The Center for Injury Research and Prevention (CIRP) at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) has joined the World Health Organization’s Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. This initiative is dedicated to stabilizing and reducing worldwide road injuries and fatalities by heightening safety awareness at the regional, national, and global level. “Developing nations can benefit from decades of lessons already learned in the U.S.,” says Flaura K. Winston, CIRP founder and co-scientific director. “We have much to offer to these countries in terms of basic infrastructure development, such as motor vehicle safety regulations and new car assessment programs, as well as theoretically-driven, evidence-based methods to create a culture of traffic safety.”

CIRP’s goal for the Decade of Action is to ensure the global community focuses on children. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that by 2015 road traffic injuries will be the leading health burden for children over age 5 in developing countries. In a recent resolution, the World Health Assembly urged member countries to prioritize child injury prevention as a major child survival issue. This call to action should help spur child injury prevention programming and financing in member countries. So far, 20 countries have voiced their support.

As its kickoff to the Decade, the Center’s Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies (CChIPS) held the Advances in Child Injury Prevention (ACIP) Conference on May 12 and 13 in Lansing.
Michigan. Bringing together professionals from industry, government, and research organizations, the conference covered the latest research in occupant safety for children and adolescents on a variety of topics, including crash test dummy design, child restraint installation, and regulatory advancements, such as head impact protection and child restraint performance. Over 90 attendees from 20 organizations heard a dozen presentations from experts at CHOP, The University of Michigan, The Ohio State University, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and TASS Americas. David Champion (pictured above), senior director of Consumer Union’s Automotive Test Division, served as the keynote speaker. The conference was made possible with support from Gold Sponsors Toyota Motor Manufacturing of North America and Volkswagen Group of America Inc. and Silver Sponsors Britax Child Safety Inc., Chrysler Group LLC, Diversified Technical Systems Inc. (DTS), General Motors Holding LLC, Lear Corporation, and Nissan Technical Center North America Inc.

Seacrist is also part of the “Thoracic Mechanics” project, which uses cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) data from CHOP patients to help design better pediatric crash test dummies as well as pediatric CPR manikins. “We use the CPR data to see how a child’s chest responds to compression. This will allow us to create dummies that will respond more realistically in a crash where the seat belt crosses the chest,” he says.

Seacrist has had the opportunity to travel around the world to share CIRP research, including an August 2010 trip to Japan and Singapore where he gave a presentation at the World Congress of Biomechanics. This premier biomechanical engineering conference draws over 2,000 international attendees, and his talk led to a new role as Principal Investigator for a study sponsored by the Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies (CChIPS) at CIRP. This line of research analyzes the effectiveness of two families of pediatric crash test dummies through impacts in a crash sled.

“The dummies being tested are the Hybrid III, which is most commonly used in the U.S., and the Q-Series, which is common in Europe,” says Seacrist. “The goal is to compare responses of the 6-year-old and 10-year-old dummies in a crash to child volunteers of the same age and size. The research findings will potentially lead to more realistic crash test dummies and lives saved.”

Seacrist earned his BS and MS degrees in Biomedical Engineering at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and a Certificate in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Drexel University in Philadelphia. A member of the CIRP team since 2007, he enjoys the diversity his role at the Center offers. “I can help build a crash sled one day, work with a child volunteer the next day, and travel abroad for a presentation the next,” he says. “When there’s always something new happening, going to work each day is exciting and rewarding. That’s how my experience at CIRP has been.”

Winston Joins Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars

On May 25, Flaura Winston, MD, PhD, CIRP founder and co-scientific director, was elected to membership in the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars. Established in 1967 by the University
Traumatic Stress at CHOP, recently traveled to Vienna, Austria to present her findings on predicting post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) risk in children after acute traumatic events at the 12th European Conference on Traumatic Stress. In April she also shared her knowledge in a series of workshops held in five cities across Australia.

Dr. Kassam-Adams and her team are working to better understand the consequences of pediatric injury and develop effective strategies to prevent PTSD in children. With a grant from The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) awarded last year, Dr. Kassam-Adams and colleagues from Kent State University, Summa Health System, and The University of Queensland are building a network and international data registry to create predictive tools for child PTSD.

In prospective studies of children's and parents’ reactions to traffic crashes and other medical emergencies, Center researchers found that most families experience at least a few acute stress disorder (ASD) symptoms within the first month after injury. Six months later, 1 in 6 still has clinically significant symptoms. To learn more, visit AfterTheInjury.org, the Center’s award-winning website devoted to helping children and their families recover after an injury.

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Recent Center Publications


Pictured at the ceremony are Flaura Winston, MD, PhD, and Professor Susan P. Baker of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Center Student Receives Award

Aimee Hildenbrand recently received an award for being an outstanding undergraduate student in Pediatric Psychology from the Society of Pediatric Psychology (Division 54) of the American Psychological Association. She was honored for her research in the field, including her participation in evaluating AfterTheInjury.org, the Center’s award-winning website that helps children recover after an injury, and several intervention development projects to promote recovery and adjustment to acute and chronic medical diagnoses. Hildenbrand attends Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA.

Check Out These New Pages on teendriversource.org

To better reflect our understanding of current research and best practice, the teendriversource.org team has added two new pages:

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**Recent Center Presentations**


Leff S, Vaughn N, Bevans K, and Thomas N. Preliminary Results

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**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](http://www.chop.edu/injury) 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](http://www.chop.edu/injury).

**The Center's Websites**

- The Center for Injury Research and Prevention ([www.chop.edu/injury](http://www.chop.edu/injury))

  Keeping Kids Safe in Crashes – English language ([www.chop.edu/carseat](http://www.chop.edu/carseat))

  Cómo Mantener a los Niños Fuera de Peligro Durante los Choques – Spanish language ([www.chop.edu/asientos_infantiles](http://www.chop.edu/asientos_infantiles))

  Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC) ([www.phillyviolenceprevention.org](http://www.phillyviolenceprevention.org))


  Ride Like A Friend ([www.ridelikeafriend.org](http://www.ridelikeafriend.org))

  teendriversource.org ([www.teendriversource.org](http://www.teendriversource.org))