

**Training Project Grants  
Annual Program Highlights  
Reporting Period: July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015**

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<b>Training Program Grant Name: Texas A&amp;M Health Science Center Occupational Safety &amp; Health Training Program</b>	
<p>The primary high-impact outcomes from our Training Grant program center around two main areas: increasing the number of qualified OS&amp;H personnel in the local and regional workforce and practice-based internship experience in OS&amp;H. To those ends, our program, over the past reporting period has proven extremely successful. In the aim of increasing the number of qualified OS&amp;H personnel in the region is due to a number of factors, not least of which is the need. The current shortfall in the occupational health and safety workforce in the USA has been well documented in recent years. This shortfall has been well established for both short and long-term needs. For example, the <i>Occupational Outlook Handbook</i> (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012) and the <i>National Employment Matrix</i> (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012), both published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, indicate that both the overall need and growth in the field of occupational health and safety will continue to increase. For longer-term prospects in occupational health and safety, BLS states that the expected employment of occupational health and safety specialists is expected to increase around 14% by 2016. For the reporting period, July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015, the supported students have made a significant impact in increasing the overall number of qualified OS&amp;H personnel in the region. Of the program-supported students, the first continues to pursue his DrPH with an emphasis on ergonomics and sedentary behavior in office workers and the second continues her MPH related coursework and is scheduled to graduate in May 2015. As a department, over the reporting period, we have graduated 27 total graduate students currently working in OS&amp;H-related fields. Another significant activity of the program is the internship experience. The internships provide invaluable training for the students and often result in permanent employment upon graduation. In fact, many of the graduates are employed as specialists. Internships are required for the students with many finishing their MSPH/MPH or DrPH degrees with two full-semester internships.</p> <p>For the reporting period, the supported students successfully completed practicum internship experiences at Boeing Inc. in Seattle, Washington as an HSE interns working on safety and ergonomic improvements on the assembly line and with StatOil as an OHS&amp;E Intern working on onshore safe practices manuals revisions based out of Houston, TX. One of the supported students is continuing with SPH to complete their coursework in Occupational Safety &amp; Health (MPH), the other graduated in May 2015 and is currently pursuing a law degree focusing on Occupational Safety &amp; Health. Overall, as a department over the reporting period, there were 31 internships completed by graduate students in OS&amp;H-related fields. Additionally, the faculty were awarded several seed grants for our new faculty and their labs along with multiple seed and startup grants including \$177,000 in Industry Sponsored Research Projects (J&amp;J, OERC, Dell, HP) and a \$347,527 three-year NIH grant that focuses on mobility outcomes with obesity.</p> <p><b>Program Leadership and Affiliated Faculty Publications:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Benden, M.E.; Zhao, H.; Jeffrey, C.E.; Wendel, M.L.; Blake, J.J. The Evaluation of the Impact of a Stand-Biased Desk on Energy Expenditure and Physical Activity for Elementary School Students. <i>Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health</i>, September 2014, <i>11</i>, 9361-9375.</li> <li>2. Paterson, C; Miller, K; Benden, M; Shipp, E; Pickens, A; Wendel, M; Pronovost, P., The Safe Day Call: Reducing Silos in Health Care Through Frontline Risk Assessment, <i>Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety</i>, Volume 40, Number 10, October 2014, pp. 476.</li> <li>3. Dornhecker, M., Blake, J.J., Benden, M., Zhao, H., Wendel, M.; The effect of stand-biased desks on academic engagement: an exploratory study; <i>International Journal of Health Promotion and Education</i> Published online 21 Apr 2015.</li> <li>4. Bellingar, T., Benden M. “New ANSI/BIFMA Standard for Testing of Educational Seating” <i>Ergonomics in Design: The Quarterly of Human Factors Applications</i>, April 2015, Vol. 23, Number 2, pp 23-27.</li> <li>5. Kortum, P., Peres, S.C. (April 2014). The Relationship Between System Effectiveness and Subjective Usability Scores Using The System Usability Scale. <i>International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction</i>, 30 (7), 575-584.</li> <li>6. Hong, Y., Goldberg, D., Vollmer Dahlke D., Ory, M.G., Cargill, J.S., Coughlin, R., Hernandez, E., Kellstedt, D.K., &amp; Peres, S.C. (October 2014). Testing Usability and accessibility of iCanFit, a web application to promote physical activity, among older adults, <i>JMIR Human Factors</i>.</li> <li>7. Smith M.L., Pickens A.W., Ahn S., Ory, M.G., DeJoy, D.M., Young, K., Bishop, G., &amp; Congleton, J.J. (2015). Typing performance and back discomfort among overweight and obese office workers: A pilot study of keyboard modification. <i>Applied Ergonomics</i>, 46, 30-37</li> <li>8. Mehta, R.K. &amp; Cavuoto, L.A. (2015). The effects of obesity, age, and relative force levels on handgrip endurance. <i>Applied Ergonomics</i>, 46(A), 91-95</li> <li>9. Mehta, R.K. &amp; Agnew, M.J. (2015). Subjective evaluation of physical and mental workload interactions across different muscle groups. <i>Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene</i>, 10(1), 62-68</li> <li>10. Peres, S. C., Kortum, P. T., Akladios, M., &amp; Muddimer, A. (2015) Developing and validating a self-report assessment tool for software biomechanics. <i>Journal of WORK</i>, (Preprint), 1-12.</li> </ol>	

<p><b>Program Related Presentations:</b></p> <p>Peres, S.C., Mehta, R., Bewaji, O., &amp; Brantley, S. (2015) Exploring variables associated with users' satisfaction, performance, and physiological responses based on keyboard attributes. Poster presented at the 2015 Houston Human Factors and Ergonomics Symposium, Houston, TX. USA</p>
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