

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTER
FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

NIOSH Training Grant

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Southern California ERC

Summary Annual Center Report for 2007-08

We have developed a Pilot Collaborative Research Training Program with the Southern California Injury Prevention Research Center (SCIPRC) at UCLA. If funded this program will provide support for doctoral students doing their thesis work in the area of occupational injuries with the SCIPRC.

In 2007-08 the Southern California ERC developed a strategic plan for the period 2009-2014. Under the plan the Southern California ERC will continue to provide high quality professional training at the masters level and research training at the PhD level with an increased emphasis on research training at the masters level. Individual Academic Programs will continue to evolve to reflect the changing fields of occupational health and safety, and develop and implement recruiting plans. Continuing Education, Hazardous Substances Training, and Outreach Programs will continue to offer courses that occupational safety and health professionals rely on to maintain their credentials and keep up to date in their profession and create new courses that respond to changes in the field.

We have continued our annual ERC interdisciplinary plant visit and workshop with a

workshop at the MTA Central Repair and Maintenance Facility on May 30, 2008 attended by all supported ERC trainees.

We have established a collaborative relationship with the new High Speed, High Volume Laboratory for Infectious Diseases. The \$25 million, 6,300 ft² laboratory, a BSL3-enhanced facility, is a state-of-the-art facility funded by the Department of Defense and the California Office of Homeland Security to provide rapid sample analysis in the event of bioterrorism attacks or infectious disease outbreaks. The collaborative program will enable industrial hygiene trainees to do internships, masters or doctoral research projects, or directed individual study projects focused on occupational health issues for laboratory staff.

As a result of our efforts to increase research activity in the Occupational and Environmental Health Nursing program three trainees have co-authored research papers and submitted two pilot research project proposals to the SCERC, one an intervention study of older nurses caring for ailing parents that would support keeping the nurses in the workforce and the other an investigation of the challenges for young adult cancer survivors in the workforce.

We continue our effort to develop a focus in psychosocial aspects of occupational health. We have undertaken an ERC-wide effort to develop courses, field practicum, and research in the area of psychosocial stresses in the workplace. A recent research project is a workplace ergonomics and health study for the Communication Workers of America. These efforts have resulted in the publication of the following book, Schnall P, Dobson M, Rosskam E (eds.) *Unhealthy Work: Causes, Consequences and Cures*. Baywood Publishing, Amityville, NY. 685 pp (in press 2008).

The OMR-UCI program has recruited Wayne Chang, MD, MS, as an assistant clinical professor and Dr. Scott Hardy as a part-time faculty member and clinical preceptor in occupational medicine and Dr. James Seltzer as a faculty member and clinical preceptor in allergy and immunology. The UCI program is now the largest practice of board certified occupational medicine physicians in Orange County, which is the fifth most populous county in the nation. The program is currently recruiting two faculty positions that will further enhance the residency program. One position is for a tenure line faculty position in the environmental toxicology graduate program. The other position is for a tenure line faculty position in occupational epidemiology. We anticipate that these recruitments will be completed by spring 2009. These new faculty members will enhance the MS degree program and enhance the Center's research environment and research training for the residents.

Our Pilot/Small Project Program continues to be very successful with 12 applications for the most recent cycle. Since its inception in 1999 our PSP Program has funded 36 projects covering 18 NORA areas.

We have established ongoing internship opportunities for industrial hygiene and hazardous substances trainees with Cal/OSHA, the UCLA Office of Environment, Health & Safety, and several local refineries.

The Industrial Hygiene program (IH) completed its 14th year as a fully accredited program. It is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology/Applied Science Accreditation Commission (ABET/ASAC), the accrediting board for all industrial hygiene programs. The IH Program is now accredited to September 2012.

Our Continuing Education (CE) program has developed a monthly ergonomics webinar. For

one hour each month, attendees connect by computer and telephone to participate in classes with subjects ranging from Basic to Advanced. Nearly 50 people subscribed to the entire series of twelve sessions.

The CE program now has grants and contracts with The California Wellness Foundation to train health care providers, employer, supervisors and workers in illness and injury prevention for low wage service workers; Susan Harwood Training Grant from OSHA to provide injury and illness prevention training for groundskeepers; and another Susan Harwood Training Grant from OSHA to provide business planning training for disaster preparation to survive and reduce exposure to pandemic flu. Over the past three years these grants have enabled us to train more than 650 workers and supervisors in Preventing Injury and Illness of Groundskeepers, and conducted injury and illness prevention for groundskeepers and for low wage service workers in Spanish.

Faculty and residents of the UCLA Occupational Medicine program identified the first two cases of diacetyl induced bronchiolitis obliterans in California. These cases were particularly important because they were outside the microwave popcorn industry. These cases and follow-up efforts contributed to the development of the Cal-OSHA special order for diacetyl.

07-08 Academic Program data

Program	IH/(HSAT minor)	OMR	OEHN
Graduates	2(1)	2	3
Trainees	10(4)	4	11

07-08 CE Program data

Total # of Courses	104
Total Trainees	1,733