

## Occupational Safety and Health Education, Training and Communication: Needs and Priorities for the Future

John Howard, MD, MPH, JD, LLM

The American workforce is becoming more diverse in age, gender, race and nationality. Moreover, changes are occurring in work organization as a result of changes in economic conditions, technology, corporate employment practices, and demographics. These changes complicate the implementation of workplace health and safety programs and necessitate more comprehensive, multi-disciplinary training and new types of training programs and delivery systems.

Training is a critical part of the NIOSH mission. NIOSH supports 16 education and research centers (ERCs) at universities in every section of the U.S. to provide professional training in the core Occupational Safety and Health disciplines. These programs are critical for meeting the increasing demand for occupational physicians, occupational nurses, and other professionals. NIOSH also supports Training Project Grants (TPGs), which provide training in occupational safety and health training areas. In 2000, 280 courses were offered to 8,501 trainees through these TPGs. NIOSH also funds more than 1,000 continuing education courses each year with up to 30,000 participants.

In addition to training professionals, NIOSH provides workers, employers, and the public with information, training, and capacity to prevent occupational diseases and injuries. We produce and disseminate a variety of documents, such as Alerts and Hazard IDs, educational documents, and small fact sheets/pamphlets to provide employers and employees with effective preventive measures. Our web site is an increasingly used and evolving resource. We added a Spanish-language section to the site last year to better serve the country's growing Spanish-speaking population.

NIOSH explores the role of training in preventing accidents and what type of training would be most effective for a particular industry or population. NIOSH believes future efforts need to explore and support the special needs of older, female, and ethnic/cultural groups of minority workers, and to encourage alternatives to traditional education and training programs. We will also be looking at what types of new training should we be promoting, such as just-in-time training or web-based distance learning.

**9:15-10:00            Opening Keynote Session: Occupational Safety and Health  
Education, Training and Communication: Needs and Priorities  
for the Future**

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**10 am                    Break  
Promenade Lobby  
Lobby Level**

**10:30-12:30 pm    Concurrent Scientific Sessions**

**Communicating Hazard Prevention**

**McKeldon Room**

**Cabana Level, South**

Moderator: *Sergio Iavicoli, MD, PhD, Italy*

- Trends and Priorities in Occupational Safety and Health in the European Union. *Sergio Iavicoli, MD, PhD, Italy. Coauthor: C. Grandi*
- Hazard Communication in the Workplace. *Jinky Leilanie D. Lu, Philippines*
- The European Campaign 2001 for OSH - Using an International Communication Code in a Regional Reality in Italy. *Idillio Tagliaferro, MD, Italy. Coauthor: Marco Nardi*
- Supervisory Training Practices in the Construction Industry. *Jacqueline Villnave, MHS, CIH, USA. Coauthors: Steven Hecker, MSPH; Marc Weinstein, PhD*
- Communicating Risk: A DOD Perspective. *R. Craig Postlewaite, DVM, MPH, USA*

**Targeting Risk Communication**

**Lincoln Room**

**Cabana Level, North**

Moderator: *Donald Eggerth, PhD, USA*

- Applying Communication Theory to Workplace Safety Messages. *Donald Eggerth, PhD, USA*
- Theoretically-based Eye Injury Prevention Messages: Working with Carpenters. *Catherine Inman, MD, MPH, USA. Coauthors: Vickie Lewis, MA; Larry Jackson, PhD; Doug Landsittel, PhD; Laura Blanciforti, PhD*
- Evaluation of a NIOSH Alert to Reduce the Risk to Fire Fighters from Structural Collapse. *Jennifer Wellbourne, PhD, USA. Coauthor: Steve Booth-Butterfield, EdD*



**October 28-30, 2002 • Baltimore, Maryland, USA**

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