

## **Dr. Alireza Bagherian Participates in Crash Test Study in the 2004 CRASH Program**

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In order to more effectively treat persons injured in motor vehicle crashes, Dr. Alireza Bagherian 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 injuries. 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 for 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.

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.

This year, Dr. Bagherian was one of the examiners who tested the volunteers before and after crash tests using computerized range of motion analysis, real time force curve muscle testing, computerized grip analysis, and digital algometry. As part of this unique three-day program, Dr. Bagherian 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. Bagherian has been in practice since 1997 with clinical specialty in soft tissue and musculoskeletal injuries from motor vehicle accidents, sports injuries, and industrial injuries. He has extensive training and advanced certification in diagnosis, treatment, and management of whiplash associated disorders and mild traumatic brain injuries. He has been actively involved with research through CRASH, (The Center for Research into Automotive Safety and Health) and has participated and observed over 70 collisions with human test subjects. He is a certified LOSRIC auto crash reconstructionist and a functional capacity evaluator. A fellow of both the American Academy of Disability Analysts and the Academy of Forensic and Industrial Chiropractic Consultants, Dr. Bagherian is also an appointed Qualified Medical Examiner for the State of California performing QME, IME, and AME evaluations. He has provided expert testimony in the areas of motor vehicle crash parameters, injury biomechanics, human factors, occupant kinematics, diagnosis, medical and chiropractic management, prognosis, and disability. Dr. Bagherian is the medical director of Synapse Health Center, a multidisciplinary clinic located at 3580 California Street, Suite 102 in San Francisco. He may be reached at (415) 921-6200.