

discuss how traditional wellness services often do not meet the needs, interests, and capabilities of individuals; the need for non-traditional services; and the roles and responsibilities of organizations in supporting their workers. This presentation will review the history and lessons learned from our early work in responder resilience. This includes our process for pulling together a diverse group of organizational leaders to lay the groundwork for the creation of a statewide system of support, how we fostered genuine collaboration, how we integrated the use of data to inform the program, and how we initiated resource sharing.

### **Community Participatory Approaches to *Total Worker Health*®**

#### **Improving Structural and Social Determinants of Health through Community-Led Interventions**

*Speaker: Shannon Guillot-Wright, PhD, Center for Violence Prevention*

Community-led interventions that address structural and social determinants of health are lacking among (im)migrant workers, especially seafood workers. This lack of medical attention is especially alarming given their high rate of injury and death. The future of work equity demands a research agenda that looks at occupational health holistically, including a focus on social and economic risk factors and a specification of social policies and policy prescriptions to promote equity in the workplace. Therefore, we conducted semi-structured interviews (n=46) and observations (n=56 hrs) with Gulf Coast shrimp fishermen to understand their healthcare experiences and needs as well as policies that are impacting their health. Community-based participatory research (CBPR), a relational model that values the participants as equal partners in research, dissemination, and implementation, guided the interviews. Seafood workers were engaged throughout data collection, analysis, and interpretation and played a significant role in moving the findings from research into actionable change. To address the lack of healthcare options for (im)migrants, and at the request of the seafood workers participating in the ongoing CBPR study, we successfully implemented and treated workers through a free mobile clinic. Many of these individuals had not been seen by a healthcare provider in years, highlighting the importance of community trust and rapport building when addressing interconnected health and safety issues. CBPR, when applied to high-risk occupational settings with underreached populations (e.g., (im)migrant workers), have the ability to improve health and prevent injury. This intervention adds to the growing literature detailing the potential benefits of using CBPR, and meeting people where they are, especially with marginalized populations.

### **Correctional Worker Health and Well-being using a TWH Approach**

*Speakers: Martin Cherniack, MD, MPH, University of Connecticut Health Center*

*Mazen ElGhaziri, PhD, UMass Lowell Solomont School of Nursing*

*Jared Ellison, PhD, Old Dominion University*

*James Hughes, PhD (c), MS, University of Connecticut*

*Lisa Jaegers, PhD, Saint Louis University*

*Sara Namazi, PhD, Springfield College*

There are approximately 500,000 corrections officers working in facilities housing over 2.2 million individuals incarcerated in jails and prisons across the U.S. Correctional workers are an at-risk occupational group with demonstrable threats to both physical and mental health. Correctional worker health traditionally has been a neglected area in occupational health. More recently, federal agencies, professional organizations, and state and regional bodies have been more attentive to staff health and well-being.

The purpose of this concurrent session is to share multilevel TWH projects that offer methodologies and examples of holistic needs assessment and intervention evaluation for workplace health promotion. Session one highlights a national corrections workplace project to identify organizational stress and

## 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium to Advance *Total Worker Health*<sup>®</sup>

### Session Abstracts

#### **A Different Type of Hearing Shift: Toward Total Hearing Health**

*Speakers: Caroline Johnson, MSN, RN, PHN, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health*

*Christi Themann, MA, CCC-A, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health*

Occupational hearing loss is one of the most common work-related illnesses in the United States, with an estimated 24% of hearing difficulty occurring among the working population being attributable to workplace exposures.<sup>1</sup> However, hazardous noise exists both in and outside of the workplace, such that non-occupational exposures can exacerbate occupational risks. In addition, other risk factors (such as age) and health behaviors (such as smoking) can interact with noise exposure to increase risk. Thus, effective prevention of occupational hearing loss requires an integrated approach that raises awareness and encourages protective behaviors both on- and off-the-job. The principles of *Total Worker Health*<sup>®</sup> can be readily adapted to a Total Hearing Health approach that comprehensively addresses occupational, environmental, and personal risk factors to help ensure overall worker hearing health and prevent long-term auditory and non-auditory sequelae that can profoundly impact safety, health, and well-being.

Additionally, hearing loss prevalence increases with age. As workers get older, the effects of early noise exposures may affect quality of life, while the effects of age may exacerbate the impact of workplace exposures. Even in the absence of workplace noise, hearing loss can create job-related difficulties and/or safety risks which should be addressed through a Total Hearing Health program.

In the US, as in most countries, hearing conservation programs are regulated for specific industries. Traditional hearing conservation programs largely focus on compliance with regulatory requirements and have typically depended on hearing protection devices to reduce noise exposure. Also at risk are non-regulated industries and other segments of the workforce who may not be included in a formal, employer-driven preventive program. Therefore, a wholistic management approach and inclusion of proactive educational and technological interventions can help shift occupational preventive programs and help promote greater health benefits to all workers.

This session explores an expanded view of hearing loss prevention: a Total Hearing Health approach towards protecting workers from noise and ototoxic substances. Noise-induced hearing loss is permanent, yet one of the occupational illnesses that is preventable.

#### **A Total Worker Health<sup>®</sup> Approach to Cancer Control and Prevention in the U.S. Fire Service**

*Speakers: Christopher Bator, Health and Safety Coral Springs-Parkland Fire Department*

*Alberto Caban-Martinez, DO, PhD, MPH, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center*

*Erin Kobetz, PhD, MPH, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center*

*Natasha Schaefer Solle, PhD, RN, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center*

This is a proposal for a multi-presenter concurrent symposia session that highlights the *Total Worker Health* (TWH) approach used in the Firefighter Cancer Initiative at the University of Miami. Firefighters are at an increased risk for cancer. Throughout their careers, they encounter numerous occupational hazards that pose significant threats to their immediate and longer-term health. Primary and secondary data collected through this initiative, including cancer surveillance, fire station and incident response exposures, firefighter safety and cancer screen behavior, and fire service culture and climate are analyzed to develop worker- and organizational-level interventions that translate into workplace and state-level policy. We will provide specific TWH approaches to control cancer burden in the fire service.

# 3rd International Symposium to Advance Total Worker Health®

The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Center for Work, Health, and Well-being

**3rd International Symposium to Advance Total Worker Health®**  
**Shaping work now and in the future**

**October 11-14, 2022**

**Bethesda, Maryland**

The Center for Work, Health, & Well-being is participating in the 3rd International Symposium to Advance Total Worker Health®, where safety and health professionals, employers, researchers, policymakers, and the academic community have come together to learn and connect. See the links below for some of the Center's materials that reflect the Center's research studies and research-to-practice activities to advance worker safety, health, and well-being.