In this issue of the newsletter, you will find updated information about the bike safety activities at the CICRC, details about a project related to identification of gaps in injury prevention programs in one region of Colorado being conducted in conjunction with the Foothills Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council, and a report on work related to human trafficking in Colorado. In addition there is an update on a research project designed to develop an estimate of mild traumatic brain injuries, an interview with Dr. Emmy Betz, a CICRC faculty associate, and a report about the work of one of our community partners, the Longmont Ending Violence Initiative (L.E.V.I.). The CICRC is also co-hosting the Third Annual Suicide Prevention Summit: Bridging the Divide. You can find details about the summit at the following website: http://psy.psych.colostate.edu/cicrc/SPsummit2010.asp.

International Updates

The 10th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion will be held in London, England September 21-24, 2010 (Safety 2010). A number of CICRC Associates have had posters and presentations abstracts accepted. The titles and authors are shown below (CICRC Associates are noted in bold).

Cluster Randomised Trials in Injury Research: A How-To Guide
Authors: Carolyn DiGuiseppi, C. Coupland, D. Kendrick

The Influence of School Variables on the Developmental Trajectories of Delinquency for Asian, African American, Hispanic, and White Youth
Author: Thao Le

USA China Agricultural Injury Research Training
Authors: Lorann Stallones, Huiyun Xiang, Zhenghen Wang

Poison Crossroads: The Latest in the Field of Poisoning Injury Surveillance
Authors: Injury Surveillance Workgroup 7: Poisonings (Lorann Stallones is a member of the working group)

Information about the conference is provided below and more details can be found at: http://www.safety2010.org.uk/.

Safety 2010 is a major world conference bringing stakeholders in the prevention of unintentional injuries and violence from around the world to debate, discuss and exchange information and experiences. The conference will be co-sponsored by the World Health Organization.

The key theme of the conference is Safe and Equitable Communities. This theme has been chosen to reflect the disproportionate burden from almost all types of injuries that falls on poorer communities. Such differences are apparent both within countries, between countries and even between global regions.
Bike Safety Education

Fort Collins is a large bicycling community and recently attention has been drawn to the need for bicycle safety education, especially near the CSU campus. To help address this issue Kerry Byrne as well as Lorin Scott and Brenna Wozniak, who are graduate students working with CICRC, have collaborated to create a 3-part pilot bicycle safety course that is targeted at freshmen students.

This course covers general aspects of bike safety, bicycle mechanics, and ends with a ride into Old Town where students can practice the skills learned in the previous classes. The long-term goal of this project is to create a permanent CSU bicycle safety course.

The CICRC was also involved in a collaborative grant project to promote bicycle safety education in The Poudre School District. This grant brought together many different groups in Fort Collins including: The Bike Co-op, Fort Collins Bikes, and Poudre Valley Health System to name a few. Funding for this program was recently received and will be a great educational resource for the youth of Fort Collins.

The CICRC is excited to have two dedicated graduate students promoting bike safety on campus and throughout the Fort Collins community.

Foothills Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council

This winter the CICRC partnered with the Foothills Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council (RETAC) to identify injury prevention activities in the Foothills region (Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, and Jefferson counties). The goal of the project was to address the gaps in injury prevention activities and evidence of injury problems based on hospitalizations and deaths from injuries in the region.

Approximately 200 government and community agencies were contacted and interviewed to determine what injury prevention activities are currently being conducted and what injury prevention resources are being used in each county.

In addition, injury statistics were compiled for the region using the statewide reporting systems for deaths and hospitalizations.

By using the injury activities and injury statistics, the Foothills RETAC will identify gaps in the injury prevention programs for each county. This will allow them to more effectively plan injury prevention activities and programs that meet the specific needs of each county with an overall goal of reducing the incidence of non-intentional injuries in the region.

Human Trafficking

As a continuation of the work that Sarah Drobek, a CICRC graduate assistant, began last fall, she recently had the opportunity to give a presentation to the Junior League of Fort Collins about the issue of human trafficking. The presentation covered the definition of human trafficking, the scope of the issue worldwide, and how human trafficking impacts Colorado.

In addition to networking and raising awareness through personal presentations, another project she has been working on is to help facilitate the training of law enforcement personnel in Larimer County on the issue of human trafficking. She hopes to continue these endeavors over the coming semesters and would be happy to give a “Human Trafficking 101” presentation to any interested campus or community group.
Dr. Gale Whiteneck, Craig Hospital Research Director is the Principal Investigator conducting research as part of the Colorado Injury Control Research Center. Dr. Whiteneck is collaborating with Drs. John Corrigan and Jennifer Bogner at Ohio State University and Dr. Alfred Marcus at the AMC Survey Research Center at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, to design and evaluate a general population survey to capture symptoms, conditions and other health and behavioral markers indicative of post-traumatic brain injury.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is well recognized as a major public health concern based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates of 50,000 TBI deaths and 235,000 TBI hospitalizations in the United States annually and at least 5.3 million people currently living in the US with long-term disability resulting from TBI. But these estimates are derived from surveillance systems focusing on people hospitalized with TBI, and they fail to capture the full extent and impact of TBI due to the much larger, less documented incidence of mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI).

The goal of this project is to use a general population survey – a methodology recommended by the Mild Traumatic Brain Injury workgroup convened by the CDC – to estimate the prevalence of disabling outcomes following TBI among people with both mild and more severe injuries. A general population survey was selected because it is the only methodology capable of identifying individuals who have survived head injuries, of any severity, regardless of whether medical care was sought, and regardless of the setting where treatment may have been received.

Using the same procedure as used in the CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System – Dr. Whiteneck’s team is using a random digit dialing of households in Colorado with computer assisted algorithms to randomly select participants for the survey. More than 2,000 Coloradoans have participated so far. The project expects to complete the interview phase by July 2010. If successful, this project may recommend successful methodologies and strategies for estimating the prevalence of TBI related disability in the US.

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Focus on Community Partners:
Longmont Ending Violence Initiative

“Our mission is to establish a coordinated community-wide awareness and response to domestic violence in the St. Vrain Valley School District, primarily Longmont, Colorado.”

In 1998, Longmont, a Colorado community, had a series of particularly violent domestic violence assaults leading to the death of five women and children. As a direct result, a coordinated community-wide awareness and response to domestic violence was developed. The result was LEVI (Longmont Ending Violence Initiative), a collaborative group of over 30 agencies that provide resources to combat domestic violence. Since the development of LEVI, Longmont has gone 10 years without a single domestic-violence-related death.

Vision
LEVI acknowledges domestic violence is a serious and prevalent social problem affecting the quality of life in the City of Longmont. We desire to provide our residents with easy access to quality services as well as the tools to aid friends, relatives and co-workers when signs of domestic violence exist. We firmly believe, working in unison, we can work effectively to bring attention to domestic violence in our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces.

Goals
1) PREVENTION/EDUCATION. Empower the community to end domestic violence through educational and informative presentations, trainings and public events,

2) ACCESS/REFERRALS. Identify resources and respond to gaps in order to provide access to services for those seeking assistance in understanding, or stopping domestic violence.

3) PUBLIC INFORMATION. Heighten community awareness and action, as well as change public opinion and social behavior toward domestic violence through one-way communication methods.

To help them achieve their goals, LEVI received $2,500 in program support from the Colorado Injury Control Research Center’s community program initiative. Funding will support on-going educational and prevention efforts including: public presentations, events, and training opportunities for healthcare providers, community groups, religious organizations, school groups, and educational entities to enlist their assistance in stopping domestic violence.
Emmy Betz, MD, MPH, received her medical degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and her Masters in Public Health (MPH) from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and an introductory MPH injury course first sparked her interest in the injury field. She completed the Harvard-Affiliated Emergency Medicine Residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in 2008 and achieved board certification in Emergency Medicine in 2009. A Colorado native, Dr. Betz joined the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver (UCD) School of Medicine in 2009 and has an affiliate appointment as an Assistant Professor in Epidemiology at the Colorado School of Public Health. Currently, Dr. Betz works clinically in the University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) Emergency Department (ED) and has ongoing research projects concerning elderly drivers and suicide.

Dr. Betz’s early injury research projects focused on the epidemiology of injuries treated in outpatient settings and on the (in)correct completion of trauma-related death certificates by physicians. Her interest in elderly drivers began in residency, when she completed pilot work that led to her 2009-11 Emergency Medicine Foundation Research Fellowship. Her primary project, “Should Miss Daisy be Driving? Identification of At-Risk Elderly Drivers in the ED”, aims to develop a short screening tool to identify older drivers who should receive a more extensive driving evaluation. The 2009-2010 CICRC pilot grant supported extension of this project into the UCH Seniors’ Clinic, a geriatric primary care practice, and additional funding from the UCD John Hartford Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine will support future expansion.

Dr. Betz is also currently involved in multiple research projects concerning suicide epidemiology and prevention. She is the site-PI at UCH for a multi-center, NIH-funded trial for brief suicide assessment and intervention for ED patients. With colleagues at the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Betz is also investigating the beliefs and behaviors of ED providers concerning lethal means restriction—such as limiting access to firearms—as a method of suicide prevention. In collaboration with researchers from the CICRC, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the University of Colorado Altitude Research Center, she is examining the relationship between suicide and altitude using data from the National Violent Death Reporting System.

In addition to her research, Dr. Betz volunteers with the UCH Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) program. The program educates adolescents about the risks of impaired driving through a one-day course with medical expert lecturers, simulations with law enforcement officers, and role-playing experiences. She is also involved in local and national organizations, including the CICRC, the Colorado Emergency Medicine Research Center, and the Injury Control & Emergency Health Services of the American Public Health Association.

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