

# RTIRN PARTNERS' MEETING IN DURBAN

The RTIRN partners' meeting was convened on April 2, 2006, prior to the commencement of the 8th World Congress on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion (WCIPSP) in Durban, South Africa. The attendance of more than 60 participants—many of whom were new partners to the network, was an indication of the network's continued growth and emerging prominence in the field of road traffic injury research. RTIRN Board Chair Prof. Robyn Norton opened the meeting and Dr. Adnan Hyder, Board Vice-Chair proceeded to highlight the network's mission and some of its main accomplishments during the past five years including the implementation of three small research studies in Kenya, Pakistan and Uganda; the provision of scholarships for participants to attend the 7th World Congress on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in Vienna; the development of a website, list-serve, and newsletter for communication to the more than 130 members; the conduct of three partners' meetings & capacity development workshops; and most recently the establishment of a Secretariat in Sri Lanka at the University of Peradeniya. Dr. Hyder introduced some of the network's upcoming activities including a multi-center research study on non-standard helmet use and the convening of a regional workshop in Cairo, Egypt in conjunction with the Forum-10 meeting.

RTIRN Board members shared information on current RTI activities in their respective regions and discussed the role of the RTIRN in promoting RTI research and capacity development. Prof. Wilson Odero, RTIRN Board member and Dr. Olive Kobusingye, former RTIRN Board member and WHO Regional Advisor presented an overview of the RTI problem in the African region and current activities and initiatives. Prof. Robyn Norton introduced the RTIRN sponsored Multi-Centre Research Study, and its aims, reiterating the intention to build collective expertise among the RTIRN partnership. The study will focus on non-standard helmet use and identify policies and legislation around their use.

## Recent RTI Publications

[Bener A, Ghaffar A, Azab A, Kutty MS, Toth F, Lovasz G.](#)

The impact of four-wheel drives on traffic disability and deaths compared to passenger cars. *J Coll Physicians Surg Pak.* 2006 Apr;16(4):257-60.

[Dandona R, Kumar GA, Dandona L.](#)

Risky behavior of drivers of motorized two wheeled vehicles in India. *J Safety Res.* 2006;37(2):149-58.

[Adnan Ali Hyder, Omar Hussein Amach, Nitin Garg, Mariam Temitope Labinjo.](#)

Estimating the burden of road traffic injuries among children and adolescents in urban South Asia. *Health Policy.* 2006;77:129-139.

[Shanthi Ameratunga, Martha Hajar, Robyn Norton.](#)

Road-traffic injuries: confronting disparities to address a global-health problem. *Lancet.* 2006 May 6;367(9521):1533-40.



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**road research**  
The Newsletter of the Road Traffic Injuries Research Network

## Message from the Board Chair

Dear all,

It was my privilege to attend the world injury conference in Durban a couple of months ago and in particular to contribute to our partners meeting prior to the commencement of the main conference. As reported elsewhere in the newsletter, we had a great meeting and lots of opportunities to meet and share our experiences with partners from all over the world.

From Durban, I flew directly to Beijing to attend the launch of the report entitled Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries ([www.dcp2.org](http://www.dcp2.org)). This report, funded by the Gates Foundation and others, was the culmination of many hours of work and contributions by colleagues from all over the world. The launch was only able to focus on a few of the issues covered in the report, however, significantly, one of the key sessions focused on road traffic injuries. This special focus was, in part, at the request of the Chinese government, signaling their concern about the growing problem of road traffic injuries in China. Much of the material presented incorporated data from the chapter on unintentional injuries (chapter 39), co-authored by Adnan Hyder, Margie Peden, David Bishai and myself.

Most recently, as highlighted elsewhere in the newsletter, Shanthi Ameratunga, Martha Hajar and I had the privilege of contributing a review article on road traffic injuries, for the *Lancet*. While hopefully we have further raised the profile of the burden and challenges of addressing road traffic injuries in low and middle-income countries, an unexpected bonus was that the journal highlighted the Network's website so hopefully that might result in an increasing number of new partners!

Finally, the Board will be meeting in early June, at which time we will be reviewing and making decisions in response to the call for Expressions of Interest to collaborate in a multi-centre research study. We were overwhelmed by the numbers of applications, so look forward to reporting further to you about the outcome of the call in our next newsletter.

  
Robyn Norton, Board Chair ■

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# Road-traffic injuries: confronting disparities to address a global-health problem



A review in the recent issue of THE LANCET highlights how concerted action is urgently needed worldwide to tackle the global burden of injuries and deaths caused by road-traffic crashes. Attention is specifically required in low and middle-income countries where the numbers of road injuries and deaths continues to rise.

Around 1.2 million people were killed and 50 million injured in road-traffic crashes worldwide in 2002, costing the global community about US\$518 billion. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has described the situation as “a worsening global disaster destroying lives and livelihoods, hampering development and leaving millions in greater vulnerability”. Without appropriate action, road-traffic injuries are predicted to escalate from the ninth leading contributor to the global burden of disease in 1990 to the third by 2020.

A 2004 WHO report and the subsequent collaboration of 42 agencies worldwide led to the UN General Assembly to pass a new resolution on road safety on Oct 26, 2005; in addition to recommending the implementation of the WHO report to reduce road-traffic injuries and deaths, the UN also called for the organisation of the first UN Global Road-Safety Week (April 23-26, 2007); and requested that Member States and the international community recognise the third Sunday in November of every year as the World Day of Remembrance for Road-Traffic Victims.

Associate Professor Shanthi Ameratunga (University of Auckland, New Zealand) and colleagues outline the current evidence for the severe toll that road-traffic crashes have worldwide, and emphasise the under-reported burden in low and middle-income countries.

Dr Ameratunga comments: “Motorisation has enhanced the lives of many individuals and societies. However, the benefits have come with a price. Although the numbers of lives lost in road crashes in high-income countries indicate a downward trend in recent decades, for most of the world’s population, the burden of road-traffic



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injury-in societal and economic costs-is rising substantially. The global commitment to implement recommendations of the 2004 world report, and in particular, address the disparities evident in low-income and middle-income countries, is vital. This will only be possible with the concerted effort of policy makers, public-health practitioners, road safety advocates, community groups and other committed partners, working within a common framework, as envisaged and supported by the UN.”

## Partner Profile:

**Prof. Anuradha Bose,**  
Christian Medical College, Vellore, India



The RTIRN is pleased to introduce one of its new partners, Professor Anuradha Bose. She is the Professor of Pediatrics in the Department of Community Health. Prof. Anuradha is a Paediatrician by profession and has obtained her membership from the United Kingdom.

She was introduced to the field of injury prevention by another RTIRN partner, Prof. Rajam Krishnan and has since worked on drowning and suicide in India and on the Burden of road traffic injury in India. Her work in injury is mainly a result of her being a member of the Department of Community Health. Please join us in welcoming Prof. Anuradha Bose to the network.

# save the date!

**RTIRN WORKSHOP**  
**At the FORUM 10,**  
**October 28,2006**  
**Cairo, Egypt**

## Administrative Assistant RTIRN Secretariat

Mrs. Rizmia Naizer was appointed as the Administrative Assistant to the Road Traffic Injuries Research Network Secretariat from April 2006. She is an Accountant by profession and has expertise in the development and maintenance of websites. She will help the Secretary in the maintenance of the website, list serve and the Secretariat. Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Rizmia Naizer to the RTIRN.

