



ROAD RESEARCH

Newsletter of the RTIRN¹

A network for the reduction of the global burden of road traffic injuries, particularly in low and middle income countries, through the promotion, conduct and utilization of research

Message from the secretary

Dear Partners:

Research on road traffic injuries is needed more than ever to reduce the burden of health from this public health problem. Sustainable development, environment, medical care, emergency medical services, health financing, community participation, equity – all avenues of exploration are greatly needed in the field. RTIRN is anxious to provide a forum for all types of research deliberations and a medium for exchange of information, experiences, funding information and research results. We are trying to document the wealth of knowledge and experience in our partnership and so request all of you to fill in the survey forms put out on listserve and email them back (contact Mariam for forms at mlabinjo@jhsph.edu).

We have also put out a call to hand over the secretariat of RTIRN to a center in a low or middle income country. The call for proposals is on the Global Forum (www.globalforumhealth.org) and the WHO (www.who.int) websites (or email Walter at walter@gulbinat.com for a copy). We look forward to your proposals and moving the secretariat soon!

Adnan Hyder

Partner Profile

Radin Umar Radin Sohadi

Radin Umar is a professor of traffic safety engineering and currently serves as the Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Universiti Putra Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. A road safety expert, he brings over 15 years of experience in road traffic research in the developing world. He has worked as an administrator, as well as being involved in teaching at various levels: undergraduate and master's level, and the supervision of PhD candidates. Radin is credited with the design of



¹ The RTIRN is a network supported by the Global Forum for Health Research, World Health Organization, and the World Bank (through the Global Forum)

police accident investigation form in Malaysia and the training of police officers on the use of the form. He was also responsible for the set up of the national accident database at the police head quarters in Malaysia. Some of his ongoing projects include: Motorcycle safety program, Fatality Index for Malaysia, and Roadworthiness of Crashed Vehicles, all of which he serves as the project leader. Radin Umar is a value partner of RTIRN and brings an important disciplinary perspective. He can be contacted at Radinumx@eng.upm.edu.my

World News

Community road safety education

DFID is supporting a study to develop and use community participatory programs in road safety education in four countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia: Ghana, South Africa, India and Bangladesh. A manual describing methods to identify and understand a community's road safety problems will be developed for use by transport safety practitioners. Following implementation, there will be a period of monitoring and evaluation of the program on the improvement of traffic awareness and knowledge and also in reducing road crashes and pedestrian injuries. Further information can be obtained from international_enquiries@trl.co.uk

Drive Safely Arabia

BP Middle East and the Dubai Traffic Police launched a joint safety campaign in July 2004, called Drive Safely Arabia. The campaign is aimed at reducing the number of crashes attributed to brake failures which are believed to be a leading cause of road fatalities in the UAE. The project is being pilot tested in simultaneously in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Following this, pilot, the project will be launched in Oman, Kuwait and other Middle Eastern Countries. BP previously sponsored a series of traffic safety initiatives. Prior to the World Health Day 2004, BP commissioned Dubai Women's College students to make a film on the use of car seat belts which was shown in a large number of state schools as part of the WHD 2004 celebrations.

Sustainable transport coalition for Latin America

The ITDP (Institute for Transportation and Development Policy) is working o help establish a sustainable transport coalition for Latin America, based on the SUSTRAN (Sustainable Transport Action Network for Asia and the Pacific) model. More information on the activities of ITDP can be obtained from http://itdp.org/programs/programs_1_c.html

Announcements

FORUM 8 MEXICO 2004

The Global Forum for Health Research will hold its 8th annual meeting between the 16th and 20th of November, 2004. There will be a parallel session on road traffic injuries on the 18th November co-organized by RTIRN, WHO and Global Forum.

This meeting will run parallel to the Ministerial Summit on Health Research, organized by the WHO and hosted by the Mexican government. The summit will focus on country level action on health research and knowledge management to strengthen health sector response to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Further information can be obtained from <http://www.globalforumhealth.org/forum8/> or <http://www.who.int>

International Traffic Medicine Association

The ITMA will host its 20th World Conference in Gauteng, South Africa. The event is scheduled to take place between the 26th and 29th of September 2004. The conference focuses on reducing the severity of road traffic crashes.

Further information can be obtained from Pieter Swart at Pieter@confsa.co.za or visit the website at: <http://www.confsa.co.za/itma2004>

Reminders !!!!

DATABASE UPDATE

As we update our database, we urge you to complete the RTIRN partner profile form. Completed forms can be returned by post, fax or e-mail it (the relevant details are provided on the form). The form can be obtained from khayesim@who.int

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HOSTING OF RTIRN SECRETARIAT

Applications are currently being accepted for the hosting of the RTIRN secretariat. For submissions and further information contact Walter Gulbinat at Walter@Gulbinat.com

Publications

Aeron-Thomas A, Jacobs G, Sexton B, Gururaj G, Rahman 2004. The involvement and impact of road crashes on the poor: Bangladesh and India case studies, TRL, Crowthorne, UK. Available online at: www.grsproadsafety.org

Waters HR, Hyder AA, Philips TL 2004. Economic Evaluation of Interventions to Reduce Road Traffic Injuries – A Review of the Literature with Application to Low and Middle Income Countries. *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health* **16**(1)

Kulanthyan S, Rana AR, Law TH, radin Umar RS 2004. Seat belt use among users in Malaysia. *Journal of IATSS Research* **28**(1):19-25

Questions or Comments? Email Mariam_labinjo@yahoo.com