ISCAIP report

About ISCAIPNET

When the International Society for Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention (ISCAIP) was created in May 1993, one of its stated objectives was to facilitate networking among injury professionals throughout the world. With the advent of the listserver, ISCAIPNET, in May 1996, a significant effort was made toward achieving that objective. ISCAIP has approximately 165 active members, located on six continents, with 70% of those members accessible by electronic mail. Judging from the comments received, ISCAIPNET has been a great success thus far.

The first six months of ISCAIPNET have proved, naturally, to be a learning experience for those involved. Users continue to discuss the nature and character of ISCAIPNET, which is still evolving, and has benefited from participation in what is, clearly, a community forum. The primary activity envisioned for the list was an ongoing exchange about injury problems and approaches to prevention. This has been achieved through discussions of such diverse topics as:

- Location of bicycle safety surveys for middle and high school students
- Parent surveys addressing poison prevention
- Improving injury prevention training for residents
- The history of injury prevention
- The value of falls prevention programmes
- Costing data on various injury topics
- Safe packaging of potentially hazardous products
- Occupational injury among working children and adolescents
- Rational decision making theories and the use of safety measures
- Safety in daycare facilities
- Gender specific socialising and its relation to injury rates
- Manufacture of potentially hazardous clothing, for example jacket cords
- Informative debates on published editorials

The membership has made numerous requests for assistance with literature reviews, each one averaging at least 10 responses. This is a good result for ISCAIP's relatively small user base, and has provided valuable information to our participants. Being able to request data or programme information from other participants is an important service, and one that will be encouraged in the future.

A number of ISCAIPNET requests have also involved the identification of organisations to aid in research or to locate basic information. For example, when one of our members wanted to locate organisations involved in tracking state legislation in the US, several detailed answers came in immediately.

Our membership has used ISCAIPNET to announce their own publications, including information on how to receive them. Members may pass this information to non-members if appropriate. In addition, excerpts from ISCAIPNET serve as advertisements for the society and the journal, thus encouraging new members and subscribers.

ISCAIPNET helps the editor of Injury Prevention by introducing possible topics for future issues. Many of the topics introduced on ISCAIPNET are discussed in greater detail (or will be) in the journal.

Some members have requested advice and information on behalf of their students. This is an invaluable way for students to expand their reach if they cannot afford their own ISCAIP membership or journal subscription.

Increasingly, requests are made to include conference announcements and other such communiques on ISCAIPNET. The executive board has prepared a policy regarding this service and members have been informed of the guidelines by electronic mail. If, in the course of your work, you hear of new laws, conferences, funding announcements, promotion of collaborative research, or programme efforts appropriate to the interests of ISCAIP, please feel free to use ISCAIPNET to inform the membership of the prepared guidelines. The key to admissibility of an item is its pertinence to our members.

Members are asked to provide general introductions when they make their first request on ISCAIPNET; this practice has proved extremely useful. The introductions expand on, and update, the information in the ISCAIP membership directory. We ask that an introduction also be included when responding to another request if you have not communicated on ISCAIPNET previously. If your details have changed from an earlier introduction, please provide the updated version.

As with any such listserver, one of ISCAIPNET's chief values is the immediacy provided by electronic mail. Despite the time spent reading the occasionally irrelevant message, it is generally an improvement over other methods of communication.

ISCAIPNET was created as a service to its members and is, therefore, restricted to them. Occasionally, other users have slipped into the discussions, but for the time being, it is our intention to make access to ISCAIPNET only available to society members. It may be worthwhile to consider expanding the service to others interested in child and adolescent injury prevention. This is a possible topic for discussion by members over the next few months.

It is our intent to provide a summary of ISCAIPNET discussions as a regular feature in the journal. Depending on traffic and the availability of journal space, this could be offered semiannually. Separate from this provision, we hope to be able to offer a synopsis of the electronic discussions for those who have missed out on a particular topic. We also intend to maintain a comprehensive archive that can be accessed by ISCAIPNET users.

Please note: If you are an ISCAIP member who has not signed on to ISCAIPNET and would like to do so, please contact Angela Seay at 100545.3625@compuserve.com.

ANGELA SEAY

ISCAIP, c/o Child Accident Prevention Trust, 4th Floor, Clerks Court, 18–20 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU, UK
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A. Seay

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Notes

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