

# Center for Injury

# Research and Prevention



## Fiscal Years 2024-2029 Strategic Plan

[Injury.research.chop.edu](http://Injury.research.chop.edu)

# VISION

## A future where all young people live to their full potential unencumbered by consequences of physical and emotional injury.

*At the Center for Injury Research and Prevention (CIRP), our care for children and families fuels our mission to accelerate the pace of research to keep children safe - reducing injury and violence and promoting recovery. We are driven to advance interdisciplinary science and translate our discoveries into breakthroughs in technology, clinical care, policy and education.*

Injuries, both physical and psychological, affect everyone, regardless of age, race, or economic status. For young people under age 25, unintentional injury, suicide and homicide are the 3 leading causes of death-- together claiming nearly 33,000 lives in 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fatalities are the tip of the iceberg; the burden of serious injuries that lead to physical and emotional consequences is large.

### OUR ORIGINS

CIRP, based at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia since 1997, was the first Center of Emphasis in the CHOP Research Institute. CIRP fosters a multidisciplinary and collaborative environment and follows **Research to Action to Impact** principles. CIRP scientists conduct foundational and applied Research and translate it into technological, clinical, and policy-driven Actions, which result in measurable Impact on reducing the burden of serious injury and violence for children and families.

Guided by a 2011 strategic plan, CIRP successfully diversified its portfolio of research and funding mechanisms over the past decade, allowing the Center to continue to work towards its mission and vision. Innovations led by CIRP scientists, strategic collaborations with a broad set of stakeholders, and a centralized administrative, outreach and strategy support structure have nurtured high-impact research initiatives helping them mature into robust clinical and translational research programs.

### OUR PRESENT

Broadly, our areas of focus include young driver safety, violence prevention, road traffic protection, injury and rehabilitation biomechanics and engineering, concussion and brain health, traumatic stress, and transportation equity. We address social determinants of child health, such as safe schools, safe neighborhoods, safe homes, safe play spaces and equitable traffic mobility. CIRP research areas of focus continue to evolve to include unique collaborations between focus areas or with other CHOP programs or external partners.

CIRP is integrally linked, scientifically and administratively with shared resources, to numerous CHOP-based partner programs that are critical to the hospital's efforts to address the leading causes of death and acquired disability among

youth in our own Philadelphia community and across the nation. Several of these programs have received special designation by CHOP and the Research Institute noting their priority to the institution's mission. These partnerships extend beyond CHOP to other academic partners regionally and nationally.

### CIRP'S CHOP-based Partner Programs



- Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies
- Center for Pediatric Traumatic Stress
- Center for Rehabilitation
- Center for Violence Prevention
- Minds Matter Concussion Frontier Program
- Neuroscience of Driving Program
- NJ-SHO Center for Integrated Data

Together, our work defines the state-of-the-science clinical and behavioral healthcare needed by those who suffer physical and emotional injury and violence. Integration of rigorous engineering, behavioral and data science and epidemiology ensures an emphasis on leading edge technology and innovative approaches that provide multi-pronged solutions to the pediatric injury and violence burden.

### PLANNING OUR FUTURE

In the fiscal year 2023, a planning committee and CIRP leadership implemented a strategic planning process to guide our priorities and engagement with partners for the future. Key to this process was collaboration with CHOP's Research Strategy team to ensure CIRP strategy aligned with CHOP priorities. Through formal engagement with our faculty and staff, we captured rich information on how these stakeholders experience CIRP today and how they envision its future. We used these learnings to update CIRP's vision, mission, values and create a new governance structure for CIRP and prioritized areas for the future. Herein we share our strategic priorities, and current activities and areas of focus in these priority areas.

## VALUES THAT DRIVE OUR WORK

### CIRP scientists and staff value

- Scientific rigor and bold advances in injury research methods and analytics
- Community-engaged research with practitioners, patients, families, and other key stakeholders
- Communication and partnerships with stakeholders such as industry and government who are positioned to have our research achieve impact
- Respect and curiosity for people with various life experiences, skills and approaches to injury prevention and recovery
- Training the next generation of injury prevention scientists and practitioners

### So that all young people and their families

- Access safe mobility and safe communities
- Access excellent post-injury clinical care and recovery

## FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Conduct High-Impact Research to Mitigate the Burden of Injury And Violence

CIRP cultivates numerous areas of active, impactful research to support our Mission and Vision. These efforts, led by innovative CIRP scientists across disciplines, are characterized by high quality publications and sustained extramural funding that drive foundational knowledge and state-of-the-science in the field of injury and violence.

#### Focus Areas:

- Ensure CIRP's research areas address real problems in need of solutions and move the work along the Research-to-Action-to-Impact pipeline
- Foster collaboration across CIRP programs and with our network of partners to identify innovative ways to strengthen the rigor of injury and violence research
- Continue to align research efforts with strategic priorities of the CHOP Research Institute



### Retain And Recruit Excellent Injury Scientists

CIRP provides a unique environment of multidisciplinary, applied research that attracts and stimulates talented researchers. Our partnerships with clinical programs and community, government and industry-based organizations lead to innovative projects that affect healthcare and societal change and provide professional fulfillment.

#### Focus Areas:

- Identify key strategies to support career development at CIRP and CHOP for PhD-trained scientists
- Partner with relevant academic departmental leadership to integrate the career paths of current and future CIRP scientists with faculty opportunities at University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University
- Implement a CIRP leadership structure that is sustainable, utilizes shared resources and offers pathways to leadership roles for multiple CIRP scientists



### Champion CIRP's Unique Research Discoveries And Breakthroughs With Stakeholders Who Can Affect Change

CIRP integrates an embedded Communications team and trains its scientists in clear, effective communication of research discoveries. We cultivate robust engagement with external stakeholders such as industry, government, and national, regional, and local community-facing partners. These relationships allow our research to reach the hands of funders, policy makers, and others who drive meaningful change to reduce the burden of injury and violence for youth and families.

#### Focus Areas:

- Create opportunities for scientists from CIRP and its partner programs to engage in communication that crosses disciplines and audiences leading to collaborative engagement with key stakeholders
- Support continued quality improvement of CIRP (and related) websites and social media content to sharpen our messages and extend our reach
- Spur action by relevant stakeholders through creation and dissemination of research-based tools, knowledge and resources



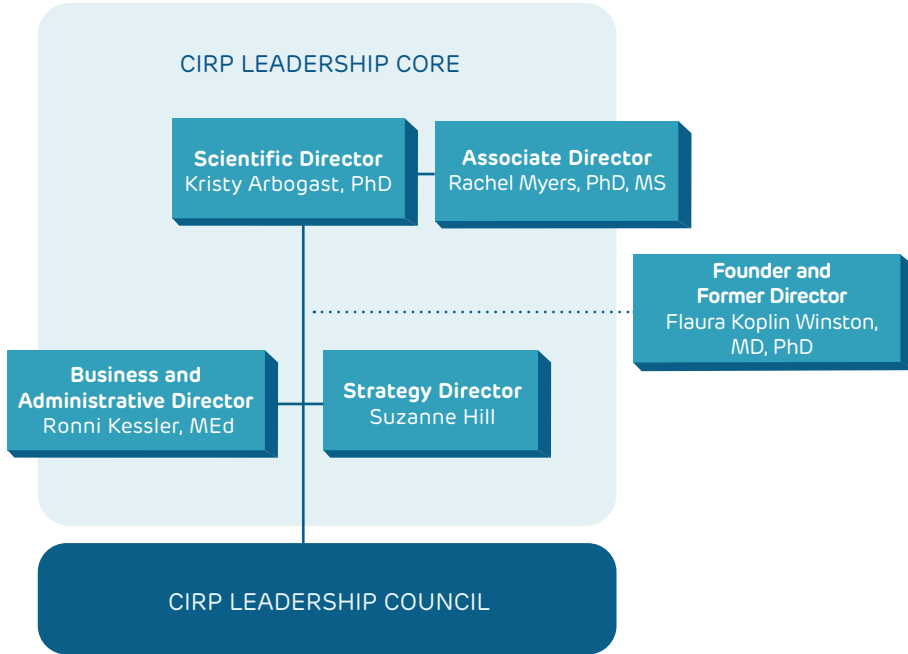
### Train The Next Generation Of Injury Scientists And Practitioners

CIRP offers research opportunities for a diverse set of students and trainees through its National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates as well as its relationships with numerous programs at Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania, and other institutions. Each year, CIRP and its partner programs provide training experiences for approximately 25 undergraduate and graduate students, helping many to launch successful careers in injury science.

#### Focus Areas:

- Formalize pre-doctoral and post-doctoral training opportunities that are integrated across the Center and linked with relevant CHOP training initiatives
- Broaden the diversity of trainees that access CIRP programs through targeted outreach to underrepresented groups

# CIRP GOVERNANCE



## NEW CIRP LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Towards a sustainable future, we have devised a structure that organizes CIRP leadership around a common mission and vision rather than a center organized around individual CHOP faculty members or research projects. This structure allows injury-focused scientists with similar values to share new knowledge with each other and collaborate on research.

CIRP and its partner programs share administrative and strategic communication resources, creating a fiscally efficient support infrastructure. CIRP's partner centers and programs benefit practically from common resources and processes and, aspirationally, through more robust science that crosses disciplinary boundaries.

**CIRP Leadership Core** – This Core is comprised of a Scientific Director and Associate Director – both with 5-year renewable terms – as well as a Business and Administrative Director and Strategy Director. The Leadership Core will be supported by a Leadership Council, comprised of a small group of CIRP scientists who serve as a recommending body to the Leadership Core. Like academic departments, this structure has renewable term limits for these roles that will provide future leadership opportunities for other CIRP scientists and infuse fresh leadership approaches into CIRP. The Leadership Core and Council will use the strategic plan to set and measure goals and to guide decisions.

## CIRP Leadership Council

(3-year terms, renewable) – This council is comprised of five to seven members, representing various categories of scientists at CIRP. Their role is to help direct and implement activities of the strategic plan, identify Center emerging issues and provide solution-driven discussion, and engage staff in CIRP activities that align with the strategic plan. They will set the tone as leaders, holding us each accountable for the shared values that drive us all.

## Founder and Former Director –

Flaura Koplín Winston, MD, PhD, Founder and Former Director of CIRP; providing advice and guidance to the CIRP Leadership Core, as she focuses her effort on innovation at CHOP, leading new research protocols and mentoring scientists, students and trainees. In the early days of CIRP, her partnership with the insurance industry to create Partners for Child Passenger Safety focused the road traffic community on the unique safety needs of child occupants. Her innovation set the course for CIRP's core values of today: providing high-quality high-impact research that changes laws, behaviors, safety technology and industry practices.

## CIRP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

**Daniel Corwin, MD, MSCE**

**Allison Curry, PhD, MPH**

**Valentina Graci, PhD**

**Stephen Leff, PhD**

**Catherine McDonald, PhD, RN**

**Emma Sartin, PhD, MPH**

**Elizabeth Walshe, PhD**

The mission of CIRP at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) is to accelerate the pace of research to keep children safe-- reducing physical and emotional injury and violence and promoting recovery. We are driven to advance interdisciplinary science and translate our discoveries into breakthroughs in technology, clinical care, policy and education.

**WILL YOU JOIN US IN THIS MISSION? CONTACT: SUZANNE HILL, STRATEGY DIRECTOR, HILLSU@CHOP.EDU**