

Podium finish for Alertness CRC Project Presentation

At the 6th International Symposium on Naturalistic Driving Research, held in the Netherlands in June, Jonny Kuo, a research scientist at Australian technology company Seeing Machines, received the award for Best Presentation for his paper titled “Distraction in shift-workers during naturalistic driving”.

The team at Seeing Machines initiated a project with the Alertness CRC to assess the impact of shift work on driver alertness and driving behaviour in the healthcare setting.

The project has seen 20 working nightshift nurses monitored as they drove to and from their work in an alertness monitoring instrumented car.



L-R: Professor Shantha Rajaratnam (Alertness CRC and MICCN), Dr Tracey Sletten (Alertness CRC and MICCN), and Professor Mike Lenné (Seeing Machines) with the test car.

The car was, in fact, a key point of difference in this naturalistic driving study. It uses Seeing Machines’ cutting-edge technology to monitor the driver’s steering behaviour and eye closures, providing world-first insight into behaviours that can predict when a fatigue-related accident is likely to occur. Preliminary results are already coming in, and will be used to test out new work schedules, develop alertness-boosting smart lighting systems, and to improve drowsiness detection technology.

“Collecting such detailed, real-time and real-world data from tired drivers has not been possible until now”, said Professor Mike Lenné, Chief Scientist, Human Factors, at Seeing Machines. “By being able to predict what triggers a drowsy event, we’ll deepen our understanding of fatigue and develop new ways to combat it. We are very pleased with our initial findings to date, and we are very proud of Jonny for his award.”

The Alertness CRC is proud to be leading the naturalistic driving project, and congratulates Jonny on his presentation success.

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