

NIOSH Training Project Grant Annual Report 2017

Program: Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine
MSPH - Industrial Hygiene

TPG Summary: This NIOSH Training Grant is affiliated with and supports the Tulane MSPH Industrial Hygiene Program. The mission of the Industrial Hygiene program is the education and practical training of scientists and engineers as professional industrial hygienists. Graduates are prepared to enter or advance careers in industry, government, academia, and other areas where the skills and competencies of an industrial hygienist are required. The MSPH program is also designed to provide graduates with the academic preparation needed to qualify for and pass the professional certification examination administered by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene. As such, graduates are provided with classroom and field training in the anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of chemical, biological, and physical health stressors in the workplace and indoor environments. The Tulane MSPH-IH program is currently accredited by the Applied Science Accreditation Commission of ABET through 2023.

The goals of this NIOSH-funded training program grant are to increase the number of under-represented individuals in industrial hygiene and to expand the availability of graduate training in industrial hygiene for early- and mid-career professionals.

Specific aims to accomplish these goals are to:

- 1) recruit and retain minority, disadvantaged, and mid-career students;
- 2) provide financial support to minority, disadvantaged, and mid-career students in the form of tuition, stipend, and/or professional travel reimbursement;
- 3) train and educate minority, disadvantaged, and mid-career students in the field of industrial hygiene.

Public Health Relevance: There is a documented shortfall in the numbers of OS&H professionals being produced by academic programs in comparison to the projected needs of business, governmental, and academic employers. The shortfall of new graduates in OS&H in comparison to the estimated need is being exacerbated by the aging of the OS&H workforce with disproportionate rates of retirement among safety and health professionals. Furthermore, the need for increased participation of minorities in OS&H professions has been documented by various agencies and organizations. The Tulane University TPG has dedicated resources and time for the recruitment of minority, disadvantaged, and mid-career students and training grant funds have been instrumental in increasing awareness of IH as a career path and in recruitment of all students to the Tulane IH program.

Key Personnel:

Roy J. Rando is Professor and Vice-Chair of the Department of Global Environmental Health Science at Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine. Professor Rando is the Director of the Tulane TPG.

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TPG web link:

<http://www.sph.tulane.edu/gehs/msph-ih>

Program highlights of high impact: In the past year, 3 students were enrolled in the Tulane on-campus industrial hygiene program and 15 were part-time students enrolled in the distance learning program. Five of these students are under-represented minorities. The program graduated 3 students in the past year and 1 on-campus and 4 distance learning students were appointed trainees and received support from the training program grant. The on-campus trainee assisted on a faculty research project investigating crystalline silica exposures and silicosis prevalence and progression in a large cohort of sand, gravel, and crushed stone workers.