We were recently informed our grant to CDC was not funded. However, we are optimistic that we can continue many older alliances and that the new programs and partnerships that have grown up in Colorado and the region will provide many more years of leadership in injury and violence prevention. Working together, we have a bright future.

In this issue of the CICRC newsletter we will highlight our partners as we welcome new colleagues to Colorado. In July, 2011 Drs. Des and Carol Runyan moved to Denver and since that time have been actively involved with the CICRC as they settle into new positions. Both have been leaders in violence and injury prevention for many years and we are delighted to welcome them. We also say good bye to a longtime partner, Dr. Holly Hedegaard, who has worked at the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment and has been a major contributor to the CICRC. We are delighted she is taking her experience and skills to work at the National Center for Health Statistics. Another key faculty associate has moved to Hawaii, Dr. Thao Le and while we miss her presence in Colorado she has continued to be engaged with CICRC activities through work described in this newsletter.

Tribute to Holly Hedegaard

Holly Hedegaard, MD, MSPH has, for the past 17 years, worked as a medical/injury epidemiologist at the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE). During her time at the CDPHE, she collaborated with CICRC on several projects including creating a directory of injury prevention specialists in Colorado, generating the Injury in Colorado report which provided a detailed description of the leading causes of injury hospitalizations and deaths in Colorado, and establishing the injury module on the Colorado Health Information Dataset website. She also reviewed applications and funding requests to CICRC and presented at webinars and injury related courses on both the CSU and UCD campuses. Finally, she collaborated on student and faculty research projects that involved analysis of data from the Colorado Violent Death Reporting System, a CDC-funded database with detailed information on suicides and homicides in Colorado.

In the spring of 2012, Dr. Hedegaard accepted a position as Senior Research Fellow in injury epidemiology at the National Center for Health Statistics in Washington DC after spending four years serving on their Board of Scientific Counselors. We are delighted to wish her well but will miss her contributions to injury prevention and control in Colorado as she assumes her new position at the national and international level.

Holly Hedegaard
Spotlight: Carol Runyan

Carol W. Runyan, MPH, PhD is Professor at the Colorado School of Public Health (Epidemiology and Community and Behavioral Health) and at the Colorado School of Medicine (Pediatrics). She has been named the Director of the Pediatric Injury Prevention, Education and Research Program in a collaboration between the medical and public health schools and Children’s Hospital Colorado. Another focus she is continuing in Colorado is a commitment to teaching public health students about the historical and conceptual foundations of public health.

Before the Colorado School of Public Health, Carol led the University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research Center for 22 years. In that capacity, she developed the National Training Initiative for Injury and Violence Prevention and led its PREVENT Program – a national practitioner training program that has reached more than 900 professionals in 44 states.

Dr. Runyan has conducted studies of injuries and fatalities in North Carolina working youth and a national study to examine the knowledge, attitudes and practices of working youth and also their parents. She collaborated on a similar study of youth work in Canada. Subsequently, Runyan led a North American effort to develop a research and policy agenda for young worker safety. She has led other studies on workplace violence, campus safety, injuries in the home environment and additional violence and injury topics.

Dr. Runyan received her BA in biology from Macalester College (where she met Des, her husband of 40 years); an MPH at the University of Minnesota and PhD from the University of North Carolina in Health Education with a minor in Epidemiology. She likes to cross-fertilize from disparate fields; she completed a pre-doctoral fellowship on Child and Family Policy at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute and a postdoctoral fellowship in injury epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health with Susan Baker.

Dr. Runyan is a member of the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. Previously, she served as a member of the CDC Advisory Committee for Injury Prevention and Control, the U.S. Armed Forces Epidemiologic Board (AFEB), and the editorial board for Injury Prevention. She was a founding member of the National Association of Injury Control Research Centers (now the Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research, SAVIR) and serves as a member of the SAVIR Board of Directors and chairs the Council of Centers.

Carol has been honored with the Outstanding Service Award of the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association, the Excellence in Science Award from the American Public Health Association Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section, and the Research Award from the Home Safety Council. She was inducted into the Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars, has received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service and was the Lydia Catherine McCutcheon Lecturer at the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto. When she left UNC, a fund was established in her name to support a professorship in injury control bearing her name.

On a personal note, Carol grew up in central Ohio where her mother taught her to play golf competitively—a sport she still enjoys with a competitive spirit.
Spotlight: Desmond K. Runyan

Desmond K. Runyan is the Jack and Viki Thompson Professor of Pediatrics and Executive Director of the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. His task in Colorado is to expand both the clinical and research breadth of the Kempe Center, the oldest child abuse research and clinical center in the world. Runyan was recruited from the University of North Carolina where he spent 32 years in the Departments of Social Medicine and Pediatrics. Runyan is a general pediatrician who has evaluated suspected child abuse victims and conducted research on child abuse for more than 30 years.

Des received his BA in political science and met Carol Runyan at Macalester College in Minnesota. While at Macalester, and as a ski patrol member, he completed his first epidemiological study- the nature and rate of ski injuries seen by the ski patrol at Quadna Mountain Ski Area. He worked in Lagos Nigeria in the public health department one summer in college that re-directed him to medical school and public health. Runyan obtained his MD and MPH degrees and a residency in pediatrics at the University of Minnesota.

Des moved to North Carolina as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar after residency. This planned 2 year experience morphed into a 32 year engagement as he undertook a variety of research projects largely related to the impact of intervention in child abuse. Runyan taught clinical epidemiology to medical students and a seminar course on child abuse and family violence for medical students. Through his time in Chapel Hill, Runyan developed a series of large studies on child abuse. He founded LONGSCAN, a consortium of longitudinal studies of child abuse in the field for 21 years, supported by the Administration for Children, Youth and Families and the NIH. Runyan was a co-principal investigator and a major architect of the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) and a member of the NICHD Family and Child Well-Being Network for 5 years.

Runyan had experience with the multi-site Child Victim as Witness Study supported by National Institute of Justice and founded an international collaborative study of the patterns of child discipline in 6 countries. His interest in international health led to a role on the Advisory Panel for the UN Secretary-General’s Study of Children and Violence. He also led development of a statewide intervention study aimed at preventing shaken baby syndrome.

At UNC Runyan served as chair of the Department of Social Medicine for 7 years before becoming the National Program Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program. Runyan taught or directed the UNC Clinical Epidemiology course for 23 years and also taught in the Medicine and Society course or the Humanities and Social Sciences Selective most years since he joined the faculty. He served as a consultant for child abuse to UNC Hospitals, the state of North Carolina’s Child Medical Evaluation Program, and helped found a center modeled after Kempe that was a collaboration between UNC and Duke.
**Highlighting a Community Partner**

**Hollie Hendrikson, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)**

Hollie Hendrikson, MSc. works for the National Conference of State Legislatures as a Policy Associate for the Health Program as an expert in injury and violence prevention. As the Policy Associate, Hollie provides resources, information, and technical assistance to state legislators about issues related to injury and violence prevention topics including traumatic brain injury, teen dating violence, elderly falls, prescription drug overdose and abuse, and suicide prevention. She has given seminars for and provided technical guidance to the Colorado Injury Control Research Center.

Hollie’s background reflects her desire to live and work in places where she could do the things she loved. Hollie spent one year of college at the University of Hawaii, completed her undergraduate degree at CU Boulder and worked as intern research assistant at the Conflict Research Consortium at CU Boulder.

In 2008, Hollie received her Master of Science degree in Social Policy and Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her research at LSE allowed her to focus on how individuals in developing countries utilize different livelihood strategies such as migration, to increase their ability to become income earners, attend school, access healthcare, etc. Hollie believes an influential part of her personal development narrates her family’s love for travel and adventure. Because of this, her academic and personal ambition enticed her to do more, see more, and understand more.

Recent resources:

- Keeping Kids Safe Down on the Farm, State Legislatures, February 2012.
- Too Soon To Die, State Legislatures, February 2012 (p3).
- The Burden of Prescription Drug Overdoses on Medicaid, National Conference of State Legislatures LegisBrief, 20(1); January 2012.

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**Thao Le, Mindfulness Project**

Thao Le, PhD, MPH, received her Masters in Public Health (MPH) from the University of California at Berkeley, and PhD in psychology at the University of California at UC Davis. She was assistant professor at Colorado State University, in the Human Development and Family Studies Department, before joining the Family & Consumer Sciences Department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Fall 2011. Since her move to Hawaii, she has continued to work with the CICRC on dissemination of our work by monitoring and evaluating the use of a set of web-based quizzes.

A refugee of the Vietnam War (in fact, as a child, she was on one of the last Chinook helicopters that left the US Embassy’s roof in Saigon on April 29, 1975), she has always been personally intrigued and interested in the process of immigration and acculturation, and its effect on individual development and family processes.

With pilot funding from CICRC, she and her graduate student conducted a photovoice project where they handed out cellphones and asked youth in three geographical locations (Bay Area, Loveland/Fort Collins, South Bronx) to take pictures of what multiculturalism and its relation to youth violence meant to them. She is currently working with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes in Montana on suicide prevention. Dr. Le has been working with the Council Members, Tribal Elders, and members of the Cultural Committees of the tribes to develop mindfulness activities for 10 teaching modules that incorporate themes, values, cultural artifacts, metaphors, and stories of Native American culture and spirituality. Mindfulness as a prevention/intervention for suicide may hold less of stigma compared to other suicide prevention programs and models because it can be packaged as a stress reduction, a well-being intervention, and a Native American spiritual practice rather than a mental health treatment.
In 1962, Dr. C. Henry Kempe and his colleagues led the identification and recognition of child abuse with their defining paper, *The Battered Child Syndrome*. This paper has been regarded as the single most significant event in creating awareness and exposing the reality of abuse in the United States and around the world. Dr. Kempe commented later that he had been seeing these children for more than 10 years and was unable to raise attention and alarm about abuse and neglect until he and his colleagues coined this term to describe the problem. Dr. Kempe and colleagues worked over the following years to raise awareness and they drafted the law that became the model for reporting laws in all of the other states.

Dr. Kempe and colleagues were awarded a major grant in 1972 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to open the “National Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect” in Denver. The Center opened with the mission: to recognize that children were being abused, the threat was real, and we must do something about it. The center became a section of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and was renamed the Kempe Center in honor of Dr. Kempe. The Center has built an international reputation as a leader in the child protection movement by:

- Evaluating and diagnosing children who are suspected victims of abuse and neglect.
- Providing treatment and therapy for abused and neglected children and their families.
- Developing and testing new programs to help children.
- Training professionals such as doctors, teachers and social workers to protect and heal abused children and support good parenting skills.
- Conducting studies that assist in program development and public policy making.
- Founding the major international journal in the field and housing the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Now, 50 years from the publication of the landmark article and 40 years since the Kempe Center was created, the Center employs over 50 professionals committed to prevention, treatment, and research. In addition to medical consultations for the western states and Alaska, evidence-based mental health treatment, the Center has renewed its commitment to research and looks forward to active collaboration with the Colorado Injury Prevention Research Center. In addition to a new executive director, Dr. Desmond Runyan, Kempe will be hiring 6 new faculty and 5 new staff associates within the next few months.
Collaborative Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention Program Launched

A new collaborative initiative between Children’s Hospital Colorado, the Colorado School of Public Health and the Colorado School of Medicine will work to improve the safety of children and youth in the Rocky Mountain Region.

The Pediatric Injury Prevention, Education and Research (PIPER) Program is led by Carol Runyan, PhD, a professor of epidemiology, community and behavioral health and pediatrics at the University of Colorado. Before coming to Colorado, Runyan was the director of the University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research Center. As part of her recruitment to Colorado, Runyan will be hiring three new faculty to join her in the effort, building expertise in injury epidemiology, intervention development and evaluation, and policy research. Also, PIPER program manager, Sara Brandspigel, MPH brings to the effort experience in maternal and child health in state and national settings.

The mission of the PIPER program is to facilitate scientific discovery and evidence-based practice that increases safety, reduces injury and violence, and improves injury outcomes among children and adolescents.

“Through the PIPER program, we will build on the strong foundation of injury control that already exists in Colorado, and boost the focus on children and adolescents within research and community programs,” said Runyan.

“Injury is the leading cause of death for young people in our communities – from their first birthday, through childhood, adolescence and beyond. With a greater commitment to injury prevention, we can truly save lives,” she added.

The major goals of the PIPER program all focus on advancing child and adolescent injury control through:

- Conducting high quality research, bridging to what is already ongoing and stimulating new activity;
- Improving the quality of community prevention programs through evidence-based practice and evaluation;
- Advancing policy initiatives to reduce injury and violence and conducting policy research and evaluation;
- Building the capacity of the injury control workforce through training and technical assistance

The program will work in close collaboration with the Colorado Injury Control Research Center, where Dr. Runyan serves as Associate Director of Training and Education. To learn more or join the PIPER mailing list, email Sara Brandspigel at sara.brandspigel@ucdenver.edu.
Colorado Injury Control Research Center

Mission
The mission of the CICRC is dedicated to providing leadership within the Rocky Mountain Region in reducing the occurrence, severity and adverse consequences of injuries and violence through developing and applying evidence based approaches that bridge research with practice including both policy and programs. The CICRC emphasizes building community based partnerships, particularly among under-served populations such as Hispanics, Native Americans, and rural residents and their families.

Core Values
Core values that govern the activities at the CICRC are: a primary focus on reducing disparities in the prevention and control of injuries; seeking collaborative relationships with communities; innovation in education/training, community programs and research; and identification of evidence-based, efficient approaches to prevent injuries.