



REPORTER

The Newsletter of The International Council on Alcohol, Drugs & Traffic Safety

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WWW.ICADTS.ORG

The International Council on Alcohol, Drugs & Traffic Safety (ICADTS) is an independent nonprofit body whose only goal is to reduce mortality and morbidity brought about by misuse of alcohol and drugs by operators of vehicles in all modes of transportation.



LETTER FROM THE ICADTS PRESIDENT MARY SHEEHAN

Dear ICADTS members:

Thank you for your support of the recent elections. I extend our warmest congratulations to our new executive. As you will know, this is my first letter as President, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank the retiring members for their ongoing commitment to the ICADTS mission.

Wolf-Rudiger Nickel completed his term and stepped down from the position of President of ICADTS at the Executive Board meeting held in Groningen in early September. Wolf brought breadth and depth to his presidency from extensive experience in European executive management. He also brought very long experience and involvement with ICADTS. His first association was a presentation on drink-driving rehabilitation in Amsterdam in 1986, and he then became a member in Cologne in 1992. His formal executive association began as Assistant Treasurer/Treasurer (1994 to 2000), President Elect (2006) and then as our most recent President. When he steps down from his role as Past President at the end of the next 3 years, he will have served for 15 years on the ICADTS Board.

Through his Presidency, he has been committed to the scientific outreach of ICADTS, so in addition to the annual meeting held at TRB in Washington, the mid-year meetings have been linked with scientific meetings. These have included a meeting in Berlin associated with the international traffic expert - "Fit To Drive" Congress; the joint symposium of the German Research for Traffic Medicine & Psychology in Potsdam, and the ICTTP (International Conference on Traffic & Transport Psychology) in Groningen this year. He has also taken major responsibility for revising and updating the ICADTS Constitution, which is now in its final draft form and will be sent to members for consideration. ICADTS is indebted to him for his service.

Jean Shope also has stepped down from the always challenging position of ICADTS Secretary. Several members will perhaps have experience of the keystone role of this position. Jean has ensured that the many tasks involved in organising meetings and associated activities ran smoothly. She has also been the first line of call for new members and has ensured that detailing requirements for membership have been streamlined, the process of review runs smoothly, and they are warmly welcomed to ICADTS.

LETTER FROM THE ICADTS PRESIDENT MARY SHEEHAN (CONT.)

Jan Ramaekers has also provided outstanding service to our members as Treasurer. He has handled the often difficult tasks with speed and clarity. Members may not be aware that he has also been responsible for the excellent upgrading of our old system of paying annual dues and has taken responsibility for the new initiatives and development of our Web site.

ICADTS has been very well served by this team, and I warmly thank them on your behalf.

Finally, I would also like to remind you of T2013 in Brisbane, Australia. Our tri-annual conference is the key event in the life and activities of ICADTS. It gives us all the opportunity to meet together and to catch up with the latest international research and policy initiatives in our field. I look forward to seeing you there! ■

NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS TAKE OFFICE

After the results of the ICADTS election were announced, the ICADTS Executive Board met on August 31, 2012, in Groningen, The Netherlands. At that time, new Board Members took office and some officers stepped down. The new members of the Executive Board include the following (newly elected members are in **bold**):

President, Mary Sheehan (AU) – previously President Elect
Past President, Wolf Nickel (D) – previously President
Treasurer, Richard Compton (USA) – previously Assistant Treasurer
Secretary, Joris Verster (NL) – previously Assistant Secretary
President Elect, Kathryn Stewart (USA)
Assistant Treasurer, Ronald Agius (D)
Assistant Secretary, James Fell (USA)
Board Member-at-Large, Barry Watson (AU)
Board Member-at-Large, Gordon Smith (USA)

Board members-at-large continuing on the Board are Paul Marques (USA) and John Lacey (USA). Stepping down from the Board are Secretary Jean Shope and Treasurer Jan Ramaekers. At the Groningen meeting, new officers were welcomed and retiring officers were thanked for their service.

Thanks to all ICADTS members who voted in the election. ■

ABSTRACT CALL NOW OPEN FOR T2013

Abstracts are now invited for T2013: the 20th International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety Conference to be held in Brisbane next year.

The T2013 Conference Chair and CARRS-Q Director Professor Barry Watson said planning for T2013 is progressing well with a stimulating scientific program unfolding and the strong early commitment of sponsors and exhibitors.

"We are delighted to bring the ICADTS Conference back to Australia for the first time in nearly 20 years, from 23-25 August 2013," Professor Watson said.

T2013 will provide an exciting global forum for researchers, academics, and professionals involved in road safety and injury prevention research and policy, particularly from the fields of drugs and alcohol, to discuss and present on the latest innovative research and programs being undertaken.

ABSTRACT CALL NOW OPEN FOR T2013 (CONT.)



An update on major global developments, key geographic regions of emerging issues, and at-risk populations will be provided by international keynote speakers, including:

- Dr Ralph Hingson, Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Prevention Research, US National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism;
- Pablo Martinez Carignano, Road Safety General Director of the Buenos Aires City Government; and
- Dr Leilei Duan, Director of the Injury Prevention Division, National Centre for Chronic and Non-communicable Disease Control and Prevention, China CDC.

The call for abstracts is now open and submissions are invited for oral and poster presentations on the themes of alcohol ignition interlocks; legislation, enforcement, penalties, and sanctions; toxicology/pharmacology; epidemiology; prevention and rehabilitation; challenges for low- and middle-income countries; repeat/high-range offenders; first-time offenders; detection, measurement, testing, and forensics; advocacy, education and behaviour change; and prescription medications and illicit drugs.

“The themes will provide an invaluable opportunity for a broad range of presentations, workshops, symposia and discussion, and dedicated programs will be offered for young scientists, early career researchers, students and those from low- and middle-income countries,” Professor Watson said.

The following organisations have confirmed their sponsorship of T2013:

- Alcoliser (Platinum Sponsor)
- Institute for Health & Biomedical Innovation (Foundation Sponsor)
- Securetech Detektions Systeme AG (Gold Sponsor)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (Gold Sponsor)
- Alere (Silver Sponsor)
- Suncorp Insurance (Bronze Sponsor)
- Lion Laboratories (Exhibitor)
- Centre for Automotive Safety Research (Exhibitor)
- Alcolock (Exhibitor)

“We are thrilled by this early support and delighted to be partnering with the leading industry and stakeholders in the field of impaired driving. We look forward to securing further partnerships in the months ahead,” Professor Watson said.

T2013 is expected to attract 400 delegates from around Australia and overseas, drawn from the areas of traffic and transport psychology, public health, law, medicine, economics, law enforcement, public policy, education, pharmacology, toxicology, forensic science, human factors, and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation.

The Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference (www.rsrpe2013.com.au), one of the most important road safety conferences in Australasia, will immediately follow T2013 in the same Brisbane venue from 28-30 August 2013.

“With the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety underway, these conferences will be critical forums in the decade-long initiative to advance road safety and address impaired driving, both in Australia and overseas.

“Brisbane will most certainly be a beacon for international road safety in August 2013.”

The abstract call will close on Monday 12 November 2012. To submit an abstract for the scientific program, or register your interest in receive regular T2013 updates, please visit

www.t2013.com. ■

RESULTS OF ROADSIDE SURVEY IN SOUTHEASTERN BRAZIL

A recent paper presented data from a roadside survey study on drinking and driving and alcohol consumption in southeastern Brazil. A cross-sectional roadside survey study using a questionnaire and breathalyzer data were used to determine the prevalence of drinking and driving and to examine whether sociodemographic characteristics and drivers' behaviors, attitudes, and alcohol consumption predicted positive blood alcohol concentration (BAC). The data were gathered from 2005 to 2007 through roadside surveys conducted on high volume public roads in four cities in southeastern Brazil. A total of 4182 randomly selected drivers took part in the research. Of these drivers, 3488 (83.4%) completed the questionnaire and agreed to take a breath test. Overall, 24.6% of drivers had a detectable BAC and 15.9% had a BAC above the legal limit (0.6g/l) at the time of the study. Logistic regression controlling for locale (city), sex, age, and marital status was used to predict whether each driver would present a positive breath test. Sociodemographic characteristics, driving behaviors and attitudes, and alcohol consumption patterns were included as predictors. These analyses indicated that those who believed drinking and driving was a serious offense were about two-thirds as likely to have a positive breath test and that drivers reporting a pattern of regular alcohol use were three times as likely to have a positive breath test. These findings indicate drinking and driving is relatively common in Brazil, and it occurs considerably more frequently than similar surveys suggest is the case in other countries.

Source: Campos VR, de Souza E, Silva R, Duailibi S, Laranjeira R, Palacios EN, Grube JW, Pinsky I. *Addict. Behav.* 2012; 38(1): 1442-1447. ■

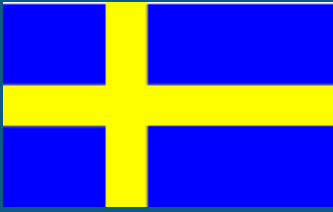
CASE CONTROL STUDY OF CRASH RISK FOR ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS IN BELGIUM

A population-based case-control study of injured drivers was conducted in Belgium from 2008 to 2010. The aim of the study was to assess the risk of having a traffic accident after using alcohol, single drugs, or a combination, and to determine the concentrations at which this risk is significantly increased. A population-based case-control study was carried out, collecting whole blood samples of both cases and controls, in which a number of drugs were detected. The risk of having an accident when under the influence of drugs was estimated using logistic regression adjusting for gender, age, and time of accident (cases)/sampling (controls). The main outcome measures were odds ratio (OR) for accident risk associated with single and multiple drug use. In total, 337 cases (negative: 176; positive: 161) and 2726 controls (negative: 2425; positive: 301) were included in the study. The main findings were that (a) alcohol in general (all the concentrations together) caused an elevated crash risk; (b) cannabis in general also caused an increase in accident risk, and at a cutoff of 2 ng/mL tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the risk of having an accident was four times the risk associated with the lowest THC concentrations; (c) when ranking the adjusted OR from lowest to highest risk, alcohol alone or in combination with other drugs was related to a very elevated crash risk, with the highest risk for stimulants combined with sedatives. The study demonstrated a concentration-dependent crash risk for THC-positive drivers. Alcohol and alcohol-drug combinations are by far the most prevalent substances in drivers and subsequently pose the largest risk in traffic, both in terms of risk and scope.

Source: Kuypers KP, Legrand SA, Ramaekers JG, Verstraete AG. *PLoS ONE* 2012; 7(8): e43496. ■



DRUGS USED BY DRINKING DRIVERS IN SWEDEN



Using a forensic toxicology database (TOXBASE), the toxicological results from 10 years of forensic blood samples from people arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs were reviewed for a recent study. Alcohol was the only drug identified in blood in N=35,704 cases at a median blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 1.63mg/g. The mean age (\pm SD) of these offenders was 40 \pm 15 years, and 89% were male. The median BAC was lower (1.30 mg/g) in drivers who had consumed alcohol and used a prescription drug before driving (N=1,251). The mean age of this group of traffic offenders was 38 \pm 13 years, and 85% were male. Both the median BAC (0.97 mg/g) and the mean age were lowest (36 \pm 11 years, 92% male) in N=3,153 drivers who had consumed alcohol and used illicit drugs before driving. Cannabis, amphetamine, cocaine, and morphine (metabolite of heroin) were the most common illicit drugs identified in blood samples. Sedative-hypnotics (benzodiazepines) were the major prescription drugs co-ingested with alcohol. Polydrug use was a common finding in these traffic delinquents, although individuals who only drank alcohol had a higher median BAC and were several years older than drinking drivers combining alcohol with other drugs before driving.

Source: Jones, A.W., & Holmgren, A. *J. Saf. Res.* 2012; 43(3): 151-156. ■

PASSENGERS OF ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVERS

A recent study conducted as part of the 2007 National Roadside Survey in the United States was designed to (a) estimate the prevalence of passengers riding with alcohol-impaired drivers and the degree to which these passengers might serve as more sober drivers than the alcohol-impaired drivers.

Data came from a unique convenience sample of passengers obtained from the 2007 National Roadside Survey, a random sample of drivers from the 48 contiguous states. Results indicated that most passengers of drinking drivers were viable drivers: 83% of the passengers of alcohol-positive drivers with a BAC less than .08 could have driven and 94% of the drivers with a BAC of .08 or higher could have driven. Of those passengers, 21% and 6% had consumed less alcohol than their drivers. The authors concluded that at least 17% of the passengers of alcohol-positive drivers under .08 and 6% of the passengers of drivers at or higher than .08 might be “better” drivers than their drinking drivers. The evidence suggests that targeted policies to encourage passengers to drive might be possible. The authors posited, however, that car owners are often reluctant to allow others to drive their cars.

Source: Romano, E., Kelly-Baker, T., Lacey, J., *J. Saf. Res.* 2012; 43(3): 163-170. ■

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RELEASES STATISTICS ON HIGH BAC TRAFFIC FATALITIES

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation (NHTSA) released a report on traffic fatalities in 2010. Traffic fatalities in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes, defined as those in which at least one driver had a BAC of .08 or higher, decreased by 4.9%, from 10,759 in 2009 to 10,228 in 2010. These alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities accounted for 31% of the total motor-vehicle traffic fatalities in the United States. The alcohol-impaired-driving fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled decreased to 0.34 in 2010 from 0.36 in 2009. In 2010, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico had laws making it illegal per se to drive with a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher. Of the 10,228 people who died in 2010 in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes, 6,627 (65%) were drivers with BACs of .08 or higher. The remaining fatalities consisted of 1,721 (17%) passengers riding with the alcohol-impaired drivers, 1,151 (11%) occupants (drivers and passengers) in other vehicles, and 729 (7%) nonoccupants.

While the number of alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities decreased in recent years, mirroring the reduction of all traffic fatalities, the percentage of those fatalities that occurred in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes remained essentially consistent. When looking specifically at fatalities in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes, the percentage of those at .15 g/dL or higher rose slightly over the past few years, from 67% in 2006 to 70% (7,145/10,228) in 2010.

Notable findings from the report:

- For 70% of alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities, at least one driver in the crash had a BAC of .15 grams per deciliter or higher.
- The most frequently recorded BAC among all drinking drivers in fatal crashes in 2010 was .18 g/dL, more than twice the legal limit in every state.
- One alcohol-impaired-driving fatality occurred, on average, every 51 minutes during 2010.
- The age group with the highest percentage of drivers with BACs of .08 or higher was 21 to 24 years old.
- When looking at drivers by the type of vehicle, motorcycle riders had the highest percentage of alcohol-impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes.
- The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers in fatal crashes in 2010 was four times higher at night than during the day.
- Sixteen percent of drivers involved in fatal crashes during the week were alcohol-impaired, compared to 31% on weekends.
- Drivers with BACs of .08 or higher involved in fatal crashes were four times more likely to have prior DWI (driving while impaired) convictions than were drivers with no alcohol.

Source: *Traffic Safety Facts*, August 2012, Available at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811654.pdf>. ■

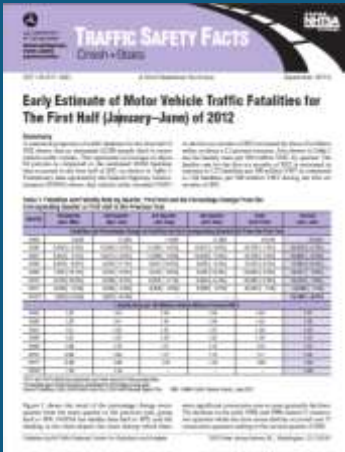


EARLY ESTIMATE OF UNITED STATES TRAFFIC FATALITIES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2012 SHOWS SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE

A statistical projection of traffic fatalities for the first half of 2012 in the United States indicates there was a 9% increase over the first half of 2011. An estimated 16,290 people died in traffic crashes in the first half of 2012 compared to the estimated 14,950 fatalities that occurred in the first half of 2011. Vehicle miles travelled (VMT) increased only 1.1% in the first half of 2012 compared to 2011. The fatality rate for the first half of 2012 was 1.12 fatalities per 100 million VMT, a 7.7% increase over the fatality rate in the first half of 2011 (1.04 fatalities per 100 million VMT).

The 9% increase in fatalities represents the largest such increase during the first half of the year in US recorded history (since 1975 when the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration first started collecting data on fatal crashes). The previous highest increase in the first half of a year was a 6.4% increase in the first half of 1979 compared to the first half of 1978. Officials are not sure what caused this latest increase, but there have been indications recently that the US economy is improving, which could lead to more discretionary driving.

Source: Traffic Safety Facts, September 2012, Available at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811680.pdf>. ■



SEEKING PROCEEDINGS FROM 1974 ICADTS MEETING

The ICADTS Board of Directors has been attempting to digitize all ICADTS Proceeding for online member access. We have had considerable success and are now missing only one – the 1974 papers from the 6th Conference in Toronto.

If any member has this volume, or has access to it through a library, we would like to borrow it for about 2 months. It will be returned in the same condition as received. If you are able to do this please send to Paul Marques at PIRE, 11720 Beltsville Drive, Ste 900, Calverton, MD USA 20705-3111. The full citation is shown below.

News on member access and availability of the archive should be announced sometime in 2013.

6th International Conference - 1974 Toronto, CANADA

Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety. Proceedings of the sixth international conference on alcohol, drugs and traffic safety, Toronto, September 8-13, 1974. Ed. S. Israelstam and S. Lambert. Toronto, Canada. Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario, 1975. 939p. ■

INTERLOCK SYMPOSIUM TAKES PLACE IN HELSINKI, FINLAND / BARRY SWEEDLER AWARD PRESENTED

The 13th International Alcohol Interlock Symposium was conducted in August in Helsinki, Finland. It involved more than 130 attendees representing 21 countries. The theme of this year's Symposium was Alcohol Interlocks: Opportunities to Improve Traffic Management to emphasize that interlocks can be used in different applications with various populations. This year, a spotlight was placed on activities in Europe given the progress that has been achieved with many countries implementing commercial and offender-based programs. International representatives spoke about the progress made in passing interlock legislation and the proposed or ongoing implementation of new interlock programs in Poland, New Zealand, Germany, Austria, and the Australian Capital Territory. Speakers from grassroots organizations described public awareness efforts and how these campaigns have evolved. Activities to encourage jurisdictional reciprocity such that drivers can be tracked across jurisdictions were also explored, as were efforts to enhance the protection and sharing of interlock data.

As part of the conference, the winner of the Barry Sweedler Award was presented to Mr. Ilyas Daoud (Belgium), a Project Officer at the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC). He was acknowledged for his leadership on the issue of interlocks as part of ETSC's Safe and Sober campaign aimed at promoting the development and deployment of alcohol interlocks in the commercial sector and in offender programs. Over the past 18 months, Daoud has organized and chaired a number of workshops in several countries to stimulate discussion, promote implementation, and share experiences regarding alcohol interlocks.



TIRF organizers and nominees for the Barry Sweedler Award at the award ceremony in Helsinki, Finland. Left to right: Robyn Robertson, TIRF (Canada), Ilyas Daoud, Barry Sweedler Award winner (Belgium), Anne Vehmas, nominee (Finland), Iлона Buttler, nominee (Poland), Rachel Muscat, nominee (Australia), Rita Thomas, nominee (Canada), Ward Vanlaar, TIRF (Canada)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Athens, Greece

November 22-23, 2012

European Road Safety Conference
on Data and Knowledge-based
Policy-making

<http://www.dacota-project.eu/>

Washington, DC USA

January 13-17, 2013

Annual Meeting of the
Transportation Research Board
www.trb.org

Washington, DC USA

April 3-5, 2013

Alcohol Policy 16
<http://www.silvergategroup.com/ap16/>

Montréal, Québec, Canada

May 26-29, 2013

23rd Canadian Multidisciplinary
Road Safety Conference
www.cmrc.ca

INTERLOCK SYMPOSIUM TAKES PLACE IN HELSINKI, FINLAND / BARRY SWEEDLER AWARD PRESENTED (CONT.)

The Barry Sweedler Award was created in honor of Barry Sweedler's influential career in road safety, which spanned more than three decades. Sweedler served as the President of ICADTS and was a strong supporter of solutions to prevent and reduce alcohol-impaired driving, including alcohol ignition interlocks. In honor of Sweedler's contributions to improve traffic safety, the Barry Sweedler Award is conferred upon one individual each year. Nominees of this award have shown leadership in the drunk-driving field through their work to support, promote, strengthen, expand, and/or advance the use and delivery of alcohol interlocks. They have also encouraged cooperation across agencies and built partnerships to raise awareness about the effectiveness of these devices and best practice program features.

Next year's Symposium will look to partner with ICADTS at T2013 in Brisbane, Australia. ■



Barry Sweedler Award Winner, Mr. Ilyas Daoud

ICADTS MEMBER WINS AWARD

The Governors Highway Safety Association presented its most prestigious award, the James J. Howard Highway Safety Award, to John Lacey, Director of the Alcohol, Policy, and Safety Research Center at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) for his 40-plus years of pioneering program implementation and project evaluation and policy advocacy, particularly in the area of impaired driving. Mr. Lacey led the nation's first effort to assess the prevalence of drugged drivers on U.S. roadways. As part of the 2007 National Roadside Survey, he developed and implemented methods to obtain breath tests and saliva and blood samples from drivers on the roadways in 300 locations throughout the United States. Lacey will lead the next National Roadside Survey in 2013. The 2007 effort was a leading-edge study that began an increased nationwide awareness of the pervasiveness of drugged driving, and the 2013 study is expected to provide even more critical data about this emerging highway safety issue. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONT.)

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

August 25-28, 2013

T2013: 20th ICADTS Conference

For more information see

www.t2013.com

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

August 28-30, 2013

Australasian Road Safety

Research, Policing and Education

Conference

www.rsrpe2013.com.au

ALCOHOL POLICY 16 CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES CALL FOR PAPERS

This 16th Silver Gate Group (SGG) conference in the Alcohol Policy (AP16) series will explore progress in advancing sound alcohol policies at the local, regional, national, and international levels. The theme is *Building Blocks for Sound Alcohol Policy*. Participants will include community-based practitioners, public officials, and researchers from across North America and beyond.

Conference organizers invite concurrent presentation proposals that focus on the following:

- Alcohol control measures.
- Policy enforcement via regulating commercial and social host liability; retail outlet licensing and land-use permits; establishing fair rates of excise taxation; and regulating advertising and promotion.
- International collaboration to mitigate alcohol-related risk in the midst of multinational alcoholic beverage marketing and promotion.
- The future of alcohol policy in the light of health care reform and other changes in the U.S. political and public health landscape.

Conference Dates: April 3-5, 2013 **Location:** Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, Washington, D.C., USA.

Proposal Submission Deadline: December 4, 2012

To submit a proposal, please visit the [SGG Web site](#); for more information, contact [Kathie Gorham](#) or visit the [AP16](#) main page. ■

23RD CANADIAN MULTIDISCIPLINARY ROAD SAFETY CONFERENCE'S CALL FOR PAPERS

The Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conference has called for papers for its event in Montréal, Québec, Canada, May 26-29 2013. The conference objective is to bring together all stakeholders in road and vehicle safety to facilitate exchange between disciplines and to promote means that will help improve Canada's road safety record. Scientific and technical papers are invited to be considered for presentation at the conference on any aspect of traffic safety. Abstracts should be submitted by November 2, 2012. The conference Web site is www.cmrc.ca. ■

NEW ICADTS MEMBER

ICADTS welcomes Ms. Jacquelyn Baldwin (USA) as a new member. We look forward to working with her. ■



To view past issues of the
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[http://www.icadts.nl/reporter/re
porter.html](http://www.icadts.nl/reporter/reporter.html)

The **REPORTER** is published quarterly by ICADTS, with support from the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. This publication is available free upon request. Contents may be reproduced with attribution.

Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation
11720 Beltsville Drive, Suite 900
Calverton, MD 20705
Editor: Kathryn Stewart
Email: Stewart@pire.org