

# Safe Mobility of Older Persons

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Transportation Research Board  
Committee ANB60

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Dear Colleagues:

This special edition of the newsletter brings agendas of two major upcoming meetings—the International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence, and the joint conference of the American Society on Aging and the National Council on Aging. Both offer a panoply of topics dealing with the driving safety and mobility of seniors. We are fortunate to have the publishing latitude to summarize these events in this “extra” issue.

We have also repeated the agenda for the Monday morning (January 14, 2008) TRB session marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 218 report, a document which represents the seminal moment in the process of bringing older driver issues to the attention of America, particularly the research community.

Looking back over 20 years it is now possible to see the unfolding of issues, ideas and potential answers as researchers studied the subjects of driver competence, assessment tools, and mobility considerations. We learned things about seniors that dispelled the so-called common wisdom about their driving behaviors, some of which clings stubbornly to public consciousness even now.

The full TRB agenda was detailed in the November newsletter, which is still available if you missed it (advise us by E-Mail.) If you're planning to attend TRB, remember that the annual meeting of the Committee on Safe Mobility of Older Persons will be Monday (January 14) evening at 7:30 p.m.

Another special event will be the initial meeting (Tuesday, January 15, 8 a.m.) of the new subcommittee on Driver Medical Review, chaired by John Joyce and

Germaine Odenheimer, and sponsored jointly by ANB60 and ANB30.

Warmest Regards,

Karlene



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## **Committee on Safe Mobility of Older Persons Newsletter**

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For an electronic version of the newsletter, go to:

<http://www.crag.uab.edu/safemobility>.

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## Biennial Florida Event

### **ICADI Offers Impressive List Of Mobility Related Sessions**

The biennial International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence convenes Wednesday, February 20 in St. Petersburg, Florida, featuring a day-long pre-conference intensive on creating community mobility guides and related mobility issues (see separate story page 16) and a transportation track incorporating a broad range of topics dealing with senior mobility. Conference site is the Hilton-St. Petersburg Hotel.

Transportation track keynoters will be James Langford, PhD, and Bonnie Dobbs, PhD. Langford's topic is "Using Safe System Principles to Manage Older Driver Safety." The transportation track agenda, which begins Thursday, February 21 and extends until Saturday, February 23, includes:

#### Symposium: Accessible Public Transportation

Biomechanics of Dependent Transfers on an Aircraft

Presenters: Dr. Katharine M Hunter-Zaworski, PhD, P.E.; Michael Pavol, PhD

Authors: Dr. Pavol, PhD; Brian Higginson, PHD; Kristof Kipp

Air travel by people with mobility disabilities can require multiple dependent transfers between a wheelchair and an airplane seat. Such transfers place both the traveler and the transferors at risk of injury. These risks are potentially greater than in other settings, because of rigid and extreme spatial constraints imposed by the aircraft interior. This symposium considers the ongoing line of research aimed at understanding and reducing the risks of injury during on-board transfers.

#### Inclusive Design in Accessible Public Transportation

Presenter: Dr. Katharine M Hunter-Zaworski.

Author: Dr. Hunter-Zaworski

Inclusive design in public transportation is the basis for universal access. This presentation provides an overview of inclusive design principles as applied to public transportation and introduces inclusive design that supports access for everyone to public transportation. Several examples from the NCAT Research and

Development portfolio are used to illustrate inclusive design.

#### *Results Of An Air Travel Survey On The Needs And Experiences For Individuals With Disabilities*

Presenter: Virginia M Lesser

Authors: Ms. Lesser; Dr. Katharine M Hunter-Zaworski

A national survey was conducted by the National Center for Accessible Transportation and the Oregon State University Survey Research Center to assess the experiences and needs in air travel for people with disabilities. Individuals who traveled by air provided a list of specific services or features requested and received on their flight, and were asked to rate their satisfaction of these requests. Results of this survey will be discussed.

#### *Real Time Traveler Communication and Information Systems*

Presenters: Uwe Rutenberg; Dr. Katharine M Hunter-Zaworski

Authors: Uwe Rutenberg; Dr. Hunter-Zaworski  
Real time traveler information and communication systems are important for the safe and secure travel of passengers, particularly those with mobility, sensory and cognitive disabilities. The RERC for Accessible Public Transportation has collaborated with other RERC's and the National Center for Accessible Media on a number of projects related to accessible real time information and communication systems.

#### *Accessible Air Transportation For The 21st Century: Policy Recommendations Driven By A Community-based Research And Development Project*

Presenter: Michael McCarthy, MSW

Authors: Mr. McCarthy; Dr. Hunter-Zaworski  
Regulatory policies meant to protect the rights of intercity air travelers with disabilities must be scrutinized and improved upon if parity in services for all persons is to be achieved. This presentation will address the process used in evaluating regulatory policies, recommendations for policy changes, and general observations about the intersection of policy and practice gained from working closely with consumers and the airline industry over the past four years.

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## *A New Approach To Adaptive Mobility Gait Training*

Presenter: Randy Eady

Author: Mr. Eady

This demonstration features a unique adaptive mobility trainer that integrates Intelligent Human Propulsion Movement (IHPM) principles. This approach combines Neuromuscular Integrative Action (NIA) with a partial weight-bearing, low impact, high performance wellness integration model. An easy motion transfer system built in to the hubs, a proprietary seat technology and a relaxed sitting position make it an ideal adaptive motion trainer for people with moderate orthopedic or balance challenges.

## *Accessible Public Transit: Meeting the Mobility Needs of Older People?*

Presenter: Dr. Anders Wretstrand, PhD

Authors: Dr. Wretstrand; Helena Svensson, PHD

By the year 2010, public transit and the supporting environment must be fully accessible for all people in Sweden. The question is whether this will result in increased mobility. This presentation will address various public transit standard factors that are important for older people's mobility.

## *Back To The Future: Ten Innovations In Rural Senior Transportation*

Presenter: Ms. Jane Hardin, J.D.

Author: Ms. Hardin

Communities in the United States and countries around the world are seeking new approaches to meet the growing need for senior transportation. Rural transportation providers, whose passengers are mainly older persons, have created numerous innovations in service design, management, coordination, and use of ITS technology that are relevant to urban and suburban senior transportation.

## *Comparison Of Pre-Driving Assessments For Behind The Wheel Performance*

Presenters: Dr. Anne Dickerson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Dr. Leonard G. Trujillo, PhD, OTR/L; Timothy Andrew Reistetter, PhD OTR

Authors: Dr. Dickerson, Dr. Trujillo, Dr. Reistetter

To examine the screening capacity of the AMPS and other typical assessments used in driving rehabilitation, two logistic regression analyses were performed--one

using the AMPS and one using other typical assessments. The use of the AMPS as a screening tool in a clinical setting would appear to be a viable option that can be performed by an occupational therapist without specialized driving experience.

## *Continuing Medical Education: Educating Physicians on Medical Aspects of Road Safety*

Presenter: Dr. Jamie Dow, MBA, MD

Author: Dr. Dow

The SAAQ has undertaken a number of activities intended to increase physicians' awareness of the medical aspects of driver fitness. Very few physicians have been exposed to this subject even though most jurisdictions rely heavily, if not exclusively, on their opinions when determining fitness to drive. The activities will be described and some statistics shown which demonstrate the value of such activities and prove wrong those who claim doctors don't care about road safety.

## *Development Of Guidance System Using LED Marks For Low Vision At Night*

Presenter: Takao Yanagihara

Authors: Mr. Yanagihara; Dr. Hiroshi Kitagawa, Dr. Eng; Kiyohiro Omori, PHD; Ichiro Kitayama, PHD; Kumiko Taniuchi

Many people with low vision have difficulty walking on sidewalks at night. In this presentation, a proposed LED leading system will be discussed. The guidance system makes a bright mark at road side by the LED lighting installed in a pole. For this study, the guidance system was also installed in a sidewalk.

## *Driving Error Patterns Of Functionally Impaired Drivers During Assessment: Relationships With Route Characteristics And Impairment Category*

Presenter: Dr. Marilyn Di Stefano, OT, Ergonomist, PhD.

Authors: Dr. Di Stefano, Dr. Wendy A. Macdonald, PhD

In Victoria, Australia, occupational therapists (OTs) with specialist training in driver assessment have been involved in the driver licensing system for review of medically impaired drivers since the mid 1980s. Research is currently under way toward improving the on-road assessment procedures used with such drivers. The design of on-road tests for drivers with functional

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impairments needs to consider item difficulty: understanding relationships between driver error patterns, route characteristics and driver impairments will assist in improving evaluation procedures.

## *Driving Habits And Performance Of Those With Parkinson's Disease*

Presenter: Dr. Dennis P McCarthy, PhD, OTR/L  
Authors: Dr. McCarthy; Ms. Desiree N Lanford, MOT, OTR/L; Cyndi Garvan, PHD; Michael D. Justiss, PhD, OTR/L; Dr. William C Mann, Ph.D.; Ms. Eugenia Rodriguez, OTS; Hubert H Fernandez  
This study was designed to create a more thorough understanding of how Parkinson's disease affects the driving task and to develop tools with which clinicians could identify potentially unsafe drivers. Results of this study have implications for clinical testing and screening, road test course design, and physician/driver rehabilitation specialist collaboration.

## *Evaluation Of AAA Roadwise Review*

Presenter: Ms. Dannielle Sherrets, MPH, CHES  
Authors: Jacob Nelson, MPH, MPP; Donna White, MPH, PHD; T. Bella Dinh-Zarr, MPH, PHD; Katherine Hunting, MPH, PHD  
This presentation is a Phase I evaluation of AAA's state-of-the-art, computer-based senior driver screening disk-- "AAA Roadwise Review: A Tool to Help Seniors Drive Safely Longer."

## *Florida's Safe Mobility For Life Program*

Presenter: Mrs. Gail M. Holley  
Author: Mrs. Holley  
Future trends predict the need to prepare Florida's roads (both state and local) for the growth in the aging population. The roadway improvements involved in this preparation not only benefit the mature driver, but every driver. The Florida Department of Transportation through Florida's Safe Mobility for Life Program has developed tools and strategies to address Florida's transportation and mobility issues and prepare the state's roadways for the mature driver.

## *Ford's "Driving Skills For Life" Expands To Mature Driver Issues In Michigan - TIA Workshops At Medical Centers*

Presenters: Ms. Joan D. Rich; Frank P Cardimen,

MBA

Author: Mr. Cardimen

This presentation will describe the Ford/TIA pilot project - Mature Driver Workshops for hospitals and medical rehab centers in Michigan. TIA is creating a link between the senior driver and rehab opportunities at hospitals in Michigan. The focus is on significant opportunities for seniors and the medical community. TIA is also providing (1) equipment and technology and (2) training/certification to occupational therapists who will teach the workshop using AAA's "Senior Driver" materials.

## *Integrating "Real" Senior Mobility Transportation Research, Practice, And Policy*

Presenter: Dr. Alice E Smith, PH.D., MSW, LICSW  
Authors: Dr. Smith, Warren K Smith, BSEE  
Senior mobility transportation issues will be increasing exponentially as the "baby boomers" age. This presentation describes how a social research company and a county government (Mecklenberg County, NC, including the city of Charlotte) partnership has utilized contemporary research information to develop a practical screening tool which assesses a resident's ability to use the public transportation system, and considers what locally specific strategies might be developed for those unable to use this system.

## *ITN Replication: The Orlando Experience*

Presenter: Ms. Fran Carlin-Rogers  
Author: Ms. Carlin-Rogers  
The first year's experience in providing services as an ITN replication city will be shared with participants. ITN member characteristics and rider profiles will be discussed. Key issues of partner development, volunteer recruitment and management of business matters such as liability will be discussed.

## *Medications and Co-morbidities as Predictors of Older Driver Performance*

Presenter: Dr. Sherrilene Classen, PhD, MPH, OTR/L  
Authors: Dr. Classen; Ann Horgas, PHD; Dr. Kezia D. Awadzi, PhD; Dr. Barbara J. Messinger-Rappaport, MD, Ph.D; Yongsung Joo, PHD; Dr. Orit Shechtman, PhD

This study quantified the effects of comorbidities and medication classes to on the road driving performance, while accounting for age, gender and mental status. It

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was determined that age and neurological disease were independent predictors of failing a road test, that female drivers made more errors than male drivers, and that performance on Trial Making B predicted driving scores. Although some co-morbidities were predictive of driver error, drivers with four specific medication classes showed fewer errors.

## *Mobility Guides And Their Enhancement Of Local Mobility*

Presenter: Dr. John W. Eberhard, PhD

Author: Dr. Eberhard

To facilitate independence for the aged and disabled at the local level, individuals and care providers need a clear understanding of what is available. Transportation options available to the elderly and disabled include the ability to walk, bike, drive, ride or use public and private transportation. This presentation will examine the results of the pre-conference on "Development of Transportation and Mobility Guides for Local Communities and Enhancement of Mobility Programs."

## *Multidisciplinary Generation of Car Design Requirements For Older Drivers - A Functional Analysis*

Presenter: Mrs. Corinna Flöck

Authors: Mrs. Flöck; Julie Le Cardinal; Mounib

Mekhilef

Based on the demographic change and the change of user needs, the presented research follows an innovative approach for the product development process and assists in defining requirements for car designers to cope with the specific needs of senior citizens. The functional analysis aims at defining design requirements of older drivers from a multi-disciplinary perspective.

## *Older Drivers With Low Annual Mileage As A Risk Factor For Unsafe Driving Performance*

Presenter: Dr. Dennis P McCarthy, PhD, OTR/L

Authors: Dr. McCarthy, PhD, OTR/L; Abbey Sipp, BHS; Ms. Desiree N Lanford, MOT, OTR/L; Michael D. Justiss, PhD, OTR/L; Ms. Eugenia Rodriguez, OTS; Dr. William C Mann, Ph.D.

Numerous indicators of driving risks in older adults have been identified throughout the literature. The calculation of the risk examined in these studies, however, varies and may be inflated due to a low mileage bias. Older

drivers with fewer annual miles tend to exhibit worse driving abilities as compared to their peers with higher annual miles, potentially skewing the risk reported for all older drivers.

## *Predictability Of Clinical Assessments For Driving Performance*

Presenter: Michael D. Justiss, PhD, OTR

Authors: Dr. Justiss; Wendy B Stav, PHD, OTR/L, SCDCM, CDRS; Dr. Dennis P McCarthy, PhD, OTR/L; Dr. William C Mann, Ph.D.; Ms. Desiree N Lanford, MOT, OTR/L

This research was designed to test the most comprehensive compilation of assessments predictive of real-time driving performance. Consensus Conference participants selected assessment tools considered to be important for identifying at-risk older drivers. Assessments covered the domains of vision, cognition, motor performance and driving knowledge. Multiple factors were identified from each assessment domain to be independently associated with driving performance. A regression model included assessments from the domains of vision, cognition, and motor performance.

## *Promoting Lifelong Community Mobility: Development And Dissemination Of A Promising Approaches Guide*

Presenters: Ms. Lisa J. Molnar, M.H.S.A.; Frank Carroll

Authors: Ms. Molnar, Mr. Carroll

This two-part presentation will: 1) describe the development of an updated guide "Promising Approaches for Promoting Lifelong Community Mobility" that highlights promising programs and initiatives in the areas of screening and assessment, education and training, vehicle design and advanced technology, roadway design, transitioning from driving to other transportation options, transportation coordination, and alternative transportation options; and 2) discuss plans to identify appropriate audiences and effectively disseminate the guide.

## *Providing Safe Transportation For Elderly And Disabled Wheelchair-Seated Travelers*

Presenters: Dr. Lawrence W Schneider, Ph.D.; Dr.

Mary Ellen Buning, PhD, OTR, ATP

Authors: Dr. Schneider, Dr. Buning

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To provide a reasonable level of transportation safety for elderly and disabled wheelchair-seated occupants of private and public motor vehicles, it is necessary for the wheelchair to be effectively secured in the event of emergency and crash situations. In addition, the wheelchair user needs to be provided with a properly fitting crash-tested belt restraint system. This presentation will review best practices in transportation safety and related voluntary standards needed to enhance the transportation experience and reduce injury risk for wheelchair-seated travelers.

*Reclaiming Independence: A Tool To Help Elders Stay In The Driver's Seat When They No Longer Drive*

Presenter: Dr. Mary T. Terlau, Ph.D.

Authors: Dr. Terlau; L. Penny Rosenblum, PHD

This presentation summarizes findings supporting the position that elders who stop driving because of reduced vision need transportation information and new skills to maintain spontaneity and independence. It reviews the *Reclaiming Independence* video and Resource Guide, an information dissemination package offering role models, support, and strategies for locating and using alternate transportation sources and low vision skill acquisition services, and discusses suitability for elders, families, and professionals in a variety of venues.

*Safe Mobility for Older Road Users: Challenges and Opportunities Facing the States*

Presenters: Ms. Susan B Herbel; Kent Milton; Mrs. Gail M. Holley; John J. Joyce, JD; Mrs. Mary K Stahlhut

How are states carrying out their dual responsibility to help seniors extend their safe driving years and maintain mobility when driving ceases? Four states--Iowa, Maryland, Florida and California-- tell their stories in a roundtable discussion that explores the highs and lows of programming, how they solved problems and what they have accomplished so far. Susan Herbel of Cambridge Systematics moderates. The panelists include Gail Holley, Florida; Mary Stahlhut, Iowa; Jack Joyce, Maryland; and Kent Milton, California.

*Senior Driver Assessment Centers In Ontario: A Review Of The Implementation Of Policies And Procedures*

Presenter: Dr. Shawn Marshall

Authors: Dr. Marshall; Malcolm Man-Son-Hing; Anita Jessup, RN; Jennifer Biggs, RN

The primary study objective was to survey the practices of approved Driving Assessment Centres in Ontario. A Driving assessment survey was mailed out to all 32 MTO approved driving assessment centers. 23 (72%) of centers responded to the survey. Comparison of the key components evaluated in the on-road assessments have high concordance with the recommendations from the Canadian Consensus Conference on Driving in Older Drivers.

*Senior-Friendly Transportation as a Magnet For Services Coordination*

Presenter: Richard Smith, MBA

Author: Mr. Smith

Subject: An examination of the mechanisms by which a Volunteer Friends STPS (Supplemental Transportation Program for Seniors) inspires collaboration and cooperation among transportation and human services agencies. Examples are drawn from the 14 years of operations of the TRIP Program in Riverside County, California.

*Supporting Individuals to Make Informed Mobility Choices: Development and Trial Of The TAC Community Mobility For Older People Program*

Presenter: Dr. Marilyn Di Stefano, OT, Ergonomist, PhD.

Authors: Dr. Di Stefano; Robin Lovell, OT; Sophe Oh, PHD; Kristen Stone, OT

Individuals want to make informed community mobility choices. This paper describes the design, development, trial and evaluation of a community mobility educational intervention for older adults delivered by driver-trained occupational therapists.

*Survey Of The Attitudes And Practices Of Canadian Medical Specialists In Determining Fitness To Drive In Older Persons*

Presenter: Dr. Malcolm Hing, MSc, MD

Authors: Dr. Hing; Erin Everett, MD; Dr. Shawn Marshall

This survey of Canadian medical specialists showed that while accepting the responsibility of determining fitness to drive in their patients, they are not fully confident in their

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ability to do so, but are receptive to educational programs that will improve their skills in this area. Medical education groups and transportation officials should take advantage of this opportunity.

## *The Beauce Project: A Successful Well-Being Program*

Presenter: Ms. Lise Tourigny, BA

Authors: Dr. Jamie Dow, MBA, MD; Mrs. Diane Lacroix; Éric Lemieux, BSC; Guylaine Mercier, BS; Sonia Nadeau; Jean-Marc Poulin; Lily Thibaudeau; Johanne Journeault

The Beauce Project uses the driver's permit as the incentive for the adoption of a healthy lifestyle in order to prolong licensure. Social organizations, families and health services providers are all involved in increasing awareness of health-related problems affecting the driver's permit. The pilot projects have demonstrated the validity of this approach and the program is now being readied for implementation throughout the province.

## *The Dementia And Driving Toolkit*

Presenter: Dr. Anna Byszewski, MD

Author: Dr. Byszewski

With an aging population, an increasing proportion of seniors are driving. Dementia affects 8% of seniors over age 65 and one third of those over age 85. Cognitive deficits such as visual perceptual impairment and attention deficits, in addition to memory loss, can affect driving safety. This presentation will review the Driving and Dementia Toolkit, which is a resource developed to assist clinicians in addressing this aspect of dementia care.

## *The STP Exchange*

Presenters: Richard Smith, MBA; Dr. Helen K. Kerschner, Ph.D

Author: Dr. Kerschner

The STP (Supplemental Transportation Program) Exchange is a national forum for information sharing and exchange among the 800+ STPs in America. The Exchange is a web-based resource specific to transportation for older adults and includes peer-to-peer communication; technical, informational, and financial materials development and exchange; and networking among members and the community at large. It provides members with the ability to tap into web-based

information and enables them to engage in one-on-one sharing of information and ideas.

## *The Use Of Clinical Tests To Predict Driving Safety For Senior Drivers With Cognitive Deficits*

Presenter: Ms. Lynnette G KAY, BOccThy

Authors: Ms. G KAY; Anita Bundy, SCD; Lindy Clemson, PHD

The findings of a research project in Sydney, Australia involving 60 senior drivers with dementia or other cognitive deficits will be presented. The study was intended to determine if it is possible to predict driving safety based on performance on clinical tests. Two tests were used, the Visual Recognition Slide Test (USyd) and Driving Awareness Questionnaire to assess awareness of the driving environment and awareness of driving ability.

## *Transportation Brokerage: An Important Approach to Senior Mobility*

Presenter: John L. Shermeyen

Author: Mr. Shermeyen

With the "Graying of America," many have come to see the value in keeping older individuals healthy, active and independent. Not only does investing in these initiatives result in a higher quality-of-life for seniors, but it also pays dividends in the form of reduced hospital, long-term care, and other healthcare costs. Transportation, as coordinated through a brokerage model, has come to the forefront as a key tactic in facilitating healthy, active independence. Many Medicare Advantage plans are investing in member transportation to support healthier lifestyles, and outside of the healthcare world, other brokered mobility programs are beginning to take root as well.

## *Transportation in Nepal*

Presenter: Pramod Kumar Pokharel

Author: Mr. Pokharel

This paper deals with the transportation facilities serving the disabled people of Nepal. It explores the prevailing situation of transportation facilities for the disabled in relation to their needs and practices. Institutional aspects of infrastructure development related to transportation for the disabled are discussed, and some of the international problems are identified. This paper provides an overview concerning the access, use and practices of

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transportation facilities throughout the country. The government has no special policy for that.

## *Understanding Older Women's Mobility and Its Vulnerability*

Presenter: Dr. Anu Siren

Author: Dr. Siren

This presentation focuses on some recent empirical findings on older women's mobility options and obstacles, and points out some of the most important issues to be taken into account when designing policies to enhance the mobility of older persons.

## *Understanding The Difference Between Clinical And Statistical Significance In Predicting Driving Abilities*

Presenter: Dr. Michel Bedard, PhD

Authors: Dr. Bedard; Bruce Weaver, MSC; Peteris Darzins, BMBS, PHD; Michelle Porter, PHD  
Most researchers and policy makers have come to rely on p-values to determine the importance of research findings.

While this is an appropriate approach in most instances it also contains important pitfalls.

One such pitfall is that statistically significant associations may suggest that some variables are good predictors of driving abilities when in fact they are not.

Data will be presented using well known variables (e.g., Trails A, MMSE, UFOV) to illustrate this fact.

## *Validity And Reliability Of The On-road Assessment With Senior Drivers*

Presenter: Ms. Lynnette G KAY, BOccThy

Authors: Ms. G KAY; Anita Bundy, SCD

The findings of research completed in Sydney, Australia with 100 senior drivers will be presented.

The two-fold purpose of the study was to (a) examine the psychometric properties of an on-road assessment and (b) compare the outcome of a gestalt decision made by trained professionals with that based on weighted error scores from the standardized assessment.

In addition, the driving errors made by both safe and unsafe drivers will be discussed.

## **Joint ASA-NCOA Conference Planned for Washington, DC**

Washington, D.C. will be site of the 2008 joint conference of the American Society on Aging (ASA) and the National Council on Aging (NCOA), the nation's two largest professional associations dealing with aging issues. Conference dates are March 26-30, and the 2008 theme is *Aging in America*. Conference hotels are the Marriott Wardman Park and Omni-Shoreham.

The Transportation and Mobility Peer Group, which was formed last year, will meet during the conference under the guidance of **John Eberhard** and **Nina Silverstein**, facilitators. A goal of this group is initiation of conversations that can lead to action in the policy and program arenas with the intent of enhancing driving, walking and community mobility options throughout the lifespan.

Peer groups allow people in similar professions or interest groups to share common concerns and exchange program information in an informal setting. Peer groups relate to constituent groups. The constituent group for the ASA Transportation Peer Group is the Network on Environments, Services & Technologies (NEST)

The conference transportation track includes summaries of research programs, panel presentations, and overviews of successful initiatives. The agenda includes:

### *60 going on 16: A Driver Safety Program for Older Adults*

**Anne Dickerson** PhD, OTR/, Chair, East Carolina University; **Amy Wentz**, OT, East Carolina University; **Ashley Christopher** OT, East Carolina University

This research study was designed to determine if a community based educational intervention was effective in changing the awareness of an older adult's driving behavior. The program was a 45-minute presentation done in three informal senior settings; it was shown to be effective in changing the perception of driving ability and importance.

Benefits and Learning Objectives: 1. Described the developed educational program. 2. Explains the pre- and post-test results of the participant's perception as well as knowledge of driving. 3. Applied the information presented so that attendees could duplicate the program in their community.

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## Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Remaining independent at home through community engagement/volunteerism

**Ruth Sperber** M.S.S., Executive Director, ElderNet of Lower Merion and Narberth

This seminar is a "how to" for communities that want to help older people remain at home, improve quality of life, and access medical care when they are frail and can no longer drive. Through the use of volunteer and social work assistance, older people of low/moderate income are able to remain living independently through coordinated help of neighbors/volunteers.

Benefits and Learning Objectives--Describes how to set up a community volunteer service to help older people remain at home; offers civic engagement for people who want to volunteer but want flexibility and self-direction; shows that practical services, when provided by volunteers, can prevent premature institutionalization of frail older people.

## Assessing Community Transportation Needs for Older Adults

**Fran Carlin-Rogers** B.A., Senior Transportation Consultant, Carlin Rogers Consulting; **Katherine Freund** M.A., President and Executive Director, ITNAmerica;

**Jeffrey Finn**, Senior Communications Consultant, American Society on Aging; **Michi McNeace**, Director, National Center on Senior Transportation

Access to a range of responsive mobility options is critical to the well-being of older adults in communities. But assessing the adequacy of options within a community can be problematic. This session draws on the experience of national experts to provide lessons learned in that assessment process and the implementation of strategies for broadening and coordinating transportation options in the community setting.

Benefits and Learning Objectives--- Workshop participants will: Understand leading practices for assessing community transportation options; understand various tactics for filling the gaps to meet outstanding needs; understand ways in which some communities are assessing the impact of interventions in addressing mobility needs; understand the role that the National Center on Senior Transportation is playing to help communities in the assessment process and in supporting the broadening of community mobility options.

## Approaches to Community Mobility Solutions: A Moderated Debate About Qualities that Matter

**Nina M. Silverstein** PhD, Professor & Director, Undergraduate Gerontology Programs, University of Massachusetts Boston; **Helen Kerschner** PhD, President & CEO, Beverly Foundation; **Katherine Freund** M.A., President and Executive Director, ITNAmerica

Two well-respected national leaders in alternative transportation share their points of view on meeting the mobility needs of older adults who cease or limit their driving. Areas of divergent opinion include: philosophical approaches, definitions of critical issues, funding sources, and views on replication and alternative transportation models. Both are knowledgeable and committed to assuring safe mobility for older adults.

Benefits and Learning Objectives—To increase awareness of the complexities involved in meeting community mobility needs for older adults who cease or limit their driving; to learn about two approaches that contribute to meeting the challenges of community mobility options for older adults; to help attendees determine for themselves what elements of either or both approaches might translate to their communities.

## Travel Training for Seniors

**Kevin Welch**, Assistant Director of Mobility Options, Paratransit Inc., Sacramento; **Julie Wilcke**, Mobility Manager, Ride Connection

Learn about travel training for seniors from two experienced providers. This session will include; benefits and value of travel training to a community, why travel training should be included in the continuum of transportation services available to seniors and how programs can be designed and adapted to meet specific needs of individual communities.

Benefits and Learning Objectives---To clearly define travel training, to provide information on how travel training is performed, to provide case studies on how and why travel training benefits individuals and their communities, to explain how programs can be designed to meet any community's needs

## Driving and Dementia: Behaviors, Decisions, and Assessment

**Geri Adler**, Assistant Professor, Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston; **Marla Berg-Weger**,

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Professor, St. Louis University; **Elin Schold-Davis**,  
Coordinator, AOTA Older Driver Initiative, AOTA

Driving presents a significant safety issue for older persons with dementia. Because dementia impairs judgment and the ability to plan, driving decisions must be made with greater family and community involvement than with other older drivers. This session will discuss driving behaviors, driving decisions and the role of driving assessment in dementia care and management. Issues will be examined from the viewpoint of drivers and families as well as that of occupational therapists and driving rehabilitation specialists who conduct driving assessments with this population.

Benefits and Learning Objectives--- Participants will be able to describe different approaches to driving decision-making and assessment.

## Seniors on the Move: Teaching the Older Adult How to Use Public Transit

**Susan Unger** MA. Travel Training Coordinator, Special Transit

The "Seniors on the Move" program utilizes both classroom instruction and group outings, as well as ongoing individual assistance, to teach older adults how to access public transit. By providing seniors with information and the skills necessary for safe and confident travel on public transit, "Seniors on the Move" supports older adults in maintaining personal independence as well as community involvement. Volunteer 'transit ambassadors' are recruited from the class and trained to offer peer support that will encourage continued public transit use. Annual outcome measures evaluate the subsequent use of public transit by program participants.

Benefits and Learning Objectives---Session participants will be able to: 1) Identify key components of the "Seniors on the Move" travel training program. 2) Distinguish what has contributed to the success of this program. 3) Have criteria for establishing their own travel training program and measuring its outcomes.

## Senior Transportation Options in Fairfax County, VA

**Denis Paddeu**, Transportation Planner, Fairfax County, VA Department of Transportation

This session will expose attendees to innovative programs being used in Fairfax County, VA., including the county's conversion of a fixed-route bus into a traveling

instruction vehicle designed for seniors who might otherwise be unable to travel to a site for transportation instruction.

Benefits and Learning Objectives--- The goal is to present the challenges faced within the county in terms of providing qualified transportation options for senior citizens and how the county has creatively produced transportation services which are flexible, cost-effective and successful. The county's travel training bus called MATT (Mobile Accessible Travel Training) will be at the conference, allowing conference attendees to board the bus and learn the creative way in which Fairfax is meeting the transportation needs of seniors.

## Volunteer Drivers: The Hope of the Future

**Helen Kerschner** PhD, President & CEO, Beverly Foundation; **Marie-Helene Rousseau** PhD, Director of Research, Beverly Foundation

This session details the vast body of data on volunteer drivers (including survey responses of 728 drivers) maintained by the Beverly Foundation. It describes who they are, what they do, when they drive, why they drive, and where they go. Of special interest is the fact that almost 60% of the drivers are age 65+ which means that volunteer driver programs often join the two sides of aging by enabling the elderly to help the elderly.

Benefits and Learning Objectives--- Participants will learn about: roles and responsibilities of volunteer drivers; the contribution drivers make and the satisfaction they receive; reasons they drive and the hooks that can be used to recruit them; why volunteer drivers say socialization can be every bit as important to riders as the destination; why volunteer driving contributes to purpose and meaning in aging.

## We Need To Talk - Family Conversations with Older Drivers

**Scott Wegenast** B.A – Pol, Program Coordinator, AARP Kentucky; **Rebecca Groff**, Community Outreach, AARP Iowa

Driving is independence; if you have safety concerns about an older driver, how can you raise this sensitive topic successfully? When and how to stop driving is a difficult decision. The "We Need to Talk & Family Conversations with Older Drivers" session will explore who is the best person to talk with older drivers about stopping driving, how and when that conversation should

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take place, and what are the early signals that someone should stop driving. The session will review the research The Hartford and MIT AgeLab conducted that led to the development of the *We Need to Talk & Family Conversations* publication, and how AARP Outreach and Service worked with The Hartford and the MIT AgeLab to develop an award winning video/DVD and program now being introduced nationwide.

Benefits and Learning Objectives--- Learners will: Increase knowledge of how changes in physiological and mental health affect driving as people age; understand the significance of maintaining mobility options for aging in place; gain new insights and understanding of applied family intervention techniques when driving is no longer an option for older parents; explore research that led to development of The Hartford publication *We Need to Talk & Family Conversations with Older Drivers*, and gain new knowledge of how AARP working with The Hartford and MIT AgeLab turned the publication into an award-winning video and community outreach program now being introduced nationwide.

## NCST: Providing TA To Promote Transportation Coordination in Communities

**Jeffrey Finn**, Senior Communications Consultant, American Society on Aging; **Tabitha Wilson** MSW, Assistant Director, National Center on Senior Transportation; **Kristi Ross**, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist, National Center on Senior Transportation

Building on the introductory session about the federally funded National Center on Senior Transportation, this session examines the challenges confronting aging and social service agencies, retirement communities, and employers in meeting the mobility needs of older adults and ways in which technical assistance (TA) by NCST can help address those needs. The outcome of that TA will be highlighted; an overview of NCST mobility coordination and access demonstration grants also will be spotlighted.

Benefits and Learning Objectives---Participants will: Understand an array of challenges that communities and aging service professionals serving older adults in those communities face in meeting the transportation needs of people; understand the impact of those mobility obstacles on older adults in their efforts to engage in the civic, social, and economic life of their communities;

understand various ways in which NCST is providing technical assistance to help communities address those transportation challenges and learn about early outcomes of those interventions on meeting transportation challenges; and recognize the breadth of new, innovative efforts that states and communities are taking to enhance older adults' access to coordinated mobility options in their communities through NCST demonstration grants.

## Older Driver Safety and Exposure

**Dennis McCarthy** PhD, OTR/L, Research Assistant Professor, University of Florida

This session will examine the issues of older driver safety and identify red flags indicative of unsafe driving performance.

Benefits and Learning Objectives--- Attendees will: Understand the important issues regarding safe driving and prolonging mobility of elders; identify characteristics of older drivers and their behavior that may be indicative of unsafe driving performance

## Rural Mobility: A Model for the Future

**Kenneth S. Bock**, Deputy Director, CHEER, Inc.

Rural isolation, the absence of mobility critical to connect people with the rest of their community is often the single most important factor determining quality of life. Inadequate and under-funded transportation results in degradation of the quality of service and quality of life. Increasing demands and limited resources require new approaches to transportation. The Model for the Future described in this session is based upon a combination of proven techniques and provides a template based upon simplicity for users and flexibility for participating agencies. CHEER will offer a template for coordination that can be duplicated in other rural communities.

CHEER formed The Sussex County Mobility Consortium. Participating consortium members are human service transportation operators and consumers. The SCMC identified key features to be addressed: How to increase utilization of existing transportation resources; incorporating volunteers into the program; expanding mobility opportunities for consortium members and clients; reducing unit costs for new, expanded or existing services.

CHEER developed a system for scheduling and coordinating trips, and developed a voucher system to be

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used by transportation clients who ride the SCMC vehicles.

## Integrating "Real" Senior Mobility Transportation Research, Practice, and Policy

**Alice E. Smith** Ph.D., Professor, Clark University

This session describes a three-step process in which analysts and policy makers used information gathered from research to develop procedures so that residents could utilize available and inexpensive transportation methods. The three steps were: 1) developing categories of mobility; 2) developing a screening tool to be used by county employees to determine resident ability to use or not use public transportation based on the research, and 3) determining what other alternative strategies might be developed for those who are unable to use public transportation.

Benefits and Learning Objectives---1. To learn what types of research exist to help policy-makers determine current senior mobility prevalence by mobility category; 2) to learn about some screening tools that are currently used; 3) to address ways in which research and practice can be integrated to facilitate "best practices" regarding senior mobility and transportation concerns in the public sector

## "Watch Out! Maybe It's Time to Stop Driving"

**Judith McKelvey** MD, Producer, Whole Family Productions, LLC

"Watch Out!" is a light-hearted approach to the serious subject of senior driver retirement with nationally known experts interviewed over a background of original music.

It is the work of Whole Family Productions, LLC, a group of mature adults who associate with talented young media and communications graduates to create positive, growth-oriented programs attuned to the interests of the 35,000,000 Americans over age 65.

Benefits and Learning Objectives---1) Learning how to assess older driver skills;

- 2) Becoming aware of current research techniques;
- 3) Seeing how safety measures can help older drivers;
- 4) Learning how to involve families in decision-making;
- 5) Being aware of alternative transportation.

## Is there congruence in the perspectives of older drivers and their family members?

**Amy Horowitz** DSW/PhD, Director of Research, Jewish Home & Hospital Lifecare Services/Mt. Sinai School of Medicine; **Joann P. Reinhardt** PhD, Associate Director of Research, Jewish Home & Hospital Lifecare System

Family members of older drivers may be involved in driving decisions, but little is known about the extent to which older drivers and their relatives have different perspectives about the senior's driving. Data are presented on 111 dyads (older driver and family member or friend (FF)) regarding perceptions of the elder's driving ability, visual difficulty in driving, and driving behaviors. Findings indicate that elders self-rated their driving ability higher and visual difficulties lower than did their FF; while FFs believed the elder drove fewer places and engaged in more self-regulatory behaviors than the elders reported. The implications of incongruence for eventual driving decisions and mental health outcomes, and relevance to programs which address the needs of both older drivers and their families, will be discussed.

Benefits and Learning Objectives---1. To understand the perceptions of older drivers and their family members regarding driving abilities and behaviors; 2. To understand the extent to which these perceptions are similar (congruent) or dissimilar (incongruent); 3. To understand the implications of incongruence for driving decisions.

## Senior Transportation: 2008 to 2028

**Jane Hardin** J.D., Coordinator, Senior Transportation Programs, Community Transportation Association of America; **Jana Lynott**, Strategic Policy Advisor-Transportation/Livable, AARP--Public Policy Institute

Three issues will have profound effect on the extent and shape of senior transportation: community design, employment of older persons, and coordination of the range of senior mobility options. This presentation will be a careful review of what is happening today with these three issues and a look ahead at several possibilities of what senior transportation may look like in twenty years -- depending on what we do now.

Benefits and Learning Objectives---To transmit: An understanding of the diversity of the senior population and its varied mobility needs; an understanding that each older person has many mobility needs; and an understanding of how the extent and types of future

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senior mobility options will be related to current policies and actions.

## Successful Models of Advocacy in Transportation and Housing: Techniques You Can Use. Parts I and 2

**Lisa R. Peters-Beumer**, Project Director, Easter Seals; **Katherine Freund M.A.**, President and Executive Director, ITNAmerica; **Chris Zeilinger A.B.**, Assistant Director for Governmental Affairs and Training, Community Transportation Association of America; **John Eberhard Ph.D.**, Chair, Howard County Commission on Aging, transportation committee; **Jennifer Dexter B.A.**, Assistant Vice President, Government Relations, Easter Seals; **Nina M. Silverstein PhD**, Professor & Director, Undergraduate Gerontology Programs, University of Massachusetts Boston; **Rachelle Garten**, Assistant Administrator, Howard County Office on Aging

A variety of strategic approaches to advocacy will be explored ranging from grass roots to coalitions and associations federal level in the areas of transportation (Parts I & II). Successful models will be presented as will the relationship among research, policy and practice driving each.

Benefits and Learning Objectives-- After attending this session, participants will be able to: 1) Identify three models of advocacy in the transportation arena; 2) Apply at least one technique to their participation in advocacy efforts at the local, state or federal level; 3) Access existing senior transportation advocacy efforts at the local, state or federal level

## Moving Along the Path from Good Ideas to Good Programs: Bringing Transportation Resources to Your Community

**Fran Carlin-Rogers BA**, Senior Transportation Consultant, Carlin Rogers Consulting; **Jeff Finn**, Senior Communications Consultant, American Society on Aging; **Nicole Kaplan**, Center on Aging-Program Development, Motion Picture & TV Fund; **Selma Sauls**, Planner II, Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles; **John W. Eberhard PhD**, Senior Consultant, Aging & Transportation Issues, Howard County Commission on Aging

Real world examples of utilization of new transportation resources will be shared with participants. Several successful strategies will be discussed. The goal is to provide good ideas for your community.

Benefits and Learning Objectives--Participants will: 1. develop knowledge of specific resources related to senior mobility interventions; 2. understand strategies for introducing new programs; 3. see examples of the importance of collaboration with key partners

## Take a Basic Theory and Add a Bag of Tricks to Recruit Volunteer Drivers

**Jean Teel MA**, Executive Director, Faith in Action Caregivers-West Austin

Using the basic theory: "Ask and they will respond," the presenter will show participants how they can build their own Bag of Tricks to recruit volunteer drivers. Presenter will share many excellent methods for recruiting volunteers as drivers for senior transportation programs. Every volunteer transportation program needs drivers, so whether you operate a new or established program you can join in and share the wealth of ideas.

Benefits and Learning Objectives--Practitioners need to explore beyond their comfort zone. Addressing an issue--finding new volunteers--in a group setting can reap added results. These results can then be applied to programs big or small. The participants will: Learn to take a simple theory and test it informally; address options to explore beyond standard practice; participate in a group setting to accomplish a task; leave with a repertoire of ideas to try in programs.

## Age, Events, Errors, and Consequences in a National Highway Crash Study

**Lawrence Nitz PhD**, Professor, Political Science, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Aging brings changes in perceptual abilities, coordination, and in some cases judgment. In small studies of automobile crashes involving older drivers, the links between environment or events, the actions of the driver, and the consequences of the act are difficult to follow in detail. The present study examines 10 years of U.S. crash data to link environment, events, and crash outcomes for older drivers.

Benefits and Learning Objectives--Discussions of traffic safety policies affecting older drivers often focus on restrictions and prohibitions. Training programs for older drivers, however, tend to focus on improving or retaining techniques of perception and judgment with the individual's current battery of physical and cognitive skills. What keys for future training can be captured from

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systematic analysis of crash sequences over a large sample? What links between environmental conditions and skills may be problematic and require additional research? In which circumstances are the older drivers at an increasing disadvantage compared to younger drivers?

## Financing Senior Transportation Options

**Helen Kerschner** PhD, President & CEO, Beverly Foundation; **Jean Teel** MA, Executive Director, Faith in Action Caregivers-West Austin

Financing of transportation challenges nearly every community in the U.S. In discussing success, it is clear that one model does not fit all. This web seminar will discuss resource development based on location and size of communities. Three nationally recognized leaders of transportation programs from diverse communities serving older adults will share their secrets to sustainability and quality transportation service based on their local perspective. This session will be a compelling discussion of national, state, and local public and private financing methods used by each of these transportation services.

Benefits and Learning Objectives-- At the close of the session, participants will understand: 1) The various types of financing used to support transportation services; 2) Which funding methods have been most and least successful; 3) What critical factors in financing must be in place; 4) The importance of innovation.

## Driving and Dementia: Behaviors, Decisions, and Assessment

**Geri Adler**, Assistant Professor, Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston; **Marla Berg-Weger**, Professor, St. Louis University; **Elin Schold-Davis**, Coordinator, AOTA Older Driver Initiative, AOTA

Driving presents a significant safety issue for older persons with dementia. Because dementia impairs judgment and the ability to plan, driving decisions must be made with greater family and community involvement than with other older drivers. This session will discuss driving behaviors, driving decisions, and the role of driving assessment in dementia care and management. Issues will be examined from the viewpoint of drivers and families as well as that of occupational therapists and driving rehabilitation specialists who conduct driving assessments.

Benefits and Learning Objectives--- Participants will be able to describe different approaches to driving decision-making and assessment

## **The 218 Report Then and Now; How Seniors Have Been Helped**

When the original *Special Report 218: Transportation in an Aging Society* was issued 20 years ago, its impact could not have been predicted. Today it is recognized as a major agent of progress, a momentum initiator which sent researchers nationally in search of answers to the perceived driving dilemmas caused by age. What resulted was the gradual evolution of a reformed view of older people and the driving task, as well as practical approaches designed to help seniors stay safe—and ultimately to remain mobile as well.

All of this will be recalled at a dual Transportation Research Board session January 14, bringing together many of the major names in the older driver arena—those who have steered the nation toward progress. They will report on *Where We Are and Where We Will Be*. The ANB60 Committee on the Safe Mobility of Older Persons sponsors the sessions.

The agenda:

### Monday, January 14, 8 a.m. (Part 1)

**Karlene K. Ball**, University of Alabama, Birmingham, presiding

### Genesis and Introduction to SR 218: Research and Developments in the 1990s and 2000s

**Stephen R. Godwin**, Transportation Research Board  
**Donald R. Trilling**, Consultant  
**Jane Hardin**, Community Transportation Association of America, Inc.

### Are Older Drivers a Safety Problem?

**John W. Eberhard**, Columbia, Maryland  
**James Langford**, Monash University, Australia  
**Brian Fildes**, Monash University, Australia  
**Christopher G. B. Mitchell**, Consultant, United Kingdom

### What Mobility Means to Older People and What Options They Can Use in Reality

**Jon E. Burkhardt**, Westat Inc.  
**Katherine Freund**, ITNAmerica  
**Helen Kerschner**, Beverly Foundation

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William W. Millar, American Public Transportation Association  
*Role of Livable Communities and Aging in Place as Baby Boomers Age*

Elinor Ginzler, AARP

Jana Lynott, AARP

Douglas Beach, Florida Department of Elder Affairs  
*Highway Enhancement to Aid Older Road Users*

David Morena, Federal Highway Administration

Monday, January 14, 10:15 a.m. (Part 2)

John W. Eberhard, Columbia, Maryland, presiding

*Driver Functional Assessment, Driving Enhancement, and Driver Licensing*

Loren Staplin, TransAnalytics, LCC

Elin Schold-Davis, American Occupational Therapy Association

*Role of Health Services in Enhancing Safe Mobility of Older Drivers*

Germaine L. Odenheimer, University of Oklahoma

Richard Marottoli, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Yale University

*Role of Social Services in Enhancing Safe Mobility of Older Drivers*

Nina M Silverstein, University of Massachusetts

Fran Carlin-Rogers, Carlin Rogers Consulting, LLC  
*Can Wellness Programs Help Older People Maintain Independence*

Karlene K. Ball, University of Alabama, Birmingham

Jerri D. Edwards, University of South Florida

*Panel Discussion: Required Activities Still Needed to Enhance Safe Mobility of Older People*

Ann M. Dellinger, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Elinor Ginzler, AARP

Charles R. Goodman, Federal Transit Administration

J Peter Kissinger, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

Robert Hornyak, Administration on Aging, Health and Human Services

Richard P. Compton, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Other older driver programs scheduled at TRB, which begins January 13, were detailed in the November issue of the ANB60 Newsletter.

## In the News

### **Missouri Older Driver Program Concentrates on Five Cities**

As people age, they may experience vision changes, mobility limitations, slower reflexes, delayed reaction time, drowsiness and trouble judging distance or speed. Even so, it is important to understand that growing older doesn't always mean giving up driving, but it may mean making changes in how and when a person drives.

The Missouri Department of Transportation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the American Society on Aging are partnering with organizations and individuals in the state to focus on these issues, with the objective of helping older people drive safely for additional years, and to increase community mobility.



*Jeff Finn, senior communications consultant with the American Society on Aging,, instructs class in the fine points of DriveWell, one of the five core programs introduced in Missouri's older driver intervention effort.*

As part of the campaign, MoDOT is working with ASA and community coordinators in five key cities—Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, Cape Girardeau and Columbia--to stage training and outreach efforts centered around five core programs. NHTSA funded the development of three of the five programs, which have

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been successfully piloted nationwide. The other two programs were developed privately and have met with wide acclaim. A description of the five programs (CarFit, DriveWell, Roadwise Review, NHTSA Law Enforcement Module, Older Driver Counseling and Assessment for Health Care Professionals) can be found on the MoDOT web site at [www.modot.org/safety](http://www.modot.org/safety).

To kick off the program, an older driver safety and community mobility workshop was held with key stakeholders. The state coordinator for the project contacted key stakeholders in each of the five communities which included: Area Agencies on Aging, AARP, occupational therapists, law enforcement, senior centers, AAA (American Automobile Association), OATS, transportation providers, traffic safety advocates, etc. Community coordinators were also identified for each of the communities involved. Each of the local coordinators worked with a group in his or her community to coordinate local training events and community outreach efforts. During the first phase of the project, more than 625 people have participated in the training programs.



*Dr. David Carr M.D. (center) conducts workshops for physicians and health care professionals in the Missouri venture.*

In addition to the five core programs, a research team with Washington University School of Medicine received grant funding to develop a curriculum for the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Over the next few months more than 200 driver examiners will complete the training. The purpose of the training is to provide a structure through which observations of age-related concerns can

be recorded and communicated effectively in support of the driver licensing and medical review process.

Missouri partners plan to strengthen and expand their programs over the next year. Further information is available at [www.modot.org/safety](http://www.modot.org/safety).

## **Maryland Consortium to Hear Panel Discuss Mobility Options**

The Maryland Research Consortium tackles one of the most daunting issues facing senior mobility enablers--how to expand the availability of transportation alternatives—when it meets January 17, 2008, at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS), 692 Maritime Boulevard, Linthicum, Maryland 21090.

**Dr. John Eberhard**, chairman of the transportation committee of the Howard County Commission on Aging, will moderate a panel discussion on “Enhancing Transportation Options for Seniors in Maryland.” The meeting starts at 10 a.m. preceded by a continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m.

Some of the foremost names in the development of mobility alternatives will take part, including: **Latrina Trotman**, Chief, Statewide Programs, Maryland Transit Administration; **Anne Myers**, Partners In Care; **Brad Close**, Executive Director, NeighborRide; **Jon Burkhardt**, Westat; **Helen Kerschner**, Executive Director, The Beverly Foundation; **Katherine Freund**, Executive Director, ITNAmerica; **Mary A. Leary**, Senior Director, Easter Seals Project ACTION and Transportation Initiatives; **Christopher (Kit) Mitchell**, Institution of Highways and Transportation, United Kingdom; and **Rex Knolton**, Community Transportation.

During the lunch hour, Dr. Eberhard will conduct a meeting of his transportation committee to consider the status of transportation activities affecting seniors in Howard County. On the agenda will be the Corridor Transportation Corporation, status of transit for Howard Transit, PATH views on HT ride issues, Spotlight on Seniors, a video on mobility guide; NeighborRide, status on new drivers and resources; and reports from the Office on Aging and the Department of Citizen Services concerning its senior disabled mobility guide—*Out and About: a Transportation Mobility Guide for Older Adults in Howard County, MD*. The committee also will look at

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flyers on transportation beyond Howard County and driver rehab program.

The consortium will resume its meeting after lunch, adjourning at 3 p.m. The meeting is open to all, including free lunch, but the consortium needs to know how many will attend so requests responses by e-mail to Ms. Veretta Taylor at [vtaylor@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:vtaylor@mdot.state.md.us). Directions to the meeting site are available on the web at <http://www.mitags.org/t-directions.aspx>.

## ICADI Workshop to Consider Mobility from All Perspectives

An all-day ICADI pre-conference workshop will examine the subject of mobility from various angles February 20. ICADI meets at the St. Petersburg (FL) Hilton Hotel. The workshop includes two sessions—one looking at the development and use of community mobility guides, a handy aid that few communities presently have available. A novel aspect of this segment will be a free-ranging discussion of what works, based on use of the Easter Seals/Beverly Foundation template.

To register for this pre-conference:

<http://www.icadi.php.ufl.edu/registration/index.php>

It is not necessary to register for the full ICADI conference to attend a pre-conference intensive (\$100). Just use the 'click to register' button at the top of the page and follow the prompts.

The intent is to build a guide package that shows seniors how to drive safely longer; to assess (or have an expert assess) their driving ability and mobility; identify ways for seniors to more readily use public transportation, assisted transportation, and specialized transportation; and how to walk safely.

Session two features an exposition of resources that should help attendees determine how to fashion or enhance their senior mobility programs.

The agenda for session one:

*Development of Mobility Guides for Local Communities*

John Eberhard, Howard County (MD) Commission on Aging  
*Open Forum*

Participants will discuss experiences with the Easter Seals/Beverly Foundation template.

*Web-based Safety Resource Guide to Assist Local Communities*

Gail Holley, Safe Mobility for Life Program and Research Manager, Florida Department of Transportation

The agenda for session two:

*Promising Approaches for Promoting Lifelong Community Mobility*

Lisa J. Molnar, lead research associate, UMTRI  
*AARP Mobility Options Program*

Frank Carroll, AARP Driver Safety Program and Mobility Options

*Social Services Program to Help Insure Safe Mobility*

Fran Carlin- Rogers, Carlin Rogers Consulting  
*Coordinating Social Services and DMV Activities*

Nicole Kaplan, consultant on senior mobility issues  
*Innovative Volunteer Program Provides Transportation and Builds Community*

Barbara Huston, President, Partners in Care  
*Finding and Enhancing Transportation in Rural Area*

Jon Burkhardt, Westat, and Jane Hardin, Community Transportation Association of America  
*Mobility Choices: Development and Trial of the TAC Community Mobility for Older People Program*

Marilyn DiStefano, LaTrobe University, Bundoora, Victoria, Australia

*Improving Outcomes for Retired Drivers with UQDRIVE (University of Queensland Driver Retirement Initiative)*

Jacki Liddle, University of Queensland, Australia  
*Support Groups to Aid Transition from Driving*

Bonnie M. Dobbs, University of Alberta, Canada  
*Services Supporting Successful Transportation Utilization by Elders with Low Vision*

Mary T. (Terrie) Terlau, American Printing House for the Blind

*Role of National Center on Senior Transportation in Fostering Safe Mobility at the Local Level*

Kristi Ross, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist, National Center on Senior Transportation  
*Easing the Transition from Driving and the Transition to Transportation Options*

John Eberhard, Audience and Participants

## Study Finds Reflective Sheeting On Signs Doesn't Impair Visibility

A Kansas study to determine whether highly reflective sheeting used on highway signs could reduce sign visibility because of veiling glare—particularly for

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older drivers—has proven otherwise, according to findings available on the web at [http://www.ksdot.org/PublicLib/PublicDoc.asp?Library=PublicDocs^dt\)\)mx38&D=003756187](http://www.ksdot.org/PublicLib/PublicDoc.asp?Library=PublicDocs^dt))mx38&D=003756187)

The study was conducted using 60 drivers in an actual automobile on roads with full scale signs and distances. Data collection occurred in a facility where external factors could be eliminated, isolating variables of greatest interest.

Older drivers as a whole were found to exhibit poorer performance in terms of visual acuity and response time, but no detrimental effects attributable to glare were observed.

## **Central Michigan University Begins Driving Fitness Evaluations in 2008**

Central Michigan University will begin driving fitness assessments at its Center for Driving Evaluation, Education and Research (or DEER Center) in the fall of 2008. The process will involve use of a driving simulator and is designed to provide clinical services for evaluating cognitive fitness to drive, to offer education to improve older driver safety, and to conduct research on older drivers and drivers with attention disorders. Persons who have suffered a stroke or sustained a brain injury also can have their driving ability evaluated to determine if they are safe to continue or are ready to resume driving.

The DEER Center has established an advisory board that consists of stakeholders from the community, professionals in driving safety including AAA Michigan, health care, senior services, and CMU faculty and staff. The advisory board will provide oversight for DEER Center operations including strategic planning, development activities, and standards of care and record keeping.

The center is a collaboration between the College of Humanities, Social, and Behavioral Sciences and the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions, as a component of the CHP Bridges Center for Healthy Life Transitions in collaboration with the Carls Center for Clinical Care and Education.

The university's DriveSafety simulator was funded by a gift from AAA Michigan. The simulator will allow researchers, educators and driving assessment professionals to create their purpose-built driving scenarios by employing an extensive library of roads, intersections, vehicles, traffic patterns and landscapes,

plus the ability to script specific actions and to collect the desired data.