CICRC Associates present at the Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia (March, 2009)

Dr. Eric Sigel presented a study entitled “Adolescent Violence Injuries: Detection in Primary Care”. He concluded that in the primary care settings, a substantial percent of youth report having been injured in a fight however these incidents are rarely identified. A simple screening question asking youth if they have been in a fight would identify 63% of those suffering injuries.

Dr. Carolyn DiGuiseppi presented a paper entitled “Marketing balance classes in older adults: A qualitative study” based on a large five-year project funded as part of the current CICRC grant funded by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. Itsumi Kakefuda presented a paper entitled “Children’s perceptions towards playground injuries” based on her new position working with a group in Japan doing innovative injury prevention research (see story page 4).

Dr. Holly Hedegaard presented a paper entitled “Establishing state norms for trauma care in Colorado”. Dr. Hedegaard reported that for blunt trauma patients, unexpected survivors were more likely to have more than one mode ofprehospital transport, be transported by helicopter/fixed wing, and be admitted to a higher level trauma center.
International Highlights: Dr. Marilyn Leff visits Tanzania

In February, 2008, Dr. Marilyn Leff, Research Associate with the Colorado Injury Control Research Center, traveled to Tanzania with the Kilimanjaro Hospice Initiative (KHI). The Initiative was started with a grant from Rotary International to facilitate a partnership between the Hospice of Montezuma serving five counties in southwestern Colorado and the Machame Hospice in Machame, Tanzania. The partnership, under the auspices of the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa (FHSSA), The focus of the visit was to understand the work of the Machame Hospice. Machame Hospice, located at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro, is part of a network of hospice and palliative care programs funded, in part, by the U.S. President’s Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Staff at the Machame Hospice provide a wide range of services including palliative and bereavement care for people with AIDS, other chronic illnesses and developmental disabilities.

Core staff includes Dr. Grace Marike, a physician who also holds a masters degree in public health, Mr. Yesaya Muro, a nurse and administrator of the program, and Ms. Elle Meena, a nursing assistant. At the core of the program are community volunteers who provide physical, emotional and spiritual support to patients and their families. Volunteers are recruited from small villages to serve as liaisons with the Machame Hospice staff and to provide services to patients in their villages. Volunteers attend a 21-day course in Home-Based Care developed by the National AIDS Control Program of Tanzania that includes training on core principals and practice of palliative care and the management of chronic diseases other than AIDS. The network of volunteers also identifies community members in need of services. These volunteers play a very important role in educating other community members about AIDS and HIV and help combat the stigma that exists for people living with AIDS and other chronic diseases. Volunteers often wear a t-shirt that says “People don’t die of AIDS, they die of stigma.” The KHI group spent 3 days visiting patients with staff and volunteers from the Machame Hospice.

During the visit Dr. Leff was able to discuss injury control and prevention concerns with staff. The Machame Hospice team follows-up with children who continue to live in their homes with each other but whose parents have died. Dr. Marike explained that this was the group of patients that staff had the most concerns about injury prevention. The most common causes of injury to this group which she has noticed are burns and trauma from falls.

Translation: “People don’t die of AIDS, they die of stigma”

Dr. Grace Marike and Dr. Marilyn Leff
CICRC CHINESE SCHOLARS visit Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment to learn about US injury surveillance systems

In November, 2008, Dr. Sufang Yu and Ms. Wei Wei Gong, visiting Chinese scholars with the Colorado Injury Control Research Center (CICRC), met with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) staff who are involved in injury epidemiology and injury surveillance for the state of Colorado. The focus of the meeting was to introduce methods used by the state in collecting, analyzing, and reporting data on injury. Dr. Holly Hedegaard, Data Program Manager for Emergency Medical and Trauma Services, Ms. Barbara Gabella, Director of the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit for the Prevention Services Division, and Dr. Alyson Shupe, Chief of the Health Statistics Section for the Center for Health and Environmental Statistics explained the various datasets used in tracking injury issues in the state and the strengths and weaknesses of each. Dr. Yu and Ms. Gong were able to compare and contrast these methods to ones used in their worksites in China. As a follow-up to this meeting, Dr. Hedegaard developed a comprehensive list of injury surveillance web sites for Dr. Yu and Ms. Gong. Several sites provide information on standard definitions and procedures used in data collection and others are interactive databases for querying injury data. Dr. Yu and Ms. Gong also met with Ms. Ava Williams, Field Supervisor for the Survey Research Unit. Ms. Williams explained the methods used in collecting survey data by telephone and went over several different instruments used in collecting injury surveillance data including the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and the Colorado Child Health Survey. Ms. Gong who works with the BRFSS survey in China discussed similarities and differences in data collection methods with Ms. Williams. The meetings were facilitated by Dr. Marilyn Leff, currently a Research Associate with the CICRC who had formerly worked at the CDPHE.
Spotlight on former CICRC Graduate Students

Interview with Dr. Itsumi Kakefuda:
June 1st, 2008 I started working at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) in Tokyo. I am a post doc of a team called the 'human behavior understanding team', which is part of the Digital Human Research Center at AIST. What the research group is doing is to observe and analyze human behaviors using cutting-edge sensing technology. You can learn about the work of the group at the following website: http://www.dh.aist.go.jp/index.php.en The research team has been focusing on childhood injury prevention, applying the technology they've developed. So, why am I here? An injury prevention psychologist for engineering? There are sensors which can be useful for injury prevention but, people may not use them because: they don't think injuries will happen to them or their children; they don't think prevention will work; they don't know how to use the sensors properly; the manual for the sensors is not readable; or the sensor is not user friendly and invites misuse. Therefore, injury prevention engineering needs psychologists. This is why I landed here. We started working together while I was at CSU, on a project about child seat use among Japanese. Since this is the first time the engineers have had to work with a psychologist, I need to explain what I've been doing, and what I can do for their work. You know, psychology is not considered as 'science' in this culture. Plus, injury prevention efforts have just started. I am pretty sure that I am the only injury prevention/safety promotion psychologist in Japan. It's the process of laying the foundation for future work and collaborations. Projects we have been discussing include: drowning prevention (drowning in a deep Japanese-type bath tub is a serious problem for kids); playground safety; child safety seats; bicycle helmets; evaluations of the effectiveness of injury scene animations in increasing awareness among parents; and assessing medical professionals' attitudes toward childhood injury prevention.

Interview with Monica Rosales
In June, 2008 I moved home to southern California. When I first got here, I worked on preparing manuscripts from my dissertation. I found a position as a Research Fellow working at the City of Hope in the Center of Community Alliance for Research and Education in Duarte, California.