

CLOSING SESSION

Summary and New Directions

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Ladies and Gentlemen, I am taking a risk standing here for ten minutes and not mentioning the many valuable contribution that you have made to make this Conference a success. But I have to take this risk and make sure that many compliments will be given afterwards, when we speak again about T2002.

Summary Plenaries (1)

- Models from outside the traffic safety arena for viewing impaired driving performance
- Commitment to re-energizing and moving forward in the USA
- Road Safety Vision 2010 (e.g. STRID) in Canada

During the plenaries, Dr. Jessor's and Dr. Yates' scholarly remarks both offered sound models and perspectives from outside the traffic safety arena for reviewing impaired driving problems. I will come back to some implications within a few minutes.

Dr. Runge's commitment to re-energizing and moving forward was what at least some of us needed to hear. It was indeed motivating and encouraging. As a comment, I would like to emphasize that ICADTS plays an important role in contributing to what is needed and I would like to call upon all countries to agree on common approaches in collecting and reporting data on drug and driving.

Dr Jonah's presentation illustrated that Canada, as our host country for this Conference, has challenged its nation by setting targets in road safety. Canada is trying to become the world's number one country in road safety, and I call upon other countries to give our colleagues over here fierce competition!

Summary Plenaries (2)

- Encourage responsible behavior
- Self-change (without treatment) for DWI problems works, but WHY? and HOW?
- Treatment of DWI problems if other disorders are taken care of first

Mr. de Koninck presented a very nice and impressive example of a designated driver programme called 'Operation Red Nose'. His message to people who drive and want to drink is 'Be Responsible' and his approach seems to work as strategy if we can observe that of the people

who have availed themselves of the service, a goodly proportion (37%) decide on their own to make the arrangements themselves outside the period that the Red Nose service will be offered.

Dr. Nadeau explained that the majority of drinkers with problems resolved these without treatment. Why? Probably by a cognitive appraisal as a result of health reasons and/or positive events. But How? We still have a lack of knowledge to explain successful strategies with respect to treatment programmes. We simply have no clear cut answers and that is a challenge for research in the coming years. No one regimen is superior to another. Guidelines have been developed for sequencing interventions for treatment of DWI problems if other disorders are taken care of first. It is encouraging that we know now that those treatments are more successful.

Summary Sessions (1)

- Low BAC, crash risk, law enforcement well-covered
- World-wide picture on alcohol is getting worse (What is the reaction of the Scientific Community?)
- Drugs other than alcohol (e.g. cannabis, benzodiazepines): prevalence, legislation, enforcement, education

In starting to summarize the various sessions it was clear that issues concerning low BAC values, alcohol related crash risk and law enforcement were all well-covered. This illustrates that alcohol is still the number one problem. Reassuring was that a more sophisticated repetition of Borkenstein's Grand Rapids Study showed that for alcohol an increased crash risk really has not changed over the years. This risk starts to increase slowly at a BAC of 0.04%.

The session on Worldwide decline in Drinking and Driving illustrated that in quiet a few countries DWI incidence had stabilized or even increased (e.g. Sweden, USA, The Netherlands). This is a serious warning, especially if one can observe that in some cases a clear reduction in enforcement level was reported. What is the reaction of the scientific community? Do we simply observe? I guess not, we have to show what the causes are and present sound messages for policy makers.

We have seen during this conference more papers on drug impairment than ever before during ICADTS conferences. Never before has one out of three papers presented been dedicated to drugs other than alcohol (Table 1). Twenty years ago the emphasis was on the effects of these drugs. Ten years ago again, but also on what we need to do about it (prevention, education). Now at T2002 we see more emphasis on detecting the prevalence in drivers, and again on education, prevention and so on. This will continue to be important in the next conferences.

Discussions on 'zero-tolerance' laws for illicit drugs show a substantial level of consensus that this is the way forward. But, what to do with the benzodiazepines, the most frequently used hypnotics and anxiolytics, used both medicinally and illegally. That will be one of the key questions for the next conferences. Finally, it is clear that poly-drug users in the driving population are a special group that need more attention both in detection, enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation.

Table 1: Presentations on Drugs Other than Alcohol
Abstracts (Sessions, incl. Posters)

T-Year (Total)	Prevalence	Screening	Effects	Other	N Total (%)
T-83 (141)	3	5	10	2	20 14%
T-92 (220)	10	8	19	16	53 (24%)
T-02	25	20	8	17	70 (33%)

Summary Sessions (2)

- Policy-makers in some countries counteract the emphasis of researchers (security, legal obstruction)
- Need to establish partnerships in order to develop integrated strategies and interventions

It was discouraging to notice that policy-makers in some countries counteract the emphasis of researchers to take a better look at trends in drugs and driving. Standardization of procedures to sample drugged drivers and to present reliable statistics is badly needed. Provisions to collect the right sample in the law are often lacking. One reason, unfortunately, is the added attention that needs to be given to security issues.

However, there is some good news, such as shown in the ‘Norwegian Model’. Here it is illustrated that focus can be given to collaboration involving the public, the police, prosecutors, scientists and health care providers. All together they have reached the point where the whole society is ‘thinking drugs’. I would like to mention that looking at models such as the Norwegian one is giving us a good opportunity to learn from new ways to make the mind-setting process successful. Showing best practices sometimes is more efficient than presenting a long list with recommendations about what needs to be done.

New Directions (1)

- More discussions on legal issues or political climates that impede implementation of good science in traffic safety (ICADTS Haddon Award)
- More focus on “Protective Factors” and implementation of lifestyle issues for drugs and driving

Unfortunately there were no papers or discussions of legal issues or political climates that impede the implementation of good science in traffic safety. In future meetings we will expect more reports and ICADTS has to motivate its membership to take part in that. We have now the Haddon Award to show that we are serious in this area.

For new directions in drugs other than alcohol, in particular medicinal drugs, protective factors need more attention. Just as we care in health issues such as 'drugs and pregnancy' we should promote the use of safer drugs and avoid the ones that cause harm. **New Directions (2)**

- Need to expand ICADTS work in developing and transitional countries (e.g. session during T2004 and ICADTS Stipend)
- More emphasis on ICADTS Working Groups
- ICADTS needs to recruit more young scientists (ICADTS Stipend Program)

There is a need to expand the ICADTS work to developing and transitional countries where the problem in traffic safety is greatest. ICADTS has established a Stipend to allow workers in the field of traffic safety to attend its meetings and we are thinking of having a session at T2004 dedicated to the needs of developing and transitional countries.

The back-bone of our organization becomes clearly visible in the activities of the various working groups. The impact is clear if we observe that the Working Groups' reports are the most popular items to click on for downloading the pdf-files. Please note that we have on average 281 hits a day.

Finally, for those of you who have observed the audience and rated the average age of the participants, will agree that ICADTS needs to recruit more young scientists. We have established a ICADTS Stipend Programme in the ICADTS Foundation. Please look at the ICADTS website and motivate young colleagues to join and to use the Stipend programme if needed.

To end with, I would like to thank some nice colleagues (Marcy Burns, Richard Compton, Kees Heijster, Wolf Nickel, Barry Sweedler and Alain Verstraete) who made my job easier than expected. I also would like to thank you as speakers and audience for being so involved in the discussions. I saw well-attended sessions during the whole conference with lively discussions. We need to keep that going in future conferences.

Last but not least I would like to thank the organizers of T2002 for making this event possible. We all have experienced an extremely well organized meeting with good scientific content and a sublime social programme. I invite you all to give a round of applause for all the speakers, but in particular the Canadian team!

ICADTS Working Groups

Jim Hedlund

Preusser Research Group

What are working groups?

- Informal groups with common interest
- Way to collaborate between T meetings
- Some produce reports –
 - on-line at ICADTS website
 - indexed in TRIS
- Others serve as informal network for sharing information

Regranting of licenses

- W.-R. Nickel, chair
- “Regranting of driving licenses” 1996
 - guidelines for relicensing
- Planning update of report

Illegal drugs and driving

- J.M. Walsh, chair
- “Illegal drugs and driving” 2000
 - scope of problem; status of political, legislative, enforcement efforts; recommendations
- Session at T02
- Cooperative US-Europe research

Medicinal drugs - studies

- G. Berghaus and B. Friedel, chairs
- “Guidelines on experimental studies undertaken to determine a medicinal drug’s effect on driving or skills related to driving” 1999
- Planning follow-up activities

Medicinal drugs - prescribing guidelines

- J.J. de Gier and J. Alvarez, chairs
- “Prescribing and dispensing guidelines for medicinal drugs affecting driving performance” 2001
- Session at T02

- Follow-up: implement guidelines, engage patient and consumer orgs, communicate to public, funding

Interlocks

- P. Marques, chair
- “Alcohol ignition interlock devices I: Position paper” 2001
- Session at T02
- Symposium October 2002
- Next report - summarize interlock effects on recidivism and crashes

Recreational vehicles

- D. Beirness, chair
- Exploring data systems in different countries to determine extent of alcohol involvement
- Session at T02
- Anticipate brief problem statement paper

Clinical signs of impairment for other drugs

- M. Burns and C. Mercier-Guyon, chairs
- Session at T02

Standardization of epidemiological research on alcohol and traffic safety

- J. Fell, chair
- Prepared draft guidelines 2000
- Currently inactive; seeking interested members

Alcohol-involved pedestrians

- A. Clayton and D. Preusser, chairs
- Currently inactive; seeking interested members

Proposed new group --Unlicensed drivers

- R. Voas
- Exploring member interest in a group

For more information

- Current groups - contact the chair
- ICADTS website has complete list and contact information: raru.adelaide.edu.au/icadts
- New groups - contact J. Hedlund, group coordinator: jhedlund@sprynet.com

Poster Award Remarks

Daniel R. Mayhew

Traffic Injury Research Foundation of Canada

I am delighted to be here this morning to present the ICADTS Poster Award. Montreal is the first time this award of \$500 U.S. has been conferred by the ICADTS Foundation. The Award is intended to encourage scientists to present work at ICADTS conferences demonstrating original and sound research in support of ICADTS objectives.

As Chair of the Scientific Committee for this conference, I chair the judging panel. The panel also includes: Hans Laurell, Past-president of ICADTS and Widmark Award Laureate and Jim Hedlund, former member of ICADTS Executive Board and coordinator of the ICADTS Working Groups. I thank Hans and Jim for their assistance in judging the posters.

There were a total of 30 posters on display. I thank all of the poster presenters for their effort and excellent contribution to the success of this conference.

Each judge assessed posters independently. The criteria they used for judging each poster included:

- Research design – Posters must explain research designs/methods according to accepted standards
- Results/Conclusions – The results must be sound and the discussion/conclusion supported by the results
- Information Transfer – Posters should be a good example of how essential information can be disseminated and shared among professionals
- Originality – Posters should describe new and interesting research rather than another replication of something known or another variant on a familiar theme
- ICADTS Goals – Posters must support ICADTS goals.

There were many excellent posters that scored very well on these criteria. I am pleased to inform you that one poster scored the highest by each of the judges – we have a unanimous decision. On behalf of the ICADTS Foundation, I am very pleased to present this certificate and a \$500 U.S. award for the best poster to:

**Mark Vollrath and Hans-Peter Kruger of the Center for Traffic Sciences,
University of Wuerzburg, Germany**

for their poster presentation titled: Comparison between Behavioral Signs of Drug Impairment and Driving Performance.

Congratulations Mark and Hans-Peter for a job well done.

Closing Address

Jacques Brind'Amour, Chairman and CEO

Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec

So comes to term the 16th International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety. We have all come to see over the past few days that considerable progress has been made during the last several years in countering impaired driving, giving us confidence that our work is not in vain, which should spur us on in the fight against this scourge to responsible road users. The gains that have been made are an excellent source of motivation to continuing our research, all the while looking about at what is being done elsewhere. The combination of better knowledge and more precise measurement tools will allow for more effective legislation.

An event such as this requires much preparation, which is why I want to express my sincere thanks to all those who contributed to making the 16th Conference a milestone.

First, let me thank members of the Organizing Committee for their efforts through the year gone by, in particular Mr. Claude Dussault who did not interrupt his work of coordination despite assuming duties outside the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec. Claude confided to me that he would not have been able to continue without the help of Ms. Joanne Bouchard who supervised the organization of the scientific aspect, and of Ms. Huguette Grégoire for logistics, who happily had the support of OPUS 3, a firm that provided top notch service.

I also thank members of the International Scientific Committee, especially its chair, Mr. Dan Mayhew, who so successfully coordinated the scientific side of the Conference.

ICADTS president, Mr. Barry Sweedler, was throughout the preparation of this Conference a source of inspiration and of motivation; thank you.

The hosting of an event such as the Conference would be impossible without the collaboration of partners and sponsors. I thank our principal partners, Transport Québec and Transport Canada and their representatives, Brian Jonah and Paul Boase, for the participation and contribution to simultaneous translation of the technical and plenary sessions. Our gratitude also goes to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and that US agency's representatives, Jeffrey Runge, Jim Frank and Richard Compton.

I am also thankful for the participation of Guardian Interlock, Éduc'Alcool, Daimler Chrysler, MADD Canada, General Motors, Groupe CGI and CMI-Lyon.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, of ICADTS, of the SAAQ and in my own name, thank you to guest speakers at the plenary sessions, Drs Louise Nadeau, Richard Jessor, Frank Yates

and Mr. Jean-Marie de Koninck, to speakers and chairs of technical sessions and to all who took part in the 16th Conference.

I trust that during your stay you were able to discover some of the many charms that Montréal has to offer and hope that you will not let too much time pass before coming back to savour more. Let me end by saying *au revoir* and see you at T 2004.