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## **STIPDA JOINT ANNUAL MEETING SHOWCASES STRATEGIES TO PREVENT INJURIES AND VIOLENCE**

*STIPDA & CDC Join Forces to Host a Dynamic and Informative Meeting Experience*

**Atlanta, GA** – Convening right outside the nation’s capital, attendees of the 2009 Joint Annual Meeting of State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Core State Injury Grantees arrived in National Harbor, MD to share ideas and strategies to further STIPDA’s mission of strengthening the ability of state, territorial, and local health departments to reduce death and disability associated with injuries and violence.

As the theme of this year’s meeting was *“Casting a Wider Net: Expanding Partnerships & Policy for Injury and Violence Prevention,”* the meeting featured workshops, concurrent sessions, poster presentations, and plenary addresses that focused on developing strong and sustainable partnerships and innovative programs that will allow professionals to increase public and political support for injury and violence prevention. Sessions and poster presentations provided attendees with a host of information, including new resources for health communication, new national data and research resources, and successful programs in areas ranging from bike and pedestrian safety to the prevention of suicide, traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), and unintentional poisonings.

Keynote speakers included Carolyn Cumpsty Fowler, Ph.D, MPH, Assistant Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, and Director of Baltimore County Health Department’s Injury Prevention Program, as well as Rachel Poulain, MPH, Director of Outreach for California Newsreel, the country’s oldest non-profit documentary production and distribution center, and Associate Producer of the documentary, *UNNATURAL CAUSES: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* In the opening address, both speakers emphasized the importance of addressing the social, economic, and environmental influences on health and encouraged public health professionals to adopt unique approaches that take into account these issues when working to protect and empower communities.

Other meeting highlights included an informative Q&A session with congressional staff members and CDC Washington Office, updates from CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), and the presentation of the [STIPDA 2009 Policy Agenda](#).

Culminating the event was the presentation of honors and awards during the 2009 Awards Luncheon. This year’s award winners included Senator Barbara Mikulski (D – MD) (“Injury Prevention Champion”), Dr. Hank Weiss, Ph.D, MPH, of the University of Pittsburgh Center for Injury Research and Control (“Alex Kelter Vision Award”), Patricia Adkins of the Home Safety Council (“Partner of the Year Award”), Barb Alberson, MPH, of the California Department of Public Health (“Ellen R. Schmidt Award”), John Lundell of the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center (“President’s Award”), Becky Roosevelt Turpin, MA, of the Wisconsin State Department of Health Services (“Rising Star Award”), the Pacific Institute of Research and Evaluation (“Innovative Initiative of the Year Award”), and the Office of Injury Prevention at the Florida Department of Health (“Prevention Program Achievement Award”).

Presentations from the STIPDA & CDC Joint Annual Meeting are available on the STIPDA website at [www.stipda.org](http://www.stipda.org). The next Joint Annual Meeting will take place in Ann Arbor, MI from April 14-16, 2010. Updates for the upcoming Annual Meeting will also be available on the STIPDA website.

The State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA) is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization of professionals committed to strengthening the ability of state, territorial, and local health departments to reduce death and disability associated with injury and violence. Formed in 1992, STIPDA is the only national non-profit organization comprised of public health injury professionals representing all states and territories throughout the United States. For more information about STIPDA, call (770) 690-9000 or visit the STIPDA website at [www.stipda.org](http://www.stipda.org).

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