

**American Public Health Association
Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section
APHA ICEHS Electronic News
February 2005 Vol. 12 Issue 2**

CONTENTS:

Notes From The Chair.....	2
The Federal Budget and Public Health.....	3
CDC Agency-wide Research Agenda Development.....	4
What’s Your Favorite New Orleans Restaurant?.....	4
Hello from Student Liaisons.....	4
What Does the Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section Mean to You?.....	5
Samuel Alderson Obituary.....	6
A Virtual Car Seat Demonstration in Your Own Home.....	7
Commentary by Les Fisher, MPH.....	8
POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	8
Research Specialist, Marshfield, Wisconsin.....	8

Greetings from your ICEHS Section Newsletter Editors, Corrie Peek-Asa and John Lundell at the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center. We are pleased to help share important information among the members of our section. Please send articles for future issues to John 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 chair

Greetings. In this month's "Notes from the Chair," I want to highlight two major elements of the importance of injury prevention policy: building new leadership in the field to help shape it and the policies themselves.

There are many important and influential leaders in the field of injury prevention and emergency services today. We're fortunate that many are members of the ICEHS section and at different times serve formally or informally in the leadership. However, there needs to be a constant influx of younger people moving into our field and we all need to make sure we take every possible step to encourage and support this. Right now, we can anticipate a large number of retirements over the next decade as well as the natural attrition that comes from people moving to other jobs and challenges. We need to focus on ensuring fresh faces join the ICEHS leadership team. Those of us who have been around longer need to make it clear how welcome new ideas are and how much we appreciate new members taking on ever-increasing responsibilities. This can happen by running for elected positions and/or participating in shaping the efforts of the subcommittees. (Most subcommittees are described on our website and chairs will welcome new participants - and I urge chairs and current members to think about how to do further outreach to new members and increasingly support their leadership in the section.)

Another way to involve new leadership is through students. I'm pleased to announce that ICEHS has two new Student Liaisons for the 2005 year, Mira Grice and Kathleen Ferguson, who serve as the contact between ICEHS and the Student Association in APHA. They will be introducing themselves later in the newsletter. I'm also hoping they will help to spearhead the participation of other students and recent students in our section leadership. Additionally, within ICEHS, Susan Gerberich coordinates the student paper competition in order to reward quality research efforts among students involved in the field. Hopefully students who have submitted such fine research will also increasingly become engaged in our section coordination and decision-making. For more information you can contact Sue at gerbe001@umn.edu.

At this time we see critical injury policy issues playing out on a national stage. Of course, the new federal budget includes major cuts to health and community programs, such as Health and Human Services. This has major implications both for the people who work in the field and through them, for the health and well being on Americans. As individuals, we can contact our government representatives and express our opinions regarding budget priorities. For more information on this topic, please read, **The Federal Budget and Public Health**, submitted by Linda Degutis, the Executive Board Chair.

But, there are other issues in the injury field besides funding. The current legislation that proposes denying illegal immigrants drivers licenses has usually been framed as an antiterrorist issue or one related to immigrant rights. However, it is imperative that topic is also viewed from a public health, injury prevention and traffic safety point of view. When (legal) residents of the USA turn a certain age they receive a driver's license, contingent on the fact that they study, practice, and pass a drivers test. Not allowing residents to take a drivers test might work if the illegal immigrants stop driving. But more likely it will mean that there are more people driving without insurance, instruction and knowledge of US laws, and ultimately more risk to the rest of us.

Just some thought on policy and leadership. Keep up the good work in the Injury Control and Emergency Services field!

Best to you all,
Larry

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- *Larry Cohen*

The Federal Budget and Public Health

As you all know, the President has released his proposed budget. There are many proposed cuts in non-defense domestic programs that have the potential for impacting the field of injury control and emergency health services. One important thing to remember is that this is a *proposed* budget, and will not be final until Congress acts on it. And, given the pattern over the past few years, it is very unlikely that the budget will be finalized in the near future, as there is a great deal of controversy about many of the items. There will be a number of appropriations bills brought forward, from both the House and the Senate, and it is unlikely that any of these will exactly match the President's proposal.

This is not to say that cuts will not be made - they are probably inevitable. But, now is the time for us to act to educate policymakers about the importance of injury control and emergency health services, and public health in general, in improving the health of our country. APHA is watching this very closely, and is monitoring what is happening with budget proposals and public health. Keep an eye on the APHA website for updates/comments on this. The APHA press release on the budget is available at: http://www.apha.org/news/press/2005/2005_budget.htm. Also, pay attention to the "Action Alerts" that are sent out from the Government Affairs staff. You might also want to read Secretary Leavitt's statement on the DHHS budget at: <http://www.dhhs.gov/news/speech/2005/050207.html>.

As individuals, it is important that we educate policymakers about the importance of public health and ICEHS, and make our concerns known, to our Congressional delegates, as well as to the White House. Whenever possible, present information on the local impact of the issue. Don't get lost in lots of statistics - use a few simple charts or graphs, and a 1-page listing of the important points that you are trying to make. There are many effective ways of doing this - if you are going to send something in writing, e-mail or fax it, rather than sending it via snail mail, as all of the mail is now screened and there are significant delays in it getting through; if you are going to call, ask to speak with the person who works on health issues; stop by and visit the office when you are in DC; meet with your rep/senator when s/he is in the district (weekends, most Fridays, etc.); thank him/her when s/he supports something of importance to you.

- *Linda Degutis*

CDC Agency-wide Research Agenda Development

There is a new effort at CDC to create an agency-wide research agenda. Starting in March, there will be a series of public meetings. Some of you may receive invitations to participate - please try and do so if you are invited. This is the first time that the agency-wide agenda has been put together, and injury is a significant part of this, and is included with environmental health in one of the 5 workgroups, and there is a workgroup focused on community preparedness and response. There will also be a public comment period when people can comment on the research ideas. More information on the process, as well as the public meetings is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/ophr/cdcra.htm>

- Linda Degutis

What's Your Favorite New Orleans Restaurant?

New Orleans is noted for its delicious Creole and Cajun cooking. Help make next year's ICEHS Awards Dinner the best one yet by letting the host committee know your favorite restaurants in New Orleans. We're looking for restaurants with: great food, good value, easy access, and that can privately seat about 70 people. If you haven't been to New Orleans recently, ask someone who has and send all recommendations to Cathy Gotschall at cgotschall@nhtsa.dot.gov. Volunteers to serve on the host committee are always welcome!

- Cathy Gotschall

Hello from the Student Liaisons

Mira Grice

I am currently a third year doctoral student in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Minnesota. I also completed the master's of science degree in environmental health here at the University. I have had a wide variety of experiences in environmental health, from investigating food-borne disease outbreaks at the state level, to industrial hygiene projects researching appropriate methods for sampling metalworking fluid mists. Currently, I am involved in several projects including: 1) examining the association between work-family conflict and the mental and physical health of women at twelve weeks postpartum, 2) examining the association between history of violence and current risk of work-related physical assault among nurses and 3) the analysis of morbidity and mortality of workers exposed to perfluorochemicals.

In the coming year as co-Student Liaison, I look forward to getting to know the other students involved in ICEHS. I, along with Kathleen, welcome comments, questions and/or concerns from fellow students, which will be passed along to ICEHS leadership. Hopefully this kind of interaction will foster more opportunities for students to connect with their colleagues at the annual APHA conference. You can reach me at gric0001@umn.edu.

Kathleen Ferguson Carlson

Greetings from Minneapolis, Minnesota! I am a doctoral student in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health, University of Minnesota. Originally from Oregon, where I also did my undergraduate studies (go Beavs!), I moved to Minnesota in 2000 to pursue my Master's degree in environmental epidemiology. With Dr. Susan Gerberich as my advisor, I had a program full of Injury Prevention and Control curriculum, and the opportunity to work as Project Coordinator for the 2001 Regional Rural Injury Study – II (RRIS-II), a position that continued through 2004. Soon after this introduction to the field, I knew I wanted to continue my education as a doctoral student. I have since been enrolled in the Occupational Injury Prevention Research Training Program, and am working with RRIS-II data to explore environmental and behavioral risk factors for agricultural injury. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as co-Student Liaison for the ICEHS and APHA, and am looking forward to working with Mira and other students over the next year. Personally, I have learned from, and thoroughly enjoyed, participating in APHA conferences and ICEHS section activities. I hope to encourage further student participation, both current injury students and those yet to discover the field, in a variety of ways, including coordinating events at the annual meeting in New Orleans. Please don't hesitate to contact either Mira or myself with ideas, and – stay tuned for more! You can reach me at 612-624-1449 or ferg0114@umn.edu.

- Elizabeth Berger

What Does the Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section Mean to You?

To me, it provides opportunities for:

- promoting policy change,
- contributing to our field,
- demonstrating leadership among peers,
- extraordinary networking,
- a unified voice that advocates for injury issues within the nation's largest public health organization.

Our section is strong if its members are active. This is the time of year for you to become more active. Right now, we have an urgent need for members who are willing to run for elected office. The election takes place this summer; the positions are filled at the November 2006 meeting in New Orleans. Please read this message carefully and respond to Anara Guard, Nominations Chair, immediately: aguard@edc.org with your questions or suggestions. You may nominate yourself or someone else. All candidates must be primary members of ICEHS.

Chair-elect. We need two candidates for a contested election. The successful candidate will become chair-elect in 11/06 and become chair in 11/07. APHA provides two days of training and orientation (your travel paid by APHA) in DC during the summer of 2007. The chair is responsible for convening leadership calls; organizing the business meetings at the 2007 annual conference; controlling the section budget; finding section members to serve on task forces, advisory panels and other professional opportunities; and generally being the face and voice of our section for a year. The chair's job is easier if they are housed in an organization that supports their involvement in this professional association (by providing access to conference calling for instance), but past chairs have also worked from home.

Secretary-elect. We need two candidates for a contested election. The successful candidate will become secretary-elect in 11/06 and become chair in 11/07. APHA provides a brief orientation at the annual

meeting in 2006. The secretary is responsible for taking and disseminating minutes at the business meetings (2007) and during the leadership calls.

Section Council. We have plenty of candidates for section councilors.

Governing Council. We have a candidate for governing council.

If you wonder whether you or someone else are qualified or experienced enough to be chair or secretary, please get in touch with me. Running for office is one way of learning the ropes of how the organization operates.

The nomination process is simple--send me your name and contact information and a statement of no more than 200 words indicating your history with ICEHS, why you want to run, what you offer. No CV or biosketch is needed.

- *Anara Guard*

Samuel Alderson - The Originator of the Crash-test Dummy, Passes Away in Los Angeles

(Taken from the Obituary section of the Los Angeles Times - 2-18-05)

Samuel W. Alderson, a multifaceted inventor who created crash test dummies such as those used in automobile safety tests, has died. He was 90.

Alderson died Friday at his home in Marina del Rey of complications associated with myelofibrosis, said his son Jeremy.

The mechanically inclined Alderson, who grew up puttering in his father's custom sheet-metal shop, built the first automobile test dummy at his Alderson Research Labs in 1960. But the 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.

In 1973, Alderson left his original company and formed a competitor, Humanoid Systems. The two firms dominated the crash test dummy market until they merged in 1990 to become First Technology Safety Systems.

Alderson was the last surviving founder, his son said, of the Stapp Car Crash Conference, an early organization that fostered automobile safety research.

When Alderson created Alderson Research Labs in 1952, nobody was thinking about testing the survivability of car crashes. His customers were the military and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

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 healthcare industry.

Born in Cleveland, Alderson moved to Southern California with his family as a toddler. Because of limited money during the Depression, he studied intermittently at Reed College, Caltech, Columbia and UC Berkeley.

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.

Married four times, Alderson is survived by two sons from his marriage to Betty Weir, William of St. Augustine, Fla., and Jeremy of Hector, N.Y.; and four grandchildren.

Editor's Note:

ICEHS Member Les Fisher contacted the Alderson family, speaking to his son Jeremy, and expressed condolences on behalf of the Section.

- John Lundell

This article is being repeated due to an email address error in last month's issue:

A Virtual Car Seat Demonstration in Your Own Home with www.chop.edu/carseat

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia announces their updated child passenger safety web site just in time for the hectic and often dangerous holiday travel period. The site, www.chop.edu/carseat, features videos on car seat installation that download quickly . . . even with dial up service. It also provides information to help parents protect children of all ages when they ride in vehicles – from installing infant safety seats to reinforcing safe driving habits for teens. For each stage of child development, sections are available and printable in comprehensive and abridged formats.

Special sections about buying a safe car, free safety seat checkpoints and special travel circumstances on www.chop.edu/carseat address topics for which parents often need quick answers.

The new online resource draws on experience from Partners for Child Passenger Safety, a research partnership of Children's Hospital and State Farm® that is the nation's largest study of children in crashes.

Children's Hospital encourages other Web sites and organizations to link to the educational site so that as many parents as possible can use the information.

For additional information, contact Tracey Durham at 215.590.4653 or durhamt@email.chop.edu.

Commentary by Les Fisher, MPH

On Sunday, a follower of the Columbine School massacre imitated that event. He purchased the assault weapon at a gun fair and used it in a shopping center 50 miles south of my home. (See www.timesunion.com).

The first local written press story, from police and public contacts, did not report the vector (the consumer product/weapon involved); the second report did not yet link any TV speculations about the perpetrator's suicidal ideation not only his homicide intent /terrorism focus, nor which if any Rx drugs involved or what he ate for breakfast.

My forthcoming Times Union written press interview, if published, and my on going commentaries (at the above web site) will mention the readily availability of these assault guns (and also the .50 caliber rifles able to shoot thru a plane's armor) and as the possible false suicide -homicide dichotomy. I have shared the episode with CDC and others to track similar (expected in theory) episodes and to help support current IC needs and practices. (The reporter continually asked me what must we do to make shopping centers safe and on criminals; I said that is not the true long range remedy and applied Haddon's work with a focus on passive safety prevention. at least start with an effective assault weapon ban.)

Decades ago, cross disciplined psychologists, medical, et al teams at the Cornell Aeronautics Labs, (and, in part, NTSB and CPSC today), were able to conduct within 24 hours, on site, in depth public health epi investigations (see my NYS MSS at Members' Only) That work led to our current safety designed cars; the later to much effective (and as today's mantra, societal cost savings) in safety engineering for children's household products. That's one lesson, but it seems very expensive today. The other "lessons" may include more of these systems in vivo (real world) case studies at our IC graduate students and our continuing ed programs

*Les Fisher M.P.H.
Safety / Management Consultant
(Archivist, American Public Health Association, ICEHS Section)*

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARSHFIELD CLINIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION National Farm Medicine Center RESEARCH SPECIALIST – AGRICULTURAL HEALTH & SAFETY

The National Farm Medicine Center, one of four centers in the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, invites applications for a research specialist with an emphasis on agricultural health and safety. The successful candidate will be involved with projects associated with the National Farm Medicine Center and the NIOSH- funded National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety. Strengths in the areas of agricultural health and safety, public health, communications and program evaluation are desirable.

Responsibilities include:

- Assist the Director of the National Children’s Center with project planning, implementation and program evaluation
- Coordinate consensus development initiatives
- Lead small-scale research projects
- Participate as a team member in large-scale research projects
- Assist in the preparation of proposals, reports and manuscripts
- Interact with external advisors, consultants and federal agency representatives

The position requires a Master’s degree in public health, agricultural/occupational safety, program evaluation, communications or a related field. A minimum of two years of work experience in one of the areas noted above is required. Experience working with agricultural populations and community-based initiatives is desirable.

The National Farm Medicine Center

The National Farm Medicine Center was established in 1981. Its mission is to conduct high quality research addressing human health and safety associated with rural and agricultural work, life and environments. More than 20 NFMC scientists and support staff are engaged in research and program outreach. Core research areas include agromedicine, agricultural safety engineering, environmental microbiology, and childhood agricultural health and safety. For additional information visit our web site www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc

Community Information

Marshfield is a city of 20,000 in central Wisconsin with fine primary and secondary schools, exceptional recreational opportunities, and a strong sense of community. Marshfield has a two-year branch of the University of Wisconsin and two major universities are within a 1 hour and 15 minute drive – UW Eau Claire and UW Stevens Point. Over 70 physicians and scientists hold University faculty appointments at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, and other universities in the region.

For more information or to apply online, please visit us at: www.marshfieldclinic.org or submit resume to: Marshfield Clinic, Human Resources Representative, 1000 N. Oak Avenue, Marshfield, WI 54449 Telephone: 715-387-5341



Marshfield Clinic is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that values diversity. Minorities, females, individuals with disabilities and veterans are encouraged to apply.