire to move the topic forward are usually designated the chair and/or co-chair, and the prospective group proposes to summarize its findings and then issue a written report to the Board. After a period of study, discussion, and the development of a draft, a Working Group Report is prepared. The Report, once accepted by the Executive Board becomes part of the document archive that ICADTS posts on its website and makes freely available to everyone. The Report is often preceded or followed by a special symposium or workshop at an ICADTS triennial Meeting. After a report is written and accepted, either the Working Group proposes a follow-on activity in order to renew the sequence of study and report, or alternatively after a certain period of inactivity, and with the agreement of Working Group chair and co-chair, the ICADTS Executive Board will vote that the Working Group has completed its work and should be phased out. No Working Group is expected to go on forever.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5-7, 2010

Alcohol Policy XV
Washington Marriott Wardman
Park, Washington, D.C.
<http://www.silvergategroup.com/ap15/>

January 23-27, 2011

89th Annual Meeting of the U.S.
Transportation Research Board
Washington, D.C., USA
Visit www.trb.org/trb/meeting for
meeting info.

March 27-29, 2011

Lifesavers Conference
Phoenix, AZ, USA
More information at
www.lifesaversconference.org

April 7-8, 2011

5th Fit to Drive Congress,
Steigenberger Kurhaus Hotel, The
Hague / Scheveningen.
The congress will be organised by
the Association of the TÜV
(VdTÜV) in cooperation with
SWOV (Institute for Road Safety
Research) und CBR (Centraal
Bureau Rijvaardigheidsbewijzen).
Details about the programme, the
speakers and organisation can be
found at the web page www.fit-to-drive.com.

May 8-11, 2011

Canadian Multi-Disciplinary Road
Safety Conference
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
The call for papers has been
issued. See: www.cmrcsxxi.ca

UPDATE ON ICADTS WORKING GROUPS (CONT.)

It is hoped and expected that as new topics become important to the international alcohol, drugs and traffic safety community, the ICADTS membership will propose new Groups. Listed below are the seven working groups currently active in 2010.

Illegal drugs and driving

J.Michael Walsh (jmwalsh@walshgroup.org), chair., Steven W. Gust, co-chair

Goal: To identify what is known about the scope of the problem of drugs and driving, to provide a discussion of the current status of political, legislative, and law enforcement efforts, and to make recommendations for new strategic initiatives and future research.

Alcohol Ignition Interlocks

Paul Marques (marques@pire.org), chair, Bob Voas (voas@pire.org), co-chair.

Goal: To contribute expertise to help guide new interlock legislation, to improve existing interlock programs and policies, and to advance interlock research.

Alcohol Biomarkers

Christine Moore (cmoore@immunalysis.com), Paul Marques (marques@pire.org), (co-chairs)

Goal: To examine the safety benefits of more widespread use of alcohol biomarkers, to build the basis for common standards and cut-offs, to develop guidelines for end users on how to collect/measure specimens, and how to interpret evidence from biomarkers to identify alcohol risk among drivers.

Prescribing Guidelines for Medicinal Drugs and Driving

J.J. de Gier (degiercs@worldaccess.nl), J. Alvarez (alvarez@med.uva.es), (co-chairs)

Goal: To provide guidelines for safe prescribing and dispensing of medicinal drugs to patients who drive, especially in coordination with DRUID.

Clinical Signs of Impairment for Drugs Other than Alcohol

Charles Mercier-Guyon (cermtcmg@wanadoo.fr), (chair)

Goal: To establish guidelines for the scientific study of the effects of illicit drugs on driving performance and to investigate the development, evaluation, and use of clinical impairment tests. Issues that must be considered include the diversity and changing popularity of these drugs and the inability to administer some drugs to human subjects under controlled conditions.

Young Drivers

Andrew Murie, (amurie@madd.ca), chair

Goal: New committee, goal statement not provided as yet.

Standardization of Reporting Alcohol Involvement in Fatal Crashes

Jim Fell (fell@pire.org), chair, Richard Compton (rcompton@nhtsa.dot.org), (co-chair)

Goal: Develop international guidelines on reporting alcohol involvement in fatal (and serious injury) crashes so that meaningful comparisons can be made with regard to the involvement of alcohol in crashes.

This working group recently issued the following recommendation: In order to determine the magnitude of the alcohol impaired driving problem, help measure the effectiveness of various countermeasures, and to enable countries from around the world to compare their impaired driving problem with other countries of interest, the International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety (ICADTS) recommends that each country require blood alcohol concentration (BAC) testing of all drivers killed in traffic crashes. The goal for each country should be to test 80% or more of fatally injured drivers for BAC. Furthermore, ICADTS recommends in future conferences that authors of research on trends or evaluations present the percent of drivers killed in traffic crashes tested for BAC (e.g. 85%), and then the percent of those tested for alcohol that had positive BACs (i.e. ≥ 0.02 g/dL) and had BACs greater than or equal to their country's illegal limit for driving (e.g. ≥ 0.05 g/dL). ■

11TH INTERLOCK SYMPOSIUM TAKES PLACE IN CANADA, CREATES NEW AWARD IN HONOR OF BARRY SWEEDLER

The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) hosted the 11th Annual International Alcohol Interlock Symposium in Montebello, Quebec, Canada. Representatives from 17 countries attended the two-day event, which included presentations and discussion groups on a range of topics related to the effectiveness and implementation of ignition interlock programs. TIRF and the symposium sponsors announced the creation of a stipend award in honor of former ICADTS President Barry Sweedler, who died last year. The award will be for a new attendee to the symposium each year and is in recognition of Barry's efforts to nurture and facilitate the inclusion of new participants in the field. ■

CURRENT USE OF INTERLOCKS IN U.S.

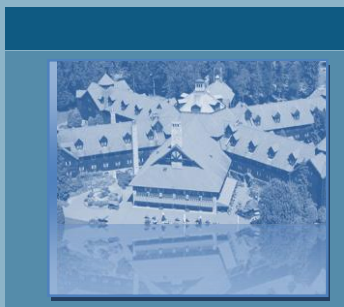
A recent report of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) indicates that the total number of currently installed interlocks in the US is approximately 212,000 based on confidential data supplied by 14 interlock distributors and 42 independent state estimates. That is up 18% from last year's estimate of 180,000. There are approximately 1,400,000 drunk driving arrests each year in the US. That means that about 15% of those arrested for drunk driving actually install interlocks. New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, and Washington have the highest number of installed interlocks per capita in the U.S. For more information, contact the study author, Richard Roth at RichardRoth2300@msn.com. ■

FINNISH STUDY PREDICTS DUI RECIDIVISM USING BIOMARKERS

A recent study in Finland examined the use of alcohol biomarkers, CDT, GGT, and γ -CDT index, along with previous drunken driving to predict DUI recidivism. Subjects included drivers who were positive for alcohol in random breath testing (RBT) surveys as well as drivers who were apprehended during ordinary enforcement efforts. The study found that the combination of GGT and CDT, γ -CDT index predicted DUI recidivism in the group of RBT drivers. One third of random breath tested drivers re-offended at least once during the following ten years. The risk of DUI recidivism was six times higher for drivers tested during a Tuesday afternoon survey as compared to surveys done on Saturday mornings and nights. Random breath tested drivers with a BAC greater than 0.127% were at higher risk of recidivism than drivers with lower BACs. The drivers detected randomly were similar to the drivers arrested as the result of enforcement efforts in terms of previous drunken driving or level of γ -CDT. The apprehended drivers, however, did not show a significant relationship between γ -CDT and recidivism. The authors concluded that the two groups of drivers represented different populations of drunken drivers. They also concluded that the biomarkers were useful predictors of recidivism and would be good tools for physicians to use with patients.

Source: M. Portman, A. Penttilä, J. Haukka, P. Eriksson, H. Alho, and K. Kuoppasalmi, Predicting DUI recidivism of male drunken driving: A prospective study of the impact of alcohol markers and previous drunken driving. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 106 (2010), 186-192. ■

As we have previously announced, this will be your last paper edition of the newsletter, unless you specifically request one. Send your email to jcannady@pire.org to be added to either our electronic or paper edition mailing list. You can always view *The Reporter* on the ICADTS website: www.icadts.org.



To view past issues of the REPORTER, please visit: <http://www.icadts.nl/reporter/reporter.html>

ICADTS REMEMBERS

Two long-standing and distinguished members of ICADTS, both of whom were Widmark Laureates, namely Professor Leonard Goldberg (1911-2010) and Dr. John DJ Havard (1924-2010), died earlier this year just a few months apart.



**Prof. Leonard
Goldberg**

Professor Leonard Goldberg MD, PhD

Leonard Goldberg was qualified in medicine and science (MD, PhD). He became Professor of Pharmacology at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm before being appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department of Alcohol Research.

Leonard Goldberg was one of the founding fathers of ICADTS and served as vice-president of ICADTS for many years. In recognition of his many contributions to knowledge about alcohol, drugs and driving he received the Widmark award in 1969. He was actively involved in organizing three ICADTS meetings; Stockholm 1950, 1980 and 2000 and he edited the three volume proceedings from the 1980 ICADTS meeting.

During his career, Leonard Goldberg made many important contributions to alcohol research, especially the effects of this drug on performance and behaviour and the role played by alcohol and other drugs in road-traffic crashes. He was the author or co-author of about 250 scientific papers, the first of which was published in 1933 and the last in 2007, a span of 74 y, which might be something for the Guinness Book of Records. These publications dealt with various aspects of the pharmacology, physiology and toxicology of alcohol.

He played a leading role in several Swedish Government Committees charged with reviewing the situation regarding drunken driving in Sweden. In particular, he was influential on the committee that recommended the introduction of evidential breath-alcohol testing in Sweden as an alternative to blood sampling and such a law was introduced in 1989.

Professor Leonard Goldberg died peacefully at his home on 10th August 2010 aged 99½ years.

Dr. John DJ Havard, M.A, LL.B, M.B, B.Chir, FRCP

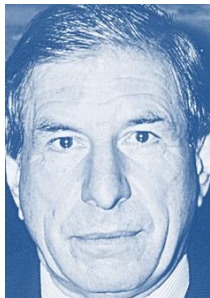
John DJ Havard was qualified in medicine and law (a physician and a barrister) and after working in general practice for some years he joined the British Medical Association (BMA) in 1958. He advanced through the ranks to become the secretary of the BMA, holding this post between 1980 and 1989. John Havard also served as secretary of ICADTS for many years and in recognition of his many contributions to the field of alcohol and traffic safety he received the Widmark award in 1989.

Dr. Havard was a driving force for organisation and planning for the third ICADTS conference, which was held in London in 1962, and he also edited the scientific proceedings from this meeting. Dr. Havard was an influential member on the BMA committee charged with reviewing drink-driving legislation in the UK. This culminated in a BMA report, which suggested the introduction of a punishable per se blood-alcohol concentration limit of 80 mg% (0.08 g%). This was adopted by the government and a new law came into force in 1967.

Over several decades John Havard was the man called upon by the media to comment about all matters related to alcohol-impaired driving and traffic safety in the UK and he wrote many editorials on this subject for the British Medical Journal (BMJ).

John DJ Havard died 23 May 2010.

Submitted by ICADTS member Professor A. Wayne Jones BSc, PhD, DSc. ■



Dr. John DJ Havard

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