

13th October 2008

IAEM endorses current attempts to improve safety on Irish roads

The Irish Association for Emergency Medicine (IAEM) fully supports the Road Safety Authority (RSA) and the other agencies in their ongoing efforts to reduce the toll of avoidable deaths and injuries on our roads. We applaud the RSA on their success so far, recognising that 2007 was the safest year on the roads for several decades.

As those dealing first-hand with the terrible consequences of road collisions, we are eager to see further improvements and recognise that driver behaviour is the major cause of the death and disability. We appreciate the truism that *"people respect what the Gardai inspect"* and call upon the Government to further reduce the allowable blood alcohol concentration limit to 50mg/100ml and to accelerate the widespread introduction of fixed and mobile safety cameras. This will assist in bringing Ireland into line with international best practice.

This week is the RSA's Road Safety Week and today's RSA *International Road Safety Conference* ([Conference link](#)) at Croke Park, Dublin features both national and international experts. Mr Gerry Lane, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, Letterkenny General Hospital will give a presentation on the Emergency Department perspective on road-related injuries in Ireland.

In the future, all victims of major trauma are likely to be brought to a smaller number of larger Emergency Departments staffed by a greater number of Consultants (Specialists) in Emergency Medicine with appropriate supporting staff and facilities. The Health Service Executive (HSE) has already signalled its intention to move in this direction. In addition to such a logical step, there is a pressing need for a National Trauma Registry (a comprehensive audit system) to assure the public that standards of trauma care in Ireland equate with the best in the world. Ireland is currently one of the few developed countries where this infrastructure is not in place.

President:

Mr Fergal Hickey FRCS, FRCSEd.(A&E), DA(UK), FCEM
Consultant in Emergency Medicine

Sligo General Hospital
The Mall
Sligo
Ireland

Tel no: +353 71 9174505
Fax no: +353 71 9174646

Secretary:

Mr James Binchy FRCSEd.(A&E), Dip.Med.Tox., FCEM.
Consultant in Emergency Medicine

University College Hospital,
Newcastle Road
Galway
Ireland

Tel no: +353 91 542766
Fax no: +353 91 520154

Treasurer:

Dr Una Geary FRCSEd.(A&E), FRCPI, FCEM
Consultant in Emergency Medicine

St James's Hospital
James's St,
Dublin 8
Ireland

Tel no: +353 1 4103581 / 4162777
Fax no: +353 1 4103451