

**American Public Health Association
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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 with the MAKE ROADS SAFE organization for agreeing to distribute this electronic newsletter.

31st Annual AMERSA National Conference – November 8-10, 2007

The Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse is pleased to announce its 31st Annual AMERSA National Conference to be held on November 8-10, 2007, in Washington DC. The meeting will reflect on AMERSA's interdisciplinary strengths and the commitment to disseminate the latest developments in substance abuse education, prevention, treatment and research that challenge all health care professionals. We have planned an exciting program featuring research abstracts, skill-focused workshops, and plenary speakers addressing issues of national and international importance.

Confirmed plenary sessions include:

- * Steven D. Passik, PhD, Weill College of Cornell Medical Center, speaking on aberrant drug-taking behaviors during pain management
- * Keith N. Humphreys, PhD, Stanford School of Medicine, speaking on what science tells us about self-help groups for addictions
- * David B. Abrams, PhD, National Institutes of Health, speaking on the importance of transdisciplinary science
- * Herbert Kleber MD, Columbia University Medical Center, will be the recipient of the distinguished John P. McGovern award
- * Constance Weisner, Dr Ph, MSW, Northern California Division of Research – Kaiser Permanente, will receive the prestigious Betty Ford award honoring her valuable contributions to the substance abuse field.

Abstracts highlighting cross-cultural issues, diversity, hard-to-reach populations, or clinical practice differences are encouraged, including interdisciplinary and international topics. Submissions will be accepted into one of three categories: scientific research presentation, program and curricula evaluation, and clinical case presentation. **Submissions are due May 15.**

Submit on-line at www.amersa.org <<http://www.amersa.org/>>

**AMERSA Conference Travel awards – full or partial awards are available for up to 20 new attendees. See the website for details and application. **

For further information, visit www.amersa.org <<http://www.amersa.org/>>.

~ Linda Degutis

The 2007 Policy Review and Archiving Process Has Started!

All members are encouraged to get involved in this year's Policy Review and Archiving Process. To participate, contact the leadership of your Section, SPIG, Caucus, Affiliate or other membership component to assist in a review of this year's identified policies. This year the policies fall under four categories: children's health insurance, rural health, Medicaid and public health workforce. Please visit <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/archive/default.htm> to view this year's list of policies up for review. The review form has been formatted into an easy to use table. Please download the table and fill in the requested information for each policy reviewed.

Completed policy review tables should be e-mailed to APHA at policy@apha.org by **midnight on May 23, 2007**. Additionally, a Q&A about the Policy Review and Archiving Process is available at <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/archive/archiveQA.htm> .

Questions? Contact your Action Board representative or Don Hoppert/APHA, donald.hoppert@apha.org , Elaine Auld, eauld@sophe.org or Ted Hanekamp, tgh300@aol.com.

Fasten Your Seatbelt: John D. States and the Quest for Automotive Safety

On Wednesday, March 21st, the Rochester Historical Society presented a talk on Dr. John D. States' contributions to auto safety. You may remember that Dr. States was honored by the ICEHS Section with the Distinguished Career Award at our meeting in Boston in 2000.

Here's the announcement for the talk:

A generation ago, it was not unusual to drive a car unstrapped. Until 1967 auto manufacturers were not required to install seatbelts as standard equipment. Today, buckling up is automatic for most of us. Credit for that transformation goes, in part, to the Rochester orthopedic surgeon Dr. John States. Once the race doctor at Watkins Glen International Speedway, Dr. States later combined his two loves of automobiles and medicine to become a pioneer in the automobile safety movement, helping to create the first automobile safety standards in 1966, and the nation's first mandatory seatbelt law in 1983. Join James Leach, Curator of the John D. States, MD Automotive Safety Collection of the ViaHealth Archives Consortium, for a talk and slideshow on this fascinating Rochesterian.

~ Linda Degutis

Volunteers Needed

I need five volunteers to assist in the APHA Policy Review and Archiving Process. Each will be assigned a half dozen or so statements for review and comment. You will have a month to do it.

Please contact me ASAP with a yeah or a nay. If it's a nay, please think of someone who is an ICEHS member who can help with this.

Also, Please be sure that you have changed my email address in your computer to ssgallagher@earthlink.net.

~ Sue Gallagher

CSTE/CDC Applied Epidemiology Fellowship Program

The Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE) Applied Epidemiology Fellowship Program funded me, Carrie Huisingh, an Injury Prevention fellow. I graduated from the Indiana University Department of Public Health in 2006.

In July, I was placed at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in Boston, as an Epidemiologist with the Injury Prevention and Control Program. During this two-year fellowship, I will conduct an evaluation of the National Violent Death Reporting System in Massachusetts, and will develop a surveillance system for fall-related deaths among older adults in the state.

In October, I assisted the Department in its investigation of a Salmonella outbreak that impacted Massachusetts and more than a dozen other states. During the course of my fellowship, I will also be participating in numerous emergency preparedness and response events for the health department.

Working under the guidance of two mentors, Dr. Holly Hackman and Dr. Victoria Ozonoff, I will be afforded the unique opportunity to obtain high-quality training in epidemiology and public health practice at the state. The Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Association of Schools of Public Health, established the fellowship program in 2001.

More information about how to apply for the fellowship can be found at www.cste.org or contact Molly Wray at mwray@cste.org.

~ Carrie Huisingh

Archivist's Attic

The Use of Archival Resources for Recent Motor Vehicle Injury Control Research

John Paul Stapp, pioneer researcher of human tolerance to crash decelerations, would use his own body as a test subject. Honoring his memory, Stapp conferences, have hosted biomechanical engineering and related presentations (see recent example below of assessing earlier work with modern computers). The abstract was taken from past ICEHS president David Lawrence's www.SafetyLit.org. For related historical background see also Members Only, (History of NYS Organizations in Injury Control) Another archive , Motor Vehicle Hazards Archives (<http://www.autohazardsinfo.org/>) is a service of the Boston-based Public Health Advocacy Institute, a research affiliate of Northeastern University School of Law.

Development of numerical models for injury biomechanics research: a review of 50 years of publications in the Stapp car crash conference.

Yang KH, Hu J, White NA, King AI, Chou CC, Prasad P. [Stapp Car Crash J](#) 2006; 50: 429-90.

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Numerical analyses frequently accompany experimental investigations that study injury biomechanics and improvements in automotive safety. Limited by computational speed, earlier mathematical models tended to simplify the system under study so that a set of differential equations could be written and solved. Advances in computing technology and analysis software have enabled the development of many sophisticated models that have the potential to provide a more comprehensive understanding of human impact response, injury mechanisms, and tolerance. In this article, 50 years of publications on numerical modeling published in the Stapp Car Crash Conference Proceedings and Journal were reviewed. These models were based on: (a) author-developed equations and software, (b) public and commercially available programs to solve rigid body dynamic models (such as MVMA2D, CAL3D or ATB, and MADYMO), and (c) finite element models. A clear trend that can be observed is the increasing use of the finite element method for model development. A review of these modeling papers clearly indicates the progression of the state-of-the-art in computational methods and technologies in injury biomechanics.

See also the forthcoming PHR April/May for another example of the use of archives, my commentary book review for: *Injury and Violence Prevention: Behavioral Science Theories, Methods, and Applications*. Andrea Carlson Gielen, David A. Sleet, Ralph J. DiClemente, Editors. Hoboken (NJ): Jossey-Bass, 2006. Hardcover; 576 pages; \$70.

Les Fisher M.P.H

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~ Les Fisher