

Injury Prevention Research
SYMPOSIUM

Presented by the

M | INJURY PREVENTION CENTER

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The 2026 Injury Prevention Center Research Symposium is a celebration of scholarship and the people who show up every day to move this field forward.

The University of Michigan Injury Prevention Center is a CDC-funded Injury Control Research Center, one of only 11 academic research centers of our kind in the country. Since 2012, our three core areas of Training and Education, Outreach and Translation, and Research have worked together to accelerate injury prevention science into real-world practice and policy across the Great Lakes region and beyond.

The progress our team has made in recent years reflects the depth of talent and commitment to producing high-quality research that drives meaningful change. From student engagement across undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral levels, to our exploratory and core projects, to our summer internship program, the work happening across this center is expansive and deeply impactful.

Our reach extends well beyond campus. IPC faculty and staff participated in 40 conferences, with members of our Internal Advisory Committee and faculty presenting at 179 scholarly events. We launched the Research Incubator, advanced large-scale concussion surveillance through the Ivy League-Big Ten Epidemiology of Concussion Study, expanded suicide prevention initiatives internationally, and released the 2025 Impact of Recreational Cannabis Legalization in Michigan Report. Each of these efforts reflects a shared commitment to turning rigorous research into real results.

The Injury Prevention Center Research Symposium is a showcase of what this field can do when the right people work together with purpose. I am proud of this team, and I am grateful for your support.

Dr. Douglas Wiebe

Co-Director and Principal Investigator
UM Injury Prevention Center





SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Registration, Breakfast, and Poster Session	
10:00 AM - 10:10 AM	Opening Remarks	Douglas Wiebe, PhD Co-Director and Principal Investigator U-M Injury Prevention Center
10:10 AM - 10:15 AM	Introduction of Research Projects	Patrick Carter, PhD Co-Director U-M Injury Prevention Center
10:15 AM - 10:25 AM	Research Presentation: <i>Breaking the Habit: Exploring Mindfulness Training to Counteract Distracted Driving in Young Drivers</i>	Colleen Peterson, PhD Assistant Research Scientist U-M Transportation Research Institute
10:25 AM - 10:35 AM	Research Presentation: <i>Understanding Concussion Management Practices Across Athletics Settings to Inform Implementation Strategies for Remote Symptom Monitoring</i>	Abigail Bretzin, PhD, ATC Research Investigator U-M Injury Prevention Center
10:35 AM - 10:50 AM	Q&A Session	
10:50 AM - 11:20 AM	Break	
11:20 AM - 11:25 AM	Introduction of Research Projects	Maureen Walton, PhD Associate Director U-M Injury Prevention Center
11:25 AM - 11:35 AM	Research Presentation: <i>Spatial Analysis of Suspected Fatal Overdose Locations in Michigan</i>	Jason Goldstick, PhD Director of Statistics and Methods U-M Injury Prevention Center
11:35 AM - 11:45 AM	Research Presentation: <i>Democratizing Scientific Discoveries for Upstream Prevention</i>	Lisa Wexler, PhD Professor of Social Work U-M School of Social Work
11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Q&A Session	
12:00 PM - 01:00 PM	Lunch and Networking	
01:00 PM - 01:05 PM	Introduction of Research Projects	Maureen Walton, PhD Associate Director U-M Injury Prevention Center
01:05 PM - 01:15 PM	Research Presentation: <i>Developing a School-Based Program to Identify Student and Caregiver Needs</i>	Rebecca Sokol, PhD Associate Professor of Social Work U-M School of Social Work
01:15 PM - 01:25 PM	Research Presentation: <i>Linking Injury and Function across the Life course in Women: An Investigation within the Study of Women Across the Nation</i>	Jillian Baker, PhD Postdoctoral Research Fellow U-M Survey Research Center Avinash Chandran, PhD, FACSM Chief Science Officer Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention
01:25 PM - 01:40 PM	Q&A Session	
01:40 PM - 02:00 PM	Closing Remarks and Award Ceremony	Nichole Burnside, MBA Managing Director U-M Injury Prevention Center

OUR SPEAKERS



Douglas Wiebe, PhD

**Co-Director and Principal Investigator
U-M Injury Prevention Center**

Dr. Wiebe is director of the U-M Injury Prevention Center and he directs the Ivy League-Big Ten Epidemiology of Concussion Study. His research includes interactions between people and the environment and health risks that result, with a focus on injuries and violence — the leading cause of death during the first half of the lifespan.

He approaches study design issues by working at a temporal and spatial scale that is relevant to the induction period for a given exposure and outcome. The Space-Time Epi Group that he directs supports trainees whose research topics have a temporal dimension, a spatial dimension, or both. Managing and preventing sport-related concussion and firearm injuries are prominent in his research and training activities.



Patrick Carter, PhD

**Co-Director
U-M Injury Prevention Center**

Dr. Patrick Carter is a Professor of Emergency Medicine (School of Medicine) and Health Behavior & Health Equity (School of Public Health) at the University of Michigan. He is the Co-Director of the University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention and the Co-Director of the CDC-funded University of Michigan Injury Prevention Center. Dr. Carter's research is within the field of firearm injury

prevention, specifically the development, testing, and implementation of emergency department (ED)-based interventions to decrease firearm violence, youth violence, and associated risk behaviors such as substance use among high-risk urban youth populations. He also has a line of research focused on using intensive longitudinal data, collected via innovative m-health applications, to characterize epidemiological and contextual factors underlying adolescent risky firearm behaviors.



Maureen Walton, PhD

**Associate Director
U-M Injury Prevention Center**

Dr. Walton serves as Associate Chair for Child Research at the Addiction Center and Senior Associate Director at the U-M Injury Prevention Center. Dr. Walton's career goal is to conduct innovative research to maximize public health impact on prevention and intervention for youth violence and substance use (e.g., alcohol, cannabis, opioids). She has expertise in harnessing technology (e.g., web, text messaging, social media, telehealth, smartphone apps) for assessment and intervention delivery, including mobile health research and micro-randomized trials. Dr. Walton and colleagues have developed evidence-based single-session interventions to reduce substance use (e.g., alcohol, cannabis, prescription drug misuse) among patients in medical settings. More recent lines of work in this area include testing remotely delivered interventions (i.e., telehealth sessions, messaging platforms) to prevent opioid misuse among young people in the emergency department, as well as the efficacy of social media-delivered interventions to reduce risky substance use among adolescents and emerging adults.



Nichole Burnside, MBA

**Managing Director
U-M Injury Prevention Center**

Nichole Burnside is the Managing Director of the University of Michigan Injury Prevention Center and has been part of the University of Michigan community since 2001. With more than 20 years of experience in research administration and strategic leadership, she plays a key role in guiding the Center's operations, partnerships, and research initiatives across its core injury prevention focus areas. Burnside is known for building strong interdisciplinary teams and aligning resources to support impactful research. Her leadership emphasizes collaborative approaches, community-engaged scholarship, and fostering inclusive research environments that advance the translation of injury prevention science into practice.



Abigail **Bretzin, PhD, ATC**

**Research Investigator
U-M Injury Prevention Center**

Dr. Bretzin is a Research Investigator in the Department of Emergency Medicine. Her research examines the epidemiology of concussion and TBI, related health disparities, and long-term outcomes of the injury and repetitive head impact exposure. Her research also engages underrepresented communities, with attention to male and female differences in sport-related concussion incidence and outcomes.

Research Presentation

Understanding Concussion Management Practices Across Athletics Settings to Inform Implementation Strategies for Remote Symptom Monitoring



Jason **Goldstick, PhD**

**Director of Statistics and Methods
U-M Injury Prevention Center**

Dr. Jason Goldstick is the Director of Statistics and Methods at the Injury Prevention Center and a Research Professor of Emergency Medicine and Health Behavior and Health Equity at the University of Michigan. Trained as a statistician, his research focuses on substance use, violence, and injury epidemiology, with particular expertise in predictive modeling and longitudinal data analysis. Today, he will present on the project, Enhancing the System for Overdose Surveillance through Prospective Spatiotemporal Prediction.

Research Presentation

Spatial Analysis of Suspected Fatal Overdose Locations in Michigan



Colleen Peterson, PhD

**Assistant Research Scientist
U-M Transportation Research Institute**

A social behavioral epidemiologist by training, Dr. Peterson applies advanced population-level analysis and mixed methods approaches to examine issues of safety and mobility throughout the life course. She will be presenting on her project, Eyes Forward, Mind Focused: A Survey of Distracted Driving and Mindfulness Among Young Drivers.

Research Presentation

Breaking the Habit: Exploring Mindfulness Training to Counteract Distracted Driving in Young Drivers



Rebecca Sokol, PhD

**Associate Professor of Social Work
U-M School of Social Work**

Rebecca Sokol is an associate professor at U-M's School of Social Work. Dr. Sokol's research program evaluates strategies to promote child and adolescent safety, with a focus on recognizing and addressing fundamental causes of violence. Dr. Sokol collaborates with interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral teams to understand the effects of programs and policies that address material hardships on youth safety.

Research Presentation

Developing a School-Based Program to Identify Student and Caregiver Needs



Jillian Baker, PhD

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow
U-M Institute for Social Research**

Jillian Baker is a postdoctoral fellow at the Social Environment and Health group at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. Jillian's research is at the intersection of women's health, aging, and injury and violence exposure. She worked with data from the Study of Women's Health Across the Nation to explore the aging-related effects of intimate partner violence, including physical function outcomes and traumatic brain injuries.



Avinash Chandran PhD, FACS

**Chief Science Officer
Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research
and Prevention**

Dr. Avinash Chandran is a quantitative epidemiologist and Chief Science Officer at the Datalys Center, where he leads national research programs on athlete health and injury surveillance. His research program is oriented towards aligning epidemiological methods with multidimensional data sources to gain novel insights on the influence of physical activity and sport on injury risk and health outcomes over the lifespan.

Research Presentation

Linking Injury and Function across the Life course in Women: An Investigation within the Study of Women Across the Nation



Lisa Wexler, PhD

**Professor of Social Work
U-M School of Social Work**

Dr. Lisa Wexler is a Professor of Social Work and a Research Professor at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. Dr. Wexler's work focuses on creating hopeful, strengths-based approaches to prevent suicide and harmful substance use while promoting wellness. For over three decades, she has partnered with families, organizations, and Indigenous communities to develop practical, culturally grounded interventions tailored to under-resourced settings.

Research Presentation

Democratizing Scientific Discoveries for Upstream Prevention

CME Accreditation Statement:

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of MyMichigan Health and Injury Prevention Center. MyMichigan Health is accredited by the Michigan State Medical Society to provide continuing medical education for physicians. MyMichigan Health designates this activity for a maximum of 2.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

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