



University of Cincinnati 16th Annual Pilot Research Project Symposium October 8-9, 2015



Pilot Research Training Program (PRP) Overview

Welcome to the University of Cincinnati Education and Research Center's (ERC) **16th Annual Pilot Research Project (PRP) Symposium** on October 8-9, 2015, held in the Auditorium of the Engineering Research Center, College of Engineering. The purpose of the PRP is to increase the research capacity of research trainees and young investigators in occupational health and safety and to encourage those in related disciplines to pursue occupational health and safety research.

Under the administrative direction of Dr. Amit Bhattacharya, research proposals are solicited and peer-reviewed annually from qualifying faculty and graduate students from the **University of Cincinnati and the following PRP partnering institutions – Air Force Institute of Technology, Bowling Green State University, University of Toledo – Health Science Campus, Central State University, Purdue University, University of Kentucky, Western Kentucky University, Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State University, Ohio University and Kentucky State University.**

At this symposium, the 2014-15 awardees will be presenting the results of their research and the 2015-16 awardees will make poster presentations of their proposed work. The keynote speaker on Thursday, October 8, 2015 is **James Thompson, PhD, PE**, Chief of the Hearing Loss Prevention Branch of the Office of Mine Safety and Health Research under NIOSH, will deliver the keynote address on "**Noise Control of Large Mining Machines.**"

The University of Cincinnati's Education and Research Center is one of 18 such centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) nationally. Dr. Tiina Reponen serves as the director of the ERC, which is based in the university's Department of Environmental Health within the College of Medicine. The purpose of the ERC is to train professionals in the didactic and research skills necessary to lead the occupational safety and health disciplines. Results of research are translated into action through an outreach program and shared with professionals and practitioners in the region via continuing education.

Since 1999, the PRP program has allocated over \$1.2 million to support 213 pilot research projects. These projects have served as a catalyst in bringing over \$34 million in additional research support to the region from sources independent of the PRP program, such as, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), National Institutes of Health (NIH), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additionally, the PRP has brought

46 new investigators from other fields of expertise to the area of occupational safety and health research.

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