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Center For Injury Research And Prevention At CHOP Announces New Co-scientific Director

PHILADELPHIA -- The Center for Injury Research and Prevention (CIRP) is proud to announce the promotion of Kristy Arbogast, PhD to co-scientific director. She was previously and continues to serve as the Center's director of engineering. Dr. Arbogast has been with CIRP since its inception, when she joined Flaura K. Winston, MD, PhD and Dennis R. Durbin, MD, MSCE as a co-investigator on the seminal [Partners for Child Passenger Safety](#) (PCPS) project, a 10-year-long national study that led to significant policy and safety design advances for child motor vehicle occupants.

"This is a natural transition for CIRP," says Dr. Winston, scientific director and founder of CIRP. "As Kristy's career has matured and flourished, so has CIRP. She has helped to grow our Center's international reputation as a thought leader in child injury prevention and pediatric biomechanics."

As CIRP's co-scientific director, Dr. Arbogast will join Dr. Winston and Ayana Bradshaw, MPH, CIRP's administrative director, in leading a group of behavioral scientists, clinicians, epidemiologists, biostatisticians, engineers, public health practitioners, and communications professionals that focus on injury prevention, violence prevention, physical and emotional recovery following injury, and digital health, as well as pediatric biomechanics.

"I have benefitted from the interdisciplinary structure of CIRP," says Arbogast. "Working with colleagues from diverse academic backgrounds and research interests has expanded my own understanding of child injury prevention. We are all dedicated to translating our research into action to reduce preventable child injuries and deaths."

Dr. Arbogast has dedicated her career to safety research, focusing on the development of new auto and restraint safety designs and biofidelic child anthropomorphic dummies. Her work, which was recently recognized by the receipt of an honorary doctorate from Chalmers University, Sweden, has greatly expanded the quality and quantity of biomechanical and human factors engineering tools that will help industry to engineer better restraint systems to protect child occupants in motor vehicles. Most recently, Dr. Arbogast has extended her work to include the study of concussions, not only from motor vehicle crashes, but also from sports. She served on the Institute of Medicine Committee on Sports Concussion in Youth and is a member of the National Council on Youth Sports Safety.

Since 2011, Arbogast has co-led a multi-disciplinary team from across CHOP called [Minds Matter: Improving Pediatric Concussion Management](#). With initial funding by CHOP's Chair's Initiatives, the program streamlined and standardized concussion diagnosis, treatment and follow-up care across the CHOP network. It is now using funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Clinical and Translational Research Award at University of Pennsylvania and CHOP to develop a concussion registry at CHOP that can capture critical data from more than 12,000 concussion visits seen at CHOP each year. These data will help guide the field toward developing objective tools for diagnosing concussion and monitoring recovery. This focus on concussion represents a new area of investigation for CIRP.

Dr. Arbogast continues to serve as the co-director of the National Science Foundation-sponsored [Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies](#) (CChIPS) at CHOP, University of Pennsylvania and The Ohio State University. Dr. Arbogast is also research associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania and received her doctorate in bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania with a focus on brain injury biomechanics.

Note: Dr. Durbin recently moved from his position as scientific director at CIRP to become director of Clinical and Translational Research for the CHOP Research Institute.

About The Center for Injury Research and Prevention at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

The Center for Injury Research and Prevention at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia was established in 1996 to advance the safety and health of children, adolescents, and young adults through comprehensive research that encompasses before-the-injury prevention to after-the-injury healing. The Center's multidisciplinary research team, with expertise in the Behavioral Sciences; Medicine; Engineering; Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Human Factors; Public Health; and Communications, translates rigorous scientific research into practical tools and guidelines for families, professionals, and policymakers. For more information on the Center and its research initiatives, visit injury.research.chop.edu.