



NORA news

National Occupational Research Agenda

Volume 3 • Number 2 • Fall 2000

Message from Linda

As many of you have probably heard by now, I accepted a new position as Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles. I began my duties at UCLA on November 1, 2000.



NORA is truly one of the proudest achievements from my six year tenure at NIOSH. I would like to thank everyone who has made NORA's success possible. This includes the over 500 external partners who helped create NORA, the NIOSH staff and over 200 organizations who are responsible for implementing the Agenda, the Liaison Committee, the Federal Liaison Committee, the Steering Committee, and the Partnership Team members. From the beginning, NORA has been a lesson in partnership. We

owe NORA's continued success to the strong partnerships we have created and maintained over NORA's first four years. Upon NORA's conception, the Agenda was thought to have a 10 year life span. I know you will all help NORA make it through her mid-life crisis and take care of her well into old age.

Given that NORA now typifies the way we do business at NIOSH, I am confident that the inroads we have made with NORA will continue long after I am gone. The NIOSH leadership, under the guidance of Acting Director, Larry Fine, M.D., Dr.P.H., and Deputy Directors Kathleen Rest, Ph.D. and Diane Porter, remains committed to NORA and to continuing the success we have achieved to date.

I have devoted my working life to the field of occupational safety and health. In my new role as Dean of the UCLA School of Public Health I will continue to be a strong advocate for the field, for NIOSH, and for NORA.

Fondly,

Linda Rosenstock, M.D. M.P.H.



NORA Days

On September 20, 2000, NIOSH Morgantown held the first of two "NORA Days" meetings to increase the awareness and involvement in NORA efforts throughout the Institute and to recognize the outstanding NORA research conducted internally at NIOSH. The second meeting was held in Cincinnati on October 4, 2000.

Both events included a NORA overview and update by NIOSH Director, Linda Rosenstock. In Morgantown, Greg Wagner discussed NORA from his perspective as a member of the NORA Steering Committee and Scott Deitchman presented the team perspective highlighting his experiences as Team Leader of the Health Services Research Team. In Cincinnati, Mary Lynn Wobkenberg discussed the importance of NORA for NIOSH investigators from her perspective as a member of the NORA Steering Committee. Tom Camm, a member of the Social and Economic Consequences of Workplace Illness and Injury Team, presented his perspectives as a team member and Paul Schulte discussed communicating the vision of NORA.

After the remarks, a poster session was held so that each NORA team could highlight their activities. Attendees were able to interact with NORA team members to get a better perspective of the NORA research underway at NIOSH and learn how they can get involved. ■

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Big NORA

Recognizing its unique position to conduct large studies that can have a significant impact on a particular area of research, in March 1999, NIOSH encouraged its intramural researchers to join together to compete for new FY 2000 NORA funding with large scale proposals in selected NORA priority areas. The proposals underwent multiple steps of internal review. Following an external, NIH-like, peer review process, three areas were chosen for further development – musculoskeletal disorders, allergic and irritant dermatitis, and asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. NIOSH funded these three interdisciplinary cross-divisional priority program areas for a total of about \$3 million. The funded projects include an exposure-response and intervention program for the prevention of work-related musculoskeletal disorders, development of a dermal policy based on laboratory and field studies, and research for occupational asthma reduction.

This effort generated considerable enthusiasm, both internally and externally. For FY 2001, NIOSH has undertaken similar efforts, and through an internal review process, has encouraged the development of program proposals in four areas: traumatic injury, noise and hearing loss, health care workers, and work organization, cardiovascular disease and depression. ■



Mark Your Calendar

NORA Symposium 2001
June 27, 2001
Washington, D.C.
Omni Shoreham Hotel

Call for Partnership Award Applicants

The NORA Liaison Committee is inviting nominations for the NORA Partnership Award for Worker Health and Safety, 2001.

The NORA Partnership Award, which is presented biennially, honors organizations that have joined in research partnerships to develop new equipment, practices, products, procedures, or policies for protecting workers from job-related injury, illness, or death. The 2001 award will be presented at a national NORA Symposium on June 27, 2001, in Washington, D.C.

Nominations are invited for collaborative achievements that have advanced research and prevention in occupational safety and health. Partners should nominate themselves jointly and must comprise three or more organizations, including at least one employer or organization representing employers, and at least one organization representing workers.

Nominations should include a nomination letter of no more than three pages and supporting documentation addressing the following elements, which will be used to select the winners of the award:

- A description of the research project, including the nature of the problem being addressed, and its findings
- Explanation of how the research findings were translated into action(s) to improve worker health and safety
- The extent of increased protection against work-related illness or injury resulting from the research partnership, measured by reduced occurrence or severity of injuries, illnesses, disability, or hazardous exposures, etc.
- The nature of the partnership and involvement by its members (please include background on how the partnership developed and roles of the different partners)

Nominations must be submitted for receipt by March 1, 2001, to

Dr. Bonnie Rogers
Chair, NORA Liaison Committee
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
School of Public Health, CB 7400
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7400
brogers@sph.unc.edu

Nominations may be submitted either as hard paper copies or electronically via e-mail. For paper copies, please submit 4 copies for each nomination. For electronic copies, please submit the nomination in Microsoft Word.

For further information about the NORA Partnering Award, contact Dr. Anita Schill, aschill@cdc.gov, 202/401-3740 or visit the NIOSH Website at www.cdc.gov/niosh. ■

NIOSH Extramural Awards in FY2000

By NORA Area October 18, 2000

This list includes 62 new R01, R21, and U01 awards that were made under the general grants program announcement and ten RFAs that were sponsored by NIOSH or co-sponsored by NIOSH and other NORA partners.

Allergic and Irritant Dermatitis

Dermal Absorption of Cutting Fluid Mixtures

Ronald Edward Baynes, Ph.D.
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC

Permeation of Irritant Mixtures Through Protective Materials

Shane S. Que Hee, Ph.D.
University of California
Los Angeles, CA

Activation of Skin Cells and Transcription Factors by Skin Irritants

Robert A Swerlick, M.D.
Emory University
Atlanta, GA

Asthma & Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Initial Respiratory Responses in Welding Apprentices

David H. Wegman, M.D.
University of Massachusetts
Lowell, MA

Fertility & Pregnancy Abnormalities

Male Subfertility by Ni²⁺ Poisoning of Ca²⁺ Channels?

Susan H. Benoff, Ph.D.
North Shore University Hospital
Manhasset, NY

Serum Inhibin B Levels in Male Polymer Production Workers

Richard Lewis, M.D.
University of Louisville Research
Foundation, Inc.
Louisville, KY

Ubiquitin-Based Semen Quality Assay in Toxicology

Peter Sutovsky, Ph.D.
Oregon Health Sciences University
Beaverton, OR

Infectious Diseases

BBP Exposure and Risk Factors in Non-Hospital Based HCW's

Robyn R.M. Gershon, Dr.PH
Columbia University
New York, NY

Bloodborne Exposure Management

Robyn R. Gershon, Ph.D.
Columbia University
New York, New York

Exposure to Blood Among Non-Hospital Health Care Workers

Jack K. Leiss, Ph.D.
Analytical Sciences, Inc.
Durham, NC

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Low Back

Low Back Pain: Physical and Psychosocial Job Factors

Niklas Krause, M.D.
University of California
Berkeley, CA

Identifying Safe Load Moment Exposures for the Back

William S. Marras, Ph.D.
Ohio State University
Columbus, OH

Spine Loading and Muscle Overexertion During Repetitive Lifting

William S. Marras, Ph.D.
Ohio State University
Columbus, OH

Ergonomic Assessment of Vineyard Systems

John A. Miles, Ph.D.
University of California
Davis, CA

Low Back Pain In Cyclic and Prolonged Occupational Activities

Moshe Solomonow, Ph.D.
Louisiana State University
New Orleans, LA

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Upper Extremities

Force- Repetition Interaction in a Rat Injury Model of C.T.D.

Mary F. Barbe, Ph.D.
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA

Exposure Response Relationship in Hand Arm Vibration

Martin Cherniack, M.D.
University of Connecticut
Farmington, CT

Prospective Study of Upper Extremity Musculoskeletal Disorders

Barbara Silverstein, Ph.D.
Washington State Department
of Labor & Industries
Olympia, WA

Traumatic Injuries

Occupational Injuries Among Commercial Fishers

Dana P. Loomis, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC

Understanding Occupational Injury and Illness Trends

Ted R. Miller, Ph.D.
Pacific Institute for Research
& Evaluation
Landover, MD

A New Method for Yield Pillar Design to Control Coal Bumps

Syd S. Peng, Ph.D.
West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV

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NIOSH Extramural Awards... *continued from page 3*

Safety of Youth Employment: A National Study of Parents and Teens
Carol W. Runyan, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC

Special Populations

Evaluating Teen Farmworker Education
Robin Baker
University of California
Berkeley, CA

Teaching Kids Safety on the Farm: What Works
Anne Gadomski, M.D.
Mary Imogene Basset Hospital
Cooperstown, NY

Using the ASHBMP Manual as a Tool to Reduce Farm Hazards
Malcom L. Legault, Ph.D.
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA

Evaluation of NAGCAT Using Case Series of Injuries
Barbara Marlenga, Ph.D.
Marshfield Medical Research
& Education Foundation
Marshfield, WI

Pesticide Training for Adolescent Migrant Farmworkers
Linda A. McCauley, Ph.D.
Oregon Health Sciences University
Portland, OR

Occupational Lead Exposure: Risk to the Aging Worker
Lisa A. Morrow, Ph.D.
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA

Aging Effects on Intermittent Work Capacity
Maury A. Nussbaum, Ph.D.
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and State University
Blacksburg, VA

Childhood Agricultural Safety and Health

David L. Parker, M.D.
Minnesota Department of Health
Minneapolis, MN

Adapting NAGCAT for Ethnic Communities: A Research Model

John M. Shutske, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN

Health Disparities Among Health Workers

Craig Slatin, Sc.D.
University of Massachusetts
Lowell, MA

An Evaluation of the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks

Sue Marie Wright, Ph.D.
Eastern Washington University
Cheney, WA

Control Technology

A Device for Eliminating Electrocutions by Mobile Cranes
Satish B Mohan, Ph.D.
Technological Systems Research
Williamsville, NY

Exposure Assessment Methods

Making Heat Stress Assessment Relevant Again

Thomas E. Bernard, Ph.D.
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL

Confocal Histopathology of Contact Dermatitis In Vivo

Salvador Gonzalez, M.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA

Statistical Problems in Occupational Safety and Health

Thomas Mathew, Ph.D.
University of Maryland
Baltimore, MD

RF Exposure and Melatonin Levels in Heat-Sealer Workers

Michael G. Yost, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Health Services Research

Social Inequalities in Occupational Health and Health Services

Allard E. Dembe, Sc.D.
University of Massachusetts
Shrewsbury, MA

Outcomes of Injured Employee Health Status Assessment

Robert H. Ross, Ph.D.
University of Vermont and
State Agricultural College
Burlington, VA

Intervention Effectiveness Research

Effectiveness of Computer-Based Hearing Test & Training

Oi S. Hong, Ph.D.
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Workers' Compensation Internet Low Back Pain Study

Kate Lorig, Ph.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, CA

Effects of an Ergonomic Intervention for Computer Work

David Rempel, M.D.
University of California
Richmond, CA

Social and Economic Consequences of Occupational Injury & Disease

Job-Related Arthritis and Disability in Retirement

Paul J. Leigh, Ph.D.
University of California
Davis, CA

Occupational Fatality Trends: A Contextual Analysis

Dana Loomis, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC

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NIOSH Extramural Awards... *continued from page 4*

SSDI Benefit Impacts of Occupational Injuries/Illnesses
David S. Salkever, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD

Surveillance Research Methods

The Youth Employment Training Pilot Program
Henry A Anderson, M.D.
State of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

Evaluation of a Surveillance Radiograph Standards Set
Scott Barnhart, M.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Improving Data Quality in Pesticide Illness Surveillance
Lynden P. Baum
Washington State Department of Health
Olympia, WA

Development of State-Based Surveillance
Michael Beller, M.D.
State of Alaska, DHSS
Anchorage, AK

Childhood Agricultural Trauma Evaluation System
Debora Boyle, Ph.D.
Minnesota Department of Health
Minneapolis, MN

Core Occupational Health Surveillance in Michigan
Lorraine L. Cameron, Ph.D.
Michigan Department
of Community Health
Lansing, MI

Enhanced Surveillance of Occupational Injuries to Youth < 18
Letitia K. Davis, Sc.D.
Massachusetts Department
of Public Health
Boston, MA

Evaluation of a Statewide Emergency Department Injury Surveillance System for Occupational Injury
Letitia K. Davis, Sc.D.
Massachusetts Department
of Public Health
Boston, MA

Occupational Health Surveillance of Low Income, Minority Populations through Community Health
Letitia K. Davis, Sc.D.
Massachusetts Department
of Public Health
Boston, MA

RRIS II: Agricultural Injury Surveillance
Susan Goodwin Gerberich, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

Worker and Worksite Factors in DIA Construction Injury
Judith E. Glazner, M.Sc
University of Colorado
Denver, CO

Core Surveillance Model Program in California
Robert J. Harrison, M.D.
Public Health Institute
Oakland, CA

Surveillance of Work-Related Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
Robert J. Harrison, M.D.
California Department
of Health Services
Oakland, CA

Model Occupational Dermatitis Surveillance/Interventions
Michael A. Heumann
Oregon Health Division
Portland, OR

Partnerships in Surveillance and Prevention
Linda McCauley, Ph.D.
Oregon Health Sciences University
Portland, OR

Linking Occupational Injury and Illness Data Bases
Kenneth D. Rosenman, M.D.
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI ■

NORA - A Model for Partnership

International and Foreign National Organizations

- European Agency for Safety and Health at Work
- Istituto Superiore Per La Prevenzione E La S Curezza Del Lavoro (the Italian Institute for Occupational Safety and Health)
- Japanese National Institute of Industrial Health
- Norwegian National Institute of Occupational Health

Federal Agencies and Programs

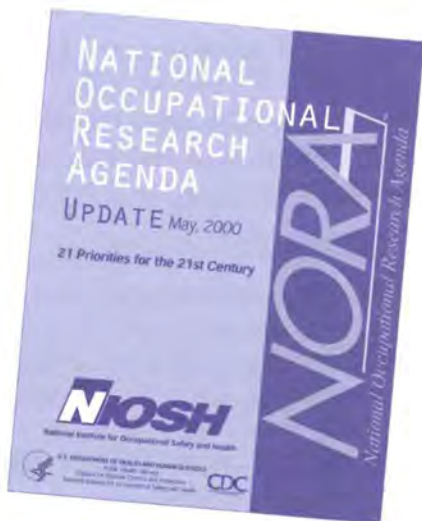
- Department of Defense, Deployment Toxicology Research and Development Master Plan
- Environmental Protection Agency, Human Health Indoors Project
- Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board
- National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
- Centers for Disease control and Prevention
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

State Agencies Conducting Occupational Health Research

Maine
California
Washington

Non-Profit Research Organizations

- The Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center, Occupational Research Agenda for Northwest Farming
- The Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology ■



NORA Update 2000

The NORA Update 2000 was released in May 2000. The document is available electronically at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/norabout.html>

NORA News - A Success

Reader responses to our NORA News survey have been very positive. Most of you feel that the newsletter is quite useful, and many of you are pleased with the frequency of distribution.

We are encouraged that you find NORA News useful for staying informed about NORA activities. We intend to keep improving NORA news with your suggestions since, for many of you, the newsletter is your primary source for NORA information.



For more information on NORA
contact NIOSH at:
1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674)
or visit the NIOSH Homepage at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/norahmpg.html>

NORA news

National Occupational Research Agenda

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