Professional conferences enrich and energise

Nearly 1200 academics, practitioners, and policymakers from around the world gathered in Wellington, New Zealand from 1–4 October 2012, for Safety 2012—the 11th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion. The theme of the conference was ‘Connecting pathways for a vibrant and safer future’, which was chosen to highlight the importance of key stakeholders strengthening collaborations to develop comprehensive approaches to address and prevent the most pressing injury problems of the 21st century.

When you return from conferences, it is often challenging to put into words what you ‘got out of it’. Typically, the networking opportunities stand out because these gatherings offer excellent opportunities to connect with people who you don’t interact with in between meetings, or who you only talk to via internet. Good ideas and great enthusiasm usually result, and if you are fortunate there will be a follow through in the form of new, interesting, and impactful projects. Breaking free of the day-to-day and learning about new approaches and ideas can also be refreshing and inspiring, providing new energy for your return to the office. Such was the case at the recent World Conference. Poster and oral/panel sessions, breaks, and social events provided ample time for such connections.

Equally noteworthy at this year’s meeting were the plenary sessions that included time for audience participation. The speakers were provocative and it was fascinating to hear reactions from a wide array of colleagues from around the world. The debate session pitting research against implementation led to a number of comments from the audience who had surprisingly disparate opinions on the issue. SAVIR, Safe States, and the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) were represented at the meeting, and this particular debate resonated with us. The general consensus seemed to be the answer is that we need both research and implementation, debates continue to arise, budgets continue to tighten, and the world continues to change at an ever increasing pace. The partnership between research and practice is critical to achieve a safer tomorrow. We look forward to seeing you soon in Baltimore.

Keshia M Pollack,1 Andrea C Gielen,2 Amber N Williams,3 Linda C Degutis4
1Department of Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
2Department of Health, Behavior and Society, Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
3Safe States Alliance, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
4Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Correspondence to Keshia M Pollack, Department of Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 624 N Broadway, Room 557, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA; kpollack@jhsphs.edu

Competing interests None.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; internally peer reviewed.
Received 04 December 2012
Revised 11 December 2012
Accepted 11 December 2012

Professional conferences enrich and energise

Keshia M Pollack, Andrea C Gielen, Amber N Williams, et al.

*Inj Prev* 2013 19: 72
doi: 10.1136/injuryprev-2012-040725

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/19/1/72.full.html

**Email alerting service**

*These include:*
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

**Notes**

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/