

**University at Buffalo, SUNY Occupational Safety and Health Training Project
Annual Progress Report**

October 5, 2016

Prepared by:

Lora Cavuoto, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering,
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Victor Paquet, Sc.D., Associate Professor, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering,
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Section I.

TPG Summary

The University at Buffalo, SUNY Occupational Safety and Health Training Project (UB OSH Training Project) produces highly qualified safety and health M.S. graduates to impact occupational safety and health (OSH) practice in NY, and beyond via a rigorous academic program, formal research, practical experiences and training. Master's level students from Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) complete courses on OSH topics, including safety, ergonomics, industrial hygiene, and epidemiology, and will graduate with a concentration in OSH while obtaining their ISE degree. They also complete OSHA certification training in such topics as Hazardous Materials Handling to expand their knowledge beyond traditional coursework. Further specialization is received through the completion of a mentored thesis research project and a required internship provided in cooperation with the Niagara Frontier Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers and the local New York State Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Trainees gain work experience from the internship, preparing them to enter the OSH workforce upon graduation, and the research experience that encourages OSH citizenship and life-long learning. Throughout the program, trainees participate in development activities and engage with local safety professionals at local, regional, and national meetings. Over the past 9 years, trainees within this Program participated in close to 100 OSH professional development activities.

The Program benefits from the strong collaboration between the UB ISE Department, the UB Toxicology Research Center, the Atlantic OSHA Training Center, and the Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Faculty members from each of these groups work closely with all of the trainees in the courses, during the internship, and while advising their thesis research. Faculty expertise in occupational safety, ergonomics, and toxicology allows trainees to specialize their research work in one of these areas. Areas of strength among the program faculty and theme areas for student projects include addressing occupational health disparities to protect vulnerable populations and promoting total worker health.

Relevance

After completing this program, trainees are prepared to meet modern-day health and safety challenges, such as preventing hazards associated with the introduction of new technologies, managing hazardous chemicals, and preventing injuries among vulnerable workforces (e.g., older adults).

Key Personnel

Lora Cavuoto, Ph.D. Project Co-Director. She is primarily responsible for recruitment and training program evaluation.

Email: loracavu@buffalo.edu

Phone: (716) 645-4696

Victor Paquet, Sc.D., Project Co-Director. He is primarily responsible for academic advisement and reporting progress to NIOSH.

Email: ypaquet@buffalo.edu

Phone: (716) 645-4712

Paul Kostyniak, Ph.D., D.A.B.T. Project Faculty Member. He serves as a liaison with the WNY Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine (COEM), and oversees placement at the COEM. He also coordinates offerings of the Industrial Hygiene course at the Toxicology Research Institute.

Email: pjkost@buffalo.edu

Phone: (716) 828-3601

Joseph Syracuse, Ph.D. Project Faculty Member. He provides OSHA training courses taken and provides student mentoring.

Email: jsyracus@buffalo.edu

Phone: (716) 829-2125

Hartley Hutchins, M.S., C.I.H., C.S.P. Project Faculty Member. He instructs the project's Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene course.

Email: hh24@buffalo.edu

Phone: (716) 829-3630

Website:

http://www.ise.buffalo.edu/graduate/NIOSH_Traineeship

Section II. High Impact Stories

The UB OSH Training Project is contributing to the next generation of the region's OSHA Compliance Officers. For example, three of our traineeship fellows joined the Occupational Safety and Health Administration as OSHA Compliance Officers: Shannon Kennedy, M.S., 2009 Philadelphia Area Office, Mark Fenzl, M.S., 2012, Albany Area Office, Albany, NY, and Maria Bejarano-Roderiguez, M.S., 2014, Buffalo, Area Office Buffalo, NY. Kathleen Urtz is currently interning for the Buffalo Area Office and plans to pursue a career in occupational safety and health.

This year two of our trainee fellows graduated from our M.S. program. Trevor Plizga took a position in spring 2016 with ErgoFit, a Seattle-based ergonomics consulting company, and has recently accepted a consulting position in Ann Arbor, MI at Humantech, one of the oldest and largest ergonomics consulting firms in the country. Lydia Kocher is interested in conducting ergonomics research, and recently interviewed for a position at the NIOSH's Office of Mine Safety and Health Research in Pittsburgh, PA.