SAE International Honors Dr. Bruce Donnelly with Arnold W. Siegel International Transportation Safety Award

SAE International announces that Bruce R. Donnelly, PhD, Principal Engineering with Biomechanics Research Associates, is winner of the Arnold W. Siegel International Transportation Safety Award.


Dr. Donnelly’s training emphasis always has been in structural mechanics and his dissertation research quantified the shear properties of human brain tissue. He is currently self-employed as a consultant at Biomechanics Research Associates, Ltd. in Delaware, Ohio. He retired from the National Highway Traffic Administration in 2014 after 14 years as a senior research engineer and Division Chief of the Applied Biomechanics Division at the Vehicle Research and Test Center. Prior to that he was a Principal Engineer and Section Leader at Calspan in Buffalo, New York for 24 years.

Dr. Donnelly has led the WorldSID 5th working group; participated in ISO and SAE International dummy and injury criteria working groups, represented NHTSA at international dummy and pedestrian safety harmonization groups; has authored and coauthored numerous technical papers on biomechanics and crashworthiness subjects; is a reviewer for several journals; holds the patent for automatic crash notification; is a licensed Professional Engineer in two states; and is one of the founders of the Ohio Injury Biomechanics Symposium.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Connecticut, a Master of Science degree in Architectural Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University and the PhD degree in Mechanical Engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Established in 1987, the Arnold W. Siegel International Transportation Safety Award recognizes individuals whose accomplishments include outstanding international research, innovation and contributions to crash injury protection, crash injury biomechanics and crash injury design for all mobility vehicles: land, air, sea and space. This award is funded through the generous support of Arnold W. Siegel, SAE Fellow and Medal of Honor recipient. Mr. Siegel’s pioneering crash injury research began in 1954 at the University of California-Los Angeles. His extensive accomplishments in transportation safety and research include working with the world's first experimental full-scale automotive crash program, designing and constructing early versions of anthropometric dummies, and more than 40 years of collision and injury analysis and consulting for research and forensic purposes. He helped pioneer research on barrier, side-impact, rollover head-on, motorcycle and pedestrian crashes. He built the first infant and child dummies, crash tested them and worked on and designed the first rear facing infant safety seats and child booster seats resulting in significantly fewer injuries and deaths in auto accidents. He worked collaboratively to reveal critical automotive safety issues and create life-saving solutions, bringing injury prevention to the forefront, forever altering the way automobiles are engineered.

To learn more about the Arnold W. Siegel International Transportation Safety Award, please contact pr(at)sae(dot)org.
SAE International is a global association committed to being the ultimate knowledge source for the engineering profession. By uniting over 137,000 engineers and technical experts, we drive knowledge and expertise across a broad spectrum of industries. We act on two priorities: encouraging a lifetime of learning for mobility engineering professionals and setting the standards for industry engineering. We strive for a better world through the work of our charitable arm, the SAE Foundation, including programs like A World in Motion® and the Collegiate Design Series™.

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