



University of Cincinnati 20th Annual Pilot Research Project Symposium October 10-11, 2019



Pilot Research Training Program (PRP) Overview

Welcome to the University of Cincinnati Education and Research Center's (ERC) 20th Annual Pilot Research Project (PRP) Symposium on October 10-11, 2019, held in the Kettering Lab Auditorium. 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 and Dr. Gordon Gillespie, research proposals are solicited and peer-reviewed annually by 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 2018-19 awardees presented the results of their research and the 2019-20 awardees made poster presentations of their proposed work. The keynote speaker on Thursday, October 10, 2019 was Dr. Laura Punnett on "Total Worker Health®: Integrating Workplace Health Protection with Workforce Well-Being." Dr. Punnett is a Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Co-Director for the Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace, a NIOSH Center of Excellence in Total Worker Health®, and Senior Associate, UML Center for Women and Work at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

The University of Cincinnati's Education and Research Center is one of 18 national centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). 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 in 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 \$1.5 million to support 248 pilot research projects. These projects have served as a catalyst in bringing over \$41 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 59 new investigators from other fields of expertise to the area of occupational safety and health research.

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