



THE SOCIETY FOR ADVANCEMENT  
OF VIOLENCE AND INJURY  
RESEARCH

# ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2019-  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

**savir** *Society for Advancement of  
Violence and Injury Research*

---

## SAVIR's MISSION



The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR) is a professional organization that provides leadership and fosters excellence in the science of preventing and treating injury and violence. We seek to address issues relevant to the prevention, acute care and rehabilitation of injury and violence through multiple activities in research; research dissemination; program and policy development and evaluation; consultation; and education and training.

SAVIR is led by an Executive Committee comprised of the President, President-Elect, Past-President, and Treasurer. SAVIR has a current Board of Directors and a variety of standing committees. Find more information about the current Board membership on page five and more information on each of the SAVIR committees on page seven.

## SAVIR's PEOPLE



# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past year was difficult and challenging in many ways. Racism, a global pandemic, natural disasters, and an increasingly polarized national environment all impacted injury and violence in the US and globally. These challenges highlighted the importance of research to identify the underlying causes of injury and violence, test interventions, disseminate findings, and study strategies for translating research into practice. This is how we can reduce these preventable deaths. SAVIR, as an organization, successfully met these challenges.

We rapidly pivoted from an in-person conference to a virtual conference in a few weeks' time. We developed a highly motivated, action-oriented Antiracism Interest Group that is making internal systems changes as well as examining ways to improve the science of injury and violence prevention using an antiracism framework.

And we celebrated the allocation of federal funds for firearm injury research – an issue that SAVIR has, together with numerous partners, advocated for consistently for more than a decade. These, and other SAVIR accomplishments, were made on the strength of its members – dedicated injury and violence prevention researchers. There is a great deal of work ahead of us, but we have seen that together we can accomplish much. I look forward to continuing to work with you to make our communities, country and world a safer place.

Warm regards,  
Theresa H. Cruz, PhD  
President, SAVIR



# STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



## Advance the science of violence and injury prevention and control

- Advocate for funding for violence and injury research
- Provide a mechanism to promote the advancement of rigorous violence and injury research
- Advocate for evidence-based policy and program solutions to violence and injury problems

## Prepare and support the next generation of violence and injury researchers

- Recruit new researchers into the field
- Nurture early-career violence and injury researchers through professional development
- Support curriculum, training, and continuing education in violence and injury research, prevention, and control



# STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



## Bridge the research and practice communities within the field of violence and injury prevention and control

- Increase influence, reach, and leadership of SAVIR in the field
- Promote and partner in evidence-based practice
- Enhance communication and information exchange between researchers and practitioners

## Support the long-term sustainability and growth of SAVIR

- Establish management and fiscal practices that promote long-term sustainability of SAVIR
- Expand membership of SAVIR
- Explore development of a marketing plan to increase visibility of SAVIR





*SAVIR's*  
**BOARD**

### Executive Committee Officers

**Theresa Cruz**, PhD, President

**Bernadette Hohl**, PhD, MPH, President Elect

**Linda Degutis**, DrPH, MSN, FRSPH, Past President

**Shankar Viswanathan**, DrPH, MSc, Treasurer

### Directors

**Kathleen Carlson**, PhD

**Joel Fein**, MD, MPH

**Karla Lawson**, PhD, MPH, RD

**Patrick Carter**, MD

**Sara Brandspigel**, MPH

**Christen Rexing**, PhD, MPH

**Mariana Garrettson**, MPH

**Renee Johnson**, PhD, MPH

**Jessica Roche**, MPH

**Shannon Frattaroli**, PhD

**Katelyn Jetelina**, MPH, PhD

**Jeanie Santaularia**, MPH



*SAVIR's*

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Injuries and violence are a leading cause of death and disability in the US and around the world. They also negatively impact mental health, and increase medical costs and lost productivity. Research is critical to being able to predict and prevent deaths and nonfatal injuries resulting from injuries and violence. SAVIR works to advance the science of injury and violence prevention, grow the field, and advocate for research – from etiologic to translational. Several SAVIR accomplishments over the past year are highlighted below:

**After many years of collaborative advocacy with injury and violence prevention partners, \$25 million in federal funding was appropriated for firearm research.**

**SAVIR successfully pivoted in a few short weeks from an in-person to a virtual conference showcasing robust research by experts in the field.**

**Building on previous work, SAVIR launched the Antiracism Interest Group focused on creating systems changes that foster better science by using an antiracism lens.**

**SAVIR engaged students and early career professionals through mentoring, training opportunities and a student paper competition.**

In the coming year, SAVIR will continue its work with three critical areas of focus: building strategic partnerships, expanding global reach, and supporting research that utilizes an antiracism framework.



SAVIR's

# COMMITTEES

## **Advocacy and Policy Committee**

Sara Jacoby, PhD, MPH, MSN  
Christen Rexing, PhD, MPH

## **Communications Committee**

Tracy Mehan, MA  
Sara Brandspigel, MPH

## **Council of Centers**

Karla Lawson, PhD, MPH, RD  
Jessica Roche, MPH

## **Membership Committee**

Cassandra Crifasi, PhD  
Rebecca Spicer, PhD, MPH

## **Science and Research Committee**

Rosemary Nabaweesi, DrPH, MBChB, MPH  
Mariana Garrettson, MPH

## **Student and Early Professionals Committee**

Christopher Morrison, PhD

## **Training and Infrastructure Committee**

Lara McKenzie, PhD, MA, FAAHB  
Lindsay Sullivan, PhD

## **2021 Conference Committee**

Shannon Frattaroli, PhD

## ADVOCACY AND POLICY COMMITTEE

The SAVIR Advocacy & Policy Committee actively promotes the discipline of injury and violence control and prevention by proactively collecting and disseminating research findings, partnering with organizations to produce materials to educate the public and law-makers, translating research for policymakers and other stakeholders, and training scientists to advocate for research funding and evidence-based policy solutions.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Hosted Pathways to Advocacy for Violence & Injury Researchers – a skill-building webinar for advocacy and policy work.
- Conducted an advocacy training at the SafeStates Conference highlighting links between practice and research in injury and violence prevention advocacy efforts.
- Produced a commentary for the SAVIR column in Injury Prevention.
- After many years of advocacy for firearm research funding, \$25 million was appropriated this year. SAVIR A&P collaborated with many partners inside and outside of SAVIR to support these efforts for more than a decade.

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The SAVIR Communications Committee supports the active exchange of information among SAVIR membership and partner organizations and the public. The committee aims to assist SAVIR leaders, committees, members and partners in sharing timely information about injury and violence prevention research.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Promoted the annual conference as it switched to a virtual format by creating a social media toolkit for attendees, presenters and sponsors
- Led an interactive webinar entitled, “Why Should You Tweet? Effective Twitter Usage for Injury and Violence Scholars” providing practical guidance on developing a professional social media profile to share research findings and build networks.
- Produced quarterly e-newsletters for the SAVIR membership, including a member spotlight, news, updates, funding opportunities and event

## **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

The Conference Committee planned the 2020 SAVIR Annual Conference to be hosted in the city of Philadelphia. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Conference Committee rapidly pivoted to a virtual conference environment, collaborating with the other SAVIR committees to restructure the event

### **Accomplishments**

- Orchestrated a virtual conference in a short time frame while minimizing losses for expenses incurred due to the original in-person conference
- Registered and engaged with 153 conference attendees
- Showcased 28 oral presentations and 31 poster presentations



## COUNCIL OF CENTERS

The SAVIR Council of Centers represents the strength and diversity of the center membership of SAVIR. Centers include organizations that focus on injury and violence prevention and control research. The Council serves SAVIR and its center members by growing and advancing the field of injury and violence research, expanding funding for the field, developing collaborations among centers, and assisting centers and academic institutions in training the next generation of injury and violence prevention professionals.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Provided feedback on the Overdose Prevention Research Priorities for the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the CDC
- Created a forum to share best practices between Centers
- Developed new strategic goals and objectives for the committee

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The mission of the committee is to increase and sustain the SAVIR membership to create an organization inclusive of researchers and professionals from various disciplines that work to prevent and intervene with injury and violence. The committee does this through outreach, promotions, benefits, and both internal and external collaborations.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Established improved methods of tracking lapsed members and reaching out to encourage renewal
- Developed a process for recruiting new members through the conference registrations
- Coordinated the award for the best student paper

## SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Science Committee plans the scientific agenda for SAVIR conferences including creating and distributing a call for scientific abstracts, overseeing selection of abstracts, and developing the scientific program to include oral sessions, poster presentations, and topic symposia. The Science Committee also collaborated with the Antiracism Interest Group to improve the diversity of presenters at the SAVIR conference.

### Accomplishments:

- Supported the rapid transition to a virtual conference format
- Coordinated and reviewed 174 abstracts for 2020 Conference
- Created scientific program with 22 sessions and 102 presentations for 2020 Conference
- Created and disseminated a call for scientific abstracts for the 2021 Virtual Conference with the intent of increasing diversity, equity and inclusion

## STUDENT AND EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

The Student and Early Career Professionals Committee works to increase professional growth and development of those new to the field of injury and violence prevention research. Activities are focused most heavily around the SAVIR annual conference.

### Accomplishments:

- Fostered continued quarterly meetings among longitudinal mentoring groups, providing structured mentorship for early career researchers navigating applications to higher degree schools, grant strategies, and other career pathway decisions
- Finalized a joint student membership agreement with SafeStates
- Supported new student members during the COVID-19 epidemic

# TRAINING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

The objectives of the SAVIR Training and Infrastructure Committee (TIC) are to address the professional and academic training needs of SAVIR members and to serve as a resource for the training needs of current and future researchers and public health professionals working in the fields of violence and injury prevention and control.

## Accomplishments:

- Promoted and led SAVIR webinars
- Launched a newly formed workgroup to investigate and address gaps in teaching about injury and violence prevention in schools and programs of public health
- Updated and re-initiated Career Paths Project
- In collaboration with the Conference Committee, solicited short courses and technical workshops, and reviewed and selected presenters for the virtual 2020 annual meeting
- In collaboration with the Conference Committee, developed guidelines to advance diversity and equity in annual meeting presentations

# ANTIRACISM INTEREST GROUP

The Antiracism Interest Group was formed in 2020 by the SAVIR Board of Directors to focus on antiracism and moving antiracist initiatives forward within the organization and our field. This group works to (1) actively integrate antiracism principles and frameworks into injury and violence education, research, research methodologies, and dissemination and implementation of research and practice; (2) recommend scientific policies, guiding principles, and research priorities as they relate to antiracism; (3) contribute to the growing body of science on race, racism, health inequities, and health disparities in the field of injury and violence research; and, (4) partner with organizations and entities that broaden our mission and increase external stakeholder involvement on antiracism initiatives.

**Accomplishments:**

- Developed AIG committee charge and focus area
- Started engaging with all SAVIR committees to gauge their AIG needs and help to provide solutions
- Published a SAVIR Column in Injury Prevention
- Collaborated with the Science Committee on new conference abstract review forms to improve inclusiveness
- Drafted the “SAVIR Guiding Principles to Address Health Equity and Racism”
- Started two paper writing groups to address antiracism work in injury and violence prevention



*SAVIR's*

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Below, please find SAVIR's revenues and expenses from October 2019 through September 2020.

**Annual budget:** \$158,308.20\*

## INCOME

<b>Member dues:</b>	\$27,878.28
<b>Donations:</b>	\$487.00
<b>Conference income:</b>	\$20,276.26
<b>Total income:</b>	\$48,641.54

## EXPENSES

<b>Administrative** expenses:</b>	\$43,994.89
<b>Conference expenses:</b>	\$11,050.01
<b>Total expenses:</b>	\$55,044.90

\* Due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of the SAVIR 2020 in-person conference, budgeted conference income and expenses were not realized.

\*\* Administrative expenses include staffing, website maintenance, membership management software and communication, webinars and accounting.

*SAVIR's*

# SUPPORTERS

***Injury Prevention*** is the official journal of SAVIR. The journal published SAVIR 2020 Conference abstracts and was an official sponsor of the conference.

In addition, SAVIR would like to thank these generous sponsors:

**Everytown for Gun Safety**

**The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**

**University of Pennsylvania Injury Science Center**

