



Media Release

Communiqué

University of Western Ontario Researcher Explores Legal Parameters of Anti-Social Driving Behaviours

For immediate release

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London, ON: Recent research indicates drivers who engage in one type of anti-social driving behaviour such as road rage often tend to engage in other types of this behaviour, such as impaired driving. A national team of researchers is investigating the legal parameters of anti-social driving behaviour to better direct policy development and legislative reform. On June 17, 2004, Professor Robert Solomon, a professor of law at The University of Western Ontario will present some of the team's findings at the AUTO21 Scientific Conference in Montreal, Quebec.

"Our research focuses on the legal consequences of both road rage and impaired driving," said Professor Solomon. "Our work on road rage is at a preliminary stage. Our goal is to develop a framework for analyzing the legal consequences that result from road-rage associated behaviours. It is important to understand the current laws before examining new legislative measures to address the issue."

The team is also exploring specific impaired driving issues that arise from MADD Canada's comprehensive reviews of the federal and provincial impaired driving legislation. Researchers have completed a comprehensive review of alcohol-related trauma statistics; the civil liability of social hosts for alcohol-related injuries; and the traffic safety implications of the current *Criminal Code* 0.08% Blood-Alcohol Concentration limit.

The research team is funded by the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence, and consists of researchers from The University of Western Ontario, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, University of Toronto, and Dalhousie University.

The AUTO21 2004 Scientific Conference will take place June 15-17, 2004 at Le Centre Sheraton in Montreal, Quebec. The annual conference highlights some of the Network's recent research results while providing a networking opportunity for the Network's 600 university and student researchers and additional industry and government representatives. Other conference activities include the final awards ceremony for the DaimlerChrysler Canada Highly Qualified People Poster Competition and an industry speaker series, which includes Ray Tanguay, president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada, Jim Gouin, vice-president and controller, Ford Motor Company, and Michael Kelly, vice-president, Alcan Automotive. Additional conference information can be found on www.auto21.ca in the news and events section.

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The Government of Canada awarded the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence an initial four-year grant of \$23 million in 2001 to help it enhance Canada's position as a world leader in automotive research and development. Researchers at 35 Canadian universities are working on innovative, auto-related projects in the areas of health, safety and injury prevention; societal issues; materials and manufacturing; design processes; powertrains, fuels and emissions; and intelligent systems and sensors. In addition to the federal grant, AUTO21 is supported by industry, government and institutional contributions of \$11 million.

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