

# TAI NEWS



Tri-Analytics, Inc.

Winter 2000

Vol. 7, No. 1

## Highlights

Injury Prevention Using Registry Data  
TAI Celebrates First NRCPR Sale  
Meet Digital Innovation (continued)  
Dear Tech Nerd: Adding Physicians



## Use Your Data for Injury Prevention Advocacy

by Dianne Kirwin, Trauma Registry Information Manager for the University of Alberta Hospital

Riding in the cargo area of a pickup truck is an injury-prone behavior, and its risks exceed those of riding in the pickup cab. Injuries to passengers in pickup cargo areas are predictable and preventable. Minimizing the effects of such injuries can best be done by targeting the “pre-injury” stage through prevention. The essence of injury prevention is **primary** prevention. Primary prevention can be described as interventions applied during the pre-event phase in order to prevent or avoid exposure to destructive or injurious energy. The public health approach can be described as a five ‘step’ process that gives a systematic template for organizing efforts at injury prevention.

The first step is **surveillance** (“the ongoing systematic collection analysis and interpretation of health data necessary for designing, implementing and evaluating public health programs.” Through ‘surveillance activities’ we identify the size of the problem for different specific injuries. Size can be expressed in terms of incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality and cost. The second step is to analyze and interpret surveillance data in order to **identify high-risk groups, risk factors and**

**determinants** for an injury problem. Next, in light of surveillance and risk factor information as well as other influences such as the local socio-political environment, we **evaluate** the potential for success of all possible primary prevention strategies. The 5 E’s of primary prevention are economic incentives, enactment of legislation, enforcement of laws, engineering strategies, and education. Determine which of the 5E’s (or combination of E’s) is likely to be feasible, acceptable, effective and cost-effective. Next, the injury prevention intervention or program is **implemented**. Finally, after an appropriate time period, the effects of the intervention are **evaluated**. *Collector* can be used to support all five steps.

Although at the time we started this project, all Canadian provinces had legislation requiring drivers and passengers in motor vehicles to wear seatbelts, several provinces, including Alberta, did not have legislation that prohibits people from riding unrestrained in the cargo area of pickup trucks.

We used *Collector* to do a retrospective analysis of major traumatic injuries suffered by unrestrained occupants of the cargo area of pickup trucks (cases) and restrained passengers of motor vehicles (control group) that occurred in the province of Alberta from April 01, 1995 to March 31, 1999. We found that occupants in the cargo area of pickup trucks were 2.14 (95% C.I. 1.18-4.57) times more likely to suffer a serious head injury compared to controls. The odds of spinal cord injury resulting in spinal deficits like quadriplegia or paraplegia increased by almost 400% by riding in the cargo area

*continued on page 3...*

## Register Early for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Collector Users Conference!

Digital Innovation, Inc. will be host the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Collector Users Conference, which will be held October 5&6 at the Marriott Pavilion in downtown St. Louis, Missouri. Excellent conference facilities and exciting local attractions make St. Louis an inviting conference site.

Registration forms were included in your Fall issue of *TAI News* and are also available on the Tri-Analytics web site: **www.trianalytics.com**. If you have any questions or special concerns, please phone Donna Youngberg at Digital Innovation, Inc.: 800-344-3668, ext. 27. She will be happy to help.

Discounted hotel rates of \$129 per night (double or single) are available on a limited number of rooms for reservations made by 9-6-00. To make reservations, call the **Marriott Pavilion at 800-228-9290 or 314-421-1776**.

*continued on page 2...*

## Regional Training Courses This Quarter

Training courses are offered throughout the year in various regions for the Collector Trauma Registry. Individual training courses for Collector Trauma/EMS Registries and Project IMPACT software are available at TAI. Call us for info.

To sign up for a training session, contact Saron Mack at 410-879-6767 ext. 119, fax: 410-838-1148 or, email: [smack@trianalytics.com](mailto:smack@trianalytics.com).

### British Columbia

#### January 20 & 21

Collector Trauma Registry software training in Vancouver, BC at Vancouver General Hospital for the new British Columbia Collector Trauma Registry.

### Project IMPACT

#### February 9 & 11

Both clinical and technical training will be offered at the SCCM Symposium in Orlando. To register, contact Kimm Streit at Project IMPACT, 714-282-6070, fax: 714-282-6085, or email: [kimm@sccm.org](mailto:kimm@sccm.org).

### Individual Training

TAI offers one-on-one training in Bel Air, MD to meet your individual training needs. We need to schedule trainings at least one month in advance, sign up early!

When you call, please provide several dates you would like for the training as well as any additional needs or concerns. For more information, please call 800-706-0337 or email: [smack@trianalytics.com](mailto:smack@trianalytics.com).

## 2000 Collector User's Conference

*continued from page 1*

Digital Innovation, Inc. has also arranged for discounts on airfare and car rentals through Conventions in America. Please make reservations with **Conventions in America** by calling **800-929-4242**, and indicate that you are traveling with **Group #246**. ✪

Conference prices, information, and deadlines are listed on our web site: [www.trianalytics.com](http://www.trianalytics.com).

You can register on-line and fill out an opinion survey for the 2000 Conference hosted by Digital Innovation.

You can't afford to miss out on this valuable event for Collector users worldwide. We hope to see you there!

## Meet Digital Innovation

*continued from previous issue*

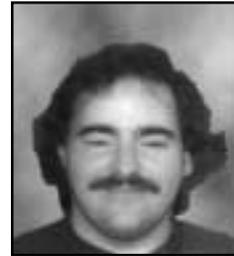
As in two previous issues of the Tri-Analytics newsletter, we are including several profiles of personnel at Digital Innovation, Inc. so you can become more familiar with the friendly, dedicated people who develop and maintain many of the database software applications used in our database management projects.



**Project Manager**  
Donna Youngberg

Donna is the newest addition to the DI staff. Her extensive background in program coordination and management provides a strong foundation for her position as project manager. Donna earned her Master of Arts degree from Towson University and is continuing her studies in computer programming. She looks forward to coordinating projects with clients, increasing her analysis and programming skills, and managing the variety of responsibilities her new position will entail. Donna also stays busy

outside of work. Most of her free time is spent learning about new things, making music, playing sports and generally, having fun.



### Junior Application Developer

Kevin Kitts

Kevin began working for DI in March of 1998, and has performed

several roles in the area of application development, support, training, and technical writing. With application programming as his main focus, he has had a hand in upgrading many systems, and is particularly happy to have survived the Y2K update period. When he isn't programming, Kevin works to improve the software creation and distribution processes. Kevin earned a Bachelor of Science in computer science from Towson University, where he tutored other students. He credits tutoring with providing a valuable experience for writing documentation and managing employees. "I feel that there's nothing that patience, friendliness, and a little bit of time can't fix," says Kevin. Kevin is single and lives with 3 cats. In his spare time he enjoys reading, writing (stories, song lyrics, etc.), singing, games of all sorts, playing with his cats, watching cartoons, and learning all that is learnable.



### System and Support Analyst

Andrew Sheffer

Andy is a System and Support Analyst with Digital Innovation, Inc. He provides technical support for the Collector Trauma Registry, and system analysis for various projects. Retired from the USMC in 1995, Andy is starting his second career. During his military career Andy held various positions including: reconnaissance team leader, manager of an amphibious deployment and repair facility, and naval drug and alcohol counselor at an inpatient treatment facility. After retirement he entered college, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in health information management. ✪

# TAI Project Updates

## Sierra Sacramento Valley EMS Agency

TAI recently renewed its contract with the Sierra Sacramento Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency (SSV-EMSA). This will be the fifth year of our database management contract. TAI manages the central trauma database for SSV-EMSA and provides confidential reports every 4 months to the 6 participating trauma centers that describe their patients, give outcome evaluation results and support CQI programs. TAI also provides the SSV-EMSA with a report summarizing data from all participants and makes an annual visit to SSV-EMSA to discuss database findings.

## ACFAS Outcomes Study

The 16 participating project sites have been collecting data and submitting it to the central project database at TAI since November. Monthly project summaries are submitted by TAI to the College to keep them updated on the submissions of the participating sites. In addition, reports with results from data submitted during the first 6 project months and during the entire initial project year will be prepared for the ACFAS and each participant. Reports to the ACFAS will summarize all data submitted during the period, provide statistical summaries of submitted data, and quantify the variability present among condition-specific data from participants. Reports to participants will be similar and compare condition-specific data for their patients with those of other sites in a way which protects each participant's confidentiality.

## National Registry of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation



Hats off to WorldPoint ECC for their first NRCPR sale. TAI is excited about WorldPoint ECC's enthusiasm and commitment to the success of NRCPR.

For more information on WorldPoint ECC's products, see [www.worldpoint-ecc.com](http://www.worldpoint-ecc.com) or phone Glenn Vanden Houten, Director of Sales, at 888-322-8350. 🐾

# Injury Prevention Advocacy

*continued from page 1*

compared to restrained passengers in MVC (OR 3.97, 95% C.I. 1.45-10.97).

When passenger safety laws are enacted and enforced, injuries are prevented and lives are saved. The public health and safety issues associated with transporting passengers in the cargo area of pickup trucks have been analyzed and reported in the scientific literature for over a decade. Despite the evidence that clearly demonstrates the danger to passengers, few jurisdictions in North America have enacted legislation banning this practice.

After intense lobbying that included sit-ins at the legislature, focused media-advocacy by key injury control professionals, and presentation of the results of this study to members of government, Alberta has **new legislation** that prohibits (tickets and fines the driver) the transportation of people in the cargo area of pick-up trucks. The law was passed in November, and is effective Feb 01, 2000! 🐾

If you would like a copy of the entire presentation on injury prevention which Ms. Kirwin gave at the 1999 Collector User Conference, please contact us at 800-706-0337 or email [newsletter@trianalytics.com](mailto:newsletter@trianalytics.com).

# Dear Tech Nerd

## How do I add physicians to the menu in Project IMPACT?

You may either type the names or copy and paste them from an existing file or document.

1. From the **Customize Menu**, choose **"Popup Menus"**

2. Double-click on **"Physician of Record"**

3. The menu is divided into submenus by letter. To add physicians to a submenu, double-click on the appropriate letter (e.g., choose "A" to add a physician with the last name of "Adams").

4. Type in a number (up to 6 digits) followed by a comma and the physician's last and first names (e.g., 000001, Smith, Joe). Continue to add names to the menu as needed. When finished entering names, click **"OK"** to save changes and return to the previous menu. Note: make sure you don't press ENTER after the last entry. For more detailed information on editing popup menus, press "Help" from the menu screen.

5. Click **"Exit"** to close the popup menu window.

6. From the **Customize Menu**, choose **"Update 'As Text' Definitions"** and click **"Yes."** This links the text and numbers for reports and display purposes. 🐾

If you have a question for the Tech Nerd, send it to:

Tri-Analytics, Inc.  
23 E. Ellendale St., Suite A  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
fax: 410-838-1148  
[newsletter@trianalytics.com](mailto:newsletter@trianalytics.com)



### Credits

#### Editor-in-Chief

Saron Mack

#### Contributing Editor

Karen Milanicz

#### Contributing Writers

Andy Copes, Dianne Kirwin, Kevin Kitts,  
Rita Dreyer, Karen Milanicz, Andrew Sheffer,  
Maureen Stark, Donna Youngberg

#### Proofreader

Barbara Rosolowski

©2000 Tri-Analytics, Inc. All rights reserved.

# What's New?

## Electronic Distribution of TAI Newsletters

TAI will begin offering our newsletters via email in a PDF file to those who'd rather receive it in that format instead. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email instead of snail mail, please send an email to [newsletter@trianalytics.com](mailto:newsletter@trianalytics.com) and let us know! We will be offering this service starting with the next issue, Spring 2000.

## Read TAI Newsletters On-Line

Did you know that we post each issue of our newsletter on our web site, [www.trianalytics.com](http://www.trianalytics.com), under the "TAI News" section for those who need reprints or wish to view it on-line?

If you haven't already checked it out, log on to our web site today and read an issue on-line.



## TAI Welcomes Rita Dreyer

Rita Dreyer began employment with TAI in November of 1999 in the Accounting Department.

Rita is a native of Harford County, Maryland whose roots in the county reach three generations deep. She was raised and resides in the Forest Hill area. Rita graduated from Bel Air High School and Harford Community College.

Rita was employed by the FBI, Baltimore Division, until resigning to build a marketing business in partnership with her husband, which afforded her the opportunity to travel the United States and Canada. She was able, at the same time, to raise her two children; Brad (13) and Renee (10).

Rita has a strong commitment to family and spends evenings and most weekends cheering on her children in their athletic events. ♀

## On-line Survey!

Collector users, **we would like your input** for the next Users Conference. Go to our web site ([www.trianalytics.com](http://www.trianalytics.com)), click on "User Conference" and fill out the on-line survey form.

## Change of Name or Address?

Please phone 800-706-0337 or email [newsletter@trianalytics.com](mailto:newsletter@trianalytics.com)  
Thank you for your help!

## Ideas & Suggestions

If there are topics you'd like to see in future newsletters or **if you'd like to contribute an article**, please contact TAI at 800-706-0337 or email [newsletter@trianalytics.com](mailto:newsletter@trianalytics.com).  
Your ideas help us better serve you!

23 Ellendale Street, Suite A  
Bel Air, MD 21014

TRI-ANALYTICS, INC.

