



HARBORVIEW  
INJURY PREVENTION  
& RESEARCH CENTER

# News

October 2007

## Dr. Beth Ebel named Director of HIPRC

Associate Professor **Beth Ebel, MD, Msc, MPH**, was named director of the Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center (HIPRC), effective June 1st, 2007. Dr. Ebel replaces Dr. Charlie Mock, who had served as HIPRC director since 2004. Dr. Mock recently left HIPRC for a new position leading international trauma and injury prevention at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

Ebel has been a core investigator at HIPRC since 2001, and became Associate Director in 2006. She has research interests in community-based injury interventions and injury disparities. Ebel studies injury prevention and health behaviors, and has led research on the Seattle campaign encouraging children's car booster seats. She also led a project examining the effectiveness of booster seats in protecting children in car crashes.

In addition to her new role, Ebel provides pediatric care and teaching in the Harborview Medical Center Children and Teens Clinic, as well as caring for children admitted to Burn and Surgical services at Harborview. "Our commitment to provide outstanding care for each injured child and adult," she observes, "is also a commitment to the science of understanding, treating and preventing injury."

## Dr. Brian Johnston named editor of *Injury Prevention*

HIPRC Investigator **Brian Johnston, MD, MPH** was recently named editor of the journal *Injury Prevention*. Johnston is assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington, chief of pediatrics at Harborview Medical Center, and co-director of the Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Seattle. He is a general pediatrician who practices at Harborview and at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical. He directs pediatric care and resident education at the regional trauma center and is an investigator at the Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center.

Johnston's focus has been on risk behaviors, family stress, resilience and community-based injury prevention. He is also interested in linkages between the child death review process and injury control at the local level.

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## Harborview team leads national effort to reduce alcohol-related injuries

Alcohol contributes to the injuries of about half of all patients in US trauma hospitals. Harborview surgeons have been on the forefront in trying to reduce the number of alcohol-related trauma incidents for the past 20 years, with efforts led by Harborview Trauma Chief **Jerry Jurkovich, MD, FACS**; **Fred Rivara, MD, MPH**, UW professor of pediatrics and adjunct professor of epidemiology; and **Doug Zatzick, MD**, Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. The work of these Harborview physicians on alcohol screening and intervention has led to a recent mandate from the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma, the primary agency responsible for developing trauma center requirements, that all Level 1 trauma centers must screen injured patients for alcohol use, and provide an intervention for those who test positive.

Under a new grant from NIH, Jurkovich and Zatzick will explore how best to implement alcohol screening and intervention programs at all 190 US Level 1 trauma centers. "We know what works at Harborview but that may not work at every hospital," Jurkovich says, "We hope we will be able to show the best ways to do alcohol screenings and interventions, and package it so there will be a toolkit for how to put together a good alcohol intervention program at a trauma hospital."

Harborview's model alcohol screening and intervention program began in 1993, with a grant from the NIH's National



Institutes of Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse. After an initial survey found that roughly 50% of all trauma patients had been drinking and 1/3 were "fully intoxicated", Jurkovich said they hired alcohol counselors and began a study of the effectiveness of the intervention.

"Patients who had intervention in the hospital were less likely to drink, consumed fewer alcoholic beverages, had fewer run-ins with police, and fewer admissions to the hospital," Jurkovich says.

Trauma patients at Harborview are screened for alcohol use in the ER, once they are stable, and those whose alcohol use contributed to their injury are referred to an alcohol counselor. The counselor completes a brief interview and intervention, and offers counseling and follow-up opportunities. "It's trying to give patients a wake-up-call – reaching them when they're most aware of the serious consequences of alcohol abuse," Jurkovich says.

Jurkovich estimates that less than 10% of trauma centers now have alcohol screening and intervention programs.

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## **HIPRC Investigator Appointments**

Associate Professor **Melissa Schiff, MD, MPH** has been named lead of HIPRC's Epidemiology and Prevention section. In addition to developing her research areas of sports injury and injury in pregnancy, Melissa has developed a popular MPH course on injury epidemiology and provided mentorship for predoctoral and postdoctoral students sharing an injury interest.

**Fred Rivara, MD, MPH**, has been named the Children's Hospital Guild Association Endowed Chair in Pediatric Health Outcomes Research. Rivara has also been named by Governor Gregoire to the Board of Directors of the Washington State Academy of Science. The Academy was recently established by the Washington State Legislature with a mission to "provide scientific analysis and recommendations on issues referred to the Academy by the Governor or the Legislature." The Academy is governed by a 12-person Board of Directors.

## **Alcohol related injuries**

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The NIH grant began August 1st, and will continue for five years, with a total grant amount of \$2.5 million. Dr. Zatzick is the primary investigator, Dr. Jurkovich is co-investigator as are Dr. Rivara and **Chris Dunn, PhD**. Other co-investigators are **Dennis Donovan, PhD** in psychiatry, **Francine Terrel RN** in psychiatric nursing, and **Larry Gentilello, MD** at the University of Texas.

"Our ultimate goal is to decrease recidivism – repeat alcohol-related injuries resulting in trauma admission- and to decrease the number of alcohol-related injuries in the US," says Jurkovich.

## **Upcoming Seminars:**

*Seminars are held 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in the HIPRC Conference Room.*

October 19, 2007

Stephen Burns, MD

*Osteoporotic Lower Limb Fractures Following Spinal Cord Injury*

November 2, 2007

Steven Vannoy, MD

*The Relationship Between Suicide Ideation and Late Life Depression*

November 9, 2007

Allyson Browne, PhD, Clinical Psychologist, Trauma Service, Royal Perth Hospital (RPH), Western Australia

November 16, 2007

Kathy Smith, MD

December 7, 2007

Doug Zatzick, MD

*The Adolescent Trauma Recovery and Stress Disorders Collaborative Care (ATRSCC) Model Program Trial*

December 14, 2007

David Grossman, MD

*Does Promoting Firearm Safe Storage Work?*

Contact Susan Salas at:

*ssalas@u.washington.edu*, (206) 744-9477, for more information about HIPRC seminars.

# HIPRC welcomes new staff members

**Christy Villareale**, research coordinator is part of HIPRC's grant support and administrative team.

**Colleen Conroy**, Research Study Assistant works on the Children's Health After Injury (CHAI) study recruiting families into the project and conducting interviews.

**Andrea Miller**, Research Study Assistant, also works on the CHAI study, recruiting families and conducting interviews.

**Jennifer Stubbs** has returned to HIPRC as a Research Study Assistant for the Last Call Designated Driver project.

**Tiffanie Matsumoto** has joined HIPRC as an Office Assistant.

**Doug Zatzick, MD**, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Director, Attending Consult Services at HMC has setting up an office at HIPRC as part of his new grant to disseminate alcohol screening and brief intervention procedures.

**David Zonies, MD**, trauma fellow, will be completing his MPH-Trauma/Critical Care Fellowship at HIPRC.

**Mathew Sorensen, MD**, a Urology resident, is working on a project for his masters degree in Epidemiology with Dr. Fred Rivara and Dr. Hunter Wessels.

**James Damsere Derry**, Fogarty Research Fellow, will be completing his MPH fellowship at HIPRC, and will be researching traffic injuries in Ghana.

**Sravanthi Parasi** will be completing her MPH at the University of Washington, and will be supporting NHTSA regional

traffic safety priorities as a research fellow.

**Alex Quistberg** is completing his MPH at the University of Washington, and will be supporting research projects in booster seat use with Dr. Beth Ebel and personal flotation device use with Dr. Beth Mueller.

The CIREN project has added two new investigators: **Joel Gross, MD**, Assistant Professor of Radiology, and **David Nuckley**, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering.

*Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center News* is published for HIPRC faculty and staff, and others interested in the Center's work. Past issues may be found at [www.hiprc.org](http://www.hiprc.org).