

Accidents Don't Just Happen – ChildSafe Launches

ChildSafe, the country's largest advocacy group for child accident prevention, has announced a new campaign to stem the tide of preventable trauma which afflicts the nation's children annually.

Accidental trauma kills more children between 4-15 years of age in SA than all other diseases combined.

"Accidents don't just happen," says Prof. Sebastian Van As, President of ChildSafe. "Yet trauma is the greatest danger to our children, far more so than disease."

The information-driven ChildSafe Campaign took place during Child Safety Month in August and attempt to address the crisis proportions facing South African children's wellbeing.

"If you take a walk through the wards of Red Cross Children's Hospital, more than half of all patients are here through accidents – caused mostly through careless incident," says Prof. Van As who cites burns, road accidents, poisoning and drowning as the major areas of concern.

"Life may be unpredictable but our message is that awareness prevents disaster."

ChildSafe has evolved from a movement which emanated in the late 70s, founded on a growing concern about the number of child injuries in South Africa sustained from suburban swimming pool incidents to township burns and kerb-side accidents.

"For those of us whose lives have not been touched by the tragedy of a child accident it is difficult to understand the turmoil associated with it. Yet, when this happens, entire families are caught up in the loss with feelings of guilt and a sense of failure – all due to one careless incident," says Prof. Van As.

The Child Safety Centre was established in 1978 as part of the Department of Paediatric Surgery at Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town and, when it became apparent the Centre's knowledge and skills were needed on a national level, the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of South Africa was established in 1987, evolving now into ChildSafe.

"In doing so we are together with other countries that regard preventative education as the way to combat

childhood injuries rather than expensive trauma facilities at hospitals and clinics," adds Prof Van As.

In helping create a safer world for children, ChildSafe advocates legislation (such as mandatory car seat-buckles) and aims to reduce and prevent intentional and unintentional injuries through research, education and community-based programmes, in association with government and NGOs.

Our Newsletter the CAPPSA Reporter therefore also changed the publication name to the ChildSafe News.

"ChildSafe believes that every child has a right to grow and flourish in a safe environment without the threat of being hurt or abused. That within each child resides a potential to be realised rather than interrupted," says Prof. Van As.

www.childsafe.org.za



Woolworths Puts Safety First

During Child Safety Month Woolworths hosted a week long exhibition at their Head Office in Cape Town on their safety initiative.

"The safety of the items we sell is a number one priority for us. This is particularly true of kidsweat. Accidents can happen so easily and, with the right precautions, many of them can be prevented. There is a special safety committee that includes people from kidsweat, clothing and home. It makes sure that all our children's products are designed and manufactured with safety in mind.

It also works with suppliers to make sure they comply with our safety standards. These are set out in a safety manual. Our vision is to be recognised as

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Nelmarie du Toit (ChildSafe), Keeran Naidoo (Woolworths), Ravan Naidoo (Woolworths) and Sebastian van As (ChildSafe)



CHILD ACCIDENT PREVENTION
FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
(CAPPSA)

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILD ACCIDENT PREVENTION
FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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A Member Of



continued from page 1

Woolworths Puts Safety First

the retailer of the safest children's products in Africa. Some of the things that make Woolies kids products different are:

- we lock-stitch buttons to prevent them from coming loose (and possibly being swallowed or choked on);
- we add slip-resistant soles to baby's footwear;
- we sew in cords and keep them short (14cm) to prevent strangulation;
- we scan all garments with a metal detector to remove potentially harmful items; and
- we've banned the use of pins in the manufacturing of children's clothing."

**Ravan Naidoo
Woolworths**



Woolworths Exhibition.



Health Promoters Engage in Learning about Pesticides and Child Injury Prevention

The Health Promotion Unit of the Provincial Health Department and the Occupational and Environmental Health Research Unit (OEHRU) of the University of Cape Town ran a full day workshop on August 7, 2008 with 30 Health Promoters and Environmental Health Professionals (EHP's) from MDHS and Local Government. This workshop on "Pesticides and Child Safety" was part of the Child Accident Prevention Month activities.

We are daily exposed to pesticides, but are so unaware of the exposures and health consequences, especially to and for children. This workshop used different methods to bring to workshop participants the various health and safety issues associated with pesticides while particularly highlighting current research being conducted by the OEHRU on street pesticides and child poisonings. Participants were also taught how to make simple poster codes, using no words, for training community members on the health risks associated with

pesticides. Other items on the agenda were: What are pesticides? Health effects, pesticide legislation, poisoning notification and exposure prevention.

Participants enthusiastically took part in the various activities and discussions, particularly as they realized they too are daily exposed to pesticides, especially street pesticides which are highly toxic and not meant for domestic uses. Participants were keen to promote alternatives to pesticides for controlling household pests such as rats, cockroaches, bedbugs and fleas. Armed with their new skills and resource materials these Health Promoters and EHP's will make a significant contribution to awareness raising of the health risks, especially for children, of pesticides sold commercially and on the streets.

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ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

The ChildSafe News is also available in PDF format, if you would like to receive an electronic version of the quarterly newsletter please email your details to: capfsa@pgwc.gov.za

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Giovanna Adams

CHILDSAFE CAMPAIGN

- CHILD SAFETY MONTH AUGUST 2008

ChildSafe launched a variety of activities during Child Safety Month in an attempt to address the crisis proportions afflicting South Africa's children in terms of trauma through accidents.

Child Safety Exhibitions

Two child safety exhibitions were held at Groote Schuur Hospital and at Red Cross Children's Hospital. Rukea Abdroef, a CAPFSA volunteer co-ordinated and manned the exhibition stands at Groote Schuur Hospital. This exhibition was held during the week of 11-15 August. The focus was on various topics, which included burns, poisoning, road safety, drowning and child abuse. There was a good turnout from staff of the hospital and patients who came in to view the exhibition and also took materials.



ESKOM visits Red Cross Children's Hospital during child safety month.

The exhibition at Red Cross Children's Hospital was up for the whole month of August, with each week having a different theme. The first week starting from the 4th-10th August focused on General Accidents. The following week, which coincided with General Electricity Safety Week, focused on burns. Eskom was invited to co-exhibit with *ChildSafe*. Various activities were embarked



Lucky Draw winners, Alfred Williams – Security Services and Raeesab Abrabams – hospital receptionist from Red Cross Children's Hospital.

Esmeralda Olivier of A7 Day Theatre with Z.V. Masengane of B3 X-ray from Red Cross Hospital were also winners.



on during this week, which included talks with staff, children from the crèche, outpatients in the waiting room and visits to the Trauma and Burns units.

The week of the 18-24 August focused on Road Safety and the last week ended with Poisoning and Drowning. The Paraffin Safety Association also put up a stand on the prevention of paraffin poisoning and burns. With the two exhibitions, there were lucky draws for staff of both hospitals and the public who came to visit the hospital to participate.

Safety Activity Packs for Red Cross Children's Hospital patients and crèche

With a donation made possible by **Woolworths** of gift bags, crayons and toys, *ChildSafe* was able to make up goodie bags to hand out to all hospital patients in the different wards, waiting areas and to the hospital crèche children. In the goodie bags there was also a colour-in safety book, donated by 107 and children's fire prevention pamphlets from the Cape Town Fire and Rescue Services.



Patient receiving a safety activity pack.



Heidi Gain from Woolworths handing out toys to hospital patients.

Child Safety Month Safer Candle Demonstrations

CAPFSA staff gave weekly Candle Project demonstrations during August, which were held in the Red Cross Children's Hospital – Out Patient waiting areas. Following the demonstrations of safer candle use, a total of



Visiting volunteer medical students, Leda (UK) and Katie (USA), who assisted with the candle demonstrations.

200 jar units and illustrated leaflets were distributed to mothers/carers.

Excellent support in preparation for, and at demonstrations, was generously given by two visiting volunteer medical students, Leda (UK) and Katie (USA), who helped to make the high number of jar units distributed possible. They packed measured amounts of dry sand into plastic bags, then assembled sand bags and two half candles into large glass jars to create units, and finally piled boxes of supplies, leaflets and carrier bags onto the trolley for transportation to OPD.

Again, we noticed evidence for the success of the Candle Project by the response of the audience to embrace the idea of using candles safely, and by their willingness to carry the message home to friends and neighbours. Jar units were given to mothers/carers living in many areas of the Cape Peninsula, and to the country areas of Piketberg and Garies.

*Dorothy Schulman
CAPFSA Volunteer.*

Media

During Child safety month extensive media coverage were received with safety messages and programmes on Child injury prevention. A wall chart was published on Poisonous pesticides conjunction with The Department of Health (Western Cape), Childsafe, University of Cape Town, Occupational & Environmental Research Unit, School of Public Health, Durbell Pharmacies and Woolworths. (Copies of wall charts available on request – capfsa@pgwc.gov.za or tel: 021 6855208)

Safety Conference

Child safety month ended with the International Conference on Children and Injuries.

(See full article on page 7).

NEWS REPORTS

DROWNING

Two brothers drown in home pool

Two brothers, aged 4 and 5, have drowned in a swimming pool – barely a week after the City of Johannesburg launched a water safety programme. The boys drowned in the swimming pool at their Kempton Park home on Wednesday, according to Netcare 911 spokesperson Mark Stokoe. On arrival at the house, paramedics performed full resuscitation on the boys before taking them to a nearby private clinic. The children were, however, declared dead on arrival. In another incident on Wednesday, a three-month-old girl nearly drowned in a swimming pool in Whiteridge, west of Joburg. The incident happened at about 8.40am, according to Stokoe.

He said the child's mother managed to get the child out of the water and rushed her to a nearby shop, where a call for assistance was made. Paramedics arrived at the shop and the girl was taken to hospital. Last night the child was still in a critical condition.

Source: The on September 11, 2008

Expert warns of drownings this season

Usually associated with life and joy, spring and summer are also known as “drowning seasons”. In the latest reported incident, a three-year-old boy might have sustained brain damage during a near-drowning incident in a swimming pool on Sunday. Nick Dollman, spokesperson for Netcare 911, said paramedics received a call at about 4.20pm from a house in Doornpoort. “When paramedics arrived within minutes, they found the mother administering first aid to the boy,” Dollman said. It was unclear how he ended up in the pool or for how long he had been in the water. “The boy was very cold and had a decreased level of consciousness. An intravenous line was established and paramedics administered medication. His condition was serious and he was transported to the Pretoria Academic Hospital for further assessment and treatment,” Dollman said “It is good that the mom knew how to do first aid. The boy was semi-conscious, but if he had been in the water too long, he could have sustained possible brain damage. It is still too early to say. One can only determine if there were any injuries to the brain after some time with tests,” Dollman said. He said if a person stopped breathing for about four minutes, it could result in either death or permanent brain damage. “A mere four minutes can be the difference between life, death and permanent brain damage if a person can't

swim. Many will die as a result of drowning between now and the end of summer,” Dollman warned. He said in just a week since the end of August, they had attended to four drowning incidents; one person died, while a child had to be put on life support. “People must protect their pools with physical barriers such as fences or safety nets. There are also electronic splash detectors and children's water safety wrist band alarms,” Dollman said.

Source: Pretoria News, September 09, 2008

Family day ends in tragedy

What was meant to be a fun-filled family day turned to tragedy when a two-year-old Pretoria boy drowned in a friend's swimming pool. Ethen Diergaardt and his family were visiting friends on Saturday in Riviera when he “disappeared”. A frantic search by his mother, Chantal, led to the discovery of his body floating in the pool. Ethen drowned after he had apparently been left playing with an older friend near the pool while his family was sitting in the lounge of the Merle Street house. A family friend said they were in shock. “We do not know how it happened. It is a complete mystery,” she said. Netcare 911 spokesperson Nic Dollman said a neighbour, who is a doctor, ran to assist but despite assistance paramedics had been unable to save the child's life. He said it was not known how long the child had been in the water before he was found. Confirming the drowning, police on Sunday said the accident happened while his family was sitting inside with friends. Captain Job Mashiane said when the family noticed that the little boy was missing they began searching for him. Mashiane said that an inquest docket had been opened. Issuing a warning about the increase of drownings as summer approached, Dollman appealed to the public to be proactive in stopping such “preventable tragedies”. “People must install pool safety nets, fences and pool alarms so that children are safe during the coming ‘drowning season’,” he said.

Source: Pretoria News on August 25, 2008

Crèche owner charged with child's drowning

Seven months of investigation into the drowning of a three-year-old boy at a Pietermaritzburg crèche has led to the crèche owner being charged with culpable homicide. Lalitha Molly Harry, 43, appeared briefly in the Pietermaritzburg magistrate's court on Wednesday. Harry owns the Stepping Stones crèche in Orient Heights. Her case was postponed so that she could

appoint an attorney and she was released on warning. The charge against her emanates from Thando Mkhize's death in February while he was under her care and supervision. It is alleged that Thando was playing with other children during a break before he went missing. His disappearance was only discovered when a head count was done.

A search was immediately conducted and Thando's body was found floating in the crèche's pool. He was taken to a clinic but was already dead. At the time the crèche was operating illegally. An inspection by Msunduzi municipal officials found that it had complied with most of the municipality's requirements and the Children's Act. The only breach was that the pool had not been properly secured, which Harry subsequently remedied. Municipal spokesperson Evodia Mahlangu said Harry had applied for a licence since the incident. The application was still being processed. “It complies with all the requirements,” said Mahlangu of the crèche. In August child minder Roshini Hemraj, 44, appeared in court charged with culpable homicide in connection with the death of 9-month-old Saiyona Moonsamy on July 29. Hemraj will appear in court again in October. and@inl.co.za

Source: Independent on line

Toddler dies in storm

By Clayton Barnes and Henri du Plessis

A Parow toddler was killed and his father critically injured when a high wall, pummelled by heavy rains and gale-force winds, collapsed on them. The wall was part of a construction site on the corners of Station and Alexander roads in Parow. Police said Johannes Vermeulen, in his 30s, had been pushing his two-and-a-half-year-old son, Austin Meintjies, in a pram on the pavement next to the wall at about 8.30pm last night when it collapsed. The two were taken to Tygerberg Hospital, where Austin died of head injuries two hours later. Vermeulen is in a coma and is listed in a critical condition in the hospital's intensive care unit.

Early on Monday, police tape cordoned off the scene of the tragedy. Police spokesperson Marie Louw said an inquest docket had been opened and an investigation was under way. She described the wall as “very high”; in “excess of five metres”. Louw said contractors were building apartments on the site. The tragedy struck as Cape Town was again battered by heavy rain today, hard on the heels of last week's storms. Commuters hauled out brollies and coats again as they dashed to work in the downpour. The rain came with a cold front that passed over the city during the night. The wet weather was set to persist for most of today, said forecaster Carlton Fillis of the SA Weather

Services. "This is a typical, normal winter weather system. It started with quite a bit of wind, but then the wind died down when the rain came," he said. "The rain should, however, abate during the day and by tomorrow it should be dry again. But that will not signal the end of the rain." Fillis said a second front should arrive over the city by tomorrow evening, bringing more cold and rain, and this would persist until Thursday. By Friday, however, a south-easterly should bring warmth, with temperatures climbing to the early 20s. Saturday should be fine. There will be scant respite for the city – more rain is expected by Sunday evening. These systems were not as strong as last week's storms, but they were associated with cold weather and plenty of snow on the Boland mountains, Fillis said. Swells were quite large because of the wind, with an average of 13,2 feet around the coast and up to 16,5 feet at Cape Point, Fillis said. "There is a lot of wind between Cape Point and Cape Agulhas. We have ships at sea reporting to us and they said they were measuring between 40 and 50 knots. This could be the reason why swell heights remained on the high side." Fillis said that although good rains had fallen, measurements showed that this level of rainfall was normal for this kind of frontal system. Jean-Pierre Arabonis, of maritime weather services company Ocean Satellite Imaging Systems, said the seas should be "very heavy" on Monday, but moderating a bit overnight. On Tuesday at the Agulhas Banks however, swells of up to 20 feet could be expected. "We have some nice long-period seas (with swells a good distance apart) and, even though the wind might turn westerly, surfers should have a good time this week," he said.

Cape Argus September 08, 2008

DOG BITES

Toddler's pitbull terror

By Botho Molosankwe

A pitbull that escaped through an open gate has viciously attacked a toddler. And, once bystanders had pulled the dog off the child, its owner whistled for it to go inside and closed the door – leaving the badly mauled child on the street. The child's grandmother, Francesca Taeli, told The Star she had been walking her two-year-old grandchild, Tshepang Taeli, and her employer's son, Relebogile Molefe, down Swartberg Street in Oakdene, in Joburg's southern suburbs, on Monday night. She had just collected her employer's eight-year-old son, when a dog appeared from nowhere. It first went for the eight-year-old. It lunged at his pants, ripped them and bit him on the leg. Taeli told him to run as she picked up Tshepang. But as she

lifted the toddler up, the dog went for the child. She tried to pull the child off, but the dog refused to let go, inflicting more and deeper wounds. Tshepang ended on the road, with the dog shaking him like a rag doll. Taeli could not wrest the child from the dog, who dragged the tiny body along the tar. "I have never felt so much pain in my life. The dog was attacking him and I was trying to release him and I could not. His mother died last year and I thought he was going to die in front of my eyes," the 66-year-old grandmother said. Ricky Veludo was at his girlfriend's home when he heard the commotion outside. "We heard a dog barking, a baby crying and someone screaming. "When we looked out of the window, we saw a dog on top of a baby, biting at him," he said. Veludo, his girlfriend and a friend ran out into the street and also tried to help the baby. They grabbed the dog by its legs, but it clung on. When they failed, Veludo brought his dog, which distracted the pitbull and it ran away. An ambulance was called to rush the severely injured toddler – who had been bitten on the face, body and both thighs – to hospital. Several witnesses said the owner simply called out to her dog, whistled, and closed the gates – taking no interest in the commotion outside. It appeared the dog had escaped when she returned from work and had opened the gate. Oakdene resident Emily Sibanyoni was appalled: "It was heartbreaking. If only she had spoken to the victims. She saw the child lying there bleeding, but did not say anything." Veludo said: "She did not bother to check whether the baby was alive or what had happened. It was so sick. The baby was bitten to pieces, but she did not do anything. I was angry. He was only a little baby." On Tuesday, Tshepang was being treated at Chris Hani-Baragwanath hospital, where he is expected to remain for a few more days. A case has been opened at the Booysens police station.

The dog's owner could not be reached for comment. The Pitbull Federation of South Africa (PBFSA) said people should not blame the dog but its owners, who should have kept it inside.

- * Last May, Joburg police officers shot dead two pitbulls after they savagely attacked a 35-year-old woman.
- * In April, a 14-month-old baby died after being mauled and his mother seriously wounded after their pet Rottweiler turned on them outside their Phoenix, Durban, home. Akeel Mohabir died on the way to hospital after he was savagely bitten on his head by the dog.
- * In August, the Pretoria High Court ordered the owner of two boerboels to pay a Kyalami woman R206 262 in damages after she was mauled by the dogs through a fence.

The Star August 27, 2008

CONFERENCES

2008

17th International Safe Communities Conference
Working together to make a difference
 20 – 23 October 2008
 Christchurch, New Zealand
 For further information visit:
 Conference pamphlet
<http://www.safecom2008.org.nz/>
 email: contact@sfcnz.org.nz or
robyn.steel@ccc.govt.nz

2nd Asia Pacific Injury Prevention Conference
 3-6 November 2008
 Hanoi, Vietnam
 For information:
apacph_injury2008@hsph.edu.vn
<http://apacph2008.org/>
www.meliahanoi.com

2009

1st Eastern Mediterranean Regional Conference
Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion
Development and Safety – Together
 10-12 February 2009
 Cairo, Egypt
 15 August 2008 close of abstract submissions
 For information:
<http://www.emro.who.int/vip/ipsp>

18th International Conference on Safe Communities
Community Safety Policies as an axis for development
 August 13 – 15, 2009,
 Cali, Colombia
 For information:
www.cisalva.univalle.edu.co

5th Asian Regional Conference on Safe Communities (ARCSC)
 15-18 September 2009
 Beijing, China
 China Occupational Safety & Health Association (COSHA)

2010

19th International Safe Communities Conference
Sustainability of Safe Community Programs
 23-26 March, 2010
 Suwon, Korea
 For information: jpcho@ajou.ac.kr



Paraffin Safety Association
Southern Africa

Paraffin Safety Association reviews strategies around Household Energy Safety at a Seminar – University of Cape Town



Keynote speaker of the day, Prof Sebastian van As – President of ChildSafe.



Some health practitioners who attended the seminar.



Managing Director of Paraffin Safety Association, Patrick Kulati.

More than 130 practitioners from organizations involved in child safety and community development, government departments, academics, private sector, hospitals and community members attended this seminar that was held on August 31, 2008 at the University of Cape Town. The aim of the seminar was to draw on the experiences of practitioners and identify and prioritize a strategy to address household energy safety in South Africa.

Along with all the experts that were invited, a keynote address on Childhood injuries and the household energy crisis was delivered by Professor Sebastian Van As, National President of *ChildSafe*, the country's largest advocacy group for child accident prevention and the General Manager of the Association, Mr. Glenn Truran who spoke on the progress made on household energy safety and the gaps which still exist. Delegates were then divided into two groups according

to their interest in two types of paraffin related issues; burns and smoke injuries due to ingestions. These groups were facilitated through a process of identifying key strategic areas for:

- **Research** priorities related to paraffin related incidents
- **Policy/regulation** around packaging of paraffin, safe appliances, etc.
- **Education** on safe energy usage and prevention of incidents
- **Community mobilization** to address issues of paraffin safety
- **Lobbying and advocacy** of role players, including government, to effect change

Delegates reflected on the key resolutions that they would want taken forward. Majority of them focused mostly on government taking a stand to enforce regulations and educating paraffin users around paraffin safety.

Summary of Key Resolutions:

Government needs to be convinced of the seriousness of household energy safety so that legislation can be put in place to enforce more stringent regulations regarding packaging, manufacturing and selling of paraffin.

All end users of paraffin should be educated about paraffin safety through public awareness raising campaigns and integration of paraffin issues into the school curriculum. This should be a joint initiative between **PSA, LPGASA, ESKOM** and **government**.

Government should provide housing that will ensure the safety of its citizens.

Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa
www.paraffinsafety.org

Consol Glass and Rondebosch Boys High Supports Safer Candle Project

ChildSafe appealed for a donation of glass jars from Rondebosch Boys' High School for the ongoing Safer Candle Project. Through innovative pupils and generous parents, especially Merle Kleinsmith, and HR Business Partner, Jessie Daniels, both of Consol Glass, and the High School's Public Relations Head, Pam Ogilvy, a very large donation of three thousand six hundred clean glass jars was delivered for the Safer Candle Project on 23 July. This welcome donation of jars will be utilized during safety demonstrations at Red Cross Children's Hospital, when parents and carers will be shown how to use a candle safely in a glass jar with dry sand.

Sr Natalie Moller helping with the big unload at the ChildSafe Office, Red Cross Children's Hospital.



Learners from Rondebosch High delivering and unpacking glass jars.



Jessie Daniels (left) Merle Kleinsmith, both of Consol Glass, and the High School's Public Relations Head, Pam Ogilvy (far Right) with learners from Rondebosch Boys High.

Thank you Rondebosch Boys' High and Consol Glass, and also a special thank you to Natalie Moller, Red Cross Children's Hospital who co-ordinated the donation and receiving of the jars.

CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN AND INJURIES

Organised by the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of South Africa, ChildSafe and the International Society for Violence and Injury Prevention (ISVIP)



This international conference was held on 31 August to 3 September 2008 in Cape Town. Children are the highest risk for accidents and injuries, and over 90% of childhood injuries occur in lower and middle income countries. Approximately half of Africa's population of 1 billion people are children and it was therefore appropriate to host this conference in Cape Town.

The organisation was a co-operation between the International Society for Violence and Injury Prevention (ISVIP) and the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa. The main aim of the conference was to increase awareness of child injuries and accidents and to create a safer world for children. We are joined chairs, vice-president of the ISVIP Board, Dr Thuthukile Goba and Dr Sebastian van As, the president of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation.

To organise a conference of this magnitude requires a tremendous amount of work and we are grateful for the all work performed by the scientific committee, which included both co-chairs as well as Prof Dan Mkize, Dr Ashley van Niekerk, Prof Alastair Millar and Dr Kgamadi Kometsi. The organising committee included Nelmarie Du Toit, Pumla Nyakaza and Anthea Michaels. Finally the administration was in the hands of the Conference Management Centre of the University of Cape Town and included Deidre Raubenheimer, Eileen Mijlof, Pumla Nyakaza, Giovanna Adams and Nelmarie Du Toit.

We were very privileged to have prominent key note speakers such as Dr Margie Peden, the co-ordinator of the Unintentional Injuries Prevention in the Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention of the World Health

Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland, Prof Heinz Rode, Emeritus Professor of Paediatric Surgery, Prof Louis Reynolds, a strong advocate for children's rights, Mr Richard Matzopoulos, Medical Research Council at the University of Cape Town and Leana Olivier from the Foundation for Alcohol-related Research and Dr Sue Goldstein from Soul City.

The conference started with a pre-conference on organised by the Paraffin Safety Association under leadership of the CEO Patrick Kulati which after general introductions concentrated on problem analysis and group work regarding burns, ingestion of paraffin, prevention, surveillance, awareness raising and policy caps.



P Kulati (Paraffin Safety Association), Dr Thuthukile Goba (Vice-President of the ISVIP Board), Mayor of Cape Town, Helen Zille and Prof Sebastian van As (Co-chair).

On the evening of the 21st August, a welcome cocktail was held, which was attended by the Mayor of Cape Town, Helen Zille, who delivered an excellent speech on the need to make South Africa and in particular Cape Town, a safer place for children.

The academic program of the conference consisted of 3 main themes, the first day started with general background, an introduction of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation and Child Safe, the International Society of Violence and Injury Prevention and an overview of the WHO World Report on Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention. Key note speakers on this day were focusing on accidental injuries; they discussed road traffic injuries (Richard Matzopoulos and Mr David Frost) and in the afternoon Prof Rode and Prof Reynolds from Red Cross Hospital provided an overview of childhood burns and burn prevention as

well as the devastating effects of cars on our younger society.

The second day focused on non-accidental injuries (violence) and introductions were provided by Mr. Richard Matzopoulos, Dr Sue Goldstein and Zizo Tshisela. The topics discussed were the Epidemiology of Childhood Injuries, the child's experience of violence in South Africa and the education and awareness required to prevent death and injuries. An overview of fatal violence amongst South African children younger than 15 years was provided, while Sandra Marais from the Medical Research Council talked about the prevention of foetal alcohol syndrome, Esme Jordaan spoke about alcohol intervention in pregnant woman and Tessa Thiabens spoke about pain in the Paediatric Trauma Unit. This day focused significantly on the topic of the child sexual abuse and presentations regarding this topic were delivered from South Africa (Sharon Cox) as well as from Mozambique (Bonifacio Cebola). Naeema Abrahams discussed the gaps in the service for the child sexual abuse. Prof Seung Wook Lee spoke about the trend of child mortality rates in Korea. The afternoon

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Hilton Donson and Najuwa Arendse (MRC).



Dr Margie Peden (WHO), Prof S Van As (ChildSafe) and Dr Goba (ISVIP).



Department of Community Safety

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was introduced by Prof Mkize from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and he spoke about the Durban youth health risk behaviour study. Angela Rackstraw discussed creative art therapy groups with South African children in order to break the cycle of violence.

Additionally there were presentations from Prof Kathy Saunders Phillips talking about the violence exposure and health risk in African American adolescents, Wonique Dreyer on keeping children safe, Paul Singh about the child protection in school sports, and Julie Souternwood on adolescent violence with alcohol as the contributing factor and Evi Germeni from Greece spoke about the impact of the European Code against Injuries.



Delegates from Greece – right, Evi Germeni.

The third day of the conference was specifically focusing on the devastating role of alcohol on South African families and children. The first speaker was Sarah Fisher from SMART who spoke on the silent victims of alcohol abuse effects on families. The deputy Mayor made the key note address of Mayor Helen Zille on how to create a safer city for children after which we had presentations of Leana Olivier on the epidemiology of the foetal alcohol spectrum disorder in the Northern Cape Province, Maureen McCrea on keeping children away from alcohol and Rionell Gabriels discussing the value of kangaroo mother care as an intervention method implemented with Tik abusing mothers. Evi Germeni spoke about the European Code against Injuries: how willing are mothers of newborn children to adopt injury preventive practices.



Western Cape Department of Health delegates.

At the end of the conference Dr. Thuthukile Goba presented a comprehensive overview of the whole conference including a distinct list of resolutions (available on request). These were divided in the categories of the world report on the prevention of child and adolescent injuries from the World Health Organisation.

We have been asked by the National Department of Health to integrate the Conference's Resolution with the Integrated South African Prevention Strategy on Unintentional Injuries.

In summary, the conference represented an ideal opportunity to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa also known as *ChildSafe*, and was very successful in creating awareness regarding childhood injuries in Africa. The conference was well attended with approximately 200 conference participants and contributors from approximately 20 countries. Besides the previously discussed scientific program, there was ample time to network and develop more informal contacts. The Gala dinner at Nyoni's Kraal was a great success with traditional Zulu dance, an African band from the Congo and excellent traditional African food.

Once again I would like to take the opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all the people involved in making this international conference a huge success.

I would also like to thank the following Sponsors who assisted with funding, Conference materials and products and general funding. Your support was highly appreciated:

- Department of Community Safety – Western Cape
- Provincial Government Western Cape
- Paraffin Safety Association
- National Department of Health
- City of Cape Town
- Childsafe
- Woolworths
- Shell
- Metropolitan Life and
- Johnson & Johnson.

Sebastian Van As
Co Chair: ISVIP Conference
President: ChildSafe



Bonifacio Cebola (Mozambique) receiving the best poster award, here with Dr Goba.



Dr Goba and Mark Roxburgh (Best Oral Presentation).



Jurek Grabowski (SafeKids USA) with Prof Kathy Saunders-Phillips (Washington).



Nyoni's Kraal – Conference Dinner.

