

## SWCOEH NIOSH ERC 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilot Project Research Symposium

On June 22, 2018 the [Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health](#) (SWCOEH) at UTHealth School of Public Health hosted the **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilot Projects Research Symposium**. This year's keynote speaker was Robert D. Daniels, PhD, Health Scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Education and Information Division (EID). Keynote presentation, "Cancer in the Fire Service, An Overview of Completed Research," reviewed the [research led by NIOSH](#) to better understand the potential link between firefighting and cancer. Dr. Daniels has been with NIOSH since 2001 and is the NIOSH liaison to the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) for the World Trade Center Health Program. This presentation was followed by seven pilot project awardee presentations on their research findings.



Robert D. Daniels, CDC/NIOSH

The **47 attendees** included UTHealth faculty, trainees, students, and staff from UTHealth School of Public Health's Houston, San Antonio and Austin campuses along with others by live webinar streaming.

### **Pilot project awardees who presented included the following:**

Marcio L. S. Bezerra, MS, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center on Oxidative Gases and Particulates' Oxidative Potential from Non-Conventional Welding

Yu Feng, PhD, Oklahoma State University on A Virtual Human System for Health Risk Assessments in a Representative Whole-Lung Configuration Associated with Welding Fume Exposure

Erika Figueroa-Solis, MS, UTHealth School of Public Health, Houston on Working Conditions and Health in Central America

Jennifer M. Reingle Gonzalez, PhD, UTHealth School Public Health, Dallas on Law Enforcement Officer Stress Response Surveillance Study (Leo-Stress) Pilot

Ashley Shortz, MSPH, Texas A&M School of Public Health on Development of Fatigue Risk Assessment Method for High Risk Environments

Wei-Chung Su, PhD, UTHealth School of Public Health, Houston on Ultrafine Particle Respiratory Deposition Measurement

Ying Xu, PhD, University of Texas, Austin on Occupational Exposure to SVOCs from Indoor "Green" Paints



Pilot Project Awardees from left to right:  
Wei-Chung Su, Ying Xu, Yu Feng, Ashley Shortz, Jennifer Reingle Gonzalez



UTHealth and MD Anderson faculty, students and members of City of Houston Fire Department

The goal of the [Pilot Projects Research Training Program](#) (PPRTP) is to enhance SWCOEH regional outreach efforts in research training and to foster stronger inter-institutional ties in occupational health research within Public Health Region 6 (PHR 6) (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas). The objective of this program is to provide a support mechanism for pilot research projects initiated by junior faculty, graduate research trainees, and new faculty researchers in the field of occupational health and safety. Since 1999, the SWCOEH PPRTP has awarded over **\$1.3 million to 131 researchers** in PHR 6.

The SWCOEH is funded by a grant by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Grant Number 5T42OH008421. The Director of the SWCOEH is Elaine Symanski, PhD and PPRTP Director is David Douphrate, PhD, both in the UTHealth School of Public Health Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences.

Please visit the [PPRTP website](#) or email [PilotProjects@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:PilotProjects@uth.tmc.edu) for program information.

*- Published by Michelle McDaniel, SWCOEH Continuing Education Coordinator in collaboration with David I. Douphrate, PhD, Associate Professor and Director of NIOSH Pilot Projects Research Training Program*

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