



Illinois Traffic Safety Leaders

**SAFETY LEADS**

a publication for safety leaders

“Since 1967 . . . an organization of concerned citizens”

Summer 2009

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Were you able to attend the May 2009 ITSL Conference in Lombard? If not, based on attendee feedback, you missed out on “the best ITSL Conference yet!” Each of our presenters provided informative alcohol related information beginning with a DUI arrest and covering all the steps leading to the alcohol evaluation process.

The ITSL Board members have already begun preparations for the September 2009 Traffic Safety Conference to be held in Springfield. The conference is titled “The Life Cycle of Traffic Safety” and our presenters will be covering all the stages from teen drivers on up to mature drivers. Be sure to check the web site ([www.itsl.us](http://www.itsl.us)) for additional information and updates.

Child Passenger Safety Week will be held September 20-26. Seat Check Saturday is scheduled for September 19th, so “now” is a great time to plan your events and contact Child Passenger Safety Technicians to assist with the events.

The May “Ticket or Click It” campaign has ended but that doesn’t mean we should stop enforcing the seat belt law. I am aware that some departments feel that downsizing and even disbanding their traffic units and child seat programs is necessary due to current economic times, but I don’t share their opinions. We are a mobile society and traffic safety affects everyone. For the time period of January 1 to May 31, 2009, IDOT Fatal Stats show 334 Fatalities, indicating Illinois is again showing a decrease with 402 Fatalities recorded during the same time period in 2008. The decrease of 68 is due in many ways to the efforts of each and every one of you. To the best of your ability, please continue to assist parents with child seats and enforce the traffic laws.

I am aware that many Police Officers prefer to focus on arresting criminals, but did you know that the best and proven way to accomplish this can be by making a traffic stop for speeding, seat belt violations, etc.? A fellow officer recently made a seat belt violation stop which resulted in arrests for burglary and unlawful use of a credit card that also involved two other departments. In addition, it was learned that the subjects had burglarized a home, stolen a purse, and then tried to max out the stolen credit cards.

ITSL is the only volunteer organization that is devoted to traffic safety and continues to grow, so it is my pleasure to announce the addition of our two new Board Members: Michael Mitchell from the National Safety Council and Al Levin from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Welcome aboard!

As always, if you have any information or pictures you would like to share, please send it to [Itsl\\_roads@yahoo.com](mailto:Itsl_roads@yahoo.com) and we’ll put it on the web site.

Once again, I commend everyone who continues to work on traffic safety efforts. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Robert Brasky  
ITSL President

## Committed to Road Safety to Save Lives and Honor Lost Ones

Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois



Dorothy Brown

I am truly honored to have received the **Joanne Blair Illinois Traffic Safety Leader Award** on May 6, 2009, and I appreciate the Illinois Traffic Safety Leaders for recognizing my work on behalf of the traffic safety of the citizens of Illinois.

My appreciation is extended to Mr. Robert Brasky, President of ITSL (Illinois Traffic Safety Leaders), Ms. Judi Keippel, ITSL conference coordinator, Ms. Marti Belluschi, AAIM (Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists) member, Traffic Safety consultant and Chair of the Joanne Blair Awards Committee, and Mr. Al Levin, who serves as Chief Deputy Clerk of Intergovernmental Affairs for my Office.

And, I especially wish to salute Ms. Joanne Blair, the former dedicated employee of the Illinois Department of Transportation whose tireless advocacy work on behalf of traffic safety is memorialized with this award. I thank Ms. Blair for being an example of what an individual can accomplish when he or she is committed to serve the public good.

This award represents a high compliment to me, and I am humbled to join the ranks of such previous honorees as: Illinois State Senator and Majority leader John Cullerton (2004); Ms. Judi Keippel of ITSL (2005); Ms. Pat Larson, AAIM Director of Victim Services (2006); Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White (2007), and Mr. Don McNamara of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (2008).

As advocates for improved traffic safety, I know that we struggle daily with finding ways to reduce the number and consequences of road traffic crashes.

I applaud ITSL for championing the creation of programs, and supporting individual and group efforts to improve traffic and highway safety in Illinois.

The members of ITSL understand that it is imperative that we encourage legislative support, develop educational opportunities in all phases of highway and traffic safety, and maintain a channel of communication within our organizations for the exchange of information statewide.

I am so proud to have been recognized for the accomplishments made by the Clerk's Office in the area of reducing traffic dangers.

I first established a traffic safety task force on January 23, 2001, to address the problem of the underreporting of Reckless Homicides and Felony DUIs to the Secretary of State's Office. This task force was the result of my meeting Ms. Marianne Bulvan, whose son was killed by a DUI driver. Ms. Bulvan raised my awareness about the underreporting problem because she had discovered that although the driver who killed her son had been convicted of reckless homicide, his license had not been revoked.

The task force was comprised of individuals from the offices of the Illinois Secretary of State, Cook County State's Attorney, Cook County Sheriff, Cook County Circuit Court Chief Judge, Illinois State Police, Chicago Police Department, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Administrative Office of Illinois Courts and Winnetka, University Park, Riverside and Arlington Heights Police Departments.

That first Task Force developed procedures for automated disposition reporting, and on Dec. 1, 2001, the Clerk's Office began weekly, automated disposition reporting to the Secretary of State's Office. The task force successfully reported to the Secretary of State, 3,215 unreported Reckless Homicides and Felony DUIs dating back to 1980.

Since the Clerk's Office implemented the process to automatically send electronic reports of Reckless Homicides and Felony DUIs to the Secretary of State's Office on a weekly basis, the Clerk's Office has reported a total of **12,628** cases, including:

- **3,993** Revoked Drivers Licenses
- **3,892** Felony DUIs
- **101** Felony Guilty Reckless Homicide/ Involuntary Manslaughter cases

The tragic story of Tina Ball inspired me to create the second traffic safety-related task force. Tina was a road construction worker and mother of seven who was killed by a drunken driver while working on I-57 on September 15, 2003. In her honor, I established the Tina Ball Memorial DUI Task Force in 2004.

By 2006, the Tina Ball Memorial DUI Task Force and members of Tina Ball's family created a program to award individuals for their dedication and hard work in the DUI law improvement process. The Tina Ball DUI Task Force was also instrumental in pushing the passage of "Tina's Law," formally known as House Bill 1900. This law allows relatives of victims who were killed by DUI offenders to request memorial markers for the victims of any fatal DUI crash that occurred after Jan. 1, 1990. The Clerk's Office promoted this legislation and the Governor signed it on Aug. 24, 2007.

The road signs read: "Please Don't Drink and Drive" and state: In Memory Of (the victim) and the date of the crash. We erected the first memorial marker in memory of Tina Ball on Oct. 24, 2007. The next year, on October 20, 2008, during an emotion-filled program, I joined Mr. Joel Mains, stepfather of 17-year old, DUI crash victim Caitlin Weese, for the placement of a roadside memorial sign in Weese's honor. Her surviving family members, members of AAIM, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) staff, and the police officers and emergency medical workers who found Caitlin the night of the crash, gathered to mourn the loss of her young life.

These markers memorialize the lives of the individuals lost, offering a dignified way to remember these crash victims. But the markers also serve as reminders to everyone that drinking and driving has serious consequences.

It is my hope that these signs bring some sense of solace to those who knew and loved the victims of the fatal DUI crashes; and that they are effective in helping to reduce or eliminate drunk driving.

In 2007, an estimated 254,000 persons, nationwide, were injured in crashes where police reported that alcohol was present – an average of one person injured approximately every two minutes.

In Illinois in 2007, the Secretary of State's office reported that there were 49,600 DUI arrests, and 503 people killed on Illinois roads in alcohol-related crashes. These statistics underscore the need for each of us to continue the work that is required to decrease these numbers and keep our roadways safe.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Therefore, I am committed to continuing to work with ITSL in speaking out, as well as meeting our responsibility for maintaining traffic safety through developing campaigns, programs and new legislation. Let's continue along the path we're on and we will continue to make a difference and save lives.

I will always cherish the Joanne Blair Illinois Traffic Safety Leader Award, and seek additional ways to exemplify its meaning.

### **Biography**

*Dorothy Brown was elected as the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County in 2000. Recently re-elected to a third term in November 2008, she has won all three elections by overwhelming margins. These consecutive victories illustrate voter confidence in her abilities. As the official keeper of records for all judicial matters brought into one of the largest unified court systems in the world, Clerk Brown is responsible for managing an annual operating budget of more than \$100 million and has a workforce of over 2,100 employees.*

*Clerk Brown graduated Magna cum Laude from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; holds a Master's in Business Administration with honors from DePaul University; a Jurist Doctorate of Law, with honors, from Chicago-Kent School of Law; and she is a Certified Public Accountant.*

*Clerk Brown lives in Chicago and has a daughter, Detris, a graduate of Howard University, who is currently attending London Metropolitan University in London, England.*



## JOANNE BLAIR AWARDS 2009

At the ITSL conference in May of this year, we were pleased to present Joanne Blair Illinois Traffic Safety Leader Awards to two outstanding leaders in traffic safety.



ultimately resulted in the revocation of more than 3,000 drivers' licenses.

The first award was presented to **Dorothy Brown**, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, for her leadership of the Clerk's office and for her leadership of two very successful DUI Task Forces. The first task force was created in 2001 to deal with the issue of reckless homicide offenders receiving felony sentences but not losing driving privileges. When this issue was brought to light, Clerk Brown immediately called together a large task force of those involved in various aspects of the DUI system to correct the problem. She also had her staff research inappropriately handled cases from previous years which

Clerk Brown's second task force, the Tina Ball Memorial DUI Task Force, was created in 2004. It was dedicated to the memory of IDOT flagger, Tina Ball, who was killed by a drunk driver. A major success for that task force was passing legislation creating the Roadside Memorial Marker program, which allows for signs to be placed at the locations of impaired driving crash fatalities. The signs read "Please Don't Drink and Drive" and, if requested will also show the name of the crash victim. The signs are made and put in place by IDOT. They will provide both a memorial to victims and a DUI prevention message for citizens.

The second Joanne Blair Award was presented to **Charlene Chapman**, Executive Director of the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM), for her leadership and dedication to saving lives on our roadways. Charlene is often a leader in the background of our efforts to stop impaired driving. She is always there to provide historical references for our on-going work on issues. She is always there to tell us, gently, how things should be done based on previous efforts. She is always there to oversee all the papers and reports required for our success and to keep us organized. She is very often behind the scenes promoting the success of other traffic safety leaders. Charlene has played an important role in many Illinois programs to end the tragedies of DUI.



ITSL is pleased and proud to have these significant traffic safety leaders and advocates as Joanne Blair Award recipients.

If you would like to nominate either a person or an organization for the 2010 Joanne Blair Award, please go to the ITSL website for information and the nomination form.

*Marti Belluschi, Chair  
ITSL Awards Committee*

## **Effective Methods for Evaluating the Risk to Public Safety of Driving Under the Influence Offenders**

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Central States Institute of Addiction made a presentation at the Illinois Traffic Safety Leaders Conference. Central States Institute of Addiction is a not-for-profit agency licensed by the Illinois Department of Human Services to conduct DUI evaluations. They are the designated DUI evaluation agency for the Circuit Court of Cook County, preparing an average of 12,000 DUI evaluations annually. This presentation described the alcohol and drug evaluation process that all DUI offenders are required to complete prior to sentencing hearings. Portions of that presentation are provided below.

In 1971, Central States Institute of Addiction (CSIA), in conjunction with the Circuit Court of Cook County, developed a DUI offender intervention process. The process was developed with the assumption that a person's level of bio-psychosocial dysfunction can elevate the risk of operating a motor vehicle in an unsafe manner. In DUI situations, this risk can be independent of the amount of alcohol or other mind/mood altering drugs present in the body. But when both the dysfunction and psychoactive substances are present, a "cumulative stress" or synergistic effect results that significantly increases dysfunction in one or more of the following areas: physical, emotional, social or occupational.

It is important to emphasize that impairment/risk is not determined solely by the offender's degree of substance use/abuse, but rather, in the larger context of life problems, or risk to the individual and to society. For that reason a much more sophisticated approach must be taken in the determination of impairment/risk. It is essential that the personal interview and the supporting instrument used in the evaluation process reflect the broader concept of life problems and collateral risk to self or society. The evaluation model is designed specifically to also measure the offender's risk to public safety.

### **Multidimensional Approach**

The purpose of the multidimensional evaluation is to evaluate the extent and nature of the individual's life problems, so that appropriate intervention may be provided. A system of categorizing individuals based on stressors and bio-psychosocial dysfunction results in the assignment of a stress risk factor. Accordingly, all clients are offered the appropriate level of intervention.

Modification of human behavior depends on the appropriate integration of information and emotional functioning. Providing individuals with the appropriate mix of information and emotional support, results in understanding and resolution of most problems.

#### **1) Clinical Interview**

The personal interview by the clinician is the most critical and essential component of this multidimensional approach to ascertain the existence of significant life problems and risk to public safety. The clinician must weigh various criteria and adjunctive tools in order to make these determinations. The criterion includes local and state rules and regulations, as well as symptomatic criteria from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV (DSM-IV).

The clinician carefully reviews the results of all adjunctive data to begin an exploratory process with the offender. The way the individual responds to the clinician's questions is important to the evaluation. For instance, new information or details about the DUI arrest itself might be revealed in the structured interview. The offender's physical appearance and behaviors are noted by the clinician as well. The decision of risk level and recommended intervention is the clinician's, who has been trained to make an informed decision about the appropriate level of risk/dysfunction.

## **2) Adjunctive Instruments**

CSIA utilizes several instruments to assist the clinician at the time of the interview. These instruments contain criteria required by DSM-IV, the state, and county. The instruments include a measurement identified as the Behavior Assessment Scale (BAS) and a measurement identified as the Substance Use Inventory (SUI). These two instruments seek to measure the cognitive, perceptual, motor, social, and emotional functioning of the individual, as well as the range of substance-related problems.

The SUI is comprised of 178 questions related to alcohol/drug use history, reasons for substance use, treatment or rehabilitation experience, knowledge of effects of alcohol/drugs, and attitudes toward the use of chemicals. A series of inquiries focusing on drugs other than alcohol also point to behavior functioning based on criteria similar to DSM-IV. The subsections consist of factual personal data: (a) present or past alcohol/drug related criminal history and (b) attitudes regarding substance use/abuse.

Repeat offenders (recidivists) are a major concern for professionals involved with the DUI offender. A research project, independent of CSIA, resulted in the development of a Multiple Offender Profile. Using data gathered from the Mortimer/Filkins, BAS, and SUI, the responses of repeat offenders were weighed and compared with the responses of first-time offenders. The most sensitive items were rated and grouped, which resulted in a scale now used to measure the probability of a DUI offender repeating the offense.

These instruments are scored at the time of the evaluation, and the results are at the disposal of the clinician. This data enhances the work of the trained clinician as the interview process begins. In the end, the clinician uses the interview responses and observations, the various test measurements, and historical evaluation and driving record data on over 390,000 offenders to arrive at an informed decision about the individual's appropriate level of risk and dysfunction.

## **3) Toxicology Testing**

In 1996, CSIA began toxicology testing of DUI offenders at on-site laboratories based on their belief that poly-substance use among the DUI population was more prevalent than generally accepted. During this time period approximately 25% of the offenders presented a positive toxicology screen at the time of the evaluation. The toxicology screen tests for alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines, and PCP. The addition of this tool to the multidimensional process increases the ability to identify risk. Additionally, we have seen a reduction in positive toxicology screens following orders for random screening during post-sentencing monitoring.

In order to remain effective clinical evaluations of DUI offenders must remain multidimensional. The multidimensional approach assists in more accurately identifying risk factors and intervention strategies.

Central States Institute of Addiction continues to work with local, state, national, and international traffic safety groups to improve the intervention strategies for DUI offenders. CSIA's database contains clinical evaluation information on over 390,000 DUI offenders.

**Kevin J. Doyle**  
**Director**  
**Central States Institute of Addiction**



## **Sharing the Road: Now More Than Ever**

By Dean Schott and Ed Barsotti  
League of Illinois Bicyclists

With the downswing in the economy, Illinois has experienced an upswing in bicycling for commuting, health, recreation and fitness. And with more people getting around on bicycles, the need has grown to educate the public on sharing the road for everyone's safety.

The state's traffic safety leaders have the opportunity to explain that bicyclists have a legal right to be on the road, that they should observe traffic laws, use hand signals for turning, slowing and stopping and ride as far to the right as is practicable. Practicable does not mean possible, but what can be reasonably accomplished given the road conditions.

Traffic safety leaders have the opportunity to reinforce bicyclists' rights among motorists as well. Drivers should observe traffic laws, such as speed limits, yielding the right of way and allowing at least three feet of space when passing a bicyclist.

Sharing the road has many aspects, and the League of Illinois Bicyclists (LIB) offers a variety of materials that can be used to inform drivers and riders of all ages about their respective rights and responsibilities.

Among the free LIB items that traffic leaders can use for their safety messages and programs are:

-- "*Share the Road - Same Road, Same Rules, Same Rights*," a seven-minute video advises drivers how to treat bicyclists in traffic. The video was originally developed and shared with Illinois high school and private driver education programs and also can be used for bicyclists. Police departments, state agencies, the courts, municipalities and local cable TV outlets are among the groups that have used the video.

-- A pocket-sized card listing Illinois bicycle laws for drivers and riders. These can be distributed at public events and shared with employees.

-- Colorful posters that list the traffic danger zones. The posters can be displayed in public places to remind drivers and riders to be safe by avoiding the danger zones.

-- Traffic violation warning pamphlets that have been used by police and others to alert the motorists and bicyclists to the violations they have committed.

-- "12 Things You Should Know about Bicycles, Crashes and Safety," a one-page handout, which can be downloaded. These too can be distributed at public events and shared with employees.

-- Bike safety sheets with advice for children and their parents, which can be downloaded. These can be distributed by schools, police, fire and recreation departments and at bike rodeos for kids.

To review all the materials, go to <http://www.bikelib.org/enforcement/index.htm>.

If you would like to order materials that can't be downloaded from our website, contact us at [lib@bikelib.org](mailto:lib@bikelib.org).

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**ITSL FALL CONFERENCE**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009**

### ***"THE LIFE CYCLE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY"***

Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center  
Springfield, Illinois



On the national side....

### ***GLOBAL STATUS REPORT ON ROAD SAFETY***

Approximately 1.3 million people die each year on the world's roads, and between 20 and 50 million sustain non-fatal injuries. *The Global status report on road safety* is the first broad assessment of the road safety situation in 178 countries, using data drawn from a standardized survey. The results show that road traffic injuries remain an important public health problem, particularly for low-income and middle-income countries. Pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists make up almost half of those killed on the roads, highlighting the need for these road users to be given more attention in road safety programs. The results suggest that in many countries road safety laws need to be made more comprehensive while enforcement should be strengthened. *The Global status report on road safety* results clearly show that significantly more action is needed to make the world's road safer.

The *Global status report on road safety* was launched in New York on the 15th of June 2009. More than 1000 road safety experts from around the world collaborated to develop this state-of-the-art document on the magnitude, risk factors, and road safety strategies in 178 countries. This report is the first broad assessment of road safety using a standardized survey instrument.

Find out more about the report:

[http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/road\\_traffic/global\\_status\\_report/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_traffic/global_status_report/en/index.html)

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### **WHAT ARE ALL THE RED RIBBONS FOR?**



What are all the red ribbons for? That is what people were asking during this past holiday season at Homewood Flossmoor High School in Flossmoor, IL. The windows along two hallways at the school were covered with red ribbons. These were not just holiday decorations. They were actually part of a program that students came up with some years ago. It all started when students wanted to bring attention to the fact that some 1000 people would die in alcohol related crashes over the holidays. They came up with the idea to hang a red ribbon for each victim on the windows. The students all have to pass through these hallways at lunchtime, so it was a daily reminder to all to be aware of the consequences of drunk driving.

I have been doing the prom programs at Homewood Flossmoor for the last five years. These programs are orchestrated by John Schwaller, the school's Student Assistance Coordinator. Every year I give John a copy of AAIM's (Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists) Ad Book. This book is full of stories of people from all walks of life who have been killed or injured by drunk drivers.

For this year's Red Ribbon Campaign, four students, Megan Slowey, Marsella Lopez, Ivelisse Ron and Leanne Carnes came up with a new idea. They copied the stories in the books and attached them to the Red Ribbons. This way, as the students went to and from lunch, they could actually put a face and a story to many of the Red Ribbons. What a great way to help bring awareness to a huge problem on our roads today.

ITSL salutes these students and John Schwaller for bringing awareness to the tragedies that happen on our highways, not just during the holidays but all during the year.

Dave Perozzi, ITSL Secretary

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## **Liquor Commission aims to save lives**

### **New initiatives take pro-active approach to over-consumption, underage drinking issues**

By Ted Penesis, Education Manager  
Illinois Liquor Control Commission

Oftentimes, it takes a tragedy for real change to occur. This is certainly the case with the misuse of alcohol. As traffic safety professionals, you are in a unique position to act before a tragedy occurs, and the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) can help you.

Through its Industry Education Division, the Liquor Commission continually develops new programs and initiatives to address the devastating consequences of illegal alcohol consumption. Two of these educational programs are described below.

#### **Alcohol seller/server training**

Recently, the time requirements for BASSET (Beverage Alcohol Seller/Server Education and Training) approved classes were reduced, making them less burdensome on the hospitality industry. With this in mind, the ILCC has placed a renewed emphasis on increasing the number of communities that mandate alcohol training, and Illinois Traffic Safety Leaders are perfectly suited to make this a reality.

Not only is your opinion valued by those who can pass the required ordinance, but, by serving as a BASSET instructor, you have the ability to increase the level of communication with your business community. Of course, the many benefits of mandatory BASSET classes are too numerous to mention here, so please contact BASSET Manager Lee Roupas at 312-814-0773 or email [Lee.Roupas@illinois.gov](mailto:Lee.Roupas@illinois.gov) for more information.

#### **Sticker Shock Day**

Too often, adults either ignore or allow teenagers to drink alcohol. But the facts are these: Minor drinking is illegal and can have grave consequences. To publicize these facts, the ILCC unveiled a new program called “Project Sticker Shock” and organized the first-ever Sticker Shock Day.

During this day, over 2000 teenagers, police officers, and other volunteers fanned out across the state to place stickers in liquor stores, reminding adult patrons of the legal consequences of purchasing alcohol for minor consumption. With the prom and graduation seasons just around the corner, media coverage of the April 2nd event focused on changing the purchasing behavior of one group in particular—parents. For more details on “Project Sticker Shock”, please visit [www.DontBeSorry.org](http://www.DontBeSorry.org).

Through these unique offerings—and cooperation between the state and local levels—we can ultimately prevent a drunk-driver from taking innocent lives or a teenager from dying of alcohol poisoning. Please call 312-814-4802 or email [Ted.Penesis@illinois.gov](mailto:Ted.Penesis@illinois.gov) to receive the ILCC’s informative quarterly newsletter, where you can learn more about our educational programs.

# Illinois Traffic Safety Leaders Mission Statement

- Create opportunities for the development and evaluation of traffic safety movements in Illinois;
- Establish a channel for the exchange of information on traffic safety activities of state-wide service organizations and advocacy groups;
- Act as a liaison between organizations, the National Safety Council, and other state and national agencies. Maintain affiliation with the National Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders, Inc. and develop education in all phases of highway and traffic safety.
- Networking opportunities with traffic safety leaders throughout the State.
- Provide a quarterly newsletter for its members.

# Safety Leads

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF MAY 2009 CONFERENCE



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