Focus On: Karen Matthews, MPA

Karen Matthews, MPA, has a major role in supporting the science conducted at the Center for Injury Research and Prevention. As the Center’s Administrative Director, Matthews is responsible for all administrative functioning, including the development and implementation of policies, overseeing recruitment and staff training, and administering grants and contracts. The “go-to” person for supporting the staff, funders, and CHOP’s overall mission, Matthews handles administrative issues to help researchers concentrate on what’s most important: finding ways to prevent child and young adult injuries.

A key member of the leadership team, Matthews ensures goals and objectives are set and monitored to assure CIRP’s continued growth. She also serves as a key advisor to senior leadership on fiscal, strategic, operations, and compliance efforts.

Matthews also is closely involved with the important research and outreach conducted at CIRP. “An important part of my role is to support the science and our researchers by overseeing CIRP’s infrastructure and administrative needs,” she says. “Being aware of our scientific efforts helps me to be effective at my job and to provide better services and products to our team members.”

She enjoys seeing how her efforts contribute to the Center’s goals of creating awareness and saving lives. “Our research is unique because it is current and relevant—-it touches everyday people,” says Matthews. “My role gives me the opportunity to work on a multitude of projects, each one unique in its own right. I enjoy solving new problems and the critical thinking that comes with that.”

Matthews received her BS in Science, Business Management and Technology from the University of Maryland and her MPA from the University of Baltimore. Before joining CIRP in 2004, Matthews spent 13 years at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (including as Administrator for the Division of Cardiology) and also worked as a Financial Medicine (including as Administrator for the Division of Cardiology) and also worked as a Financial Medicine (including as Administrator for the Division of Cardiology) and also worked as a Financial Medicine (including as Administrator for the Division of Cardiology) and also worked as a Financial Medicine (including as Administrator for the Division of Cardiology) and also worked as a Financial Medicine (including as Administrator for the Division of Cardiology) and also worked as a Financial Medicine (including as Administrator for the Division of Cardiology) and also worked as a Financial Medicine (including as Administrator for the Division of Cardiology) and also worked as a Financial Medicine (including as Administrator for the Division of Cardiology) and also worked as a Financial Medicine (including as Administrator for the Division of Cardiology) and also worked as a Financial Medicine (including as Administrator for the Division of Cardiology) and also worked as a Financial Medicine (including as Administrator for the Division of Cardiology) and also worked as a Financial.
Standing Up for Improved Teen Driving Laws in Pennsylvania

Following the deaths of six teens in three teen driver-related crashes in just one month in suburban Philadelphia, Dr. Flaura Winston, MD, PhD, the Center's founder and co-scientific director, wrote an Op-Ed that appeared in the Sunday Philadelphia Inquirer to emphasize the need for Pennsylvania lawmakers to pass an improved Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) bill to better protect teen drivers and their passengers. Following intense media and public outcry, the Pennsylvania Senate Transportation Committee moved to amend House Bill 67, also known as Lacey's Law, on January 27. Proponents of the bill are hopeful that the legislation will be considered in the Senate this Spring.

Read Dr. Winston's Op-Ed.

Listen for an interview with Dr. Winston on National Public Radio's Radio Times.

Read the first in a series of articles from The Pottstown Mercury on the impact of recent teen driving tragedies in Pennsylvania.

Read the rest of the series in "News Spotlight."

Webinar Series Promotes Pennsylvania Stakeholder Involvement in Teen Driver Safety

The newly formed Pennsylvania Teen Driver Safety Alliance, a coalition that empowers in-state stakeholders with a platform to address the issue of teen driver safety, is hosting a free Webinar series over the months of February and March, culminating in an in-person meeting at the Lifesavers Conference in Philadelphia. Each webinar covers different opportunities where stakeholders might join forces to improve teen driver safety and reduce crashes and injuries. These stakeholders include all those interested in saving teens' lives such as state legislators, school administrators, government agencies, law enforcement officers, hospital staff members, prevention specialists, driving education instructors, insurance industry professionals, public health advocates, and teens.

This alliance is being organized by the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at CHOP, the Lehigh Valley Health Network, and The Highway Safety Center at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. A February 3 Webinar addressed efforts to improve Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL). Upcoming webinars include:

- February 17, 1-2 pm. Covering the status of formal driver education in Pennsylvania and opportunities for improving it.
- March 3, 1-2 pm. Discussing the latest research supporting parental involvement in reducing teen crash risk.

The agenda for the Saturday, April 10 pre-conference workshop at Lifesavers will seek to set priorities for the coalition and determine effective strategies to address the teen driver crash epidemic in Pennsylvania. This workshop is free but requires advance registration.

Watch the February 3 webinar.

Register now for the February 17 webinar and/or the March 3 webinar.

Register for the April 10 Pre-Conference Workshop at Lifesavers.

Center Expert Shares Parenting Knowledge in USA Today

Ken Ginsburg, MD, MSEd, an investigator with the Young Driver Research Initiative, emphasized the need for parents to be firm, yet supportive, in setting driving rules with their teens in a recent "Your Health" column in USA Today.

Read the article.

Recent Publications from the Injury Center


Recent Presentations from the Injury Center

- Winston FK. Language – English language Competition receiving their award are: G. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Involvement Awards. Tara Hayden, MHSA, a Core Director with PCVPC and the co-founder of the Philadelphia Area Research Community Coalitions (PARCC), also was awarded for her commitment to nonviolence and community-building in West Philadelphia. Pictured (left to right) at the Interfaith Program and Commemoration receiving their award are: G. Anthony Moore, a tireless community volunteer in North Philadelphia, Joel S. Fein, MD, director of PCVPC, Tara Hayden, and Samuel Adelsberg, a senior at U of P and former co-chair of PRISM (The Program in Religious, Interfaith, and Spirituality Matters).

Injury Center Research Featured in The Penn Current

Flaura Koplin Winston, MD, PhD, CIRP founder and co-scientific director, shares details on how Center research data are used to create practical interventions to reduce the impact of injury on children in this feature article, which also includes insight from Dennis Durbin, MD, MSCE, co-scientific director of CIRP.

Read the article.

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)
- Keeping Young Drivers Safe (www.chop.edu/youngdrivers)
- National Teen Driver Safety Week (www.ntdsw2010.org)