

PLENARY SESSION I

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014 | 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

3:30 PM

Research Frontiers in TOTAL WORKER HEALTH: Unique Perspectives from the NIOSH Centers of Excellence to Promote a Healthier Workforce

James A. Merchant, MD, DrPH; Martin Cherniack, MD, MPH; W Kent Anger, PhD; and, Glorian Sorensen, PhD, MPH

The four NIOSH-funded Centers of Excellence to Promote a Healthier Workforce are unified in the mission to create new knowledge that informs both practice and science on the integration of health protection and health promotion. Each Center employs a unique approach, including multiple research and outreach and translational projects in various sectors - large and small workplaces, public and private, urban and rural. The Centers are addressing critical gaps in the evidence base supporting TWH.

This plenary session will feature a panel of four brief presentations, one from each Center of Excellence, providing a description of their fundamental approaches to Total Worker Health and exemplars from their research, followed by discussion with the audience to identify new research directions and challenges.

Attendees will learn:

- A range of approaches to integrated health and safety used across the Centers of Excellence
- Measures being used in the Centers, including relationships observed among worker health outcomes, the work organization and environment, employment productivity measures and cost implications
- The importance of these results for TWH approaches to intervention and research to practice, as well as employee participation, program priority-setting and design



James A. Merchant, MD, DrPH, Founding Dean, Professor and Director of the HWCE, College of Public Health, University of Iowa.

Dr. Merchant is trained in Pulmonary and Environmental Medicine (Duke) and Epidemiology (UNC), served 9 years in the U.S Public Health Service and 7 as Director of the Appalachian Laboratory for Occupational Safety and Health, and since 1981 as a Professor in Occupational and Environmental Health and Pulmonary and Occupational Medicine, department head and founding dean of the College of Public Health, and founding director of the Healthier Workforce Center for Excellence (2006-present). His HWCE research has focused on statewide surveys of TWH practices and measures of well-being in relation to worker health and productivity.

Martin Cherniack, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine and co-Director of the Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace (CPH-NEW).

Dr. Cherniack has done occupational medicine and human factors related studies involving sound and vibration and health intervention studies in the public and private sectors. The scientific group is cross-disciplinary, and includes investigators in occupational medicine, work psychology, biomedical engineering, industrial hygiene, acoustics and health promotion.



W Kent Anger, PhD, Senior Scientist and Associate Director in the Institute of Occupational Health Sciences, Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine & Behavioral Neuroscience, and Director, Oregon Healthy Workforce Center, Oregon Health & Science University.

The primary focus of Dr. Anger's research is on: (a) the development of behaviorally-based computer training technology to teach the full range of workplace populations, and (b) the application of training technologies to prevent health and safety hazards, teach job skills to managers/supervisors and employees, improve well-being/wellness/work-family balance, and reduce the impact of domestic violence on the workplace (intervention effectiveness).



Glorian Sorensen, PhD, MPH, Professor and Director of the HSHP Center for Work, Health and Wellbeing, Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Sorensen and her research team have conducted a range of studies focused on designing and testing interventions to promote and protect worker health, including among workers in hospitals, construction, transportation, and manufacturing. Her research team has provided evidence demonstrating that the integration of occupational health and safety with worksite health promotion can significantly enhance health behavior change among blue-collar workers.

Demonstrating the Real-World Efficacy of Total Worker Health: Improving Health Among High-Risk Populations

Brenda Schmidt, MS, MBA, Founder, President and CEO, Viridian Health Management

In this Session, you will hear a real-world example of how the evidence-based practice of Total Worker Health (TWH) reduced the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and improved the health of employees.

Attendees will learn:

- How to integrate worksite health initiatives with primary care and occupational medicine
- The importance of leadership buy-in and integrating a TWH program into the fiber of an organization and its workers
- How to employ effective TWH strategies like motivational interviewing to engage workers in making their own healthy choices and leveraging available resources to improve their wellness and resilience

4:45 PM

Brenda Schmidt, MS, MBA, Founder, President and CEO, Viridian Health Management

As the architect of numerous successful community and worksite health programs, Brenda Schmidt is an expert on integrative healthcare services that deliver positive health and financial outcomes for employers, communities, and healthcare delivery networks. Schmidt works in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the National Healthy Worksite Program. She is also an adjunct professor in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation at Arizona State University. In addition, Schmidt also serves a leadership role in the Health Enhancement Research Organization (HERO) Think Tank, the Population Health Alliance, the Arizona Diabetes Coalition Leadership Council, and the Clinton Foundation's Health Matters Initiative.



1st International Symposium to Advance **TOTAL WORKER HEALTH™**



National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
October 6–8, 2014