American Public Health Association
Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section
APHA ICEHS Electronic News
December 2005 Vol. 12 Issue 12

CONTENTS:

Greetings from your new ICEHS Section Newsletter Editor John Lundell at the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center. I am pleased to help share important information among the members of our section. Please send articles for future issues to me at *john-lundell@uiowa.edu* . Also thanks to Bella Dinh-Zarr and her colleagues at AAA for agreeing to distribute this electronic newsletter.

SECTION NEWS

Notes from the Editor

Happy New Year to all my fellow ICEHS colleagues. Normally our monthly section newsletter begins with a "Notes from the Chair" however outgoing Chair Larry Cohen has been out of his office and I have been unable to contact incoming Chair Maria Anderson.

It was great to see many of you last month in Philadelphia although it was clearly not your typical APHA annual meeting. The need to reschedule and relocate the meeting due to Hurricane Katrina's destruction of New Orleans caused many regular attendees to miss the event. But a terrific meeting was still held that included many entertaining and interesting ICEHS-related activities. We owe a big thank you to all the members who worked hard on the Section's program, booth, meetings, social events, awards, student paper competition, etc.

Included in this newsletter are profiles of the Section's annual award winners that were recognized at the awards dinner. Congratulations to all. Related to dinner, Larry Cohen asked me to include this request from him- "That if there are people who attended the dinner but didn't pay they should email me (larry@preventioninstitute.org) and send a check to Prevention Institute as we advanced the money and ended up about $800 short. Some of the deficit was anticipated, thanks to support from AAA, but I believe several folks still need to pay for their dinner ($45). Thanks."

It is my pleasure to continue as your newsletter editor in 2006. Please continue to send me articles. We will get back on schedule with the January issue being mailed at the end of this month.

Best wishes,

John

-/\-/\-/\-/\-/\-/\-/\-/\-/\-/\-/\-/\-/\-/\-/\-/\-
John Lundell, MA
Deputy Director
Injury Prevention Research Center
The University of Iowa
158 IREH, Oakdale Research Campus
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-5000
(319) 335-4458 (319) 335-4631 FAX
john-lundell@uiowa.edu
http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/iprc

NORA Town Meeting to Feature Agricultural Issues

On January 17, 2006, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) together with its partners will host a Town Hall Meeting in Seattle, WA, to provide input for the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA). NORA is a framework to guide occupational safety and health research for the nation. It is an ongoing endeavor to focus research to reduce work-related injury and illness. As NORA approaches a 10-year milestone, NIOSH is hosting public meetings around the country to seek input from individuals and organizations on important research issues.

NIOSH has worked closely with the University of Washington and Marshfield (WI) Clinic to plan the Seattle meeting. The morning session will provide an opportunity for regional and multi-sector input followed by comments and presentations specific to the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Sector in the afternoon. Presentations will be five minutes in length and will be organized into panels. If you would like to make a presentation you must register at **www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora**

The local co-hosts include the Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center and the Northwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety, NIOSH funded regional centers housed in the University of Washington's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences.

Meeting Details

Date:	Tuesday, January 17, 2006
Time:	9:00am -5:00 pm PST 9:00am-12:00pm Multi-sector Public Comments 1:00pm-5:00pm Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Specific Public Comments
Location:	Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) 2700 24th Avenue East Seattle, WA 98112-2099

If you are not able to attend the meeting NIOSH would still like to have your input on the next decade of NORA. You can submit your comments electronically at **www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora,** e-mail them to **niocindocket@cdc.gov**
or mail them to
Docket NIOSH-047
Robert A. Taft Laboratories (C-34)
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Thank you in advance for your input on the next decade of NORA.

~Christian L. Hanna

ICEHS Public Service Award for 2005

Mr. McDonald, MA, MPH [37 years of federal service (federal retiree) and Previous Director, Division of Hazard and Injury Data Systems, US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Bethesda, MD], received this year's Public Service Award for his outstanding leadership in designing, implementing and directing

the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), which, in its current form, began in 1978. For the past 28 years, NEISS has been used by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to monitoring consumer product-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments. NEISS has been instrumental in identifying hazards across the United States and in follow-up investigations to assess hazards (e.g., ATVs, snowmobiles, chain saws, lawn mowers, children's toys, and playground equipment) and set federal ruling and guidelines to protect the public. Through his leadership, other federal agencies have also used NEISS to collect injury-related data pertinent to their agency's role in injury prevention and control. Other federal agencies that have used the system include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Coast Guard, Department of Justice, Food and Drug Administration, Housing and Urban Development, and others.

Mr. McDonald's most significant contribution to the field of Injury Prevention and Control was the implementation of the NEISS All Injury Program. In July, 2000, he provided the key leadership necessary to successfully expand the NEISS to collect high quality data on all types and causes of nonfatal injuries treated in hospital emergency departments in collaboration with CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Over the past five years, the NEISS All Injury Program has provided key national data on a variety of important public health concerns (e.g.,nonfatal drowning and other sports and recreational injuries, motor vehicle backover injuries, carbon monoxide, finger amputations, self harm injuries, assaults, and alcohol-related injuries) through numerous publications in CDC's MMWR and in peer-reviewed article. These nonfatal injury data are also readily available to the public through a web-based query system, called WISQARS (http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars), and through public use data files (http://www.icpsr.umich.edu).

The impact of Mr. McDonald's accomplishments and contributions as a highly dedicate public servant has been far reaching. He institutionalized the NEISS and NEISS All Injury Program as two of the leading ongoing injury surveillance systems in the country useful for educating the public about product-related hazards and about unintentional injuries and violence-related injuries as major public health concerns. Prevention messages stemming from data obtained from these data systems have likely saved numerous lives and prevented many short and long-term disabilities. These data have also been used to inform public policy decisions and used in setting priorities for injury prevention strategies at the national, state, and local levels.

~ Lee Annest

ICEHS Distinguished Career Award for 2005

Jeremy Alderson, from Hector, NY on behalf of his late father Samuel, appreciatively accepted our Section's Distinguished Career award at our recent Annual APHA Awards Banquet. The award honored the memory of his Dad's innovative injury control accomplishments which included the organization of the crash-test dummy used in automobile safety tests. Samuel W. Alderson, who died earlier this year, was a multifaceted inventor who grew up puttering in his father's custom sheet-metal shop and built the first automobile test dummy at his Alderson Research Labs in 1960. His customers included the military and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

His idea caught on, he said, only when Ralph Nader's consumer protection book "Unsafe at Any Speed" was published five years later. Reacting to consumer outrage engendered by Nader's book, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration began buying Alderson's dummies to test seat belts, air bags and other devices designed to minimize deaths and injuries in car crashes. Various dummies, including the Vince and Larry models popular in television advertising, were standardized over the years as Alderson and his colleagues improved the technology.

Alderson was the last surviving founder, his son said, of the Stapp Car Crash Conference, an early organization that fostered automobile safety research which Stapp himself (instead of a dummy) was strapped to an accelerating "dog sled". When Alderson created Alderson Research Labs in 1952, nobody was thinking about testing the survivability of car crashes. He first landed a contract to make anthropomorphic dummies for use in testing jet ejection seats and parachutes, and later for the Apollo nose cone's planned water landing.

"The manlike test dummies duplicate not only the shape, size and weight of future astronauts," a Times story said in 1964, "but their motions as well, and their skulls, necks, stomachs and chests contain a variety of instruments to record landing forces." The drop tests, the article continued, were "designed to ensure that the spacecraft and its systems provide maximum safety for the return of Apollo explorers."

In the 1950s, Alderson also was under contract to develop "phantoms," or dummies that could measure radiation doses, originally during nuclear testing. Based on that experience, he formed another company that he managed until shortly before his death, Radiology Support Devices, to supply the health care industry.

During World War II, he helped develop an optical coating to enhance vision in submarine periscopes at dawn and dusk, helped devise electronic equipment to aid planes in dropping depth charges on German submarines, and worked on missile guidance systems.

Jeremy and his family are deeply moved by the Section's outpouring of recognition for his Dad's distinguished career.

(Parts of the above by Neil Clark RCA, LLC, from the Obituary section of the Los Angeles Times 2-18-05)

~Les Fisher

ICEHS Student Best Paper Award for 2005

Initiated in 1992, the purpose of this competition is to foster and reward quality research efforts among students involved in the field. Students who have an abstract accepted for either oral or poster presentation at the annual American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting are eligible to submit a paper, prepared in a format for journal publication. Blinded reviews, for this competition, are conducted by a minimum of three national experts.

Students must hold either a primary or secondary membership in the ICEHS section and must be identified as the primary author of the paper submitted. This year, there were 22 students who submitted abstracts and were accepted either for oral or poster presentations. Among these, six submitted final manuscript applications for the September 1st deadline. Although applicants were highly competitive, it was feasible to award only one Best Paper Award for 2005.

This year's Best Paper Award was presented to: Renee M. Johnson. PhD, MPH. The title of her paper was: *Storage of household firearms: An examination of women's attitudes and beliefs*. Renee completed this work while a doctoral student in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Co-authors of this paper were Carol W. Runyan, Tamera Coyne-Beasley, MD, MPH, Megan A. Lewis, PhD, and J. Michael Bowling, PhD; Dr. Carol Runyan served as her advisor. Currently, Renee holds a Post-Doctoral position at Harvard University.

In particular, we would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety, Hopkinton, Massachusetts, with special thanks to Tom Leamon, Ph.D., Director. This is the second year that they have sponsored this award – and we are so very appreciative of their interest in and commitment to this important effort.

~ Sue Gerberich

2006 Student Paper Competition

Prepare your abstract applications now in preparation for the 2006 ICEHS Student Paper Competition! Students who have completed their programs within the last year, and have not previously presented the same data at a professional meeting or published the data, are welcome to participate. Refer to the APHA and ICEHS websites for further information or contact: Susan Goodwin Gerberich, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., Chair, Student Paper Competition; E-mail: gerbe001@umn.edu

~ Sue Gerberich

Archivist Attic: The "A" Word from a Historical Leadership Framework

Everything has a history - even the field of injury control with its word, "accident". With recent collegiate dialogues on the use of that word; the history of the "a" word and its impacts should be again briefly surveyed (For more details and references see: my copyrighted registered **Shaping the Millennium. From the History of Child - Home Injury in the United States, in public health journals (1900 - 1975), to Applications of Leadership Systems** at www.icehs.org Members' Only and

in Newsletter commentaries on the history of injury control; in sum, the “a” word has been both beneficial but also a deficit.

The Hebrew Bible would not permit homes to be built without fences on the roof where many social activities took place and also required them not to place a stumbling block, intentionally or non-intentionally, in the path of a "blind man". Injuries were not a matter of fate. Moreover, "thou shall not kill" referred to murder, not self defense. And, one was obligated to kill a night intruder of his home. Hippocrates noted in 425 B.C. less injury potential from blunt objects striking the head than from sharp ones; reflecting current safety engineering and environmental design strategies. So what, when, by whom, and why did that ancient wisdom on child injury prevention, get almost lost? Johann Peter Frank, the father of modern hygiene, in 1788, first identified injury as a public health problem, but one caused by fate and carelessness.

The history of frontier America accepted its "accidents" as inevitable. Historically, unlike diseases, accidents were not considered acts of God. The home was considered a sacred domain; while family accident prevention education was promoted, the wife's role was first aid and less primary prevention. I speculate that blaming the victim for his/her own misbehavior was influenced greatly by the police investigations of accidental deaths, search for the culprit.

But another thrust for "accident" prevention/control was America's industrial safety movement. Teddy Roosevelt apposed business monopolies and limited extensive adult and child labor in coal mines. With the 1911 federal Workman's Compensation Law, no longer was the worker alone responsible for his own accident. Aviation safety of WWI work led much later to modern injury control bioengineering. The industrial safety movement of the 1920's led to the National Safety Industrial Council and its first publication of *Accident Facts*. By 1930's the US experienced substantial increases in traffic-related accidents, traditionally investigated by police (my find the culprit hypothesis). The 1949 Federal Security Agency's Bureau of Child Health began to staff national thrusts in accident prevention. By the 1960's the subsequent national generation in federal accident prevention, a division in the PHS, focused also on “human factors" sometimes on the misleading "accident prone" school. That focus on human blame for "accidents" aided car manufacturers and limited government safety progress until William Haddon, Jr and the precursor to the National Highway Safety Administration's, Highway Safety Bureau. Haddon's impact at NY State Department of Health and nationwide for limiting the “a” word is cited at Members' Only; his adapted conceptual frameworks on the causes of injury as energy gone wrong continues as a milestone reverberating into today's debates on the "a" word: An emphasis on muticausation of injury with major focus on the human, environmental, agent and vectors of injury as the primary focus for modern injury control**.**

So that's my archival survey of where the “a” word came from and perhaps at least one lesson on its leadership which at times has helped us move forward but also backward. It's a bit opportunist but if our goal is to save life and limb, the "a" term matters only if it truly affects us at the intersect with our leadership objectives. We have important leadership challenges and lessons to refresh upon during days of potential down sizing of resources that will continually be overlaid by the "a" word.

~Les Fisher