



PRESS RELEASE FOR CRASH 2004

In order to more effectively treat persons injured in motor vehicle crashes, Dr. Anthony V. D'Antoni recently participated in the annual CRASH program hosted by the Spine Research Institute of San Diego (SRISD)—a research center devoted to the investigation of motor vehicle crash injury. For the past 18 years, the Spine Research Institute has focused on the more common spinal injuries sustained in everyday motor vehicle crashes, such as whiplash and mild traumatic brain injuries. Over 3 million such injuries occur each year and result in debilitating injuries in an estimated 500,000 persons, at a total cost in excess of \$28 billion. And, unlike many diseases, many of these injuries are preventable.

This year's prestigious speakers represented a wide diversity of interests in automotive safety and included prominent researchers from the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety, the University of Washington School of Medicine, Oregon Health Sciences University School of Medicine, the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, as well as from private medical clinics, law practices, and engineering and research firms from around the country.



The photograph above shows a simulated pedestrian crash using a crash test dummy. The impact speed of the 1992 Ford Crown Victoria (the bullet vehicle) was approximately 34 mph. Notice the damage to the front bumper and how the front of the vehicle is closer to the ground when compared to the back of the vehicle. In this crash, the dummy was hit from behind. If this were a human, he would have sustained multiple fractures of the lower extremities and cervical spine, including blunt head trauma (the head hit the hood and windshield of the car). This would invariably be fatal.

This year's research agenda included final work on the validation testing of the newest generation of high-tech crash test dummies for use in rear impact crash testing, along with several other projects aimed at improving our understanding of injury mechanisms.

As part of this unique three-day program, Dr. D'Antoni also learned the very latest methods of forensic risk assessment to better understand not only the effects of the forces and loads imposed upon patients' spines and brains in low speed crashes, but also the various risk factors that can increase a person's risk for injury or long-term symptoms. By understanding the unusual biomechanics of this form of trauma, diagnostic methods and treatment can be much more effectively administered in the clinical setting.

Dr. D'Antoni is a chiropractor and *Assistant Professor* of anatomy and clinical epidemiology at New York College of Podiatric Medicine in New York City. He is completing a PhD degree in health sciences from Seton Hall University and maintains a private chiropractic practice in Staten Island, NY.