

**Review of Progress Implementation Report for
NIOSH Construction Program**

Submitted by Board of Scientific Counselors

November 17, 2014

BSC Working Group Members

Bradley Evanoff

Darryl Hill

John Mendeloff

Recommendation #1

Efforts to influence practice based on research (“research-to-practice” or r2p) efforts should involve individuals with training or with the experience and skills to create strategic diffusion and social marketing plans for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health research and evaluate such plans’ effectiveness.

Progress: 1 2 3 4 5

Brief Justification:

The Office of Construction Safety and Health has strengthened its r2p and communications internally by better-defining its relationship with the NIOSH Communications and Research Translation Office (CRTO). NIOSH has ensured that construction social marketing and diffusion efforts are continuously supported by staff trained in health communications.

CPWR has hired R2P director with extensive expertise and experience.

All National Construction Center projects, including all consortium and small studies projects, have been examined using its Dissemination Planning and Tracking Tools.

The Communications and Research Translation Office is critically assessing NIOSH’s r2p needs and how it might address them, with a plan to prepare solutions during 2014.

Impact: 1 2 3 4 4.5 5

Brief Justification:

Standing meetings among the National Construction Center, the OSHA Directorate of Construction (DoC) and the NIOSH Office of Construction Safety and Health (CSH) continue. Outputs and outcomes include improved and coordinated dissemination of information and tools in several areas, including falls, nail guns, electrical hazards, and noise abatement. National campaigns on falls have been visible.

More coordination of NIOSH research and information with OSHA compliance efforts is still desirable.

We noted that an earlier evaluation of the falls campaign was conducted, which indicated low awareness. There is no mention of any further follow-up or of evaluations of other r2p activities. It would be good to remedy this.

Recommendation #2

Consideration should be given to having the majority of research-to-practice efforts of the Construction Research Program conducted through the National Construction Center.

Progress: 1 2 3 4 5

Brief Justification:

NIOSH has executed steps that shift r2p activities to the National Construction Center. A continuing challenge will be to coordinate both the research and the dissemination of research funded by the National Construction Center with the activities funded by NIOSH extramural grants and with intramural research. These three groups of projects and investigators interact more within the groups than outside their groups.

Impact: 1 2 3 4 4.5 5

Brief Justification:

Many excellent outputs that are reaching the intended audiences since ramping up of R2P activities occurred in the past several years. However, although the impact on grantees appears to be substantial, it is not as clear that the impact has been as large on in-house researchers.

Recommendation #5

The National Construction Center should continue to be used as an important component in the Construction Research Program.

Progress: 1 2 3 4 5

Brief Justification:

As noted, the NCC has continued to be used as an important component, probably an increasingly important one.

Impact: 1 2 3 4 4.5 5

Brief Justification:

The National Construction Center continues to play a key role in R2P activities, and serves as a focus for researchers, unions, and contractor groups. They serve as a key liaison between NIOSH and external partners, and have led productive stakeholder events leading to useful outputs, such as the 2013 stakeholder meeting leading to the 2014 publication on safety culture and safety climate in construction.

Recommendation #6

The Program should establish a closer connection with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and other regulatory or consensus standards organizations to help ensure that the Program's research is applied effectively in rule-making efforts.

Progress: 1 2 3 4 4.5 5

Brief Justification:

The extent of cooperative activities appears to have increased considerably. Outside of standards, however, NIOSH research has rarely focused on issues of concern to OSHA. Although some efforts to change this have been made, both agencies remain wary about broader cooperation on research.

Impact: 1 2 3 4 4.5 5

Brief Justification:

Joint dissemination efforts for the Nail Gun Guide and the construction falls prevention campaign have amplified NIOSH outreach. For example, by including the Directorate of Construction and OSHA's Office of the Administrator, the Department of Labor Secretary became involved in the launch of the construction falls prevention campaign, thus greatly elevating the profile.

The NIOSH Construction Program has expanded its active participation on the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Committee on Safety Requirements for Construction and Demolition Operations (ANSI A10), and its affiliated workgroups. This provides an important mechanism for ensuring research to practice. NIOSH participates on standards work groups and provides comments on draft standards.

Recommendations Completed:

Recommendation #4

The Construction Program Coordinator and the Construction Program Manager should both be devoted full-time to the Construction Research Program.

Maintenance: 1 2 3 4 5

Brief Justification:

Appropriate succession planning; Dr. Branche's close engagement with construction research gives additional top level attention to this important area.

Impact: 1 2 3 4 4.5 5

Brief Justification:

The previous addition of coordinator and manager FTE has helped the construction program continue to be well organized and productive. Construction is a large, dynamic, and complex industry with many workers, varied hazards, and a large number of fatalities and injuries. Devoting sufficient NIOSH leadership, program management, and program coordination resources will be important to future efforts to reduce exposures, injuries, and fatalities in this large sector.