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## Occupational Medicine Orthopedics Workshop

Feb 24, 2017 – Round Rock, Texas –

Resident physicians and practicing physicians from Texas attended an intense two-day workshop to learn practical hands-on tools to effectively diagnose and manage the treatment of patients with work-related orthopedic injuries.

This is the sixth year for the [Orthopedics Workshop](#), which is generously supported by Texas Mutual Insurance Company in partnership with the Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (SWCOEH) and Texas A&M College of Medicine.



Dr. Nick Tsourmas, Medical Director of Texas Mutual and orthopedic surgeon led the workshop with a passion for sharing his knowledge of proper diagnosis of workplace Spine and Upper Extremity Injuries and tools for transcribing effective notes for workers compensation claims and reimbursement.

The 2017 workshop topics included: a presentation by Dr. Ed Bernacki, of the UT Austin Dell Medical School, on the Impact of Occupational Medicine to the Bottom Line, a discussion led by Shannon Pounds, Esq from Texas Mutual on the Legal Aspects of Workers Compensation Claims, an interactive demonstration by Dr. Nelson Avery, of the Texas A&M Health Science Center in Round Rock, on the Formulation of Effective Treatment Plans, and an instructional segment on establish of Causation by Dr. James Kelaher of Baylor College of Medicine. The workshop concluded with case studies presented by UTHealth School of Public Health - SWCOEH's [Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency](#) Program Director, Dr. Chip Carson that were evaluated by participant teams in order to understand the need for a focused stepwise treatment plan and the value of collaboration to achieve optimal management of musculoskeletal injuries.



Dr. Tsourmas explained, "These kinds of sessions go a long way to improve physicians' abilities to efficiently manage work-related musculoskeletal injuries and to minimize unnecessary costs associated with them."

*Special thanks to Dr. Nick Tsourmas, Medical Director of Texas Mutual and the following workshop collaborators;*

*Shannon Pounds, Vice President of Claims Litigation at Texas Mutual*

*Chris Agosta, Provider Relations Consultant at Texas Mutual*

*Dr. Nelson Avery, Director of the Preventive Medicine Residency Program at Texas A&M College of Medicine in Round Rock*

*Ms. Stephanie Staggs, Program Coordinator of Graduate & Continuing Medical Education at Texas A&M College of Medicine in Round Rock*

*Ms. Eva Rivera, Administrative Assistant Texas A&M College of Medicine in Round Rock*

*Dr. Chip Carson, Director, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency Program at UTHealth School of Public Health – SWCOEH*

*Dr. Jim Kelaher, Director of the Occupational Health Program at Baylor College of Medicine*

*Dr. Ed Bernacki, Professor of Medicine and Executive Director for Healthcare Solutions of UT Austin's Dell Medical School.*

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