



A publication of Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center
325 Ninth Ave., Box 359960, Seattle, WA 98104-2499

FOSTER G. MCGAW PRIZE FOR HARBORVIEW MEDICAL CENTER

One of healthcare’s most prestigious honors for community service

Harborview Medical Center has been named the recipient of the 2007 Foster G. McGaw Prize. This award is presented annually to a health care organization that provides innovative programs that significantly improve the health and well-being of the community. Sponsored by the American Hospital Association, The Baxter International Foundation and the Cardinal Health Foundation, the award is accompanied by a \$100,000 cash prize.

“The Foster G. McGaw Prize recognizes health care organizations that set a high standard for improving the lives of people in the community,” said Susan Manilow, chair of the prize committee. “The winner and finalists this year are wonderful examples of the things that

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Foster G. McGaw Prize to Harborview	1
CDC plans feature on alcohol trauma research	1
Dr. Gregory J. Jurkovich to lead trauma group	2
Study Spotlight: Traffic safety in Ghana	2
Injury Free Coalition for Kids recognized	3
What’s New & Upcoming Seminars	4

are happening in healthcare today,” she added. “Through innovative leadership and partnerships, sustained commitment, and wide-ranging initiatives that achieve striking results in community health and vitality, these organizations truly make a difference in people’s lives.”

Harborview has been devoted to serving the poor, homeless, new immigrants and underserved in King County since it’s founding in 1877. The hospital continues to provide exemplary care for patients from all walks of life, regardless of their

Please see ‘McGaw’ on page 3

Alcohol Trauma Research Selected for National Web Feature

CDC series planned to increase injury awareness

The connection between alcohol and trauma will be the subject of a web site feature currently in the works at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The story will detail the groundbreaking efforts of investigators from the Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center to examine the role of alcohol use in cases of traumatic injury.

Chosen from a pool of more than forty entries, the profile will be first in a series highlighting successful research projects funded by the CDC. The story will appear on the web page for

the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, a CDC entity. “The alcohol screening and intervention research was selected to be the focus of our first story,” said Dr. Rick Waxweiler, director of the extramural research program for the CDC’s Injury Center. “The story is so well documented and impressive.” The series will help increase national awareness and support for injury research.

Harborview physicians have been at the forefront of alcohol-related trauma research for two decades, led by Jerry Jurkovich, M.D., chief of

Please see ‘alcohol and trauma’ on page 4

Dr. Gregory J. Jurkovich heads national trauma surgery group

Gregory Jerome “Jerry” Jurkovich was recently named president-elect of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST), the leading academic trauma surgery organization in the nation. Jurkovich, a professor of surgery at the University of Washington, and chief of trauma service at Harborview Medical Center, has been a core investigator at Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center since 1990.

Jurkovich was elected last fall, and will assume the role in September. He also chairs the AAST’s Acute Care Surgery Committee, a position he has held since its inception four years ago. “I am extremely honored to become president of the AAST,” said Jurkovich. “I have great respect and admiration for my colleagues in the field of



Dr. Jerry Jurkovich, core faculty member of HIPRC, and president-elect of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

trauma surgery, particularly in this challenging era for medicine. The AAST is in a strong position to address some of the great problems of medical care that exist in our country, such as access to emergency care.” Jurkovich is a leading proponent of Acute Care Surgery, a new medical specialty that combines trauma, surgical and critical care, and emergency general surgery. His research interests include injury prevention; system design and outcome studies; hypothermia in trauma; and alcohol and trauma.

STUDY SPOTLIGHT: Speeding traffic linked to collisions in Ghana

Imagine driving down the highway at dusk. There are no street lights. Cars swerve by, horns blaring, speeding twice the posted limit. Others creep by at a snail’s pace. Pedestrians, bikes, carts and animals line the roadside.

Behind the wheel, this might feel like a computer game. But in reality, it’s Ghana—a coastal African nation where excessive speeding and vehicular accidents are rampant. Now, thanks to the joint efforts of the Injury Prevention Center, the University of Washington, and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Ghana’s traffic patterns and driver habits have

come under scrutiny. Here’s what investigator James Damsere Derry, Fogarty Fellow, and his colleagues found when they took a closer look:

- Speeding is pervasive, especially in crowded areas where over 90% of vehicles exceed posted limits.
- In rural areas, nearly 50–70% of vehicles travelled above posted speeds.
- Excessive speeding contributes greatly to severe crash outcomes. Pedestrians are most vulnerable, constituting over 40% of all road fatalities each year.



Widespread speeding in Ghana creates dangerous conditions for drivers and pedestrians.

To improve traffic safety, researchers recommended enforcement and posting of minimum and maximum speed limits. They also suggested speed calming measures in congested areas, and that roads bypass residential areas whenever possible. Funding for the study was provided by a Fogarty Grant from the U.S. National Institutes of Health. The grant supports research and training for scientists in developing nations around the world.

McGaw Prize cont.

Outreach key to selection

ability to pay. “This award is a tremendous honor for Harborview because it reflects our role in embracing the community and reaching out to those most in need.” said Johnese Spisso, R.N., interim executive director of Harborview Medical Center. The award was based largely upon the depth and diversity of Harborview’s community programs, including:

- ***The Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Seattle.*** This HIPRC partnership has created programs such as ‘Walking School Bus,’ to encourage urban kids to exercise safely. (See below.)
- ***Healthcare for the Homeless.*** Harborview’s satellite clinics provide physical and mental health services to the homeless and uninsured.

Injury Free Coalition for Kids Recognized

Each year, the Foster G. McGaw Prize is awarded to a healthcare organization for excellence in community service. The ***Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Seattle*** was cited as one of the programs that helped Harborview capture the 2007 prize.

The Kids Coalition, founded in 2002, is a partnership between the Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center, Children’s Hospital & Medical Center, and King County Public Health. The group has launched several successful programs promoting children’s health, including ‘Walking School Bus,’ an effort to encourage urban kids to exercise safely. “We wanted to get safe physical activity into the kid’s day,” said Brian Johnston, M.D., co-director of the coalition, and chief of pediatrics at Harborview.

The program started at Bailey Gatzert, an elementary school in central Seattle, where parent volunteers began walking groups of children to school. Initially, 25 kids participated, walking a mile or more together at least once a week.

- ***Housing & Employment Programs for the Mentally Ill.*** Harborview offers employment and housing programs with support services for adults with psychiatric disabilities.
- ***Overcoming Language and Cultural Disparities.*** Bilingual caseworkers share information between healthcare providers and King County’s immigrant communities. The International Medicine Clinic also provides care for new residents, and interpreter services in more than 80 languages and dialects.
- ***Changing Health Behaviors.*** Harborview provides clinical resources, education and support to those with chronic health conditions. Free education programs for chronic diseases are also offered in several languages.



Members of the Walking School Bus program from Bailey Gatzert Elementary School in Seattle.

Bailey Gatzert is located in one of Seattle’s most diverse neighborhoods. As groups walked and socialized together, cultural barriers diminished. Parents became more strongly linked to the school, which led some to donate additional time in the classroom. Six months after the program began, student participation climbed 25%, and fewer children were arriving at school by car—a perfect illustration of what happens when organizations and families work together to build healthier communities. The program is currently seeking funding to continue its efforts.

Alcohol and Trauma cont.

trauma service at Harborview and professor of surgery at the UW; Larry Gentilello, M.D., formerly of Harborview and now at the University of Texas, Southwestern; Frederick Rivara, M.D., M.P.H., professor of pediatrics and adjunct professor of epidemiology at the UW; Beth Ebel, M.D., MSc, M.P.H., associate professor of pediatrics and director of HIPRC, and Douglas Zatzick, M.D., and associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the UW.

The group's work 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.

(Find the feature story in coming weeks at www.cdc.org.)

What's New

Monica Vavilala, M.D. is the center's new Associate Director. Dr. Vavilala is an associate professor of anesthesiology and pediatrics, with a joint appointment as associate professor of neurosurgery at the UW. Research interests include trauma care and traumatic brain injury.

Melissa Schiff, M.D. M.P.H. is Director of Education. Dr. Schiff has been a core faculty member at HIPRC for five years, and heads the epidemiology and prevention section. She is an associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the UW School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

Karen Hansen is Manager of Program Operations. Karen has significant supervisory experience at the UW, and was most recently Assistant Director in the Office of the President. She is assuming the position held by Laura Feola who is on extended maternity leave.

Kellie Tormey is Public Information Specialist. Kellie has extensive experience in community relations in the corporate and non-profit sectors and will help disseminate center news to the public.

In Focus is a publication of the Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center, one of the nation's leading centers dedicated to injury prevention and trauma research. HIPRC is affiliated with Harborview Medical Center and the University of Washington in Seattle, and supported by funding from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. To provide feedback, or request a change of address, please contact Kellie Tormey at ktormey@u.washington.edu.

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UPCOMING SEMINARS

Seminars are held Fridays each month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center. For more information, contact Susan Salas at ssalas@u.washington.edu.

April

- 4 James Damsere-Derry, Fogarty Scholar, presents *Speeding in Ghana*.
- 11 Kavi Bawa-Bhalla, Ph.D, research associate from the Center for Population and Development Studies presents *Estimating National Level Road Traffic Injuries in Developing Countries, Iran*.
- 18 Charles Mock, M.D. Ph.D and Theo Vos, M.D., present *Global Injury*.
- 24 Denise Gonzalez-Walker, discusses *Connecting Research to the Community*.