

# Occupational Medicine Rotation



The Hazard Evaluation and Technical Assistance Branch of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health creates an exciting opportunity for medical residents to engage in occupational medicine in a public health setting. Through on-site investigations, medical evaluations, and exposure and risk assessments, the branch gives medical residents first-hand experience in creating safer, healthier workplaces and provides an excellent introduction to CDC/NIOSH in Cincinnati, Ohio.

# National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

As a vital part of CDC, NIOSH was established to help ensure safe and healthy working conditions by providing research, information, education and training in the field of occupational safety and health. NIOSH professionals protect workers by:

- performing exposure assessments of hazardous conditions and materials
- developing and evaluating protective measures
- reporting on disease, injury, and worksite exposures
- disseminating findings to workers, unions, and managers

State-of-the-art laboratories, dedicated researchers, and the ability to translate research into practice enable NIOSH to forward its vision of delivering on the nation's promise: safety and health at work for all people through research and prevention.



## Hazard Evaluation and Technical Assistance Branch

During health hazard evaluations (HHEs), NIOSH scientists provide medical, industrial hygiene and epidemiologic technical assistance to worksites where occupational health hazards and illness and injury outbreaks occur. NIOSH, a federal agency, has right of entry into workplaces all over the United States.

During HHE site visits, medical residents participate in labor-management meetings, tour the facility, interview workers, and perform medical examinations if needed. Activities may include epidemiologic studies, biological and environmental testing, and review of medical records and worksite illness/injury logs. Residents will work alongside epidemiologists, physicians, nurses, safety engineers, industrial hygienists, statisticians, toxicologists, and other professionals during these HHEs.

The HHE program provides an opportunity for residents to enter workplaces all across the country, meet industry workers, and apply their skills and knowledge in occupational health and safety practices.



# Recent Health Hazard Evaluation Projects

- Chloramine exposure associated with respiratory and eye irritation at a poultry processing plant—Oklahoma
- Hearing loss among forge workers—Illinois
- Musculoskeletal disorders due to ergonomic stressors among flight attendants—California
- Hypersensitivity pneumonitis and dermatitis among workers at an automotive parts plant—New York
- Neurologic illness among pork processors handling pig brains—Minnesota



## Goals of the Rotation

- To engage residents in occupational health and safety assessments by participating in walk-through evaluations
- To allow residents to respond to inquiries from employers, labor unions, employees, and health care professionals regarding occupational safety and health issues
- To include residents in planning, conducting, and completing worksite health evaluations
- To give residents a better understanding of the role and function of governmental industrial hygienists and occupational health physicians

In addition to participating in HHEs, residents are assigned a specific topic related to an ongoing HHE or other NIOSH project. The resident conducts further research on the topic, completes data analyses, or performs other relevant tasks. The resident will present their findings to HETAB staff at the end of the rotation. Residents also may answer public inquiries on occupational health issues.

# Cincinnati



Cincinnati is a city known for its great beauty with steep hills, wooded suburbs, a picturesque downtown riverfront, and four definite seasons. Awarded by FORTUNE magazine as one of the top ten places to live and work, you'll find friendly neighbors, great job opportunities, excellent schools, diverse religions, shopping, safety, and lots of things to do. To find out more about our great city visit [http://www.cincinnati-chamber.com/relovisit\\_a.aspx](http://www.cincinnati-chamber.com/relovisit_a.aspx).

## Contacts

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## For More Information

...about NIOSH visit [www.cdc.gov/niosh/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/)

...about the HHE Program visit [www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/)

...about the Occupational Medicine Rotation visit [www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/occ-med/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/occ-med/)

**We look forward to seeing you here!**

