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Modern Traffic Medicine

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Modern Traffic Medicine addresses a problem of deep concern to everyone who lives in a motorized society. About 3,000 people are killed on the world's roads daily, almost 200 in China, almost 100 in the USA. The deaths happen mainly one at a time, and so do not attract the attention of dramatic events such as airplane crashes or hotel fires. Yet every one of the traffic deaths leaves a family devastated, every bit as much as if the death had occurred in connection with a more newsworthy event. Injuries, in many cases of the highest severity leading to permanent impairment, far exceed deaths.

Unlike deaths from other sources such as disease or natural disasters, victims of traffic crashes are overwhelmingly young. Without the crash they would likely have enjoyed a life of normal duration in normal health. If you see a young person in a wheelchair from which they cannot rise unassisted, it is very likely that a traffic crash was responsible.

Traffic Medicine is a term that encompasses all those disciplines, techniques, methods, and policies aimed at reducing the harm traffic crashes inflict on human beings. It includes also ways to enable those with reduced capabilities due to aging, illness or other causes to drive safely (and walk safely adjacent to traffic), and also the knowledge and policies to prohibit from driving those no longer able to drive with adequate safety. The disciplines contributing to traffic medicine include psychology, sociology, statistics, engineering, biomechanics, law, policing, policy analysis, pharmacology, gerontology, as well as surgery, and much more.

China has reduced its traffic deaths from an all-time high of 109,381 in 2002 to 67,759 in 2009. This 38% drop in a seven-year period is an impressive traffic safety achievement, especially as the number of vehicles increased so dramatically during the same seven years. It took the United States of America 37 years to achieve a similar percent drop from its highest fatality total. However, the present Chinese death toll, and the vastly greater number of injuries accompanying it, remains a major public health challenge.

Modern Traffic Medicine provides the knowledge base necessary to further substantially reduce harm from traffic. The book provides a wealth of information from distinguished contributors to many of the disciplines that are included in traffic medicine. The book contains detailed and informative articles by authors from countries that have achieved the greatest progress in traffic safety. These guide the way to selecting the approaches and policies likely to be most effective.

Modern Traffic Medicine will help China prevent deaths, reduce suffering, and enhance mobility. All who seek to diminish the enormous harm that accompanies the benefits of increased motorized transportation in China should read *Modern Traffic Medicine*.

Science Serving Society Information about 2004 book	Traffic Safety	Devoted to adding reason and knowledge to public policy More on all topics sprinkled throughout Traffic Safety	SSS HOME
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For inclusion in Chinese
language monograph
Modern Traffic Medicine,
to be published in China