Injury prevention: maturation of the field

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One of the privileges of being the editor of *Injury Prevention* is the opportunity to read 600 or so prepublication reports of the latest research in the injury prevention field—each year, year in year out. After some years of doing this, I have developed a sense that the field of modern injury prevention has matured. Rather than trace our development, what I will do here is summarise the manuscripts published in this issue to show the extent to which the field is now comfortable in its own skin.

There are 14 manuscripts published in this issue. Collectively, they reveal injury prevention to be a profession no longer questioning its identity, but confidently going about important programmes of work in concert with the world of which it is part. The manuscripts in this issue have not been especially selected and collated. They are simply the next in the list of unpublished manuscripts ranked by acceptability date. They create a coherent narrative of interwoven themes.

Jagnoor and colleagues1 present an analysis focusing on the enabling factors and barriers to scaling up sustainable drowning reduction interventions at the community and national levels. Bhauvik and colleagues2 address this same issue of the entities themselves.4–5 Descriptive epidemiology and surveillance has been a foundation of injury prevention practice and remains just as important as identifying the entities themselves.6–8 Enabling factors defined in an evidence synthesis of child restraint use in motor vehicles: a qualitative evidence synthesis.9

The manuscript by Berecki-Gisolf and colleagues10 uses surveillance data in an outcome evaluation of a systemic intervention. The result is elegant science. The feature by Ng-Kamstra and Lajoie11 provides a valuable account of the process of achieving social change.

The narrative emerging from these papers is a coherent one, with a strong plot line and a simple focus. This issue provides a valuable account of the process of achieving social change.

Which brings me to this issue’s State of the Art Review. We may not be able to change the past. We may not be able to predict the future. But it is our responsibility to learn from what we already know, and apply it, so we can help make the future the best it can possibly be. Read this State of the Art Review to learn what our knowledge of public health can tell us about what we can do to maximise the potential of autonomous vehicles.12

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REFERENCE


