

## SWCOEH Welcomes Dr. William Perkison

The Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (SWCOEH) welcomes **William “Brett” Perkison, M.D., MPH**, as Assistant Professor of Occupational Medicine in the Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences.

Originally from Texarkana, Texas, Dr. Perkison earned a bachelor’s degree in biology at Texas A&M University and a medical degree at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He completed residencies in Family Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine followed by a residency in Occupational and Environmental Medicine at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Public Health. Dr. Perkison is board certified in both specialties and a Fellow in the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.



After graduation he joined the faculty of Family Medicine at Baylor and became medical director of Strawberry Community Health Center which is part of the Harris Health network of community health clinics. In this capacity he delivered primary care to Harris Health’s underserved community. He also established a disability clinic at the site to provide an objective means of establishing patients’ eligibility for social security disability insurance. More recently, Dr. Perkison established an on-site health clinic for the employees at Texas Children’s Hospital while also serving as their occupational health medical director. He developed chronic disease management programs in the areas of diabetes and hypertension for employees and also worked with the employer health benefits program to provide incentives for employees to better utilize preventive medicine services. Dr. Perkison continues to serve as a co-investigator and medical director for a Baylor research project that is funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, a project evaluating the effectiveness of home intervention visits to reduce triggers in adult African American patients with severe asthma.

Previously, Dr. Perkison worked at Shell Oil as a regional occupational health manager and acquired expertise in providing for the occupational and preventive health needs of employees in corporate, research, and downstream manufacturing settings. Throughout his career Dr. Perkison maintained an active occupational and primary care practice for employee populations and the general public.

As the newest faculty member to join the SWCOEH, Dr. Perkison plans to continue his research in the effectiveness of employer health care innovations for their employees, particularly in the areas of chronic disease management, disease education programs, targeted case management, and home intervention programs. Measured outcomes of his research include rates of absenteeism and presenteeism, safety incidences, and occupational injuries and illnesses. Safety

and occupational injuries are the typical metrics used to assess the degree of workplace safety for an organization; however, Dr. Perkison's research joins that of others to suggest that improving the general health of the workplace population greatly reduces injury rates. Dr. Perkison also maintains an appointment at the UTHealth Department of Family and Community Medicine where he provides primary and occupational care to patients. Moreover, this practice will serve as a location for him to launch his clinical research.

"I'm excited to join the School of Public Health and I very much look forward to contributing to the important work of the SWCOEH." stated Dr. Perkison.