Consider Child Occupant Protection as Industry Goes Green

In the next couple of months, Congress will consider the 2010 Federal Highway Reauthorization Bill, also known as the Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization. This legislation sets the six-year spending priorities for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) as well as for other transportation agencies. As government and industry work together to provide a fleet of more fuel-efficient, lighter vehicles, it is critical that we closely monitor the impact on safety, especially for vulnerable child occupants. Occupant safety and quality data should be key priorities for this budget.

CIRP has been conducting feasibility and pilot studies to provide an alternative solution to Partners for Child Passenger Safety, which proved the utility and impact of child-focused crash surveillance before ending data collection in December 2007. With industry funding from the Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies and the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers and the cooperation of NHTSA, CIRP determined that integrating PCPS methodology with the existing National Automotive Sampling System (NASS) infrastructure is feasible, in demand, and economical.

CIRP may need your help in educating your local Congressional Representatives about the importance of a child-focused crash surveillance as part of the Reauthorization. Please look for an Alert in the coming months that will provide information to help you communicate with your legislators.

Details about proposed enhancements to NASS, which CIRP considers critical to NHTSA sustaining a cutting-edge crash surveillance as part of the Reauthorization, Please look for an Alert in the coming months that will provide information to help you communicate with your legislators.

Read the feasibility and justification report.

On March 3, Directors from the Center for Injury Research and Prevention (CIRP) at CHOP met with Senator Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), chairperson of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The group traveled to Washington, DC to brief legislators on research priorities for child injury, with great emphasis on child motor vehicle occupant protection. Pictured left to right are: Peter Grollman, director of Government Relations at CHOP; Kristy Arboag, director of Engineering at CIRP; Flaura K. Winston, co-scientific director at CIRP; Senator Inouye; Suzanne Hill, director of Advocacy and Outreach at CIRP; Dennis Durbin, co-scientific director at CIRP; and Kazuo Higuchi, Takata Industries.

Free Webinar Opportunities: Register Now

A Webinar Update for Stakeholders: “Evaluation of a School-based Peer-to-Peer Initiative: Ride Like a Friend. Drive Like You Care”

The second Driver Education and Training Administrators (DETA)-hosted Webinar about the Ride Like a Friend pilot campaign was announced at the recent annual Lifesavers Conference in Nashville, TN. Teen driver stakeholders should mark their calendars for this Webinar to be held on April 30 at 1 p.m. (EST). During the 60-minute Webinar, research and outreach professionals from The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) will provide:

- Lessons learned from RLAF 2008 pilot studies. A peer-to-peer school-based initiative piloted in two schools during 2008 National Teen Driver Safety Week (NTDSW), Ride Like A Friend (RLAF) was developed after CHOP conducted formative research among teens and stakeholders. The web-based initiative, which promotes safe management of teen passenger behavior, was also available for stakeholders to download to use in their communities’ NTDSW activities last year. Early evaluation findings will be shared during the Webinar.

- Plans for 2009 through 2010 campaigns, including high-level approaches to planning, peer-to-peer activities, RLAF materials, and evaluation. CHOP researchers will describe plans for an expanded RLAF pilot during 2009 NTDSW (October 18 to 24) and will provide a planning overview for the extended launch of RLAF in 2010.

This informative session will be hosted by DETA. Any individual or organization interested in learning more about how to use RLAF 2009-10 in their schools or communities is welcome to register. To register, please visit here.

EMSC Webinar for Pediatric Healthcare Providers Rescheduled

Thanks to all of you who had registered for the www.AfterTheInjury.org Webinar sponsored by Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) on March 23rd. Due to a technical difficulty, the Webinar has been rescheduled for Monday, April 20, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (EST). To re-register or to register for the first time, please visit here.
The Webinar will introduce healthcare providers to a new Web resource for parents of injured kids. Center for Injury Research and Prevention pediatricians and psychologists developed www.aftertheinjury.org to help parents understand their children's reactions to injury and to promote optimal emotional and physical recovery. The site's content is based on the latest research evidence and solid clinical expertise and has been tested with families of injured children. The new site will be officially launched in May. This Webinar will offer healthcare providers the ability to understand how to use the site before sharing its contents with parents.

Industry-Related Research Underway at CChIPS

The Center for Injury Prevention Studies (CChIPS) recently held its spring meeting at the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at CHOP in Philadelphia. During the meeting, researchers from CHOP and The University of Pennsylvania shared results from CChIPS-funded studies conducted in 2008-2009 including: "Child restraint systems in side impact"; “Painful spine injury in children and young adults”; “Advanced restraint systems for near-seated occupants”; “Effect of seat and seat belt geometry on abdominal injuries”; and “Passive range of motion of adult and child cervical spines.”

Matthew R. Maltese, MS, project manager for biomechanics at CIRP, received the Best Presenter Award for 2008-2009 from CChIPS-IAB. The researchers also discussed new projects for 2009 including: “Thoracic cage and age-related changes in thoracic response”; “Learning to drive - teens with developmental disabilities”; “BMI and crash injury in 4 to 8 year-olds”; “A novel approach to develop age-equivalent models for pediatric long bones”; “Neurocognitive evaluation of mild traumatic brain injury”; and “CRS in side impact.” Also presented were highlights for the NSF Fundamental Research Project: "Creating a Virtual Organization to support child safety studies" and "NASS special study for child occupant protection.”

In attendance were members of CChIPS Industry Advisory Board (IAB), which includes Britax Child Safety Inc.; Dorel Juvenile Group; the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); Nissan Technical Center North America Inc.; State Farm Insurance Company®; TK Holdings Inc.; Toyota Motor North America Inc.; Volkswagen of America Inc.; and Ford Motor Co. With support from the National Science Foundation (NSF), CChIPS was established in 2005. One of 40 NSF/University Cooperative Research Centers (iUCRC) in the country, CChIPS is the only one that focuses on child injury prevention. Its IAB members contribute research dollars to support the CChIPS mission. Also attending to learn more about becoming a part of the CChIPS effort were visitors from Ohio State University, Rowan University, and the University of Arkansas.

For more information on CChIPS-sponsored research, please visit here.

CHOP Responds to Concerns Over Government Crash Tests of Infant Seats

Following recent news stories reporting on the poor performance of infant seats in government crash tests, child passenger safety researchers at CHOP offered reassurance to parents concerned about their children’s safety. These researchers are uniquely qualified to offer this response. Since 1999, they have conducted in-depth examinations of thousands of crashes involving children as part of Partners for Child Passenger Safety (PCPS), the world’s largest study of child crash injury.

Read one of the news stories.
Read the researchers’ response.

Recent Presentations from the Injury Center

- Vivaldi A. Teen Online Panels: Relationship Between Risk Perceptions and Driving Behaviors. Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR). Emory University Center for Injury Control, and the

Center Researcher Receives Prestigious Award

Meghan Marsac, PhD, a postgraduate fellow at CHOP and works with the Center’s Child and Adolescent Reactions to Injury and Trauma (CARIT) program, has received the 2009 C. Eugene Walker Education Award from The Society of Pediatric Psychology (SPP). Established in 2007 by Dr. Walker, the award helps facilitate the ability of SPP trainees to attend professional meetings to enhance their educational pursuits. Marsac attended the Midwest Conference on Pediatric Psychology on April 2 to 4 in Kansas City with proceeds from this award. She presented two posters during the conference involving her work with CARIT. Marsac also was recently awarded a grant from the Junior Investigator Pilot Grant Program at the Clinical Translational Research Center (CTR) for measure development. The measure she will be developing is the Coping with Trauma Inventory for Youth.

Support Our Center

The dedicated doctors, researchers, and outreach professionals at the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at CHOP are fighting to save the lives of children of all ages. But we need your help. To make a secure, on-line donation, please visit The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Foundation Donation Page and select “Center for Injury Research and Prevention” in the drop-down menu. You also may telephone the CHOP Foundation at 267-426-6500. For more information on our research and programs, please visit www.chop.edu/injury.

The Center for Injury Research and Prevention Family of Websites

- The Center for Injury Research and Prevention (www.chop.edu/injury)
- Keeping Kids Safe in Crashes-English language – English language (www.chop.edu/carseat)
- Cómo Mantener a los Niños Fuera de Peligro Durante los Choques – Spanish language (www.chop.edu/asientos_infantiles)
- National Teen Driver Safety Week (www.ndss2008.org)
- Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PVPC) (www.chop.edu/pvpc)
- After The Injury: Helping Parents Help Their Kids Recover (www.aftertheinjury.org)