

Elaine Symanski, PhD



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Elaine Symanski, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Public Health. She is also Director of the Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (SWCOEH) that supports research, education and outreach in occupational and environmental health. With training in exposure science and epidemiology, Dr. Symanski's research expertise is in developing methods for assessing workplace and environmental exposures, especially as they relate to their application in health effects studies of vulnerable populations. For over 15 years, she has consistently demonstrated success in leading research projects in occupational and environmental health. As a Principal Investigator (PI), she is currently leading a National Institute of Environmental Health (NIEHS)-funded project to address potential health risks associated with metal exposures.

Dr. Symanski is also leading a U.S. EPA funded project to evaluate the modifying effects of psychosocial stressors on risks for hypertension associated with air pollution among individuals of Mexican origin residing in Houston, TX. Dr. Symanski recently completed a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-funded study to assess the impact of air toxics on childhood leukemia. Since 2011, she has served as PI of a NIOSH-funded Education and Research Center (ERC), one of 18 ERCs in the nation. Dr. Symanski has been a member of National Research Council Committees of The National Academies and previously served on the Human Health Subcommittee of the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC), U.S. EPA.