

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.**



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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.

82 masters and doctoral trainees in IH (45), OM (16), Occ Epi (13) and TWH (8) in 2016-2021

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



Industrial Hygiene

- Los Alamos National Laboratory, NM
- Lawrence Livermore Nat’l Lab., CA
- BAE Systems, Incorporated, PA
- U.S. Airforce

Occupational Medicine

- Memorial Hermann, TX
- Phillips 66 refinery, TX
- U.S. CDC

“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.”

Occupational Epidemiology

- UTHealth Houston, TX
- U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, TX
- National Center for Farmworker Health
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

“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.”

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 an Assistant Professor 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

23 Years

\$1.6 Million

152 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 AR, LA, NM, OK, and TX.

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').

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| 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 |

Funded Research Projects

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences—Aerosolized Human Papilloma Virus in Health Care Workers

Texas A&M HSC—Musculoskeletal pain of traditional office workers after long-term remote work

Oklahoma State University—Mitigating infection risks to airborne SARS-CoV-2 in patient rooms

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

Louisiana State University—Avoiding injuries among sonographers

Tulane University—Physiological and psychological stress of fabric face masks in the occupational environment

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 2016-2021...

21,197

Contact Hours

4,343

Professionals Trained

154

In-person & e-trainings

Attendees from all states

2020-2021

9,452 Online training hours

7,451 Attendees

92 Webinars & media

COVID-19 Outreach

We have provided on-site training to over 1000 workers and 28 businesses across PHR6 on keeping workers and customers safe, returning to work, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and provided consultations.

We have worked with 15 health and non-health community partners to facilitate over 60 on-site clinics in small, medium, and large employers in AR, OK, and TX, reaching out to near 3000 workers.