



# REPORTER

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE ICADTS PRESIDENT

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T2016 is over and was a tremendous success. With 400 attendees from 30 countries, it included papers on important topics from around the world. The article below provides more information and insight about the conference. At T2016, an ICADTS general membership meeting gathered together members and potential members to discuss how ICADTS can become more useful and vibrant as an organization. In particular, we introduced some features of the Strategic Plan, more details of which will be disseminated soon.

A very satisfying activity for me, as President, was giving out stipends to young participants and attendees from low and middle income countries. More details on the stipends and awardees appear below. It was wonderful to meet these researchers and we look forward to involving them more closely in ICADTS and working with them in years to come. In this issue of the Reporter and in future editions we will include brief articles by the stipend recipients concerning their work and their experiences at the conference.

The conference in Gramado was also the occasion for presenting ICADTS awards to our deserving colleagues who have made particularly valuable contributions to the field. Bestowing this recognition at each major conference is an important event.

We were also fortunate to be able to announce at T2016 that the Norwegian Institute of Public Health will soon be embarking on a study of impaired driving in Malawi cosponsored by the ICADTS Foundation and the World Bank. We are very pleased to partner with our Norwegian colleagues and the World Bank on this very important project in a developing African country.

Now we look ahead. Of course, it is none too soon to be thinking about T2019 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Planning has already begun and the website is up and running at [www.T2019.org](http://www.T2019.org). In the nearer term, we are planning another regional conference in Bled, Slovenia on 29-30 May 2017. See the article below for more information.

I want to express once again our sincere thanks to Dr. Flavio Pechansky and his team at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul. They were wonderful hosts and made a significant contribution to ICADTS and the expansion of our involvement in Latin America.

Kathryn Stewart, ICADTS President

## HIGHLIGHTS OF T2016 AND LESSONS LEARNED

### Flavio Pechansky, T2016 Organizing Chair

The 21st ICADTS Conference brought to Brazil around 400 registrants from 30 different countries. During the three-day event, we had scientific discussions based on 70 oral presentations, 21 posters, and 26 concurrent/nonconcurrent panel sessions, following the typical pattern that ICADTS has provided for its triennial meetings. It is important to mention, though, that this conference was held for the first time in Brazil and in a developing country – so there were some adaptations that seem to have achieved successful outcomes, suggesting they might be adopted in some way for the future meetings. They are briefly described below.

[WWW.ICADTS.ORG](http://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.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF T2016 (CONT.)

**Pre-conference courses and seminars.** In the past, ICADTS has not used its conferences to train people or to develop an audience. In Brazil, it seemed important to provide additional opportunities in two events that were targeted for different audiences:

- An 8-hour pre-conference course entitled *Topics on Impaired Driving: Research, Prevention and Policy*, covering essential topics related to driving under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs, from the history of impaired driving prevention to future perspectives in impaired driving policy. The course was chaired by James Fell, from NORC, and Lisia Von Diemen, from the Center for Drug and Alcohol Research and was attended by 65 students.
- The Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) Seminar was entitled *Impaired Driving Enforcement: Priorities for Managing Drink and Drug Driving* and was chaired GRSP CEO Barry Watson, was developed for enforcement personnel and other professionals involved in roadside action and policymaking, and had the collaboration of GRSP senior staff, Road Police superintendents from Brazil, New Zealand, Spain and Colombia, a Division Director of the U.S. National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and a scientist from the New Zealand Transport Agency. It was attended by 90 students.

**Volunteer community activities.** With the help of non-governmental organizations including U.S. Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Iberoamerican Federation of Victim Associations against Road Violence and Driving to Consciousness, Argentina, Associations of Victims Against Traffic Violence of Mexico and Urgent Life Foundation of Brazil, two activities were developed for this conference: one in Gramado, where the conference was being held, and the second in Porto Alegre, the state capital.

- The Gramado activity was held at Bill Bar, a night club whose owner is extremely devoted to prevention of drunk driving. 350 students from private and public schools of the city spent an afternoon with the organization representatives, discussing preventive actions and sharing experiences and information. They danced, sang, and created the warm atmosphere that is needed to insert the powerful message of these organizations.
- The Porto Alegre activity was structured around a series of video exhibits produced by 250 students from private and public schools. These were mixed with music presentations and powerful experience sharing, followed by discussion and commentaries from students.

Both the pre-conference seminars and the local events contributed another element to the high quality of science and exchange that is already a trademark of ICADTS. Based on the success, we suggest that ICADTS meetings in developing countries should consider including similar training components, since it is clear that for many countries this will be the first time they are able to receive concentrated, massive scientific information on the topic. So educating and preparing the audience in advance is essential. We also suggest that community activities can engage local partners and key players, and can help disseminate important messages that touch a different public.

## ICADTS FOUNDATION STIPENDS

To promote attendance at T2016 by students from Latin America, young researchers and researchers from developing countries, the ICADTS Foundation provided stipends to promising attendees.

This year, the young and LMIC researcher winners were: Gabriel Andreuccetti, Brazil; Taryn Chalmers, Australia; Manal Eldeb, Libya and Canada; Labram Musah, Ghana; Rafael Tavares Jomar, Brazil; Nick van der Sluiszen, Netherlands; Anja Valen, Norway; Tara Marie Watson, Canada.

The Latin American student winners were: Gaby Vivián Lencina Borges, Uruguay; Marlene Alves Da Silva, Brazil; Harinson Carpegeano Camara de Almeida, Brazil; Maria Cristina Franck, Brazil; Juliana Nichterwitz Scherer, Brazil; Vanessa Loss Volpato, Brazil.

Brief articles by these awardees will be included in this and future editions of the Reporter. We look forward to working with these and other young researchers in years to come.

Enforcement activity in Gramado



Student event in Gramado



Stipend Awardees



## ICADTS AWARDS PRESENTED AT T2016

Every three years at its major conferences, ICADTS presents formal awards to colleagues who have made significant contributions to the field. The awards for 2016 were:

**Borkenstein Award:** *recognises individuals who have made outstanding contributions to international cooperation in alcohol and drug-related traffic safety programs.*

Awarded to: **Ralph Hingson.** Throughout his career, Ralph has worked to foster international exchange. He contributed to successes achieved by the World Health Organisation and the Pan American Health Organisation, Pan American Network on Alcohol and Global Health. He has also worked on behalf of ICADTS over a number of decades, including as President.

**Haddon Award:** *recognises meritorious service by non-governmental organisations.*

Awarded to: **Thiago De Moraes Gonzaga Foundation, “Vida Urgente,” Diza Gonzaga, President.** The organization was established in 1996 by Diza and Regis Gonzaga following the death of the son in 1995. The Foundation’s mission is “To preserve and cherish life, develop educational, cultural and information programs targeted at children, adolescents and young adults in order to develop the humanisation in traffic”.

Diza and her team of young volunteers work tirelessly to raise awareness of and lobby for tougher sanctions and penalties for drunk and reckless drivers. The organization has been instrumental in the passage of several important impaired driving laws in Brazil.

**Widmark Award:** *recognises outstanding individual and institutional contributions to technology, law, law enforcement, public information and education, legal medicine, the social and behavioural sciences, or other human factors. Individuals and institutions receiving Widmark Awards must have contributed significantly and achieved international recognition over a sustained period of years.*

**Institution Award: Driving Under the Influence of Drugs, Alcohol and Medicines – DRUID.** Award accepted by: Professor Dr Horst Schulze, DRUID Coordinator. DRUID was launched in 2006 in response to the 50,000 fatalities that occurred on European roads in 2001. Its aim was to produce recommendations for policy makers on the use of psychoactive substances in relation to road safety that would lead to EU-wide regulations. DRUID required a massive and complicated effort including the cooperation of 18 European countries.

**Individual Award: Asbjørg Christophersen, Norwegian Institute of Public Health.** Asbjørg’s distinguished career has contributed significantly to the development of forensic analysis of illicit drugs, medicines and metabolites and is a member of the International Association of Forensic Toxicologists. She has been a member of DRUID, the EU’s working groups on alcohol, medicines, illicit drugs and traffic safety and has been active in ICADTS, since 1993.

**Individual Award: René Mathijssen.** René is a senior research scientist. He has made significant contributions to projects and committees through the EC 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Research Project, IMMORTAL, DRUID, and EC Research Projects on alcohol implementation.



Ralph Hingson (left) receives Borkenstein Award



Diza Gonzaga receives Haddon Award



Horst Schultze receives award on behalf of DRUID



Asbjørg Christophersen receives Widmark Award





**FORTOX**  
**2017**  
**Bled**  
May 29-30  
Slovenia



## **SAVE THE DATE FOR TAKING ACTION TO DECREASE ROAD FATALITIES AND INJURIES: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN BLED, SLOVENIA**

Many countries and cities adopted the ideas and principles from the Vision Zero project. Many organizations (United Nations, ETSC, EuroRAP, ICADTS,) aim to support governments in meeting their Vision Zero targets. But it has been noted that national statistics of the years 2015 and 2016 tend to show an increase in traffic fatalities and a high number of severe injuries.

Have the principles of Zero Vision been properly understood and implemented? Do we need new urgency and new directions? What has been done to influence road users' behaviour and increase the safety culture? Association Fortox in Slovenia is hosting a meeting to help answer these questions. Invited lectures and panels will be provided.

The international meeting: *Taking action to decrease road fatalities and injuries* will take place at the Hotel Golf in the beautiful town of Bled, Slovenia, May 29-30, 2017. The website for the conference is coming soon at [www.fortox.si/FORTOX-BLED-2017/](http://www.fortox.si/FORTOX-BLED-2017/). In the mean time you may contact Dr Majda Zorec Karlovsek (e-mail: [mzkarlovsek@gmail.com](mailto:mzkarlovsek@gmail.com))

More about Bled: <http://www.bled.si/en/>

Key dates and deadlines

- On-line registration and abstract submission open: December 4th, 2016
- Abstract Deadline: April 1st, 2017
- Early Bird Registration ends: May 1st, 2017

## **T2019: EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA THE 22ND INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND TRAFFIC SAFETY CONFERENCE, AUGUST 18 –21, 2019**

Hot on the heels of T2016, planning is already underway for the 22nd International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety Conference, to take place August 18-21, 2019 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The City of Edmonton is honoured to have been selected as the host city for T2019!

We would like to congratulate the T2016 organizing committee for their outstanding work in bringing ICADTS to South America for the first time. We hope that those who had the exciting opportunity to travel to Brazil thoroughly enjoyed their time in Gramado, and that you will look forward to meeting again in Edmonton in 2019.

The City of Edmonton's Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), the lead organization for T2019, was established in 2006 by a Mayor's Task Force as the first municipal office of traffic safety in North America. Over time, Edmonton has come to be recognized for its leadership and innovative approach to traffic safety. In 2015, Edmonton's City Council approved *Edmonton's Road Safety Strategy 2016-2020*, making Edmonton the first major Canadian City to officially adopt Vision Zero—the goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries on our roads.

T2019 will provide an opportunity to network with leading researchers and practitioners from public health, traffic and transport psychology, law enforcement, medicine, economics, education, pharmacology, toxicology, forensic science, and many more, and will feature a broad range of presentations and workshops.

We encourage you to stay a little longer and join us for Edmonton's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Urban Traffic Safety Conference, to be held August 21-23, 2019, directly following ICADTS.

## T2019 (Cont.)

While you are visiting be sure to make some time to enjoy our long summer days and the many attractions and activities Edmonton and our beautiful province have to offer including our newly revitalized and vibrant downtown core, many cultural festivals, a world renowned shopping mall, a vast network of river valley trails for walking, running and cycling, a stunning art gallery, the new Royal Alberta Museum (opening in 2017), Fort Edmonton Park, Elk Island National Park and of course the gorgeous Rocky Mountains surrounding beautiful Banff, Jasper and Lake Louise, just a short trip from Edmonton.

We invite you to view our video at [www.t2019.org](http://www.t2019.org). Here you can learn more about our city and the OTS. We look forward to seeing you all in Edmonton in 2019!

### Conference Co-Chairs:

Gerry Shimko, Executive Director, City of Edmonton Office of Traffic Safety

Laura Thue, PhD, Senior Research Coordinator, City of Edmonton Office of Traffic Safety

## NEW ICADTS ASSISTANT TREASURER NAMED

Due to circumstances beyond her control, the ICADTS Assistant Treasurer, Jane Maxwell, has had to resign from this position. The ICADTS Board and membership thank Jane for her valuable contributions to the success of the position over the years. She promises to remain active as a member of ICADTS and we look forward to continuing to work with her.

The new Assistant Treasurer is Sjoerd Houwing. Sjoerd is researcher at SWOV, the Dutch Institute for Road Safety Research. He has been working in the field of driving under the influence of psychoactive substances for more than ten years. Currently, he is a member of several working groups on alcohol interlocks, drug driving enforcement, and road safety data. In 2016, Sjoerd was member of the organizing committee of a lively session on drink and drug driving at the IALM conference in Venice. This session was also aimed at stimulating young researchers and researchers from Eastern Europe to be part of the ICADTS network in Europe.

Sjoerd states: “As an ICADTS member and active researcher in the field of drink and drug driving I feel it as my responsibility to contribute to the large family of ICADTS members. Working together and sharing knowledge and experiences is very important when trying to reduce drink driving fatalities on a global level. This is why ICADTS has been such a successful organization in the past decades and to me it is very important that we keep actively involved in all parts of the world. I want to increase the membership of young researchers and researchers from low and middle income countries in the coming years.”

Sjoerd will hold the Assistant Treasurer position until the next election of office bearers in 2018. The Board wishes to sincerely thank Sjoerd for volunteering to fill this role under these exceptional circumstances. In 2018 we will elect both a Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

## INTRODUCING T2016 STIPEND WINNERS

In this issue and upcoming issues we will introduce the winners of ICADTS Foundation stipends for Low and Middle Income Researchers, Early Career Researchers, and Students from Latin America.

### Anja Valen, Norway

I would like to express my gratitude to ICADTS for granting me a Young Scientist Award, and for organising such an interesting conference in Gramado, Brazil. This was my first international conference, and it was very useful to get insight into impaired driving issues from different parts of the world.

I am currently working on a PhD on drugs and driving in Norway. Norway has traditionally had few road traffic crashes and low prevalence of drunk driving. However, available drugs and trends in drug use are



Sjoerd Houwing

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Washington, DC, USA**

January 8-12, 2017

Transportation Research Board  
Annual Meeting

<http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting/AnnualMeeting.aspx>

### **Lifesavers Conference, USA**

March 26-28, 2017

Charlotte, North Carolina

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

### **Aarhus, Denmark**

May 17-19, 2017

11th Annual Conference of the  
International Society for the  
Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP)

<http://www.issdp.org/>

### **Bled, Slovenia**

May 29-30, 2017

*Taking Action To Decrease  
Road Fatalities And Injuries*

[www.fortox.si/FORTOX-BLED-2017/](http://www.fortox.si/FORTOX-BLED-2017/)

### **Society for Prevention Research, USA**

25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

May 30 – June 2, 2017

Washington, DC

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

### **Research Society on Alcoholism, USA**

40<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting

June 24-28, 2017

Denver, Colorado

[www.xcdsystem.com/rsoa/](http://www.xcdsystem.com/rsoa/)

### **Governors Highway Safety Association, USA**

Annual Meeting

September 16-20, 2017

Louisville, Kentucky

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

### **Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine, USA**

61<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific  
Conference

October 14-18, 2017

Las Vegas, Nevada

## STIPEND WINNERS (cont.)

constantly changing, so there is no room for resting on previous results. At the conference, I presented results on trends in cannabis use among Norwegian drivers arrested between 1990 and 2015 due to suspicion of drugged driving. The number of young males in their twenties who were arrested and found positive on cannabis only (THC detected in blood, no alcohol or other drugs combined) has escalated the last six years, despite cannabis use still being illegal in Norway. The important perspective for traffic safety is that cannabis alone was highly likely to have influenced their driving skills. In general, there were many issues to discuss related to cannabis and driving, and the ICADTS conference gave such a nice opportunity to speak with researchers with different experiences and views.

Our common goal of reducing alcohol- and drug-related road traffic crashes might be reached by a holistic approach where we combine knowledge from law, police enforcement, economy, toxicology, rehabilitation etc. The ICADTS conference was an excellent meeting point for discussing different approaches and exchanging knowledge between different fields and countries. It was mentioned at the conference that we could focus more on strengthening attractive public transport systems, and thereby contribute to reducing impaired driving. I particularly liked this approach, both for safety and environmental benefits, and I think it will benefit both low, middle and high-income countries.

I look forward to attending T2019 in Canada.

### **Manal Eldeb, Libya and Canada**

I was a medical doctor in the emergency room in my home country of Libya for 13 years (1995 – 2008) and came to Canada in 2008 in search of a better and more secure life for my children. I switched my career objective to traffic medicine research because my work in the emergency room put me in direct contact with alcohol and drug-related injuries and fatalities, and in particular those resulting from road traffic crashes in young people. This colossal public health problem motivates my objectives for graduate training in injury prevention. Simply, I feel that I will be able to save more lives by contributing to knowledge and policy related to traffic-related injury prevention. In fact, I have already done so through my work with Quebec's licensing authority towards improving clinical risk assessment for their secondary prevention of alcohol-impaired driving program. In addition, my career goal is to become a successful and independent researcher in traffic medicine. I have obtained my Master's degree from McGill's University under the supervision of Drs. Thomas G. Brown and Marie Claude Ouimet, and currently I am pursuing the Ph.D. study under their supervision.

Attending T2016 in Brazil has allowed me to stay up-to-date on current research and learn about more areas of public health and population safety that are not active in my home department, such as driving under the influence of cannabis. This is especially important to me given my multidisciplinary perspective that complex public health problems require equally complex integrative research paradigms to provide meaningful solutions. Second, presenting at the conference has allowed me to share my own work. A critical imperative for me after conducting what I believe is innovative research is to actively engage in transfer of knowledge and dissemination, and to discuss future studies and directions for my research with eminent scientists in the field. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, attending the conference has provided me with the opportunity to closely interact with specialists in the field of road safety. Because the neurobiological approach to traffic safety is embryonic, my presentation provoked discussion and questions from my fellow attendees in ICADTS. This helped me to work on my communication skills, something I believe is particularly important given the fact that road safety research has significant and pragmatic impact on social, legal, policy and public health decision making. Communicating with international researchers also alerted me to different career options in the fields of traffic medicine and injury prevention.

The paper I presented focused on neurobiology and its influence on driving. Research in our lab has shown that attenuated cortisol response to stress is associated with frequency of past alcohol-related violations in adult drivers and risky driving behaviours in novice teenage drivers and adult drivers. My study investigated the role of testosterone in alcohol-related risky driving in young drivers. Key results revealed that endogenous testosterone levels were correlated with higher levels of risky driving behaviour in simulation when drivers were also under the acute effect of alcohol. These findings add to understanding of the role of a hormone associated with aggressive behaviour in the alcohol-related risky driving context.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

International Council on  
Alcohol, Drugs & Traffic  
Safety (ICADTS)  
T2019  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
August 18-21, 2019  
[www.T2019.org](http://www.T2019.org)

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[http://www.icadtsinternational.com  
/pages/icadts-reporter.php](http://www.icadtsinternational.com/pages/icadts-reporter.php)

## STIPEND WINNERS (cont.)

### Tara Marie Watson, Canada

It was my pleasure to attend the 21<sup>st</sup> International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety (ICADTS) Conference in Gramado, Brasil. The experience was a rewarding one that has expanded my knowledge of impaired driving and sparked new questions that may inform some of my future research.

I currently hold a Canadian Institutes of Health Research postdoctoral fellowship at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, Canada. A few years earlier, I graduated with my PhD from the Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies at the University of Toronto, a very interdisciplinary department. My graduate studies focused on drug policy and contemporary corrections, as my dissertation research was a qualitative study of how substance use is managed inside Canadian federal prisons. One of the reasons I became drawn to doing postdoctoral research about drug-impaired driving is that the topic departs from my previous work yet fits with my continued interest in research at the intersections of substance use, policy, and criminal justice. I am also drawn to research that has impact. I have coordinated several multi-year and multi-stakeholder studies about programs for people who use drugs and some of that work has led to outputs – for example, updated and national best practice guidelines for harm reduction programs – that are being used by service providers and informing practice. In Canada, plans for cannabis legalisation are well underway, making drug-impaired driving research especially timely and likely to inform policy.

At the ICADTS Conference, my presentation was titled, “International approaches to cannabis and driving: A review of evidence and research needs”. The comprehensive review that this presentation was based upon, co-written with my wonderfully supportive postdoctoral supervisor, Dr. Robert Mann, is now published in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. We found that while numerous international jurisdictions have implemented varied approaches to deter and reduce driving after cannabis use, very few published evaluations have appeared in the literature to date. Although an increasing number of stakeholders are interested in introducing new laws and programs that address cannabis-impaired driving, we conclude that there is a pressing need for rigorous, multi-method evaluations of general and specific deterrent countermeasures.

The ICADTS community made me feel welcome during the conference, and I met some very friendly new contacts including some fellow Canadians and researchers from abroad. It was exciting to share my new research interests and hear about the research and additional work (such as developing ignition interlocks and drug-testing devices) that other delegates are doing. The conference dinner – which included receiving one of the early-career researcher stipends – was a major highlight as well! I am very grateful for the recognition and additional support from ICADTS. I look forward to ICADTS in Edmonton in 2019!

### Nick N.J.J.M. van der Sluiszen, The Netherlands

I was excited to hear that I had been selected as one of the ICADTS T2016 young scientist stipend awardees. T2016 is the first international congress I attended outside Europe. It was a great opportunity to learn about the research field of alcohol, drugs and traffic safety from researchers around the world. The congress also provided the chance to present my own work, to meet new people and to share personal experiences.

Currently, I am a Ph.D. student work in the research field of drugs and driving, under supervision of prof. dr. Johannes G. Ramaekers and dr. Annemiek Vermeeren. This research line focusses on the long-term effects of medicinal drug use (anxiolytics, antidepressants, hypnotics) on driving performance. Prior to the PhD position, I was employed at the institute of medical imaging physics (INM-4) at Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany.

## STIPEND WINNERS (cont.)

### **Taryn Chalmers, Australia**

I am a Neuroscience Researcher and Associate Lecturer at the University of Technology Sydney. I have been a part of the Neuroscience Research Unit, under the supervision of Associate Professor Sara Lal for the past 5 years. My PhD project was endorsed by Sydney Trains, Australia Post and the Australian Trucking Association, with my research topic focused on depression and its cardiovascular implications on truck and train driving in Australia. I have interviewed hundreds of drivers and managers from all over NSW and have spoken at numerous conferences, winning awards for my research in 2014 and 2016, as well as being awarded an Australian Postgraduate Award research scholarship in 2013. I have published a number of peer-reviewed journal articles on depression in the professional driving industry and am an Australian Society for Medical Research committee member.

This conference proved to be one of the most interesting and enlightening experiences of my research career. The similarities between Brazil and Australia with regards to heavy vehicle trucking were interesting to note, and the variety of transport experts that I was able to discuss my research interests with was invaluable. I am looking forward bringing my research to T2019, which will no doubt be another wonderful experience.

### **Labram Musah, Ghana**

I am in my final year of a program for a Masters of Business Administration at the Wisconsin International University College in Accra, Ghana, majoring in Project Management. My main interest is in policy advocacy with special interest in health and social intervention. I started as an advocate on HIV/AIDS and later on drug abuse, tobacco control and alcohol advocacy with the main aim of creating awareness on the dangers of tobacco use and tobacco smoke and drug and alcohol abuse and how it impoverishes and destroys the youth and lower income earners.

The Vision for Alternative Development (VALD), which I am the Programmes Director, believes that road safety is a collective responsibility of all. VALD activities are focused on advocacy for policy change and policy development and also awareness and sensitization on harmful effect of tobacco use and alcohol prevention and road safety in the most deprived communities in Ghana. VALD has helped to reach out to many Ghanaians with education and information. This has improved their health status.

The conference was awesome, educative and transformative. The various presentations were excellent and met my expectations particularly the pre-conference seminar by the Global Road Safety Partnership.

Drinking and driving has not been a major concern in Ghana, and it is overlooked as a factor in traffic death and disability. Currently there are no national statistics. It was instructive to hear at the conference that an effective strategy is to limit access and visibility of alcohol to commercial drivers: Most of the major local transport terminals in Ghana have a drinking spot which is made available to drivers. It was also useful to learn about policies that require alcohol and drug testing any time there is an accident.

### **Aimie Hayley, Australia**

I am an NHMRC Early Career Research Fellow at the Drugs and Driving Research Unit (DDRU) at the Centre for Human Psychopharmacology (CHP) at Swinburne University of Technology, Australia. My postdoctoral fellowship training has enabled me to participate in a number of original, drug-performance based research projects. I am currently involved in running of two collaborative clinical research projects, aimed at (i) evaluating the ability of a single use saliva-based drug test to detect both the presence and concentration of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and (ii) assessing the effect of three, stepwise doses of intravenously (IV) administered ketamine infusions on cognition and driving performance.

Participation in my first T2016 conference in Gramado, Brazil, afforded me the opportunity to connect with peers and mentors in my field of research, and allowed me to forge invaluable collaborative partnerships around the world. Most notably, I was able to connect with, and critically discuss my research ideas with some of the most influential researchers in the field of drug driving research; thereby helping to strengthen my ambitions to foster and nurture these relationships into the future. I would like to sincerely thank all of those involved in organising this fantastic conference, and I look forward to our next meeting in Canada in 2019.



## STIPEND WINNERS (cont.)

### Gabriel Andreuccetti, Brazil

I have completed my Ph.D. in Epidemiology at the Department of Preventive Medicine from the University of São Paulo Medical School (FMUSP) in Brazil and the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley. Currently, I am a postdoctoral fellow at FMUSP, where I have been collaborating with other international institutions on how to develop better strategies addressing alcohol- and drug-impaired driving in developing countries such as Brazil, and to also provide a systematic and evidence-based approach to the prevention of alcohol- and drug-related injuries for Latin American cities.

During the last few years, I have also been working on the Bloomberg Initiative for Global Road Safety in Sao Paulo, together with the Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit. I was glad to present some of our newest findings on drink and driving at the last ICADTS meeting in Brazil, showing that around 7% of drivers in Sao Paulo were under the influence of alcohol while driving. Additionally, while DUI checkpoints seem to have been effective in correctly identifying potential drunk drivers, the current Brazilian legislation allows for drivers to refuse taking a confirmatory breathalyzer, thus escaping harsher sanctions.

It was an honor for me to be able to present my current work at an ICADTS meeting in my own country. This kind of initiative not only enable us young researchers from developing countries to learn from the experiences from a diverse group of specialists, but also to become more enthusiastic about our own work and think on better ways to improve the great challenge we have ahead in terms of reducing road traffic deaths globally.

## GLOBAL PROGRESS ON ROAD INJURY MORTALITY SINCE 2010

A recent article examined progress in global road injury mortality since the initiation of Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. The authors examined annual percent changes in age-adjusted road traffic mortality using data from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013. Association between changes in road traffic mortality and legislative efforts in individual nations was explored using data from Global Status Reports on Road Safety 2013 and 2015. Results of the analysis indicated that global age-adjusted mortality, both overall and for user-specific road traffic injuries, decreased significantly between 2010 and 2013 (annual percent change in rates range from -1.43% to -0.99%). Global road traffic mortality for pedestrians, pedal cyclists, motorcyclists, and occupants (drivers and passengers) all decreased significantly over the study time period, with annual percent changes of -0.99%, -1.24%, -1.43%, and -1.09%, respectively. Developed countries witnessed substantially larger decreases both in overall and user-specific road mortality compared to developing countries (all road injuries: -3.23% vs. -0.93%; pedestrians: -3.77% vs. -0.82%; pedal cyclists: -2.43% vs. -1.07%; motorcyclists: -2.96% vs. -1.47%; occupants: -3.08% vs. -0.70%).

While developed countries witnessed a larger decrease than developing countries in both overall and user-specific road mortality (about 2.0±4.6 times), there were substantial disparities within developed countries and within developing countries, with some countries seeing large reductions in mortality rates and others seeing none. The annual percent change in road traffic mortality during 2010-2013 was significantly correlated with total national law enforcement score. The authors concluded that results highlight the need for continued effort to reduce the burden of road injury mortality, especially in LMIC countries.

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