

Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health

The CDC / NIOSH Education and Research Center at
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

www.swcoeh.org

Mission As one of the first and continuously funded NIOSH Education and Research Centers (ERC) in the nation, the SWCOEH ERC has a 44-year history of commitment to occupational safety and health (OSH) and addressing a shortage of OSH professionals. With contributions from partners in industry, government and community organizations, the SWCOEH's mission is to promote and improve health, safety and well-being for workers and the community throughout Public Health Region 6: **Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.**



SWCOEH ERC Director: David Gimeno, PhD | E-mail: david.gimeno@uth.tmc.edu

Education and research-based training program for improving workers' well-being and business performance

Purpose To train OSH professionals to recognize, evaluate, and control work-related threats and to identify opportunities to promote well-being and business performance.

Industrial Hygiene (IH) — To anticipate, recognize, evaluate, control and protect workers from hazards at work that may result in injury and illness.

Occupational Medicine (OM) — To diagnose and treating work-related injuries and illnesses and promote the well-being of workers.

Occupational Epidemiology (Occ Epi) — To identify and evaluate work-related exposures that may be linked to risks for injury and illness.

Total Worker Health (TWH) — **1st graduate level program in TWH in the U.S.** dedicated to identify, characterize and integrate workers' well-being and safety, and to develop, implement and evaluate strategies, policies, and programs to improve health.

84 masters and doctoral trainees in IH (50), OM (18), Occ Epi (13) and TWH (3) in 2015-2020

All graduates are employed and currently serving the needs of communities, industry, government and academia



Occupational Medicine

- Memorial Hermann, TX
- Phillips 66 refinery, TX
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Industrial Hygiene

- Los Alamos National Laboratory, NM
- Sandia National Laboratories, NM
- Shell, TX
- U.S. Navy

"It is an honor to graduate from an outstanding program that pushes you to be the best version of yourself."

"The education received gave me the foundation and experience to seamlessly transition into my career."

"If you want a rewarding career in a field that has the chance to affect the entire population, work with the SWCOEH."

"The SWCOEH quality faculty and staff provides you with the resources and training needed to get the job of your dreams."

Occupational Epidemiology

- Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, TX
- University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, TX
- U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, TX

SWCOEH ERC Minority Alumni Success Stories

W. Harrison—African American, started her journey at Tulane University in New Orleans, enrolled in the SWCOEH Occupational Epidemiology program and currently works for the Defense Health Agency at Fort Sam Houston.

A. Rodriguez—Latina, raised in an agricultural migrant family from South Texas, joined the Occupational Epidemiology program and is now a post-doctoral researcher research focusing on occupational health and safety among agricultural workers.

L. Cienega—Hispanic, faced a challenging background from Rio Grande Valley, successfully graduated from the Industrial Hygiene program and currently works at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

Finding Solutions Through Research

22 Years

\$1.5 Million

147 Projects

41 Institutions

Pilot Projects Research Training Program

Promotes regional **inter-institutional ties** by fostering **short-term research projects** initiated by investigators and research trainees in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) sectors: Services; Oil and gas extraction; Public Safety; Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing; and, Construction; and **cross-sectors:** respiratory health, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, injuries and musculoskeletal health. Also, novel issues such as nanotechnology or application of innovative technology ('prevention through design').

- AR** Arkansas State University, University of Arkansas, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- LA** Louisiana State University, Southeastern University, and Tulane University
- NM** University of New Mexico, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
- OK** Oklahoma State University, University of Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, University of Tulsa
- TX** Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor University, Texas A&M components, Texas Tech, Texas Woman's, University of Houston, University of Texas components and schools

Funded Research Projects

UTHealth School of Public Health— The Hurricane Harvey Outreach Protection Plan Worker and Resident Survey.

Oklahoma State University—Mitigating infection risks to airborne SARS-CoV-2 laden aerosols in the patient rooms via in-table air sanitizers and smart ventilation control.

New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology—Respirable silica dust characteristics and sources in the mining industry.

Louisiana State University—Avoiding Sonographer Injury—Randomized Controlled Trial of Standard and Specialized Prenatal Sonography with Restricted compared to Usual Daily Exposure to Obese Gravidas.

Tulane University—Physiological and psychological impacts of fabric face masks in the occupational environment: an assessment of real and perceived heat stress, cardiovascular load, and work rate.

Updating knowledge, skills, and current practices

Continuing Education and Outreach

Provides **easy access to a wide range of specialized training** for physicians, nurses, industrial hygienists, safety professionals and other occupational safety and health professionals to better protect workers' health and improve how they do their job.

In 2015-2020...

24,115

Contact Hours

7,224

Professionals Trained

181

In-person & e-trainings

Attendees from all states

March 2020-January 2021

6,289

COVID-19 Training Hours

4,705

Attendees

59

Webinars & media

CE inquires: SWCOEH.CE@uth.tmc.edu | 713-500-9447

COVID-19 Outreach

Since **MARCH 2020**, faculty, staff and students provide COVID-19 outreach and training to a professionals and organizations across PHR6 and the U.S, on keeping workers and customers safe, returning to work, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and provided consultations. Visit www.SWCOEH.org and navigate to the **COVID-19 Resources link**.