

Call for Posters

NORA Symposium 2008: Public Market for Ideas and Partnerships

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) requests posters for the sixth NORA Symposium to be held in Denver, Colorado, at the Sheraton Denver West on July 29, 2008. The conference will convene occupational safety and health researchers, stakeholders, and policymakers from the public and private sectors to celebrate the recent accomplishments of National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) and to advance the new sector-based priorities. The Mountains and Plains Education and Research Center will be a co-sponsor. The Symposium in Denver will be accompanied by a parallel NORA virtual conference on the internet. The goal of these events is to provide an open forum to facilitate effective communication about the importance of past and future work and opportunities for collaboration and partnerships to achieve impact in the workplace. A key to success will be attracting not only researchers but also occupational safety and health practitioners to participate in the virtual conference and the Symposium in Denver.

The Symposium program will include:

- Keynote address on NORA's potential for even greater contributions to occupational safety and health
- Presentation of the NORA Partnership Award and NORA Innovative Research Award
- Break-out sessions to learn about and comment on each sector's draft strategic plan for the nation and implementation plans
- Poster presentations

The poster presentations, both online and face-to-face, will be at the heart of the exchange between researchers and practitioners. Posters will describe project results or ideas for future work. Conversations, comment cards, and message boards will encourage dialogue between the presenter and the viewer about the importance of the work to the viewer as well as possible collaborations and partnerships to complete the work and use the results to improve workplace practice.

Background

NIOSH and its partners unveiled NORA in April 1996 as a framework to guide workplace safety and health research nationwide. Approximately 500 organizations and individuals contributed to the development of the Agenda, capturing broad input and consensus to produce 21 priority areas that guided a decade of successful research. Visit the NORA website for more information about the [accomplishments of the first decade of NORA](#). In April 2006, the second decade of NORA was launched with a sector-based structure to improve the movement of research to practice. For more information, visit the NORA website (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/NORA>).

In the last year, NIOSH and stakeholders from each of the eight sectors and one sub sector have formed sector councils. The councils are developing and implementing strategic plans for the nation to identify high priority research and translation/transfer areas thereby setting the National Occupational Research Agenda for the next 10 years. The Institute and sector councils are also emphasizing the need for research findings to achieve more impact in workplaces. Better communication is needed between occupational safety and health researchers and practitioners. Therefore, forums for the exchange of ideas and creation of partnerships are essential. The posters solicited here are the heart of this exchange during the virtual and on-site versions of NORA Symposium 2008.

NORA Sector Groups

Sector definitions follow the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the U.S. Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. More information about NAICS can be found on the U.S. Census Bureau [North American Industry Classification System page](#). NAICS provides [definitions for 20 sectors](#) which NIOSH aggregated into eight sector groups as follows:

NORA Sector Group	NAICS Code
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	11
Construction	23
Healthcare & Social Assistance	62
Manufacturing	31-33
Mining	21
Services	51-56 , 61 , 71-72 , 81 & 92
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	48-49 & 22
Wholesale and Retail Trade	42 & 44-45

Cross-Sector Approaches

Many of the sector-based priorities will be advanced using traditional occupational safety and health approaches, such as, surveillance, etiological research, exposure assessment, engineering controls, intervention effectiveness studies, demonstrations, dissemination, and authoritative recommendations. Posters will be grouped according to the approach most closely aligned with the work as well as by the sector of the workers for whom the work is being done.

Poster Guidelines

Posters will be viewed in person and/or online by a broad audience of policymakers, stakeholders, and researchers with diverse interests and disciplines. Please focus on the practical importance of your work and keep discussion of research methods simple and concise. Since this is a forum for the exchange of ideas and the formation of partnerships, posters may describe completed work, work in progress, or work that you would like to undertake. In the latter case, it is particularly important that your poster content seek ideas and partnerships that would move your idea into reality.

To advance the theme of the Symposium “Public Market of Ideas and Partnerships,” the Symposium will encourage interactions among researchers and occupational safety and health practitioners. Each poster will display the following three short-hand questions with a check box next to each question. The box of the first question will be checked for each poster. Authors can indicate on the poster submission form whether to check boxes two and three.

1. Interested? (i.e. Are you interested in this work; if not, is there a related type of work that would interest you more?)
2. Collaborate on this project? (i.e. Could we collaborate to complete this work faster or with a better product?)
3. Partner for impact? (i.e. Could we partner to improve the positive impact of this work on workplace practices?)

All poster viewers will be encouraged to submit comments and responses to these and other questions posed by the authors.

Posters will be accepted based on their relevance to occupational safety and health research, including moving research into workplace practice; NORA; and the theme of the Symposium. Content that is overly commercial will not be accepted. Authors are not required to attend the Symposium in person in order for their poster to be accepted.

Submission

Poster content must be submitted on a [Word template](#) via E-mail to noracoordinator@cdc.gov. In order to allow accurate translation of the submitted information into a printed poster and a webpage in the virtual conference, the instructions on the template must be followed closely. Send questions to theadley@cdc.gov or contact Tanya Headley by phone at 304-285-6278.

Deadline for receipt of full poster submissions is March 7, 2008. Notices of acceptance will be forwarded to the corresponding author no later than March 28, 2008. Posters accepted from authors who plan to attend the Symposium will be put into a poster template and printed by NIOSH for display during the afternoon poster session in Denver. Additional posters accepted by those who will not attend in person but will participate in the virtual conference may also be chosen for printing and display in Denver. All accepted posters will be displayed on the NORA Symposium 2008 website and will be included in the virtual conference.

Author Responsibilities for Interacting with Poster Viewers

Authors attending the Symposium in Denver will be expected to attend their poster for one hour during the afternoon poster session, collect comment cards at the end of the session, and respond to each commenter within a few days (unless the comment was anonymous).

During the virtual conference from July 30 to August 12, corresponding authors will be expected to monitor their E-mail to receive comments forwarded by NIOSH from on-line poster viewers. An author should respond to each comment within a few days. Authors are encouraged to submit an initial response through the virtual conference website in order to encourage others to join the public discussion. All comments received by NIOSH from poster viewers and authors that are suitable for public display will be displayed on the virtual conference website.

The continuation of discussions between individual authors and poster viewers beyond the initial exchange of a comment and response is at the discretion of those involved. The capability for information exchange through the virtual conference website will be maintained for several weeks following the formal end of the virtual conference on August 12, in case some viewers and authors decide to continue using that public forum.

At each stage, the corresponding author commits to keeping all co-authors as informed and involved as is practical.

Additional Information

If you have questions about the submission of posters, please contact Tanya Headley at theadley@cdc.gov or 304-285-6278. If you have questions about NORA Symposium 2008, contact the NORA Coordinator (Sid Soderholm) at noracoordinator@cdc.gov or 202-245-0665. Please also see the website for more information www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/symp08/default.html.