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AOEC NEWS

Spring/Summer 2001 ♦ Vol. 9 Issue

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN RACHEL RUBIN, MD, MPH

On June 13, 2001, Grace Paranzino and I were honored to accept the CDC and ATSDR Honor Award for Partners in Public Health on behalf of the AOEC and our Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU). The award is inscribed "For outstanding leadership and public service in improving pediatric environmental health through innovative provider education and community health promotion activities." At the reception following the awards ceremony, Grace and I were inundated with compliments from CDC and ATSDR senior staff. I would like to thank everyone involved in the PEHSU project for earning this recognition for AOEC.

That said, I would like to reassure the members that in spite of the fact that we have recently gained national recognition for our PEHSU project, the organization has not changed its focus. We are still committed to a high quality, preventive, public health approach to occupational and environmental medicine. We've just expanded our focus a bit. As a new parent, I am rapidly discovering that not only are children "not just small adults" they are truly a totally different species!

The most recent round of RFP's will soon expand our lending library. Five awards were made for modules. James Cone, MD, MPH will be leading the team to develop a module on solvents. William Beckett, MD, MPH and Dina Markowitz, PhD will be developing the module on smoking cessation. Karen Mulloy, DO, MSCH will finalize a module on silicosis. The team from West Virginia University led by Alan Ducatman, MD, MPH and John Meyer, MD, MPH will update the modules on lead and cardiovascular disease. The funding for a sixth module on pesticides will be awarded in July. I encourage all of you with basic Powerpoint slides that you are willing to share with other AOEC members donate these to the AOEC library. The ten programs donated by my predecessor, Tee Guidotti, MD, MPH have been requested by a number of members.

The deadline for submissions for the RFP to develop a criteria for identifying asthmagens in the AOEC exposure coding system is July 12. If you haven't seen the AOEC exposure coding system, please go to the AOEC website, click on epidemiology tools, then click on exposure codes. This is a great tool for identifying exposures on a clinical level. All of us would like to be able to code our exposures by RTEC or CAS number but we all know that in the clinical setting this is nearly impossible. While the exposure codes were developed for the AOEC Database project and are a part of that software program, they are also available on the web site, in hard copy format, and as a stand alone program.

Sleep deprivation and performance is an issue that has always held an interest for me. It is good to see that the American Medical Students Association (AMSA) is getting national publicity for this issue as it relates to medical residents. There was a great story on CNN June 19 about the AMSA efforts. They had hoped to get a resolution discussed at this year's annual American Medical Association meeting but that was tabled at the last minute.

Internal Medicine, Pediatric and Family Medicine residency programs are all required to abide by some minimum hours restrictions, but many programs are not in compliance with even these minimal standards set out by the Residency Review Committees of these specialties. The struggle for reduced work hours for residents has been going on for over 15 years and it's about time that the mainstream medical leadership in this country take a strong unified stand to provide decent working conditions for our doctors in training. This is a workplace health and safety issue and one which AOEC members should review at their home institutions.

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Internet: <http://www.aoec.org>

On July 1, *Michael R. Grey, MD, MPH* will become Chief of the Occupational & Environmental Medicine Division at the *University of Connecticut Health Center (UConn)*. Dr. Grey has taught and practiced general internal medicine and occupational medicine since joining the UConn faculty in 1989 and has been heavily involved in the school's undergraduate, graduate, and CME educational programs. In addition to his new divisional position, Dr. Grey will continue to function as Associate Dean for Continuing Education and as the residency program director for the UConn Occupational & Environmental Medicine residency. The Division extends its deepest appreciation for the creative, committed, and humane leadership provided by *Dr. Eileen Storey* who will taking a one year academic leave before returning to UConn to develop new clinical, research, and educational programs in the area of indoor air quality, respiratory illness, and school health.

On June 1, 2001 at a press conference in Ottawa that attracted nationwide attention, the Canadian Institute of Child Health released a key document on the topic of child health and the environment with emphasis on global climate change. *Changing Habits, Changing Climate: A Foundation Analysis* is the product of two years of deliberations by a Steering Committee of scientists and other experts, supported by the Climate Change Action Fund. *Dr. Tee L. Guidotti* was a member of the Steering Committee.

The Toronto based *Ontario Health Clinics for Ontario Workers* is an AOEC member clinic and very involved in the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition participating in the Occupational and Environmental Working Group. In collaboration with other Canadian partners they have developed an action plan which was endorsed by the Toronto Board of Health in May.

The primary working paper can be found on the web at the Occupational Health Clinic for Ontario Workers, Inc. website at:

www.ohcow.on.ca/english/handbooks/preventcancer/prevcancer.pdf

The Worker's Health and Safety Center: This site provides readers with a great introduction and the Action Plan as well. www.whsc.on.ca/cancerstory.html

Unites Steelworkers of America
www.uswa.ca/english/hs&e/prevcancer.pdf

All working group reports are now available at the Central East Cancer Prevention and Screening Network website:
www.ccorce.cancercare.on.ca/prevention.asp



These are interesting times in occupational and environmental health. After seeing Linda Chavez nominated for Secretary of Labor and the Ergonomics Standard killed, we weren't holding out too much hope for OSHA. However, the nominee to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health is John Lester Henshaw. Mr. Henshaw has won the approval of both labor and industry. Confirmation hearings will begin shortly.

No word as yet about who will be nominated for the post as NIOSH director. AOEC has just received a letter from the CDC search committee requesting nominations. Nominations are now open for the new director. If you are interested in nominating someone, the paperwork must be submitted by August 17. For more specific information, contact Connie Clayton at CDC at 770-488-1874 or via e-mail at cclayton@cdc.gov.

One final note on NIOSH directors. While all of you realize by now that Kathleen Rest, PhD has taken over as acting director from Lawrence Fine, MD, I've learned that not all of you understand why. The shift was not because Larry Fine wasn't doing a good job but instead reflects Dr. Koplan's management style. Dr. Koplan takes advantage of openings to allow various members of senior staff to experience new duties. If the Bush administration does not have a permanent director in place in a few months don't be surprised to find Kathy Rest replaced as acting director (and her replacement might be Larry Fine).

There are changes occurring at AOEC as well. Sheila Arbury, our program coordinator for the past four years will be leaving AOEC after July 13. Sheila has taken a position as Health Scientist in the OSHA Office of Occupational Health Nursing. While we will miss her, given her new job responsibilities, we won't lose contact. Her position as program coordinator will be filled by Ingrid Denis, MA. This is indeed the same Ingrid Denis who left us for the world of museums two years ago. When she realized that the only part of her new job she truly enjoyed were the public health interactions with special populations and ADA issues, she felt she should get back to a job where public health was a full time focus. Ingrid will take over the nursing initiative and database project as well as several site specific locations.

The AOEC Board met on May 18 and reviewed a number of issues. One item reviewed was the resolution on asbestos screening. Thoughtful comments were received from a number of members and the resolution was revised one last time. Clinic members will be asked to approve the new verbiage which is as follows:

The AOEC is concerned that medically inadequate screening tests are being conducted to identify cases of asbestosrelated disease for legal action. These tests do not conform to the necessary standards for screening programs conducted for patient care and protection. Screening is only conducted as a preliminary step in determining the presence of asbestosrelated disease.

AOEC therefore supports the following statement(s):

Screening on the basis of chest x-ray and work history alone identifies possible cases but does not by itself provide sufficient information to make a firm diagnosis, to assess impairment or to guide patient management.

An appropriate screening program for asbestosrelated lung disease includes properly chosen and interpreted chest films, reviewed within one week of screening; a complete exposure history; symptom review; standardized spirometry; and physical examination.

Programs should also include smoking cessation interventions, evaluation for other malignancies and evaluation for immunization against pneumococcal pneumonia.

Timely physician disclosure of results to the patient, appropriate medical followup and patient education are essential.

Omission of these important preventive aspects in the clinical assessment of asbestosrelated lung disease falls short of the standard of care and ethical practice in occupational health.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 6-10, 2001 - 24th Annual Occupational Safety and Health Summer Institute, Norfolk, VA. NCERC, 1-888-235-3320, <http://www.sph.unc.edu/osherc/>

September 3-7, 2001 - International Short Course: *Ventilation Design*.

September 8-11, 2001 Children's Environmental Health II-A Global Forum for Action. The special vulnerability of children and how they are impacted by the environments in which they live, learn, work, and play. Children's Environmental Health Network and The Canadian Institute of Child Health (CICH). Contact CICH 613-798-8029 or scall@magma.ca

September 10-12, 2001 - International Short Course: *Biological Agents in the work and home environment: exposure assessment and risk evaluation*. Utrecht, The Netherlands. Utrecht University. <http://www.slm.wau.nl/eoh>

September 21-22, 2001 - 14th Annual Occupational Medicine Update, Destin, FL. Current issues in occupational medicine; designed for physicians in OEM or general or family practice but with topics of interest to other occupational safety and health professionals. Contact: Melinda Sledge, The Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety, UAB, School of Public Health, Birmingham, AL 35294-0022, 205-934-7178, <http://www.uab.edu/dsc>

October 4-9, 2001 - North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology Conference,

Montreal, Canada. International group of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and scientists; wide variety of toxicological issues. Program details at www.clintox.org or contact Contemporary Forums Conference Management, 11900 Silvergate Drive, Dublin, CA 94568, 925-828-7100 Ext 0.

October 8-12, 2001 - 12th Annual Occupational Health Nursing Symposium, St Paul, MN. Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety, 612-626-4515, www.mwc.umn.edu

October 22-23, 2001 - *Ergonomics of Occupational Vibration*, Birmingham, AL. Designed for physicians, nurses, industrial hygienists, safety engineers, managers, industrial engineers, human resource professionals, and ergonomics teams. No previous knowledge of this subject is required for course attendees. Contact: Melinda Sledge, The Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety, UAB, School of Public Health, Birmingham, AL 35294-0022, 205-934-7178, <http://www.uab.edu/dsc>

December 17-21 - *International Conference on Pesticide Exposure and Health*, Natcher Conference Center, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Building 45, 45 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892. Sponsored by the Society for Occupational and Environmental Health. Contact Degnon and Assoc. 703-556-9222 Fax:703-556-8729 Email: soeh@degnon.org.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (DOEM), School of Medicine, State University of New York(SUNY) at Stony Brook seeks an occupational medicine physician as Assistant/Associate Professor. The position includes clinical and consulting work, research, teaching, and administrative responsibilities. Candidate must be a MD, licensed to practice medicine in NY and Board Certified in Occupational Medicine from a residency program. Experience with clinical, research and teaching responsibilities and administrative work is required. Certification in primary care, infectious diseases, and/or emergency medicine is highly desirable. The DOEM, School of Medicine, SUNY at Stony Brook, extends its clinical and educational expertise to Long Island. Its industries include small and medium size plants, several large companies exist mostly of electronics and high technology fields. Eastern Long Island is largely agricultural with a significant migrant labor force. The environmental and occupational problems are not unique, but the opportunity to engage in careful evaluation and

analysis of the hazards is a challenging one. In addition to its interest in reaching and diagnosing populations for occupational and environmental diseases and injuries, the Division contractually assumes the responsibility for its University Hospital Employee Health Service. Please send address those needs. This position is based in Portland, OR but will require significant travel to other parts of the State. Qualifications: BS or MS degree in industrial hygiene or safety, health education, or other public health discipline, or labor studies/labor education/adult education with specific experience in occupational safety and health, knowledge of and direct experience working with labor unions, preferably in a training capacity, strong teaching ability and demonstrated experience with learnercentered instructional methods, substantial experience writing curricula and training materials for adult learners, ability to teach in one or more of the following specific areas: ergonomics, safety and health program effectiveness, OSHA rights and procedures, hazardous materials, effective training methods, ability to work independently but also be part of a team, strong organizational skills and the ability to manage multiple concurrent projects, demonstrated computer skills and the ability to use a variety of application programs, Spanish language proficiency desirable. Starting date after August 1, 2001. Obtain an application packet from Karen Spradling, LERC, 1289 University of OR, Eugene OR 97403, 541-346-2783, or to kms@oregon.uoregon.edu or LERC website: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~lerc/research/outreach.html>.

CV to: Wajdy L. Hailoo, MD, Division Head, DOEM, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York 117948036.

The University of Oregon Labor Education and Research Center, (UOLERC) Portland, OR seeks an Outreach Safety Educator. OR Labor Safety and Health Education Program (OLSHEP) and UOLERC, in cooperation with OR's labor unions is launching a 5year safety and health training project for union members in OR. The goal of the project is to develop capacity in OR labor unions for on going training and technical assistance to workers in: recognition and abatement of workplace safety and health hazards, optimizing the performance of safety committees as vehicles for prevention of injuries and illnesses, and improving the overall quality of safety and health programs in OR workplaces. Education and training will be targeted at industries and occupations with recognized hazards that are significantly contributing to injuries, illnesses, and incidents in OR workplaces. The Outreach Safety Educator is will work directly with worker groups to meet identified education and training needs. This individual will work closely with the program dir., program coord., and other field staff to identify specific safety and health training needs of workers and develop courses or training programs that

Application must include: onepage cover letter, CV, 3 references, and responses to the 6 screening questions. Finalists may be asked to submit samples of curricula and/or training materials. Review of applications begins on July 9, 2001, until position is filled. Contact Steven Hecker, Associate Professor, UOLERC, 1289 University of OR, Eugene, OR 97403, 541-346-2788, shecker@oregon.uoregon.edu.

The Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (DOEM) at the **University of Connecticut School of Medicine** is seeking an Assistant/Associate Professor Physician to join its faculty. The position includes clinical and consulting work, research, teaching, and administrative responsibilities. Candidates must be a MD, licensed to practice medicine in CT and BE/BC in Occupational Medicine from a residency program. Experience with clinical, research and teaching responsibilities and administrative work is required. The salary is commensurate with the candidate's training and experience. The DOEM is a regional resource for a diverse range of clinical, consultation, and educational services, serving Northern CT, Western MA and Eastern NY states. The DOEM is also responsible for the University's Employee Health and EAP services. Send

CVs to: Michael R. Grey, MD, MPH, DOEM, University of Connecticut Health Center MC 6210, 263 Farmington Ave., Farmington, CT 0603206210, (860) 6794576, FAX: (860) 6791349, Email: grey@nso.uchc.edu

The Department of Community Medicine, West Virginia University (WVU) School of Medicine seeks an Associate Chair, Educational Programs. Candidate will be responsible for oversight of the Education Programs in the Dept. of Community Medicine: MPH Program, MS program in Community Health Promotion, collaboration in undergraduate School Health. Dept. has 37 faculty members with research interests in health policy, nutritional epidemiology, occupational health, school health, cancer, oral health, communitybased interventions including tobacco control, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. The dept. also has a commitment to communitybased service and teaching, including use of distance learning technology. A Prevention Research Center and an Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health, staffed with recognized researchers, are part of the dept. Researchers in the School of Medicine's Center on Aging and the Appalachian Institute for Health Policy have academic appts. in the Dept. Candidate will have an PhD, preferably in a core public health discipline or PhD with a MPH or equiv. degree. Requirements: administrative, research, and teaching experience, success in attracting external funding and resource development, experience in curriculum development and evaluation and ability to promote faculty development and enhance relationships with a variety of university, state, and regional constituencies. Send cover letter, CV, two reprints of your latest publications, and 3 references to: Dr. Bill Carlton, Professor, Community Medicine & Public Health, Chair, Search Committee, Dept. of Community Medicine, PO Box 9160HSC, WVU., Morgantown, WV 265069160. Email bcarlton@hsc.wvu.edu. Review of applications will begin July 20, 2001.

Yale University, Occupational and Environmental Medicine section, seeks a Research Associate to coordinate all financial, administrative and research-oriented activities for a multi-faceted consulting project. Responsibilities include: coordinating general administrative functions relating to the project and associated institutional grants; investigating epidemiological, regulatory, occupational, and environmental health issues pertaining to research through collaboration with internal and external colleagues, database research and risk analysis, and comprehensive review of the applicable literature; writing, editing and proofreading materials relating to projects; serving as resource on environmental and occupational health research and policy.

Ideal candidates should have an MS in a field related to

Occupational Health, Environmental Health, or Public Health and a minimum of 2 years related work experience in the private sector or the equivalent combination of education and experience in the public health arena. Send CV with letter of interest to: Mark Cullen, MD, Program Director, Yale University Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program, 135 College Street, Suite 366, New Haven, CT 06510; fax 203 785-7391; email: mark.cullen@yale.edu.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Division of Respiratory Disease Studies (NIOSH/DRDS) is seeking candidates for the position of Chief of the Surveillance Branch.

The Branch Chief is a senior leadership position, responsible for the planning, direction and execution of the activities and services of the Surveillance Branch while contributing to overall Division and Institute leadership. The Branch consists of approximately 25 epidemiologists, medical officers, industrial hygienists and support personnel responsible for a scientifically based program of population and casebased health and hazard surveillance, workplace surveillance and medical screening programs, and the public health application of surveillance information. The Branch has specific responsibility for administration of the federally mandated National Coal Workers' Xray Surveillance Program including the B reader training and certification program.

Qualifications for this position require experience and expert level knowledge of public health disease and hazard surveillance, medical screening, and public health research principles and practices that enable the Branch Chief to oversee and conduct complex surveillance and research projects in the area of occupational respiratory diseases. The Branch Chief provides authoritative technical advice both within NIOSH and to external stakeholders, playing a critical role in providing consultative services to State, local, and foreign occupational health agencies, to other programs in the CDC, to all personnel of this Institute, and to industry and labor. The Branch Chief is expected to contribute to scientific knowledge through writing, stimulating and participating in the development of manuscripts which are published in peerreviewed professional journals, as well as drafting critical agency papers which help shape public health policy. Candidates should include all pertinent information regarding their research accomplishments in the application (i.e., list of publications and presentations.)

For further information about this position, please contact Dr. Gregory R. Wagner, M.D., Director, Division of Respiratory Disease Studies (3042855749 or grw3@CDC.gov)

**REGIONAL ISSUES IN OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOR
THE PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER, DURANGO, CO, SEPTEMBER 14-15, 2001**

Through its cooperative agreement with ATSDR and NIOSH, AOEC is supporting an educational program in regional occupational and environmental health issues in Durango, CO September 14-15, 2001 at the Sheraton Tamarron Resort. The program will be followed by an AOEC regional meeting on the afternoon of September 15. The target audience is primary care practitioners in the Four Corners region (CO, UT, AZ, NM) and nearby areas of the West. Co-sponsors are the Rocky Mountain Academy of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, National Jewish Medical Research Center, the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, the University of New Mexico, and the High Plains Inter-Mountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety. The University of New Mexico CE program has administrative responsibility for providing the program's 12 continuing education credits. AOEC physicians who will serve as speakers include Cynthia Lewis-Younger, Bibi Gottschall, Tony Suruda, Cecile Rose, and Karen Mulloy.

➤ For further information contact the University of New Mexico, Office of Continuing Medical Education, Medical Building #2, Room 101, Albuquerque, NM 871315126, Phone: 5052723942, Fax: 5052728604, Website address: <http://hsc.unm.edu/cme>.

NEWEST PEDIATRIC ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALTY UNIT (PEHSU) PROGRAM

The PEHSU Program has achieved a major goal with the selection of the final regional PEHSU site. There are now twelve sites providing national access to PEHSU services!

The National Jewish Medical and Research Center (NJRMC), Denver, Colorado was selected as the Region VIII PEHSU site effective June 1, 2001.

Dr. Mark Anderson of Kid's Care Clinic - Denver Health System
&

Dr. Cecile Rose of National Jewish Medical and Research Center serve as co-directors.
The toll free number for this site is 1-877-800-5554.

➤ *Contact information for all sites can be found on the AOEC website: www.aoec.org.*

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