



Conference Reports and Calls

Phoenix Rehabilitation and Prevention – European Burn Association Joint Workshop on Burn Rehabilitation and Prevention: Sharing experiences, 16 - 18 January 2017, Cape Town, South Africa

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The conference was co-hosted by the South African Phoenix Rehabilitation and Prevention group and the European Burn Association at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital and brought together an inter-disciplinary team of experts and practitioners in the field of paediatric burn trauma. The main theme of this joint workshop was centred on learning exchanges and sharing of experiences and best practices in the prevention and rehabilitation of burn injuries. The conference was initiated with an orientation visit of conference delegates to surrounding Cape Town townships to illustrate, first-hand, the particular resource and safety challenges faced by South Africans. The tour also included visits to the Red Cross Burns Unit and St Joseph's Home for Children to showcase the medical and long-term care provided for paediatric burn victims.

The second day was opened with a keynote address that provided an overview of the current epidemiology of burns in South Africa. The second day was dedicated to an exchange of best practices related to burn prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation (e.g., occupational therapy, physiotherapy, art therapy, and reflexology). Lessons were also shared about current medications and treatments that have demonstrated efficacy in wound care, burn scar management, itching, and pain management approaches used by nursing practitioners, occupational therapists, and physiotherapists. Focus was also placed on the support provided for the psychological and social aspects of burn aftercare through art therapy and reflexology. The third and final day of the conference was opened by a very powerful personal experience recounted by an individual who had suffered a burn injury

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as a toddler. He shared some of the challenges he had faced growing up, especially as an adolescent and young adult. The survivor reflected on how he yearned to learn about and be connected to the rest of the world, and through his collection of maps and atlases from around the world -, expressed a need to break through his social isolation. The final part of the day provided an opportunity for more direct engagement through practical skills stations and group discussions on the work that had been presented during the conference. The practical work stations allowed the opportunity for practitioners to showcase work in their respective fields. It was also a platform for giving hands-on demonstrations of the different approaches used in burn prevention, care, and rehabilitation, followed by a questions and answers session at each station. Of especial note is the increased use of technology and gaming such as Wii and Xbox by physiotherapists for physical rehabilitation, improvement of range of movement, etc. The proceedings were concluded with a closing address focusing on the importance of collaboration across different fields of expertise and practice. It is our opinion that the conference was successful in its purpose of bringing together an eclectic group of volunteers, burn victims, and cross-disciplinary practitioners from various parts of the world presenting an opportunity for learning exchange towards a common goal of ensuring the best possible outcomes, both physical and psychological, for children who have experienced a burn trauma.

Injury Control and Traffic Safety Training Course

Venue: Sunnyside Hotel, Johannesburg

Date: 2 - 4 October 2017

The promotion of road safety in South Africa and Africa remains an imperative considering the disproportionately large public health and developmental burden from road traffic crashes across the continent. Extensive and well-intentioned collaborative traffic campaigns held predominantly over the holiday periods have reflected commendable success; however, injury statistics in South Africa and elsewhere remain unacceptably high. It is imperative that both professionals and civil society become more aware of the importance and the basic principles of injury control and traffic safety. The Violence, Injury and Peace Research Unit (VIPRU, co-directed by the South African Medical Research Council and University of South Africa) and the Institute for Social and Health Sciences, University of South Africa will be hosting a training course on injury control and traffic safety in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITDelhi). The training course will be held from the 2 - 4 October 2017 in Johannesburg.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This 3 day course will bring together professionals and other social actors working in the area of injury control, research, transportation planning, pedestrian and road safety, trauma, and traffic and law enforcement to acquaint themselves with the state-of-the-art information in the field. The contents of the course have been focused to give a local, national, and global perspective to the road safety problem. By the end of the course the participants should:

- Know about the latest findings and methodologies for the prevention of traffic accidents and injuries, transportation planning and enforcement;
- Be aware of perspectives, policies and practices which have been shown to be successful or have not worked in the past; and
- Be able to develop, improve or initiate their own programmes in traffic injury planning and control.

TARGET SECTORS

The course will be conducted in English, and will accommodate about 30 participants. The course has been designed for an interdisciplinary audience including law enforcers, police officers, urban and traffic planners, road engineers, researchers, behavioural scientists, medical professionals, emergency services, biomedical engineers and civil society activists.

COURSE TRAINERS

The 2017 training course will include the following international trainers:

Prof. Dinesh Mohan

Professor Mohan is currently Distinguished Professor, Shiv Nadar University, and Honorary Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. He was Coordinator of the Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme (TRIPP), Head of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Safety Technology from 1998 to 2010, and Head Centre for Biomedical Engineering 1991 to 1996 at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India. Prof Mohan is one of the world's leading experts on traffic safety issues and human tolerance to injury and has been involved in injury control research for the past 30 years.

Prof. Geetam Tiwari

Professor Tiwari is currently MoUD Chair Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, at the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi. She has about 30 years of professional experience in the areas of Transport Planning and Traffic Engineering in India and USA. Professor Tiwari has worked with a number of research institutes and clients viz., the World Bank, Asian Institute of Transport Development, IFSTTAR (French Research Institute), International Transport Forum (ITF, Paris), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, India, International Association for Traffic Safety Science, Japan (IATSS), Delhi traffic police, and the Central Road Research Institute on various transportation projects.

COURSE FEE

- The conference package will be ZAR2 500, including registration, course materials, teas and lunch.
- Delegates are provided with information on suitable accommodation, but will need to ensure their own arrangements.

- The course registration form is available at the following website: <http://www.mrc.ac.za/crime/crime.htm>, or may be requested from Ms Kasia Venter, see contact details below. To secure your place, please forward your proof of payment to the address indicated below. ***Delegates without proof of payment will unfortunately not be eligible for the course.***
- Seats are limited, so please RSVP early.
- This is a **certified course**.

CONTACT PERSON

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