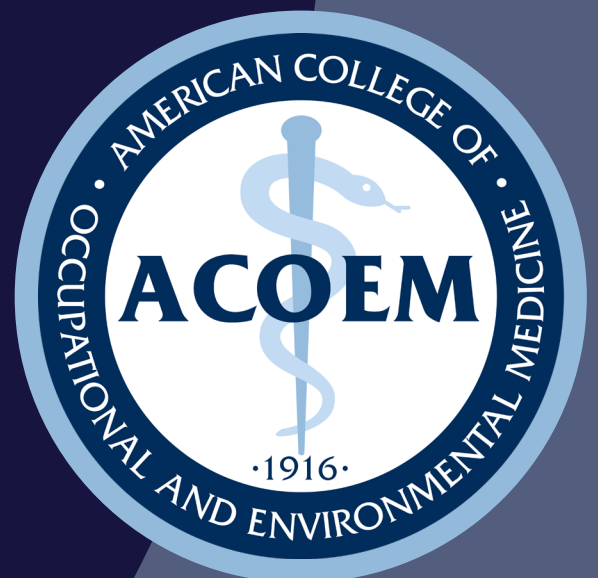


ENCORE 2023 PROGRAM



Educational Needs and Objectives

The ACOEM CME Mission is to provide Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM) physicians and other professionals who promote the optimal health and safety of workers, workplaces and environments with the [competencies](#) needed to prevent work-related injury and illness and to optimize treatment outcome.

Upon completion of Encore 2023, the learner should be able to:

- Evaluate current research;
- Analyze emerging issues in OEM; and
- Exemplify effectiveness and efficiency in carrying out professional responsibilities.

Target Audience

Encore 2023 is designed for physicians who specialize in or have an interest in OEM as well as for non-physicians, such as industrial hygienists, nurses, safety professionals, and environmental health specialists who are involved in the field. Encore offers a variety of educational activities for participants new to OEM as well as for the experienced professional.

ACCME Accreditation and Credit Designation Statements

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine designates this enduring material for a maximum of **24.75** *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Disclaimer

The ideas represented in presentations for Encore 2023 do not necessarily reflect ACOEM positions. ACOEM disclaims responsibility or liability for all products, services, or information presented in Encore 2023. ACOEM does not necessarily support the content contained in the educational offerings.

101 Suture Skill Workshop

This session is a hands-on skills session with workshop style areas for basic techniques. Will include instruction/refresher on local vs digital block anesthesia. Focus will be on gaining/regaining confidence with common work injuries then advancing skill set to include layered closure, addressing nail avulsions, grinder injuries, foreign body exploration. Short didactic presentations will cover evolved evidence base pertaining to wound care and underscore how higher level of competence can represent a value add for your patients. This workshop will also 'train the trainer' in quickly assessing a provider's current proficiency and then coaching needed new skills to include use of suture mat for training/practice.

Learning Objectives

- Advance suture technique (e.g., layered closure, digital block)
- Gain familiarity with using/teaching use of suture training mat
- Obtain insight on how to assess proficiency of provider's suture skills.

Faculty

John Burrell MD, MPH, FACOEM

Robert Bourgeois, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Rachael Zacks, MD, MPH, Chief Resident, Harvard T.H. Chan Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency Program

102 Pillar by Pillar: The Evolution of the Denver Fire Department Wellness Program

This session will outline the evolution of the Denver Fire Department Wellness Program, which has paralleled the considerable growth of the City & County of Denver over the last 10 years. Beginning with a timeline, each member of our multidisciplinary panel (Wellness Coordinator; Physical Therapist(s); Resiliency Coordinator; Wellness Chief; Wellness Physician) will share a brief overview of his/her role, the strategies utilized to establish these roles in a sustainable manner, and the relevant pillars of the IAFF/IAFC Wellness-Fitness Initiative that these roles support. The unique health risks of this population, relevant stakeholders for program development, and methods of employee engagement will be covered. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the current state will also be discussed, as well as future directions for the program.

Sponsored by the Public Safety Medicine Section

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the unique health risks & needs of the public safety population, including the occupational health standard used for firefighters (NFPA 1582).
- Describe key stakeholders required for program initiation & success over time, as well as bidirectional communication strategies.
- Describe how to maximize employee engagement via strategic program design, and exposure to available resources in a non-punitive environment.

Faculty

Alisa Koval, MD, MPH, MHSA

Jackie Fehr, Lieutenant, DFD; MEd, Kinesiology

Kelli Gilchrist, Technician, DFD; Licensed Professional Counselor

Eric Tade, Assistant Chief

Casey Stoneberger, DPT

Laura Stewart, DPT

103 Assessment of Impairment at the Worksite: Utilizing Law Enforcement Experience with Impaired Driving

Determination of workplace impairment is challenging with the legalization of medical marijuana in pennsylvania. The law allows individuals to work with medical marijuana providing they are not impaired. However, evaluation for impairment from marijuana is very difficult with blood testing considered not accurate and urine testing has minimal usefulness. The NHTSA and IAPC has developed a training program for law enforcement to determine driving while impaired that also includes marijuana. The training program is evidenced based, has stringent criteria, is legally recognized in all states and throughout the world and results in certification of individuals as Drug Recognition Expert. This certificate is only valid for law enforcement but the training process can be used by clinical people. The educational activity just provides an overview of the program and clinical exam techniques.

Sponsored by the TSOMA

Learning Objectives

- Discuss limitation in using urine drug testing in determining impairment
- List the designated clinical examination techniques required in the Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST)
- Discuss other examination techniques and clinical testing that may be useful in assessing impairment

Faculty

Edward McVay, MD, MPH
David Andrascik

104 Glyphosate: Agrochemical Miracle or Public Health Menace?

Glyphosate, the active ingredient in the weedkiller RoundUp, was developed in the early 1970s and is the most widely used herbicide in history. The chemical has helped the agricultural sector immensely by enabling large-scale control of troublesome weeds, saving time and money. More recently, it has come under intense scrutiny with regard to its impact on the environment and public health. In 2015 the International Agency for Research on Cancer designated glyphosate as a Group 2A chemical (probably carcinogenic to humans). Since that time, there has been a flood of lawsuits, a shift in public opinion, and greater scrutiny on regulatory and policy decisions regarding glyphosate use. This session summarizes the basic toxicology and scientific body of evidence on glyphosate's health impacts, while also discussing the increasingly complex legal and regulatory landscape.

Sponsored by the Environmental Health Section

Learning Objectives

- Articulate both the positive and negative perspectives on the public health views on glyphosate use. This includes the basic toxicological profile and the findings of high-profile scientific studies on the topic.
- Describe the complex factors that play into the current public policy debate over glyphosate.

Faculty

Ross A Mullinax, MD, MPH

John W. Downs, MD, MPH

105 Where's the Data? Building Data Sets for Continuous Quality Improvement of OEM Programs

ACOEM's Excellence in Corporate Health Achievement Award (eCHAA) brings attention to the importance of worker health, safety, and environmental management. Examiners look for an organization's performance measures, positive outcomes, and continuous quality improvement (CQI) and provides organizations with visibility and validation of their efforts to provide a safe and healthy working environment. Winning the Gold level of eCHAA rests on establishing actionable data sets for CQI. The Award's framework and underlying concepts offer many benefits to occupational medicine providers at any career stage, including demonstration of their ongoing data-based value to their organization. A panel will highlight the necessity of collecting the right data and using that data in the right way for attaining a culture for CQI. They will provide examples of quality data that can be used to support an application and involve the audience for ideas and perspectives.

Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate an understanding of the eCHAA criteria and process.
- Identify quality data and how to use that data for quality improvement within your organization.
- Describe how to best approach completing an application for the award.

Faculty

Julie Ording, MPH

Charles Yarborough, MD

David W. Cathcart, DO, MPH, FACOEM

William G. Buchta, MD, MPH, MS, FACOEM

Lori Rolando, MD, MPH

106 Update on Radiographic Screening for Pneumoconiosis

The presentation will provide an update on radiographic screening of dust-exposed workers for pneumoconiosis. Topics addressing conventional chest radiography will include the following:

- Pending update to the International Labour Office (ILO) classification system
- Information about the radiographic appearance of pneumoconiosis, particularly in US coal miners
- Information about the emerging role of artificial intelligence (AI)/machine learning in evaluation of chest radiographs for findings of pneumoconiosis.

Topics addressing chest high resolution computed tomography (HRCT) will include the following:

Considerations for use in surveillance for pneumoconiosis

- The International Classification of High-Resolution Computed Tomography for Occupational and Environmental Respiratory Diseases classification system
- Eligibility criteria for lung cancer screening with low-dose HRCT
- Application of HRCT in pneumoconiosis prevention.

Learning Objectives

- Describe technological advancements such as use of artificial intelligence/machine learning and ultralow dose chest high resolution computed tomography in evaluation of chest images for pneumoconiosis.
- Discuss advancements in use of chest radiography in pneumoconiosis screening such as new International Labour Office (ILO) chest radiograph standards, current insights into radiographic findings, and potential role of artificial intelligence / machine learning-based software for pneumoconiosis detection.
- Explain the evolving role of chest high-resolution computed tomography in medical screening for pneumoconiosis including considerations for use in the current time.

Faculty

David Weissman, MD

107 Preventing & Controlling Violence in Health Care: What Do We Know So Far?

Workplace violence (WPV) in healthcare is an epidemic that has continued to grow during the Covid-19 pandemic. This session explores the current state of WPV in healthcare, evidence-based interventions that can reduce the risk of violence, and an approach to developing effective, sustainable violence prevention programs that meet current and proposed regulatory requirements. The relationship between fostering a culture of worker and patient safety and prevention violence by patients and co-workers will also be discussed. The overall goal of this session is to provide information that will assist occupational and environmental physicians to effectively inform and support healthcare organizations and workers about how to address this costly occupational hazard.

Learning Objectives

- Define the scope and cost of WPV in healthcare to patients, healthcare workers and organizations
- Identify federal, state and accreditation entities WPV related regulations and standards
- Define an approach to developing a sustainable WPV program that includes evidence-based interventions to manage and prevent WPV

Faculty

Lynda Enos, RN, BSN, MS, COHN-S, CPE

108 Enviro-Jeopardy Or I'll Take Ramazzini for 50

While many important resources exist in teaching fundamentals of environmental medicine, codified teaching in this field is limited. We will define 50 fundamental concepts in environmental medicine through the game of jeopardy. Many clinicians and students entering the field of occupational and environmental medicine do not have any environmental health/ medicine education and as such lack the confidence in approaching the concepts. In this session, through audience participation in groups, we aim to cement widely agreed-upon environmental medicine concepts for the beginners in this field. The group participation will remove the anxiety that may be accompanied by individuals answering the questions.

Learning Objectives

- Identify 50 fundamental concepts in environmental medicine
- Describe in simple terms what the concepts mean and how they may be relevant to clinical practice
- Develop the confidence to seek further knowledge to advance their understanding of the field of environmental medicine

Faculty

Pouné Saberi, MD, MPH

Kushinga M. Bvute, MD, MPH

Kathleen M. Fagan, MD, MPH

109 IS MY PATIENT'S CANCER DUE TO THEIR WORK? Causation Criteria, Presumptive Laws and the Difference Between the Two

This session will address the issues of causation and association of cancer to a person's work. The sessions will begin with the principles to establish work relatedness. This will discuss point by point the issues that need to be considered. This will also address the Bradford Hill Criteria, the NIOSH criteria and the ACOEM clinical practice guidelines on work relatedness. There will also be discussion of presumptive laws and how they might apply to the opinions of the provider. The difference between legal and scientific causation will be addressed.

Sponsored by the Public Safety Medicine Section

Learning Objectives

- Describe the criteria that are needed to provide an opinion about causation, and learn the specific steps that need to be used in the analysis of each case.
- Explain the difference between scientific and legal causation
- Explain the concept of presumptive laws.

Faculty

Fabrice Czarnecki, MD, MA, MPH, FACOEM

Daniel Samo, MD, FACOEM

Tee Guidotti, MD, MPH, DABT

110 Assessing and Overcoming Psychosocial Barriers to Recovery from Musculoskeletal Injuries: A Panel Discussion of Available and Ideal Resources

Description In 2022 WCRI published 'A Primer on Behavioral Health Care in Worker's Compensation'. This white paper reported on the impact of psychosocial factors on recovery in workers compensation including a review of risk factors, screening tools, and treatments. This session puts together a panel of real world experts representing clinical and payer entities to discuss our progress and strategies to putting the findings of this report into practice.

Learning Objectives

- Name psychosocial factors that serve as barriers to recovery and understand methods and tools used to identify their presence.
- Describe techniques and providers that can address yellow flags and other factors that can result in delayed recovery.
- Gain knowledge of how experts and the entities they represent within the workers' compensation recovery system are implementing tools and techniques to measure and mitigate psychosocial barriers to recovery.

Faculty

Adam Seidner, MD

David A. Hoyle, DPT

Miranda Kofeldt, PhD, LP

Francis Burke, MD

111 Medical Impairment in NTSB Accident Investigations

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent, non-regulatory federal agency whose mission is to determine the probable cause of transportation accidents. Evaluation of human performance is an essential component of the accident investigation and medical aspects of human performance can play a significant role in accident causation. NTSB gathers a wide range of medical and non-medical information to evaluate medical impairment or incapacitation by the operator. Some medical conditions could have been readily identified by healthcare providers prior to the event. In some cases, the operator lied to occupational healthcare providers, but employers had access to information. Finally, in some cases, the medical issue was new or unpredictable and only discovered during the investigation. Through several case examples, this presentation illustrates the interaction of health with human performance and provides insight to providers who evaluate employees in safety sensitive positions for fitness for duty and medical certification

Learning Objectives

- Describe the approach taken by NTSB in evaluating potentially impairing medical conditions in transportation crash investigations.
- Recognize medical conditions that may adversely impact human performance for safety sensitive functions.

Faculty

Michelle Watters, MD, PhD, MPH

112 EHR Applications in Employee Occupational Health Practice: Post-Pandemic Landscape and New Horizons

EHRs are a critical component in employee health data management. In the AOHC 2022 talk entitled 'EHR Records in the Age of COVID-19: Opportunities, Pitfalls and How to Move Forward in a Fast-changing Environment,' a thorough review of the EHR challenges faced by employee occupational health departments during COVID was conducted. Furthermore, an ACOEM member survey was disseminated. Preliminary results revealed that the primary system EHR was used for primarily occupational medicine clinical practice and internal employee health tracking system, with the majority of members utilizing more than one EHR. Additionally, the top 3 desired EHR Functionalities in EHR were (i) clinical notes, (ii) imaging/labs, and (iii) medical surveillance electronic questionnaires. For this talk, we will provide a full analysis of the ACOEM member survey and glean additional insights into what these survey results mean for future employee occupational health practice. We will then delve into the current state of employee health informatics in the post-pandemic era and expand on future trends in employee health data management.

Sponsored by the Health Informatics Section

Learning Objectives

- Share complete analysis of the ACOEM member survey (distributed 2/1-3/27/22).
- Discuss current employee health informatics practice in one healthcare system as it pertains to medical surveillance.
- Provide updates on best practices as it pertains to employee occupational health EMRs, data management, and future directions.

Faculty

Marcia Isakari, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Manijeh Berenji, MPH, FACOEM

Arthur Sanchez, MSN, NP-C

113 MRO Controversies

MRO Controversies provides a review of MRO topics that are late breaking and of particular interest to practicing medical review officers. The session covers new information in the field and discusses the areas of MRO work that are the most difficult to deal with and for which often times there are diversity of opinions. The session also includes the popular 'MRO Jeopardy' game show educational format, which has become a mainstay at AOHC.

Learning Objectives

- Review of late breaking changes to federal and state statutes regarding drug and alcohol testing
- Review new science on drugs of abuse and how they affect workplace safety
- Implement consistent strategies in how to interpret drug test results in lieu of the new information above

Faculty

Douglas W. Martin, MD

Nathalie Hartenbaum, MD, MPH FACOEM

Kathryn Russo, JD

114 'I'm Fine'. Really? The Power of Human Connection to Effectively Communicate and Optimize Healthcare Worker Wellbeing

The pandemic has strained human connection and communication skills within the healthcare workforce with the lockdowns, vaccine mandates, physical distancing, wearing of protective equipment, remote working, and the stressful healthcare working environment. The healthcare workforce is exhausted, suffers from burnout and many are leaving the workforce. In fact, there is a shortage of health care workers in all fields. Many health care clinics don't have staff to provide sufficient coverage for the volume of patients they see. Have you asked a healthcare colleague how they are doing and they respond 'I'm fine!' However, you know they are struggling. How do I make that human connection to support my colleague? This presentation will focus on the skillset needed to rebuild trust and maintain human connection. This skillset is essential to effectively communicate and optimize healthcare worker well being. Human connection is essential for medical safety, retention of staff and interaction with patients. Topics that will be covered include: deep listening, seeing the pictures in the heads of others, and brokering trust more quickly.

Learning Objectives

- Identify the signs and symptoms of psychological stress that are compromising healthcare worker wellbeing.
- Describe the communication roadblocks to human connection and how to overcome them.
- Discuss techniques to effectively communicate more easily to build working relationships that support workforce wellbeing and how to individualize support that moves healthcare workers from burnout to wellbeing.

Faculty

Mary Ann Orzech, MD, MS, MBA

115 IS MY PATIENT'S CANCER DUE TO THEIR WORK? Review of association of Cancer in Public Safety Workers, Known Association with Other Occupations and How to Prepare Your Report

This session will address what is known about cancers in public safety workers (fire, police, and EMS). The limitations of the literature on this will be covered. Next will be a discussion of some of the cancers that have known causes in other occupations. Finally, there will be some very practical advice on how to prepare a report is the provider is requested to provide one.

Sponsored by the Public Safety Medicine Section

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the literature that identifies which cancers in which professions can be considered causally related to the patient's job.
- Appraise cancer incidence studies and draw conclusions on work-relatedness.
- Synthesize of the information learned from the literature analysis into a cogent report in a medicolegal context.

Faculty

Fabrice Czarnecki, MD, MA, MPH, FACOEM

Daniel Samo, MD, FACOEM

Tee Guidotti, MD, MPH, DABT

116 Leveraging Existing Guidance to Enhance Occupational Health Response to Biological Exposures

As editor of CDC/ NIH's Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories 6th edition (BMBL) released a year ago, and former Director of Environment Safety and Health at CDC, which included the Occupational Health Department, Dr. Paul Meechan will discuss medical surveillance and handling of exposures based on guidance from biosafety. As both research staff and occupational health professionals have a common interest in uncovering the potential risks from the research labs, the topics and questions that are useful for them to discuss with each other will be identified. Using the risk assessment process, both biosafety and occupational health professionals can anticipate the consequences from a potential exposure and mitigate any potential harm. Dr. Meechan will conclude by leading a discussion of case studies from his 30 years of experience in both pharmaceutical and government facilities.

Sponsored by the Physicians in the Pharmaceutical Industry section

Learning Objectives

- List biosafety resources that provide guidance to occupational health professionals
- Describe how a laboratory risk assessment can be used to identify the risks in a potential exposure
- Enhance your response to biological exposures

Faculty

Paul Meechan, Ph.D., MPH

Mary Ann Sondrini, EdM

117 Managing Hydration and Heat-related Illnesses in the Workforce: A Wearable Biosensor

Exposure to excessive heat during physical labor creates occupational safety risks, giving rise to deficits in physical and cognitive functions, and reduced work capacity, especially for those who are also required to wear personal protective equipment. The standard practice is to assess the risk of heat-related illnesses by employing environmental sensors or invasive physiological monitoring tools. Despite these accepted methodologies, it is recognized that within industries heat-related injuries may go unreported (Park et al, 2021). Here we utilize a non-invasive wearable sweat sensor technology to track fluid and electrolyte loss to assist in identifying early onset of heat strain and provide personalized fluid replacement strategies for each worker. In a recent field study (n=37 participants), we were able to reduce the risk of dehydration via real-time alerts and rehydration feedback to workers. By managing the hydration of each worker, the wearable sweat sensor is poised to provide actionable recommendations on how to rehydrate based on both fluid and electrolyte losses, thereby reducing the risk of heat illnesses and safety incidents on the job.

Learning Objectives

- Review factors of heat-related illness and discuss how utilization of a wearable technology can better monitor the effectiveness of existing safeguards.
- Describe how an individualized assessment of one's fluid and electrolytes deficit can help maintain a safety work environment in a hot environment.
- Discuss strategies to reduce the risk of heat-related illness.

Faculty

Michael Wasik, ATC, LMT, CSCS
Scott Levy MD

118 Bringing Your Workers' Compensation Documentation Up to Code

Do you care for patients with work injuries? Are you receiving appropriate compensation for your services? 2021 saw a welcome change in the documentation rules related to coding outpatient encounters. These changes in the Evaluation and Management (E&M) encounter rules from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provides more flexibility in documenting outpatient encounters. This should provide welcome relief to occupational health providers, who were regularly undercompensated for care that followed evidence-based occupational medicine practice guidelines but did not meet the previous rules for documentation based on specific history and exam elements. Now, occupational health providers can choose whether to use time-based coding or medical-decision-making based coding. In both these cases, it is important to understand what needs to be documented for a specific level of care. These changes should be beneficial to occupational health practices, but many have not adopted any changes to their documentation or coding practices. Attend this session to learn why and how to use the new coding and documentation rules in your practice setting.

Sponsored by the Finances and Practice Management Section

Learning Objectives

- Describe how the new E&M rules align better to evidence-based workers' compensation care.
- Explain how to apply the new E&M rules to workers' compensation documentation.
- Using fictional cases, determine the best E&M coding strategy for specific clinical situations.

Faculty

David Caretto, MPH, MRO, FACOEM

Marianne Cloeren, MD, MPH, FACOEM, FACP

Brian M. Chen, MD, MPH

119 Current and Complex Issues in Commercial Driver Medical Certification Part I

This session will provide an update on new and complex issues in commercial driver medical certification. Topics will include (may be modified to address the late breaking information if applicable) the 2022 Draft Medical Examiner Handbook and recent and planned regulatory changes such as Alternative Medical Standards. Depending on time provided, will discuss examples of guidance from sources other than the ME Handbook such as Medical Expert Panel Reports and Evidence Based Review. Information will be provided from FMCSA as well as how examiner and employers may be impacted.

Sponsored by the Transportation Section

Learning Objectives

- Describe content of Draft (of final) ME Handbook
- Discuss available guidance for MEs in making commercial driver medical certification determinations
- Explain recent and pending changes in regulatory requirements or guidance in the commercial driver medical examination process

Faculty

Natalie Hartenbaum, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Michael Berneking, MD, FACOEM, FAAFP, FAASM

120 Outbreaks and Epidemics: The Philadelphia Experience

COVID-19 is not the first epidemic to wreak havoc on the world. Philadelphia experienced its share of infectious disease outbreaks. An unlikely public health hero, Baron von Steuben emerged in the winter of 1777 at Valley Forge. He established field sanitation measures key to winning the war against infectious diseases. The hot, humid summer of 1793 found thousands of Philadelphians suffering jaundiced skin and bloody vomitus. While George Washington and Thomas Jefferson fled the city, others practiced social distancing and covered their mouths with handkerchiefs. Before eradication of smallpox in 1980, European exploration and colonization spread it to immunologically naive populations. Though an enslaved African introduced vaccination, vaccine deniers existed even then. An outbreak from an unknown bacterium at an American Legion Convention became known as Legionnaire's disease. Outbreaks dating back to 1957 were identified. Surveillance and identification of sources, control measures, and appropriate treatment are now known yet the public health threat remains. History continues to teach lessons applicable to today.

Sponsored by the History and Archives Section

Learning Objectives

- Describe the improvements in sanitary conditions at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777 and its ultimate contribution to the Continental Army winning the American Revolution.
- List several preventive measures assumed to be 21st century recommendations and innovations that existed during outbreaks in the American Colonial era.
- Describe the investigation of the disease outbreak at the American Legion Convention later designated Legionnaire's Disease and list the surveillance and control measures still required to manage the disease.

Faculty

Curtis Cummings, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Olga D. Emgushov, MD, MPH

Kenneth Lankin, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Verba Moore, MD, MPH, FACOEM

121 A Day in the Life Of an Occ Doc

Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM) is ranked one of the highest in professional satisfaction and lowest in physician burnout, and yet is one of the lesser-known medical specialties. OEM physician shortages have been ongoing for decades. The specialty attracts more mid-career physicians than medical students or recent graduates. Our session will describe the many OEM pathways one can take as a resident or as a mid-career physician and what a career in OEM can look like. OEM brings great skill diversity and offers many professional avenues from everyday clinic practice to specialty leadership including corporate medicine, to academia and research.

Sponsored by the Academic Occupational Medicine Section

Learning Objectives

- Learn the different training pathways available for those entering the specialty.
- Acquaint medical students, residents, recent graduates, and mid-career physicians with the many career paths and opportunities that exist within OEM.
- Discuss skills to advance career development and poise the OEM physician for success.

Faculty

Ana E. Nobis, MD, MPH

Alya Khan, MD, MS, FACOEM

Sajjad Savul, MD

Faiyaz A. Bhojani, MD, DrPH

122 IOMSC Updates: Global Occupational Health Priorities--including Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases through Workplace Health Initiatives and Mental Health and Well-being for Health Care Professionals and other WHO SDGs

The International Occupational Medicine Society Collaborative (IOMSC) is celebrating its 10-year Anniversary in providing an assembly for representatives of occupational medicine societies in 43 countries throughout the world to promote greater awareness of issues and best practices for better worker health. This session will update IOMSC's activities and internationally important occupational health priorities--including addressing areas consistent with the World Health Organization's Sustainable Development Goals - universal access to occupational health and 'good' health and prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Health care professional (HCP) burnout can be a limiting factor to access to 'good' health. Guidance will be provided on the 'Declaration on Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing of HCPs' and how occupational health can play a role in addressing HCP burnout and the delivery of safe and effective patient care.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize internationally important occupational health priorities and evidence based resources.
- Describe the WHO Sustainable Development Goals of promoting mental health and preventing non-communicable diseases in workers.
- Identify strategies for addressing mental health and well-being among health care professionals and understand the role that occupational health can play in addressing non-communicable diseases through workplace health and wellness initiatives.

Faculty

Ronald R. Loeppke, MD, MPH, FACOEM, FACPM

Carol M. Black, DBE, MD, FRCP, MACP, FMedSci

Richard JL Heron, Mb CHB, FRCP, FFOM, FACOEM

123 Support of Corporate Sustainability May Include Promotion of a "Life-Work" Agenda by the Medical Director

Achievement of sustainable development goal #3 (Good Health and well-being) will require a corporate commitment from the top to a culture of health including emotional health. In absence of such a commitment, employees will continue to exit. This sustainability agenda can only be executed by the corporate medical director (CMD) whose traditional remit will need reconfiguration. The focus on health & safety will need to be enhanced by additional focus on the emotional well-being of the entire workforce. Under the direction of the CMD, leaders/managers will need to be educated & recalibrated. This recalibration will require CMD to implement ongoing teaching to include maintenance of best practices for employer/employee interaction. Employee benefits will need to become much more comprehensive to include psyche tele-health services, flexible work hours, & open communication forums. Once they recognize they're valued & holistically supported by employers, they will want to not only return but stay at work. Productivity will increase, absenteeism will decrease. We'll discuss corporations that have implemented this in response to the "Great Attrition."

Learning Objectives

- Recognize how and why corporate productivity has declined.
- Recognize the value of the recalibration of their remit.
- Design and implement a corporate culture of health with a focus on a "lifework" balance.

Faculty

Robert L. Quigley, MD, D.Phil
Myles Druckman, MD
Philippe Guilbert, MD

124 Social Marketing as a Framework for Exploring Employer Perceptions of Value of Interventions During COVID-19

As a follow up to previously published articles on employer experience with COVID-19 and testing, we propose a panel discussion to present the results of a qualitative study that explores employer's experiences with response to the COVID-19 pandemic based on social marketing which uses commercial marketing principles, product, price, place, and promotion, to achieve socially beneficial ends, to include improved occupational and community health and safety. Products in this study are the interventions based on hierarchy of controls. Price is the employer's perception of value of interventions. Place is the occupational setting and promotion includes identification of trusted sources and strategies for communicating interventions based on recommendations of those sources. This study contrasts large and small employers across the ten NORA sectors.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the principles of social marketing, a strategic process derived from commercial marketing to create socially beneficial change.
- Compare how marketing factors (product, place, price, and promotion) affected the uptake of COVID-19 controls and interventions in different occupational settings.
- Describe social marketing principles to develop future emergency communication plans.

Faculty

Cynthia Ball, DO, MS

Claudia Parvanta, PhD

Tran B. Huynh, PhD, MPH, CIH

125 Current and Complex Issues in Commercial Driver Medical Certification Part II

This session will provide an update on new and complex issues in commercial driver medical certification. Topics will include (may be modified to address the late breaking information if applicable) the 2022 Draft Medical Examiner Handbook and recent and planned regulatory changes such as Alternative Medical Standards. Depending on time provided, will discuss examples of guidance from sources other than the ME Handbook such as Medical Expert Panel Reports and Evidence Based Review. Information will be provided from FMCSA as well as how examiner and employers may be impacted.

Sponsored by the Transportation Section

Learning Objectives

- Describe content of Draft (of final) ME Handbook
- Discuss available guidance for MEs in making commercial driver medical certification determinations
- Explain recent and pending changes in regulatory requirements or guidance in the commercial driver medical examination process

Faculty

Natalie Hartenbaum, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Michael Berneking, MD, FACOEM, FAAFP, FAASM

126 Myths or Truths? Reviewing Common Ideas on Burnout and Psychosocial Risks

Are psychosocial risks a new trend? Is there a relationship between working long hours and the risk of depression? Is burnout a real medical diagnosis? Should we use mindfulness in workplaces? The answer to these questions may look quite obvious, but is it so simple? During this session, we will critically review several common ideas about work-related mental health and psychosocial risks. We will discuss recent systematic reviews on this field, and bring perspectives from other academic fields such as work sociology and organizational psychology. We will also discuss how our ethical frameworks in occupational health are challenged with workplace interventions to prevent psychosocial risks. Overall, this session will be the opportunity to share some practical tips for occupational medicine specialists to help them manage work-related mental health issues for workers, but it will also be the opportunity to expose challenges for which there are no single agreed solutions. The latter will certainly generate passionate discussions between participants in this session.

Learning Objective

- Apply a structured approach to workers experiencing work-related mental health issues

Faculty

Quentin Durand-Moreau, MD

127 ACOEM Presidential Task Force on Clinic Quality and Credentialing

The ACOEM Presidential Task Force on Clinic Quality and Credentialing convened in the summer of 2021 with the following goals: To recognize quality in clinics that provide Occupational Medicine services; to provide an opportunity for clinics to improve themselves and to have a roadmap for doing so; to increase brand awareness for ACOEM and Occupational Medicine providers; and to develop a new revenue stream for ACOEM. The task force met monthly and held listening sessions with stakeholders including: Insurance Carriers, Employers, Clinics and Clinicians, Military clinicians, Third-Party Administrators (TPAs), Onsite Clinics and Telemedicine Providers. Year Two has focused on developing a value-based evaluation tool using the 2021 ACOEM/OEM Core Competencies and the tenets of the Triple Aim in Healthcare. The Task Force is currently developing the framework for Clinics of Excellence in areas including: Audiometry, Pulmonary Function Testing, Drug Testing, Injury Management, Mental Health and 5 other specialty areas. Our hope is that the presentation will inform how ACOEM provides member value and as a recruiting tool.

Learning Objectives

- Determine an appropriate Accreditation body for their clinic or organization.
- Advance their telemedicine practice using appropriate White Papers and Practice Guidelines
- Define what constitutes a clinic or process of excellence through outcome and process metrics

Faculty

Jeffrey A. Jacobs, MD, MPH
Manijeh Berenji, MD, FACOEM
David Caretto, MPH, MRO, FACOEM
Dennis Schultz, MD, MSPH

128 Seven Ways to Create a Culture of Caring in a Traumatized World: What's Missing from the Conversation on Worker Stress, Burnout, and Mental Health

On the heels of a global health catastrophe, a massive workforce shake-up, economic disruption, and societal reckonings, many are wondering, 'where do we go from here?'. Whether your task is to care for the workforce, support population health, or advance your own well-being, this session is for you. This discussion will distill research from the realms of Trauma-Informed Care, Lifestyle Medicine, and Positive Psychology to provide attendees with evidence-based methods that support both worker well-being and the personal resilience of the Occupational Medicine professional. There will also be a review of ISO 45003, the first-ever international standard for managing psychosocial risk within an occupational health and safety management system. Attendees will not only gain practical strategies to build a culture of caring in a world wrought by traumatic stress and burnout-- but will also leave with hope, optimism, and inspiration for the future.

Learning Objectives

- Assess the current state of workforce dynamics in the context of traumatic stress and burnout.
- Employ strategies to eliminate occupational psychosocial hazards and prevent/reduce workplace stress through systems-level changes in the organization.
- Cultivate a caring, trauma-informed, and connected workplace

Faculty

Rosandra Daywalker, MD, PhD (C)

Marcqwon Daywalker, MD

129 The Rise and Fall of Occupational Medicine Training Programs

In 1972, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) identified a shortage of 3,000 physicians in occupational medicine. Seventeen years later, a 1989 estimate commissioned by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) assessed OM physician shortage staying up towards 3500 specialists. Limitations in availability of occupational and environmental medicine (OEM) training programs was considered one of the main reasons for this continued deficit. Over the next 30 odd years, the field of occupational medicine saw many changes, from the number of physician training programs to funding to new routes of OEM certification. Our panel will review the journey of OEM programs over the last five decades, our current state of affairs and future strategies to help overcome our specialty shortages.

Learning Objectives

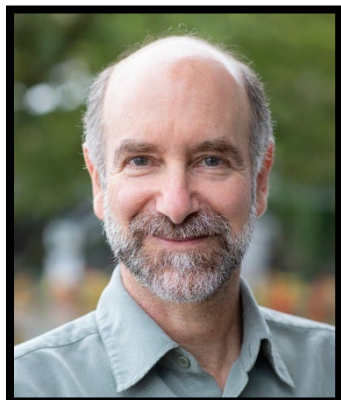
- Analyze the trend of OEM physician training programs in the United States
- Learn about the limitations in having an adequate number of physicians trained and certified in OEM
- Look at strategies to help overcome OEM physician shortages

Faculty

Sajjad Savul, MD

Eric Wood, MD

Opening General Session with Sappington Lecturer, Jonathan Patz, MD, MPH



Jonathan Patz, MD, MPH, is the Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor & John P. Holton Chair of Health and the Environment, and served as inaugural director of the Global Health Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 2011-2022. His faculty appointments are in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Department of Population Health Sciences. Dr. Patz co-chaired the health report for the first Congressionally mandated *US National Assessment on Climate Change* and for 15 years, served as a lead author for the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – the organization that shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Some of his other awards include: the Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellows Award; shared Zayed International Prize for the Environment; Fulbright Scholarship; [American Public Health Association's Homer Calver Award](#)

for environmental health leadership; Case Western School of Medicine Alumni Special Recognition award; Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars; Chanchlani Global Health Research Award; and elected member of the [National Academy of Medicine](#).

Professor Patz has taught and conducted research on the health effects of climate change and global environmental change, "Planetary Health," for more than 25 years and has published over 200 science publications and several textbooks on the subject.

201 How to Communicate Difficult Information to Patients with Care

Both the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the Accreditation Council for Medical Graduate Education (ACGME) have highlighted communication skills as a core competency for medical and graduate students. Despite this emphasis on interpersonal and oral communication skills, patients report that their informational and emotional needs are not met during clinical encounters with their doctor. Some studies document a decline in empathy and communication as trainees progress through their residency training, while others demonstrate that empathy does not increase as practitioners gain experience. With time constraints, work burden overload, and systemic breakdowns within the Workers' Compensation system, developing exemplary communication and empathic skills is paramount to enhancing the provider-patient relationship.

Learning Objectives

- Illustrate examples of ineffective communication strategies with workers
- Outline the steps for successfully communicating difficult information to workers
- Explain the importance of using language that empowers the worker, manages their expectations, and decreases their frustration

Faculty

Leslie R. Cadet, MD, MPH

202 The NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program - Lessons Learned for Occupational Medicine Physicians Working with the Fire Service

The NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program (FFFIPP) was started in 1998 by Congress to address work-related firefighter deaths. The program investigates a select portion of firefighter line of duty deaths (LODDs) to identify factors that contributed to the death and provide recommendations to prevent future similar deaths. Physicians who have firefighters as patients or who serve as departmental physicians may use these reports to improve departmental wellness/fitness programs, return to work policies, training and fire response procedures, etc. to reduce risk of LODDs. This session will provide an overview of the NIOSH FFFIPP, relevant National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, highlight the most common non-trauma related causes of firefighter LODDs, and review a selection of NIOSH recommendations provided in the final reports of these investigations.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the FFFIPP, its investigative process, and how to search its database of completed reports
- List the most common causes of non-trauma related firefighter line of duty deaths.
- Describe the most common recommendation NIOSH provides to prevent non-trauma related firefighter LODDs.

Faculty

Judith Eisenberg, MD, MS

Robert Saunders, BA

203 The ABPM Certification Process: Updates on Initial Certification and the New Continuing Certification Program (CCP)

This year, all ABPM Diplomates with time-limited certificates will begin participating in the ABPM's new Continuing Certification Program (CCP). The CCP replaces the former Transitional MOC program and offers OEM physicians relevant, flexible options to keep their knowledge and skills up-to-date. Attend this session to learn about both the new CCP and initial certification.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the overall elements of the new Continuing Certification Program (CCP)
- Discuss the phases of the seven-year plan for rolling out the Continuing Certification Program (CCP)
- Demonstrate knowledge of what is required to complete ABPM Initial Certification and the new Continuing Certification Program (CCP)

Faculty

Kevin Patrick

204 Changing Occupational and Environmental Challenges for Underserved Workers and the new Great Lakes Center for Farmworker Health and Well-being.

The challenges facing marginalized worker populations are significant, unique, and constantly changing. It is important for the OEM clinician to be cognizant of this and to recognize the occupational health and safety issues unique to this group of workers face in order to be proactive and to provide culturally sensitive prevention and care. This Session will address some of these key issues, examine some interventions, address current regulatory developments while exploring different underserved occupational populations in the US and abroad.

Sponsored by the Underserved Occupational Populations Section

Learning Objectives

- List some of the absent or inferior health and safety protections for underserved workers and their families
- Describe the different populations of indigenous workers here and abroad and to gain an appreciation of how they represent a marginalized occupational worker population.
- Describe current legislative initiatives designed to provide equitable health and safety protections for the underserved workforce. Additionally, programs and efforts in place to address these disparities

Faculty

Linda S. Forst, MD, MPH

Alexis Guild, MPP

Amy K. Liebman, MPA, MA

Scott D. Morris, MD

Brett Shannon, PhD Candidate UIC

206 “Residents to the Rescue”

In early 2021, the COVID-19 Omicron surge threatened to close units of the largest hospital in Greater Cincinnati. Occupational Medicine residents were trained, deployed, and able to maintain the workforce.

The COVID-19 pandemic provides the opportunity to learn how to utilize publicly available information to act efficiently and effectively to minimize morbidity, mortality, and associated costs. At the University of Cincinnati, four occupational medicine residents were essential to maintaining the workforce at UC Health. Their success relied on the availability of accurate tests; funding to perform the tests and follow-up; executive support in promulgating preventive policies; targeted training; a multi-disciplinary support team; and access to data to make decisions. This session will address screening through the lens of PCR and antigen testing for COVID-19; data acquisition, management, and analysis; training recommendations; development of algorithms; and workforce results. The session will highlight pragmatic methods for rapid notification, follow-up, and related communications. A discussion of readiness for the 'next' epidemic will conclude the session.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the importance of prevalence in determining predictive values of screening tests.
- Discuss the significance of the accuracy of diagnostic COVID-19 tests in surveillance and occupational health and wellbeing.
- Adapt available algorithms from CDC for local implementation.

Faculty

Victoria Wells Wulsin, MD, DrPH

207 Understanding LGBTQ+ Workers

Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM) physicians are responsible for diagnosing and treating work-related injuries and illnesses, as well as managing surveillance and disability, for all workers. The workforce includes members of the LGBTQ+ community whose identity is impacted by social and family perceptions. Specifically, transgender individuals face high levels of discrimination and harassment. The intent of today's discussion is to make OEM physicians more aware of the special concerns and societal challenges of members of the LGBTQ+ community so that these workers are treated with the same respect as all other workers under our care.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the various sub-communities within the broader LGBTQ+ community.
- Discuss unique clinical issues for LGBTQ+ workers that may impact provision of OEM services.
- Recognize the how societal perceptions impact the unique challenges faced by LGBTQ+ workers.

Faculty

David S. Cockrum, MD

208 Part I - Respirators: Principles of Medical Evaluation and program management -2023 update

The use of respirators has changed dramatically in the past few years. The session will present updated recommendations for medical and respiratory protection program management. We will cover practical clinical aspects, principles for assessing potential adverse impacts, and advances in respirator design. We will also summarize the ACOEM - UA survey of respirator clinicians. The sessions will include illustrative case discussions of problem patients and work situations. Part 1 will emphasize principles and scientific basis for performing medical evaluations and fit testing. Part 2 will include discussion of specific clinical problems and a panel discussion of experienced occupational health program directors and clinicians, with particular emphasis upon protection for healthcare workers.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize the full array of factors affecting respirator tolerance. These include dermatologic, psychologic, communication, and work impact as well as respiratory effects.
- Describe how to design and manage efficient and effective programs for respiratory protection
- Discuss physiologic and psychologic principles affecting ability to safely and effectively use respirators.

Faculty

William S. Beckett, MD

Amy Behrman, MD, MPH

Philip Harber, MD, MPH

Marcia Isakari, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Robert K. McLellan, MD, MPH

Rachel Leib, MD, MBA, MS

Jonisha P. Pollad, MS, CPE

209 Substance Use Disorders in Occupational Medicine

According to the latest SAMHSA/HHS data (from the 2021 NSDUH), **16.5%** of the United States has a Substance Use Disorder as defined by the DSM-V criteria. Some of us practicing Occupational Medicine may feel that screening and counseling for SUDs is ***“not in our lane.”***

However, employed people are statistically more likely to have a Substance Use Disorder as well as be at higher risk of Overdose Deaths. Review the latest updates, epidemiological evidence, definitions and treatments for Substance Use Disorders, particularly Alcohol Use Disorder, Cannabis Use Disorder and Opiate Use Disorder. Consider how to integrate principles of SBIRT and Harm Reduction in your daily Occupational Medicine practice.

Learning Objectives

- Describe current Terminology and Diagnostic Criteria in Substance Use Disorders, and understand the importance of using non-stigmatizing and non-judgmental terminology.
- Describe some updates with regard to Overdoses and Complications of Substance Use Disorders today. Describe some Treatments for Opiate Use Disorder, Alcohol Use Disorder, and Cannabis Use Disorder, as well as Pros and Cons of some Treatments compared to others.
- Consider how to adopt SBIRT in Occupational Medicine practice, and consider how we could practice Harm Reduction.

Faculty

Sajjad Savul, MD

Anna V. Lee, MD, MPH

Justin (Chih Chao) Yang, MD, MPH

210 The COVID-19 Workers' Compensation Experience

This session will provide a deep dive into the COVID-19 Workers' Compensation experience for private sector workers. The presenter will touch on the elements of causation for COVID-19 as an occupational disease with practical implications of causation assessment. Experiences regarding reporting parameters for COVID-19 claims including volume, cost and claim closure rate will be reviewed. The impact of COVID-19 on non-COVID-19 lost time claims will be explored including time from injury to treatment, number of encounters and the different types of medical services. Successes in the management of Post-COVID conditions to claim closure will also be shared. Further, the emergence of telemedicine as an important tool in the management of both COVID-19 and non COVID claims gives insight into the importance of telehealth in the future of patient care.

Learning Objectives

- Identify some challenges unique challenges posed by COVID-19 in causation determination of occupational illnesses.
- Analyze Workers' Compensation data from the COVID-19 pandemic regarding COVID claims, non-COVID claims as well as Post-COVID conditions.
- Demonstrate the emerging importance of telemedicine in managing work injuries.

Faculty

Tanisha Taylor, MD, MPH, MBA

211 Implementation and Capture of Occupational Data for Health Data Elements from Federally Qualified Community Health Centers

Industry and Occupation are included as core data elements in version 3 of USCDI (United States Core Data for Interoperability). Availability of standardized job and industry data in the primary medical record has the potential to enhance care of individual patients and populations. In this session, we will present our experience with piloting use of Occupational Data for Health (ODH), a framework developed by researchers at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), to standardize and capture interoperable work information into electronic health records. The data capture and logistics of implementation will be described, along with user experiences from clinical informaticists from the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and federally qualified community health center (FQHC) partner sites. We will present and discuss information gathered through this initiative, and next steps to improve individual and population health. Collaborations between occupational medicine and community health practitioners will be explored.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss interoperability of industry and occupation electronic health information, describing why standardized, structured and coded data capture is necessary to deliver better care.
- Develop clinical, research and public health use cases of how standardized industry and occupational information may be used to help individual patients, worker populations and communities.
- Give examples of where and how standardized industry and occupational information can be captured in various workflows.

Faculty

Katherine Chung-Bridges, MD, MPH

Michele Kowalski-McGraw, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Raymonde Charles Uy, MD, MBA, ACHIP

212 Landscape Research on Workplace Impairment-related Injury and Fatality

Workplace impairment is the inability to function normally or safely as a result of a number of factors - from chemical substances, such as alcohol, opioids or cannabis, to physical factors like fatigue, as well as psychosocial factors including mental distress and stress. All of these factors impact wellbeing and safety on and off the job. However, more needs to be done to understand the breadth of the problem in order to better address these issues and provide workplaces with impactful solutions. Specifically, there is a known lack of data related to the impact of impairment from various causes on injury and death in the workplace. This information gap exists in both the empirical data and in local, state, and federal surveillance systems. As such, the goal of this session is to review findings from a landscape assessment that investigated the available data relating to injury and death in the workplace related to various causes of impairment. The discussion will also focus on opportunities to improve workplace impairment data collection efforts in the United States and the broader implications of the landscape assessment.

Learning Objectives

- Describe relevant data sources and empirical studies that investigate indicators related to workplace impairment injury and fatality (including chemical factors, physical factors, and psychosocial factors).
- Identify and discuss industry norms and standards related to incident investigation and root cause analysis related to organizational reporting of impairment in order to communicate best practices.
- Describe gaps in available data on workplace impairment injuries and fatalities to inform recommendations for organizations, policy makers, and injury researchers.

Faculty

Claire Stroer, MPH

Jenny Burke, JD, MS

213 Integrating the Environment into OEM Training: Lessons from the East Palestine Train Derailment

The US EPA responds to over 200 chemical spills of varying sizes per year, impacting both workers and residents of communities nearby. Providing these people access to clinicians trained in environmental health would aid in clinical case management and disease surveillance. OEM clinicians have the specialized toxicology, risk assessment, and clinical skills critical to response to disasters such as the train derailment in East Palestine, OH. This event underscored the need for clear and concise guidance on clinical management of those exposed. We discuss the activities of University of Cincinnati OEM residents in creating fact sheets for seven chemicals identified from the train's manifest. These materials guided decision making of the local poison control center and was the result of a multidisciplinary collaboration. This highlights the importance of appropriately trained clinicians to assist in chemical disaster response.

Learning Objectives

- Review sources of toxicological information relevant to chemical disaster response
- Understand the limitations of applying occupational exposure limits in community-based exposure settings
- Discuss the role of OEM in disaster response as part of a multi-disciplinary collaborative team

Faculty

Wali Jahangiri, MD

Alexei A. Krainev, MD

Victoria Wells Wulsin, MD, DrPH

Erin Clark, MD

214 Part II - Respirators: Practical aspects of medical evaluation and program management-2023 update

The use of respirators has changed dramatically in the past few years. The session will present updated recommendations for medical and respiratory protection program management. We will cover practical clinical aspects, principles for assessing potential adverse impacts, and advances in respirator design. We will also summarize the ACOEM - UA survey of respirator clinicians. The sessions will include illustrative case discussions of problem patients and work situations. Part 1 will emphasize principles and scientific basis for performing medical evaluations and fit testing. Part 2 will include discussion of specific clinical problems and a panel discussion of experienced occupational health program directors and clinicians, with particular emphasis upon protection for healthcare workers.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize the full array of factors affecting respirator tolerance. These include dermatologic, psychologic, communication, and work impact as well as respiratory effects.
- Describe how to design and manage efficient and effective programs for respiratory protection
- Discuss physiologic and psychologic principles affecting ability to safely and effectively use respirators.

Faculty

William S. Beckett, MD

Amy Behrman, MD, MPH

Philip Harber, MD, MPH

Marcia Isakari, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Robert K. McLellan, MD, MPH

Rachel Leib, MD, MBA, MS

Jonisha P. Pollad, MS, CPE

215 Best Practices for Evidence-based EAPs

Recent studies reveal an increased incidence of depression and anxiety at work; and that workers with these conditions are more than twice as likely to miss work as those without them. These findings dovetail with additional data indicating strong worker desire for workplaces that actively support positive mental health. Companies have responded by increasing their flexibility re: working from home, compensation, training, environmental impact and other factors. However, little has been done to modernize EAPs, the one company resource exclusively devoted to mental health. This session will describe pragmatic, scalable, inexpensive, evidence-based measures to help EAPs take a more active role in addressing depression and anxiety.

Learning Objectives

- Define best practices for an evidence-based Employee Assistance Program
- Collaborate effectively with an EAP to promote evidence-based treatment concepts

Faculty

David Frances, PH.D

216 TED 7: The Cutting Edges of OEM

ACOEM's TED series have become outstanding successes. The ACOEM Teaching Academy is pleased to sponsor a seventh TED session, featuring exciting brief presentations by outstanding speakers on cutting edge OEM topics. Each TED 7 speaker will present an area of passionate personal interest that demonstrates OEM's contributions to employers, workers and communities. TED 7 speakers will demonstrate their mastery of communication effectiveness, having been supported by Teaching Academy coaches to advance from 'good' to 'great' to 'outstanding' presentations. This is not just about OEM data, this is about those things in our field that inspire the heart of OEM physicians to pursue our noble calling.

Sponsored by ACOEM Teaching Academy

Learning Objectives

- Discuss how to create memorably effective brief communications in which speakers match their own passions to the needs of an audience
- Use simple, powerful ideas and effective techniques to quickly explain OEM's unique benefits to workers, employers and communities
- Be inspired by and delight in seeing effective communication from emerging OEM leaders

Faculty

Kent Peterson, MD, FACOEM, FACPM, MRO

Constantine Gean, MD, FACOEM, MD, MS, MBA

217 Tackling Global Public and Occupational Health Challenges across an International Corporation

This session introduces three key workplace health topics addressed by a corporate medical department throughout a global corporation - ExxonMobil:

Addressing Workforce Wellbeing and Mental Health Across Cultures

The incremental rollout of our workforce wellbeing and mental health program overcame significant constraints through a global approach while site implementation has been voluntary and locally tailored. Now, over 95% of our workers are benefiting from related services and implementation is completed in 38 countries.

Mitigating Malaria Risks for a Global Workforce

To address malaria risks globally, ExxonMobil implemented an ABCD approach with requirements and verification, which reduced the number of malaria cases by over 90% with no fatalities for 15 years. As the program matured, we describe a new, fit for risk malaria program and ALARP review.

Maintaining Vigilance and Adapting Measures through a COVID-19 Management Program

Given the ongoing and evolving nature of COVID-19, with decreased surveillance and testing, we will address ExxonMobil's historical approach to COVID-19 surveillance as well as our COVID-19 strategy and path forward.

Learning Objectives

- Describe how cultural differences impact the implementation of workforce mental health and wellbeing programs and understand approaches to overcoming barriers.
- List pros and cons of malaria prophylaxis compliance testing and understand the value of adjustments in strategy as risks are continually assessed.
- Describe how to adapt workforce COVID-19 surveillance programs once data sources become less reliable or frequent.

Faculty

Malick Dara, MD, MBA, MPH

Victoria M. Weldon, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Ashiq Zaman, MD, MHA, MPH

219 Steer Your Career in the Right Direction: What You Need to Know for Early and Long-Term Success as an OEM Professional

Are you a resident, recent graduate, or new to the wonderful specialty that is Occupational and Environmental Medicine? If so, this session is for you! Join past and present leaders of the ACOEM Resident and Recent Graduates Section for an enlightening panel discussion filled with information that is pertinent to those who are at the beginning of their journey or who are looking to pivot in their professional path. Topics will include board exams and other professional certifications, the various career paths, the job search, interviewing, contract negotiations, leadership, and more. The panelists' breadth of experience includes both the public and private sector, as well as academic, corporate, military, VA, and international OEM. During this session, the panelists will share personal experiences, discuss best practices, and answer your most pressing questions. Attend this session to gain insight into successfully navigating the early career period and setting yourself up for long-term success.

Sponsored by the Residents and Recent Graduates Section

Learning Objectives

- Identify a wide range of career paths available to the OEM professional by job function, employer, and/or sector
- Integrate career interests with real-world experiences that were shared by panelists
- Connect with potential resources, mentors, and colleagues to advance their professional interests

Faculty

Ada Egbuji, R

Tamera Means, MD, MHS, MSPH

Ross Mullinax, MD, MPH

Rosandra Daywalker, MD, PhD(C)

220 The Global UN Workforce: Achieving a Data Driven, Forward Looking, and Sustainable Occupational Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The United Nations (UN) Health Intelligence developed a holistic and comprehensive UN-Wide Health Survey, capturing data on trends of physical and mental health risks related to the pandemic, such as domestic abuse, home office ergonomic set-ups, health behaviors, vaccination hesitancy, and the impact of long COVID on absenteeism/presenteeism and productivity. Baseline and follow up surveys conducted in 2021 and 2022 in 30 UN agencies collected over 35 million data points. Surveys were administered in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic through a common platform. Prevalence of preventable health risks and disorders worsened significantly during the pandemic with important differences in health risk profiles and behaviors across geographical regions. The Survey provided a powerful pool of data to guide future UN OEM strategies, mental health and wellbeing services, domestic abuse prevention programs, ergonomics, and the future of work policies. Annual surveys will be conducted across the UN System to monitor trends in our population's health indicators and the impact of evidence-based interventions.

Learning Objectives

- Assess modifiable health risks in remote workforce during and after the global health crisis; customize appropriate survey tools while keeping a core set of questions for benchmarking and evaluating the impact of preventive programs over time - identify association between risk factors, including those beyond health area, such as work patterns and workplace risks.
- Discuss approaches for overcoming some typical challenges such as: data privacy and IT security of sensitive health information collected in surveys; survey fatigue and effective communication strategies for increasing response rates; holistic approach in data analytics; coordinated implementation of survey results by all internal stakeholders, including counselors, HR, and senior management.
- Discuss the processes of networking, knowledge sharing, and collaborative decision/consensus making among UN physicians; multi-faceted and culturally sensitive outreach to a mobile, global workforce - how to develop data

Faculty

Matthias Lademann, MD
Aidan Stead, MSC
Gloria Dal Forno, Md, PhD
Yimei Cao, MD

Jasminka Goldoni Laestadius, MD, PhD, FACOEM
Roger Parry, BA, MSc, MBA
Sophia Woldemicael, Ms, MT, ASCP

Other Authors

Sergio Arena, MD

Marianna Igelnik

221 Moderated Panel Introducing Pharmaceutical Digital Therapeutics (PDTs), A New Substance Use Disorder Treatment Offering Prescribers, Employers, and Patients More Accessible, Less Costly Treatments with Greater Efficacy

Because PDTs are a NEW FDA-approved treatment class offering employers, patients, prescribers significantly lower costs and greater efficacy relative to traditional treatments, our moderated panel will assist in educating ACOEM's members regarding these relatively unknown remedies. We will illustrate the benefits of PDTs for opioid and other substance use disorders from the prescriber, employer, patient's perspective. Weaving together the experiences of a prescriber (20 outpatient facilities), an experienced chief medical officer (former ACOEM president), benefits professionals from the Teamster's Union, a Cornell University professor, the global medical director of the PDT industry forerunner, moderated by the CEO of the Association for Corporate Health Risk Management, ACHRM referencing its PDT Pilot results (launched Spring 2022) and leveraging 350 events, our educational effort shall span the FDA approval history, PDT and Digital Therapeutics industry overview drilling down to the implementation and efficacy with employers, employees, and patients. Session will benefit from dress rehearsal events beginning in Oct 2022.

Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate patient, prescriber, employer benefits of the utilization of PDTs; a new treatment class -- for opioid and substance use disorders.
- Upon completion of this session, the audience will be not only introduced to PDTs for SUDs and their applicability for employers, employees (and their dependents), but also be offered practical applications by prescribers and an employer.
- Describe the development and FDA approval process and history for the nine (9) FDA approved PDTs, including SUDs. Discuss the challenges of market adoption as major PBMs have found other treatment remedies offer greater revenue opportunities (i.e., REBATE) but could have lower efficacy and higher costs.

Faculty

Bill Lacy, MBA

Charles M. Yarborough, MD

Terry Murphy, MBA

222 AMA Guides Digital - Where the Future is Heading

The AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment has been a long standing resource used by various jurisdictions to start the process of fair and equitable compensation for the permanently injured worker. The Guides has now moved to a digital platform, using the 6th edition as the basis for future use. This session will describe the process whereby the Guides Digital has and will continue to be updated to bring the best available science to the process. The work of the Guides Editorial Panel to date will be shared. Challenges to the universal adoption of the Guides Digital will be discussed, with a focus of perspectives from various different stakeholders in the process. The session will include a didactic presentation given by the Co-Chair of the AMA Guides Editorial Panel, followed by a panel discussion that will include an AMA Health Solutions consultant, who has many years of experience with the AMA Guides as it is applied to workers compensation. The panel will also hopefully include a stakeholder (yet to be identified) from Pennsylvania, as the state has a history of recent Guides conflict as it is used in their workers compensation system.

Learning Objectives

- Reflect upon and analyze the history and development of the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment
- Develop an understanding of the processes involved to update the AMA Guides Digital
- Articulate why the most recent version of the AMA Guides Digital reflects the best current science in the determination of impairment ratings

Faculty

Douglas W. Martin, MD
Ken Eichler

223 You Can't Manage What You Don't Measure: Using PROMs in OEM Practice

How do you measure recovery? ACOEM has formally advocated for the use of PROMs to document the effectiveness of medical treatment, but few physicians are familiar with them. Even fewer understand how to use them in practice. Patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) are a standardized way to measure changes in function, and have been used for decades in evidence-based research. Used appropriately, PROMs can also assist physicians measure the effectiveness of treatments and help them tailor the plan of care. Usually free to use, PROMs can also help physicians engage with their patients on what truly matters to them in terms of quality of life and recovery. In 2016, Colorado implemented the Quality Performance Outcomes Payment (QPOP) Program to train clinicians on, and reimburse them for, the use of PROMs in clinical practice. Regardless of the level of implementation (whether by individual clinicians, inside a provider-group, within a health system, or throughout a jurisdiction), use of these tools has the potential to improve the quality of care for all patients

Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Academy of Occupational and Environment Medicine

Learning Objectives

- Identify common patient reported outcome measures (PROMs).
- Integrate the use of PROMs into patient care.
- Acquire skills to appropriately interpret PROMs to direct patient care.

Faculty

X. J. Ethan Moses, MD, MPH

Kathryn Mueller, MD, MPH

224 Part I: Best Practices to Increase Vaccination Rates Among Workers

ACOEM is one of seven specialty society partners for a 5-year cooperative agreement awarded to the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to improve vaccination among high-risk adults. As part of this agreement, ACOEM has partnered with health care systems and large employers to increase adult immunization (beginning with COVID-19 and influenza) through education, dissemination, and quality improvement initiatives. This session will highlight strategies implemented in these organizations to help increase vaccinations and improve data collection methods. Educational Gaps: Addressing vaccine hesitancy among workers.

Learning Objectives

- Describe CDC's Standards for Adult Immunization Practice.
- Identify strategies to implement to help increase COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations among workers in your organization.

Faculty

Beth Baker, MD, MPH, FACOEM, FACMT

Marcia Isakari, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Karyn Leniek, MD, MPH

Rajiv Das, MD, MPH, MRO, MS, FACOEM, FAAPMR

Konstantin Berestnev, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Arthur Sanchez, MSN, NP-C

225 Resident Research Presentations Part I

This annual session features current and cutting-edge research presentations by residents, fellows, and recent graduates in occupational and environmental medicine, and provides a picture of contemporary investigative work in the specialty and the translation of research into OEM practice. Topical areas and current problems in OEM will be emphasized. Awards recognizing the contributions of residents and preceptors will be presented.

Research being presented includes:

- Biomonitoring of Minnesota Firefighters exposed to prolonged metal recycling yard fire – Ashley Nadeau
- Associations of Air Pollution and Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy – Rashmi Bhuyan
- A Review of Job Assignments and Asbestos Workplace Exposure Measurements for TAWP Mesothelioma Deaths Through 2011 – Valerie Willis
- Occupational Sharps and Needlestick Injuries among Physician Residents and Nurses at a Major Academic Center: Underlying Factors, Underreporting and Preventive Behavioral Interventions – Alexei Krainev
- Assessment of Associations Between Self-Reported Burn Pit Exposure, Functional Status and Medical Conditions from the Burn Pit Registry – Jean Sebastien Chasse
- Effect Of Systemic Metal Exposure on Pulmonary Function Testing Among Veterans With Embedded Metal Fragments – Emma Lawrence
- Cleaning and disinfection during the COVID-19 pandemic: The relationship between workload and negative physical health outcomes – Max Blumberg
- Machine Learning for Automated Identification of Fibrosis/Profusion on ILO B-Read Chest X-rays – Alexander White

Moderator

John D. Meyer, MD, MPH, FACOEM

226 Update on Evaluating Post-COVID Conditions

Post-COVID conditions (PCCs) remain a major concern in recovery from acute COVID-19 illness, and our understanding of the medical and occupational challenges posed by these disorders continues to evolve. Despite waning public focus, understanding PCCs remains clinically relevant. This session will expand on our 2022 AOHC presentation on this topic as follows:

- Briefly update information on incidence, prevalence, and pathology from our 2021 presentation. Continue to explore underlying factors, including potential influences of behavioral health, nonspecific and medically unexplained physical symptoms (MUPS), administrative and medical iatrogenicity, and the association of PCCs with syndromic illnesses such as myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome
- Examine the current status of PCC impacts in workers' compensation, short- and long-term disability insurance, and family medical leave.
- Address healthcare practitioner and patient stress and 'burnout'
- Review updated best practices in evaluation and management.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the current status of PCCs in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic
- Appreciate various stakeholder perspectives in PCCs, including those of administrators and insurers, clinicians, employers, patients, and others, with regard to the medical, professional, and personal ramifications of these disorders
- Formulate and implement best practice management approaches in terms of evaluation, treatment, compensation, stay-at-work/return-to-work, and rehabilitation for individuals suffering from PCCs

Faculty

Garson M. Caruso, MD, MPH, PA, MD MPH

Les Kertay, PhD

227 How to Create a Heat Stress Medical Surveillance Program

In 2021 the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration published an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking for Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings, but the standard may take years to enact. Millions of workers are exposed to dangerous levels of heat now. Occupational and environmental medicine (OEM) professionals can encourage known successful measures now to prevent unnecessary heat-related illnesses, heat accidents, disease exacerbations and worker deaths for at risk worker groups in anticipation of a heat standard. This session's goal is to equip the occupational and environmental medicine (OEM) professional with the framework to create a heat stress medical surveillance program to augment employers' existing heat exposure controls. Recent research data on heat-related illness frequency and associated costs with and without medical surveillance will be reviewed.

Sponsored by Environment Health Section 329

Learning Objectives

- Identify industries and workers that can benefit from a heat stress medical surveillance program.
- Describes the framework for a heat stress medical surveillance program
- Explain the components of heat stress medical monitoring.

Faculty

Ronda B. McCarthy, MD, MPH
William B. Perkison, MD

228 Part II: Best Practices to Increase Vaccination Rates Among Workers

ACOEM is one of seven specialty society partners for a 5-year cooperative agreement awarded to the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to improve vaccination among high-risk adults. As part of this agreement, ACOEM has partnered with health care systems and large employers to increase adult immunization (beginning with COVID-19 and influenza) through education, dissemination, and quality improvement initiatives. This session will highlight strategies implemented in these organizations to help increase vaccinations and improve data collection methods.

Learning Objectives

- Describe CDC's Standards for Adult Immunization Practice.
- Identify strategies to implement to help increase COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations among workers in your organization.

Faculty

Beth Baker, MD, MPH, FACOEM, FACMT

Marcia Isakari, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Rajiv Das, MD, MPH, MS, MRO, FACOEM, FAAPMR

Karyn Leniek, MD, MPH

Konstantin Berestnev, MD, MPH

Arthur Sanchez, MSN, NP-C

229 Engaging in a Risk Conversation: We Need to be Conversation Experts

Communication skills are a core competency for physicians charged with protecting worker safety, health wellbeing. Skillful advising enables employers to assess and manage risks and understand uncertainty. Similarly, skillful advising enables workers to understand hazards, assess and manage risks and make deliberate choices on how to protect themselves. However, communicating risk is not easy. Challenges include translating complex scientific concepts for lay audience, differentiating between hazard, risk and uncertainty, addressing existing viewpoints and bias and motivating others to act. This session will focus on reviewing core principles of communicating risk and management strategies, reviewing authoritative resources and providing practical examples for improving our skills as advisors on occupational safety and health.

Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate knowledge of core principles of communicating hazard, risk, and uncertainty.
- Recognize how organizations and individuals perceive and process risk information
- Gain experience translating complex occupational safety and health information into meaningful messages.

Faculty

John D. Piacentino, MD, MPH

Laura G. Gillis, MD, MPH, FACOEM

230 Tuberculosis Diagnosis: The Basics of Test Options, Use, Diagnosis and Treatment

There have been changes to tuberculosis testing policies, diagnostics and treatments in the past 10 years that we'll cover in a session aimed at the newcomer or the rusty. Worldwide and national data regarding tuberculosis in healthcare workers and US CDC policies will be presented. We'll review TSTs and IGRAs with basics of boosting effects and reversions. New tuberculosis therapies for latent infection will be introduced, reviewed and discussed so the OH practitioners become empowered to contribute to the elimination of TB in the US.

Sponsored by the Medical Center Occupational Health section

Learning Objectives

- Name the 3 tests available that diagnose latent tuberculosis
- Repeat the major tenets of the 2019 CDC MMWR providing Guidance for TB Testing in Healthcare Workers: these are applicable to all workers
- Identify 2 short-course treatments for latent tuberculosis

Faculty

Amy Behrman, MD, MPH

Wendy Thanassi, MD

231 Resident Research Presentations Part II

This annual session features current and cutting-edge research presentations by residents, fellows, and recent graduates in occupational and environmental medicine, and provides a picture of contemporary investigative work in the specialty and the translation of research into OEM practice. Topical areas and current problems in OEM will be emphasized. Awards recognizing the contributions of residents and preceptors will be presented.

Research being presented includes:

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- Cleaning and disinfection during the COVID-19 pandemic: The relationship between workload and negative physical health outcomes – Max Blumberg
- Machine Learning for Automated Identification of Fibrosis/Profusion on ILO B-Read Chest X-rays – Alexander White

Moderator

John D. Meyer, MD, MPH, FACOEM

232 2023 Military Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM) Consultants' Update

This 60 minute session led by the specialty leader and consultant for OEM from 3 of the US uniformed services (Air Force, Army, and Navy) will familiarize and update learners with the clinical occupational health programs of each of these services, highlighting the similarities and differences in oversight and execution. Greater understanding of such aspects can benefit OEM practice on joint installations, provide insight into some of the challenges of integrating programs and meeting key requirements and needs, and offer suggestions of possible areas for research to address OEM gaps between the Services. As the US military transitions to a greater focus on Readiness and potential public health governance and oversight by the Defense Health Agency, more joint understanding, coordination, and collaboration will be required to ensure that essential OEM missions across the military (in support of broader operational missions) are efficiently and effectively accomplished.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the mission and current status of OEM in the US Army, Navy, and Air Force
- Differentiate between the oversight and execution of clinical occupational health programs in the service
- Describe key aspects of the current state/transition of clinical occupational health under the Defense Health Agency and under the respective Armed Services participating in this session

Faculty

Scott M. Everson, DO, MPH

Ben Palmer, DO, MPH

Max Clark, MD, MPH

233 Update in Occupational and Environmental Neurology and Neurotoxicology

In this session topics shall be presented using clinical cases to discuss minor head trauma and return to work, best practices for treating headache and dizziness, syncope versus seizure, how to interpret NCV and EMG, what is a functional neurological condition, important aspects of cognitive behavioral therapy, recent clinical cases in neurotoxicology (CO, Mn, solvents cases) post concussion syndrome and long COVID syndromes. A second hour is offered on the treatment for all of these chronic conditions (particularly headache and dizziness, and peripheral neuropathy, then which merges into lifestyle medicine. In this second hour the discussion will focus on evidenced based medicine for specific aspects of exercise, supplements and diet, sleep hygiene, mood and meditation and how these impact longevity.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss how to approach a patient with minor head trauma who wants to return to work.
- Describe what a functional neurological condition is when evaluating any patient with a neurological symptom.
- Describe lifestyle changes with evidence based medicine results that a provider may suggest and confidently describe to patients with chronic medical problems.

Faculty

Jonathan Rutchik, MD

234 Attributes Associated with High Workers Compensation (WC) Claim Costs and Delayed Return-To-Work That can be Addressed by Occupational Medicine Practitioners

This 60-minute session will focus on identifying factors associated with adverse workers compensation claim development. Topics include:

- Characterizing the Interrelationships of Prescription Opioid and Benzodiazepine Drugs with Worker Health and Workplace Hazards 2)
- Trends in opioid and gabapentinoid utilization by injured workers and implications for clinical practice 3)
- Early Drug Prescription Patterns as Predictors of Final Workers Compensation Claim Costs and Closure
- Diagnoses Related Groups and WC management.

Learning Objectives

- Explore the scientific literature assessed interrelationships of drug use, occupational risk factors, and illness and injury, and occupational and personal risk factor combinations that can affect their use.
- Describe the clinical implications of opioid and gabapentinoid prescribing trends and the interaction between these medications in an injured workers' population
- Discuss the value of using early drug prescription patterns as predictors of final workers compensation claim costs and closure.

Faculty

Nina Leung, Ph.D., M.P.H

Judith Green-McKenzie, MD, MPH

Grant Tao, M.D, PhD

Edward J. Bernacki, MD, MPH

Robert A. Lavin, MD, MS

Larry Yuspeh, BA

Nicholas F. Tsourmas, MD

Dan Hunt, DO

235 Staying on the “Safe” Side of Physical Abilities Testing

Pre-employment, post-accident, return-to-work physical abilities tests can increase the safety of employees. However, many employers struggle with adopting a legally compliant physical abilities testing program. Presenters will discuss the practical implications and best practices for developing a legally compliant physical abilities testing program. Presenters will use their real-world experience as well as other case studies to help attendees understand how they can increase overall workplace safety

Learning Objectives

- Identify a legal complaint testing program.
- Create valid physical abilities tests.
- Apply return-to-work strategies.

Faculty

Traci Tauferner, ATC, CSCS

Ginnie Halling, PT

Katherine Koop Irwin

236 Overview of Pre-Exposure (PrEP) and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) in Clinical Occupational Medicine

The presentation is a comprehensive review of the current management of the most clinically significant workplace biohazards in the biomedical research industry, as well as, in the in-patient and out-patient healthcare setting. It will describe the scope of both pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis protocols established over the past 50 years. The presentation will focus on the current management of exposures to bloodborne pathogens (HIV, HCV, HBV), Simian B virus, chimeric viruses, tuberculosis, as well as, to exposures to multi-drug resistant and emerging agents. The presentation will also include references to all the current guidelines concerning Pre-Exposure (PrEP) and Post-Exposure (PEP) that an Occupational Medicine Specialist will need to know in order to support a Biomedical Research and/or Healthcare workforce.

Learning Objectives

- Review how PrEP and PEP has evolved over the past 50 years into a critical responsibility of the Occupational Medicine Specialist.
- Review the current recommended PrEP and PEP management of the most common biohazards (including Select Agents and Emergent Diseases) of the Biomedical Research and Healthcare workforce.
- Learn how to deal with even the most complicated of Bloodborne Pathogen exposures.

Faculty

Michael A. Sauri, MD, MPH&TM, FACP, FACPM, FACOEM

301 Planetary Health and The Metaverse: The Future of Sustainability?

Over the past decade, with continuing innovations in Web3 infrastructure and development as well as increasing real estate and growing communities in the Metaverse, clinicians, environmentalists, and scientists are looking at how the virtual, augmented and immersive digital healthcare space may offer an opportunity for different way to help drive sustainability efforts. The Metaverse, encapsulating big data and artificial intelligence, holds great promise in monitoring an individual's health throughout an individual and perhaps its avatar's life course. The Metaverse creates a virtual world where users can interact in real-time and share experiences within simulated scenarios. It is a platform that will empower people to make smart life choices that are also good for the planet. Laying the foundation for a Metaverse that uses renewable energy sources will make the Metaverse a truly self-sustaining entity and set the stage for Planetary Health exploration. Come and join us on this interactive journey, using live polling, as we discover the future of digital health and its impact on Planetary Health and the workforce.

Learning Objectives

- Provide an overview of the Metaverse and its potential for advancing human health and its impact on the future workforce.
- Discuss ways in which the Metaverse, Web3 or other digital, virtual and augmented realities can be a driver in the sustainability arena.
- Forecast the roles of employers, its workforce, insurers, communities and regulatory agencies play in Planetary Health.

Faculty

Kenji Saito, MD, JD, FACOEM

Manijeh Berenji, MD, MPH, FACOEM

302 Industrial Poisonings: The Philadelphia Experience

Philadelphia has been well-known for medical education and for being an industrial center. Two major episodes of industrial chemical exposures in the 20th century also stand out in its medical history. Manufacture of explosives for wartime use was marked by explosions, with associated fatalities, and poisoning by nitrate compounds used in production. Workers whose eyes and skin were colored yellow by nitrate exposure were termed 'canaries.' BCME (bis-chloromethyl ether), an alkylating agent, was used by the Rohm and Haas Corporation in the manufacture of ion-exchange resins in its chemical plant in Northeast Philadelphia. After only short incubation periods, workers exposed to BCME began to die of lung cancers while still on the job and at relatively young ages. Occupational health physicians who investigated were not, at times, quick to share their findings.

Learning Objectives

- Review the fascinating history of manufacture of explosives in the Philadelphia area, and its associated, severe health effects
- Review how workplace exposure to a carcinogenic chlorinated ether demonstrates the roles of occupational health physicians and of workplace exposure controls

Faculty

Curtis E. Cummings, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Kenneth Lankin, MD, MPH, FACOEM

303 Lessons from COVID: United Kingdom and United States

The medical specialty societies for occupational and environmental medicine in the UK (Society of Occupational Medicine/Faculty of Occupational Medicine [SOM-FOM]) and US (American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine [ACOEM]) provided education, policy, and advocacy during COVID-19. Top leaders share lessons learned from COVID-19 that can inform education, policy, and advocacy in planning for future pandemics.

Learning Objectives

- Compare and contrast best practices and challenges for OEM professionals during COVID-19; and how their actions affected workers and workplaces
- Identify steps on how to advocate for OEM to be an integral partner with governmental agencies in planning for future pandemics.
- Start planning how their OEM practice and workplace can make plans to be ready for the next pandemic.

Faculty

Robert Bourgeois, MD

Douglas W. Martin, MD

Will Ponsonby, FFOM

Steven Nimmo, MBBS

Shriti S. Pattani, Dr. MBChB, BSc, DRCOG, MRCGP, FRSPH, FFOM, FRCP

Carl Rikard Moen, MB ChB, FFOMI, MSc

304 Physical Activity Interventions in the Workplace

There is a growing trend among companies to offer benefits that promote physical activity and other healthy habits among their employees. Higher levels of employee physical activity have been linked with increased productivity and engagement, and reduced absenteeism and healthcare spending. But not all workplace physical activity interventions are equally effective or supported by scientific studies. Decisions regarding the best physical activity for a particular workplace can be influenced by the industry/occupation of interest, worker demographics, the worksite setting, and the outcomes of interest. This session will provide an overview of workplace initiatives that promote physical activity, including the potential benefits for both employee and company outcomes, in addition to some of the commonly implemented and evidence-based interventions

Sponsored by Health and Human Performance Section

Learning Objectives

- Describe the most common types of workplace physical activity interventions.
- List the worker and company outcomes most strongly influenced by workplace physical activity interventions.
- Utilize a framework to evaluate the suitability of a specific workplace physical activity for their particular workplace.

Faculty

Nathan Jones, MD, MPH

Valeria Tivnan, MPH, MED

305 The Provider's Guide to Firefighter Medical Evaluations: A Product of the Science Alliance

This session will explore the newly released Provider's Guide to Firefighter Medical Evaluations, assembled by Science to the Station: A Health & Wellness Alliance (science-alliance.org). The guide is the result of combined efforts between major fire service organizations including the First Responder Center for Excellence, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the National Volunteer Fire Council, in collaboration with fire service researchers from the Center for Fire, Rescue, and EMS Health Research, the National Development & Research Institute, USA. The guide was designed for busy practitioners of occupational medicine and primary care with diverse practices, and highlights the health issues firefighters face that differ from the general population, as well as additional screenings that may be necessary for these high-risk workers. This session will provide an in-depth look at the Provider's Guide, as well as an introduction to the Science Alliance, whose mission is to provide fire departments with the information they need to mitigate risks and the resources to build solutions.

Sponsored by the Public Safety Medicine Section

Learning Objectives

- Identify common & uncommon health concerns for which firefighters and other public safety officers are at increased risk.
- Describe the unique physiologic stressors specific to work as a firefighter, and how they can lead to chronic disease(s).
- Create customized screening strategies for firefighters and other public safety officers based on unique occupational exposures.

Faculty

Alisa M. Koval, MD, MPH, MHSA

Sara Jahnke, PhD

Brittany S. Hollerbach, PhD

306 Occupational Medicine : How We Impact the World Part I

The specialty of occupational medicine is over 100 years old, yet most physicians know little about how our specialty has had a major influence on worker and population health, both historically and currently. This session will review some of the historical changes in health care which were revealed through the application of basic occupational medicine principles, and discuss recent important occupational risks uncovered using occupational medicine strategies. The introduction will feature a short review of historical occupational medicine interventions which affected population health. Then the audience will hear from three prominent specialists who will review contemporary occupational medicine discoveries highlighting burn pit pulmonary findings, worker sensitivity to marijuana in a large plant, and investigations of inhaled artificial flavorings and swimming pool bioaerosols. The session will conclude with the expert panel available to the audience for Q&A and short discussions of new challenges.

Sponsored by Council on External Communications

Learning Objectives

- Identify at least two occupational medicine principles of practice that are likely to uncover new health risks
- Describe at least one historical example of how new discoveries must be shepherded through regulatory and company practices to have long term effects.

Faculty

Cecile Rose, MD, MPH

Kathryn Mueller, MD, MPH

Silpa Krefft, MD, MPH

Karen Pacheco, MD, MSPH

Tee I. Guidotti, MD, MPH, DABT

307 Color Vision: Standards, Testing and Rationale

Color vision can be an important consideration in fitness for duty evaluations for many occupational roles. After a short review of the common vision requirements for various roles, color vision will be in detail. The course reviews specific roles in which color vision should always be considered, what standards are reasonable and in accordance with essential job function, procedures for completing a variety of color vision tests, and the rationale for standards and test selection.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the need for careful critical assessment of color vision for the worker who must meet color vision standards for a job.
- Describe how color conveys information making it an important requirement for certain occupations.
- Explain the difference between color tests used in job-related color vision standards.

Faculty

Jeffrey L. Weaver OD, MS, FAAO

308 Occupational Medicine : How We Impact the World Part II

The specialty of occupational medicine is over 100 years old, yet most physicians know little about how our specialty has had a major influence on worker and population health, both historically and currently. This session will review some of the historical changes in health care which were revealed through the application of basic occupational medicine principles, and discuss recent important occupational risks uncovered using occupational medicine strategies. The introduction will feature a short review of historical occupational medicine interventions which affected population health. Then the audience will hear from three prominent specialists who will review contemporary occupational medicine discoveries highlighting burn pit pulmonary findings, worker sensitivity to marijuana in a large plant, and investigations of inhaled artificial flavorings and swimming pool bioaerosols. The session will conclude with the expert panel available to the audience for Q&A and short discussions of new challenges.

Sponsored by Council on External Communications

Learning Objectives

- Identify at least two occupational medicine principles of practice that are likely to uncover new health risks
- Describe at least one historical example of how new discoveries must be shepherded through regulatory and company practices to have long term effects.

Faculty

Cecile Rose, MD, MPH

Kathryn Mueller, MD, MPH

Silpa Krefft, MD, MPH

Karen Pacheco, MD, MSPH

Tee I. Guidotti, MD, MPH, DABT

309 Meet the Professor: A Problem Based Learning Experience to Evaluate and Treat Low Back Injuries

This session allows group interaction with subject matter expert panel in Lumbar Spine injuries and Treatment. Participants in this workshop will be guided through a complete physical examination of the low back and posterior thigh. Participants will be taken through common and uncommon pathology and pertinent findings to guide in treatment. Imaging modalities used in diagnosis of common injuries to the lumbar spine and posterior thigh as well as approaches to functional interventions will be reviewed.

Sponsored by the Pain and Musculoskeletal Section

Learning Objectives

1. Hands on learning to cover a complete lumbar spine and posterior thigh examination
2. Learn common and uncommon pathology established by examination techniques
3. Formulate and gain insight into imaging modalities and approaches for functional interventions.

Faculty

Adrian Popescu, MD

Alexis Tingan, MD

Sajjad Savul, MD, FACOEM

Residents

Inzune Hwang, MD

Joshua Stevens, MD

310 Silica Health Surveillance a New Approach

Chest radiograph has been the mainstay of radiological imaging for silica health surveillance. The emergence of silicosis in artificial stoneworkers have lead to reviews of the effectiveness of existing health surveillance strategies. However, the absence of silicosis cases in Western Australia was inconsistent with Australian trends utilising chest radiography. Furthermore, when silicosis was identified on chest radiography it was too late in many cases to prevent significant disability and rapid disease progression. In 2020, a trial of low dose HRCT was utilized in silica health surveillance of artificial stone workers. This was offered to 100 artificial stone workers with normal chest radiographs. There was 90% participation rate, with a double of case detection from 1 in 20 using chest radiograph to 1 in 10 using low dose HRCT. The outcome from this trial lead to legislative changes for low dose HRCT imaging replacing chest radiography in the state of Western Australia in 2021. This has lead to early detection of silicosis, fulfilling the primary principles of health surveillance.

Learning Objectives

- Evaluate the effectiveness of an imaging modality in health surveillance
- Appraise alternate imaging modality to replace existing system
- Apply real time data to improve health surveillance processes

Faculty

June Sim, MBBS, FAFOEM

311 Leapfrog Technologies: The Upside of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Context of Tuberculosis

The COVID-19 pandemic diverted infectious disease personnel, physical resources, supplies and hospital beds away from citizens with tuberculosis, HIV, malaria and other leading worldwide infectious diseases. Those of us who have worked with antiquated technologies such as the 130 year-old tuberculin skin test and BCG vaccine have watched the World Health Organization predict that millions of excess people will die this year because these minimal interventions were re-purposed from 2020-2022. But there is a silver lining: the pendulum may swing hard in the other direction and allow 'leap-frog' technologies from artificial intelligence, to deep learning to big data - that were funded and developed during the pandemic - to reinvent the diagnosis and care of these infectious diseases. Occupational health physicians who work with high-risk employees (e.g. miners) or in countries where these diseases are endemic may benefit from knowledge of these exciting emerging technologies.

Learning Objectives

- Report the predicted trend in infections and deaths from TB, malaria and HIV as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Identify at least 3 new apps/companies/inventions that can inform TB diagnosis and care in developed or lesser developed countries
- Name at least 2 classes of emerging technologies (e.g. AI) that are changing the medical diagnosis and treatment landscape

Faculty

Wendy Thanassi, MD

312 Enforcement Guidance and Inspection Outcomes in Healthcare for OSHA's Coronavirus Disease 2019 National Emphasis Program

COVID-19, which was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020, has impacted workplaces in virtually every industry and has been a high-hazard particularly to workers in healthcare settings where people with COVID-19 are reasonably expected to be present. Safety and health professionals as well as employers having workers in high-hazard industries (*e.g.*, healthcare and emergency response) are expected to adopt certain practices to mitigate the hazard of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19).

This presentation will review OSHA's COVID-19 National Emphasis Program (NEP) and discuss accompanying enforcement guidance and inspection procedures issued by OSHA to assist, safety and health professionals (*i.e.*, healthcare workers and consultants), employers, and OSHA's own compliance staff in ensuring compliance with and the uniform enforcement of OSHA's standards, while helping to minimize exposures to SARS-CoV-2 in workplaces. The presentation will also highlight some of OSHA's healthcare enforcement data from COVID-19 inspections conducted before, during and after the issuance of OSHA's COVID-19 NEP.

Learning Objectives

- Summarize OSHA's COVID-19 inspection targeting strategy within healthcare
- Identify OSHA's enforcement efforts under the COVID-19 NEP (*i.e.*, guidance, inspections, violations, and citations) and use this as a resource to ensure compliance with OSHA's standards.
- Demonstrate awareness that statistical analyses of OSHA's COVID-19 healthcare enforcement and other associated government FOIA data can help ascertain work-related risk factors.

Faculty

Yasmine Daniels, PhD

James P. Klyza, PhD, CIH

313 Occ Docs Can Help Unlucky Workers Have a Happier Ending

We in occ med have paid too little attention to our role in providing ANTICIPATORY counseling to patients for whom it is NOT clear that they will be able to return to their original job / original employer. The occ doc may recognize that full recovery is uncertain, and that there is a possibility that resulting impairment will leave the worker unable to perform the essential functions of their job. I will present several cases from my practice (I specialize in cases with chronic pain, persistent disabling symptoms, and prolonged recovery) in which I discovered that to fulfill my role as patient advocate and guide the patient to the best possible outcome, I had to learn more details what 'graduating from the work comp system' looks like, and how best to prepare for graduation DURING recovery. The three cases are: a 56 year old concrete worker with a shoulder replacement; a 36 year old welder with a hand amputation, and a 46 year old food processing worker who was hospitalized for 3 months due to COVID and has permanent loss of stamina.

Sponsored by the Work Fitness and Disability

Learning Objectives

- Describe the mismatch between the steps in a worker's combined biological/vocational recovery and the legalistic workers' compensation claim closure process.
- Describe the uncertainties and challenges workers face when they realize they must 'find a new job' or 'find a new career' -- and how the occ doc can make it easier.
- List examples of specific guidance to workers about how to MOVE TOWARDS vocational recovery DURING the biological recovery period and the delays due to workers' comp system procedural processes. .

Faculty

Jennifer H. Christian, MD, MPH

314 Addressing the Needs of Worker in Temporary Staffing in the U.S.

Temp workers are hired by staffing companies and dispatched to work across economic sectors, often earning lower wages than their directly hired counterparts, with no social benefits and with unstable job tenure. They work in high hazard industries and suffer high acuity injuries compared to their directly hired counterparts. Temp workers are less likely to have received safety training, have been asked less about their knowledge and experience before beginning a new job assignment, and may feel unable to refuse unsafe tasks for fear of job loss or other repercussions. This panel will include three presentations: 1) challenges to occupational health surveillance of temp workers; 2) problems with the 'exclusive remedy' protection of workers' compensation; and 3) new legislation in Washington State and the new NIOSH best practices document designed to protect workers hired through temporary staffing. Presentations will be followed by a facilitated discussion with the audience to brainstorm ways to implement solutions to these problems

Sponsored by Underserved Occupational Populations

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the challenges to the health of temporary staffed workers
- Utilize the NIOSH guidance document to promote best practices that protect the health of temp workers in the companies they serve.
- Notate the work status of temporary staffing workers in their reporting of occupational injuries.

Faculty

Linda S. Forst, MD, MPH

Jeffrey Weisman, MD, JD, MPH

Michael Foley, MA

315 Meet the Professor: A Problem Based Learning Experience to Evaluate and Treat Shoulder & Wrist Injuries

This session allows group interaction with subject matter expert panel in Musculoskeletal Shoulder and Wrist Injuries and Treatment modalities. Participants in this workshop will be guided through a complete physical examination of the Shoulder and Wrist. Participants will be taken through common and uncommon pathology and pertinent findings to guide in treatment and functional interventions

Sponsored by the Pain and Musculoskeletal Section

Learning Objectives

1. Review physical examination techniques as well as the evidence based review of those techniques
2. Engage with an expert in Musculoskeletal Shoulder pathology and gain an understanding of clinical treatment approaches to Shoulder Injuries
3. Apply office based imaging to improve Diagnosis and Provide Functional Interventions based on those findings

Faculty

Adrian Popescu, MD

Alexis Tingan, MD

Sajjad Savul, MD, FACOEM

Residents

Inzune Hwang, MD

Joshua Stevens, MD

316 Presentation Neuroscience - From Research to Application

Do you present information effectively? Whether presenting to a filled auditorium or a single patient, reviewing the facts alone often fails to make lasting impressions or change behavior. There is hope! Recent cognitive neuroscience and pedagogical research have transformed communication and learning approaches. In a point-counterpoint style, this presentation will take peer-reviewed neuroscience and pedagogical research and demonstrate how specific research findings can be applied to presentations to improve audience engagement, retention, and promote behavior change. This is practical presentation - so the audience will also be asked to participate with some of the examples discussed. If you need to convey information to people so that they remember what you say (and what health professional doesn't?) this presentation is for you!

Learning Objectives

- Apply some examples of research in cognitive neuroscience to improve presentation quality.
- Apply some examples of pedagogical/andragogical research to improve presentation quality.
- Discuss the awareness of approaches to presentations that promote behavior change.

Faculty

Constantine J. Gean, MD, MS, MBA, FACOEM

Kent Peterson, MD, FACOEM, FACPM, MRO

317 Is it Time to Abandon the Mind-Body Dichotomy in Occupational Medicine?

A dichotomy between physical and mental phenomena has persisted in the philosophy of mind and Western medicine at least since the Descartes's 17th century dictum 'I think, therefore I am.' But we now recognize that psychological elements are profound influences in health, including in occupational medicine, impairment, and disability. A false separation between 'physical' and 'mental' phenomena, and consequent scientific reductionism, impedes our understanding of human illness and interferes with high-quality medical care. The dichotomy also perpetuates mental health stigma, introduces bias into clinical evaluations and treatment, and worsens patient outcomes. A biopsychosocial approach to the individual serves as a more valid framework for understanding and managing human illness. In this session we discuss the history and current state of these issues, emphasize the importance of a different approach, and describe practical solutions for clinicians and other stakeholders.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the adverse impacts of mind-body duality in medicine
- Outline the evaluation and practice implications for a true biopsychosocial approach to health care
- List at least 3 practical strategies to be implemented in the attendee's workplace

Faculty

Les Kertay, PhD

Garson M. Caruso, MD, MPH, PA, MD MPH

318 Stump the Chumps 2023 - Conundrums and Quandaries in Medical Center Occupational Health

This will be an interactive session that allows attendees to gain insights and strategies from panelists regarding difficult or unique situations in Medical Center Occupational Health (MCOH). Questions from audience members will be encouraged to help ensure the most pressing topics are addressed.

Discussion is open to the full breadth of MCOH topics, including but not limited to infectious exposures (e.g., flu, COVID, Monkeypox, TB), bloodborne pathogen exposures, work injuries, medical surveillance and fitness for duty exams, and clinician wellbeing.

Sponsored by the Medical Center Occupational Health Section

Learning Objectives

- Increase ability to manage challenging clinical and/or regulatory situations in a medical center setting.
- Increase awareness of resources available to help manage in a MCOH setting.
- Increase understanding of the scope and nuance of MCOH practice.

Faculty

Amy Behrman, MD, MPH

Rachel Leib, MD, MBA, MS

Mark Russi, MD MPH

Melanie Swift, MD, MPH

Wendy Thanassi, MD

Lori Rolando, MD, MPH

Rebecca Guest, MD, MPH

319 How to Keep Employees Working with the Use of Hyperbaric Oxygen

The working population continues to age and experience a variety of age related conditions in addition to the usual occupational injuries. Age related conditions may include diabetes and cancer requiring radiation. Occupational injuries that can occur include crush injuries, injuries resulting in osteomyelitis, and trauma resulting in air gas emboli. This lecture will address how hyperbaric oxygen therapy can treat these problems and get employees back to work quicker.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the 14 indications for the use of hyperbaric medicine.
- Discuss conditions that will benefit workers that are injured on the job: Crush injuries, injuries requiring flaps or grafts, injuries that result in osteomyelitis, and injuries that result in necrotizing infections would all benefit from hyperbaric oxygen therapy and return workers to work in shorter times than without the treatment.
- Discuss the treatment of conditions related to aging: Radionecrosis from treatment of cancer with radiation and diabetic foot wounds are two examples of how hyperbaric oxygen could help return a worker back to work sooner with treatment than without

Faculty

Tony Alleman, MD, MPH

Bob Sanders, MD

320 Important Elements to Writing, Reviewing and Submitting a Manuscript to the Occupational and Environmental Health Literature

Elements to consider when writing, reviewing, or submitting a manuscript for publication will be discussed from the perspectives of the writer, reviewer, and editor. First, the organization of a scientific paper will be discussed noting the importance of answering questions concisely yet detailed enough to allow understanding and reproducibility. Critical appraisal of the manuscript examining the title, abstract, methods, results, statistical analysis, tables, figures, and conclusions to see if they all fit together will be discussed, with guidance on how the reviewer approaches evaluating the manuscript for its scientific merit, helpful to both an author or budding reviewer will be next. Finally, the perspective of the editor, who is the gatekeeper for the journal, responsible for maintaining the integrity of the journal and ensuring that accepted manuscripts are scientifically sound and in line with the mission of the journal, will be presented. Moderated small group round table discussions of a published article will ensue. JOEM Editorial Board members will be available for questions.[NOTE: Need section for education].

Sponsored by the COEAA

Learning Objectives

- Critically evaluate one's own work and that of one's peers
- Describe what an editor is looking for in submitted manuscripts
- Explain the purpose of peer review

Faculty

Judith McKenzie, MD, MPH

Paul Brandt- Rauf, ScD, MD, DrPH

Jonathan Borak, MD, FACOEM

321 From Bystander to Upstander: Learning the Language of Intervention

Healthcare providers and trainees are not insulated from the world of racism. Racism in the form of microaggressions can seep into a clinic or a hospital room, and it is no longer acceptable to let hurtful words stand unopposed. The expectations of our learners are changing, and moving from bystander to upstander will be part of being an educator. Addressing racism is an important part of professionalism.

Sponsored by Academic Occupational Medicine Section

Learning Objectives

- Define 'microaggression' and its variations: microassaults, microinsults, microinvalidations, and macroaggressions.
- Apply the Microaggression Triangle to move from bystander to upstander.
- List several books, podcasts, and other resources to learn more about the reality of racism in our schools, workplaces, and healthcare settings; and to use that knowledge to improve their own workplaces.

Faculty

Ana E. Nobis, MD, MPH

322 Using Podcasts to Explore Emerging Trends in OEM Practice

In 2020, 75% of Americans over the age of 12 were familiar with podcasts, with 37% of Americans (~104 million) listening monthly. With the increased uptake of podcast content, more and more clinicians have incorporated podcasting into their medical practice to educate the public about various medical topics. ACOEM launched OccPod: COVID Conversations series in late December 2020, and embarked on a journey which incorporated the intersection of COVID-19 and practice of occupational medicine. Since its inception, OccPod has expanded to include several topical series: Climate Conversations, Vaccines, and Resident Conversations. Podcasts can be an effective tool for clinicians to disseminate credible information quickly. This session aims to present how podcasts can be used to disseminate information on emerging health topics in infectious diseases and environmental health.

Sponsored by Environmental Health, Residents and Recent Graduates, and Nurse Practitioners

Learning Objectives

- Describe how podcasts can be used to disseminate information on emerging health topics in infectious diseases and environmental health.
- Describe how OccPod can serve as an effective clinical learning tool for the ACOEM member.
- Discuss the tools needed to be able to create and stream semi structured podcasts on diverse themes. It will provide strategies on how to integrate podcasts as an effective communication tool to disseminate nuanced information.

Faculty

Ismail Nabeel, MD, MPH, MS

Erin Ransford, BSPH

Manijeh Berenji, MD, MPH, FACOEM

323 Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Concussion: Prevalence, Impact of the ACOEM Treatment Recommendations, and Challenges with Return-to-Work.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a complex topic because of the high variability in diagnosis, medical coding, treatments, and outcomes. An estimated 12% of the general adult population has a history of TBI with loss of consciousness. Researchers have found that between 20-50% of patients experience limitations, such as fatigue, headaches, inability to maintain previous workloads, and behavioral issues 3 - 12 months post injury. This leads to a wide range of functional recovery and RTW outcomes. The ACOEM clinical guideline offers some treatment recommendations, however many are based on insufficient evidence due to the lack of supporting medical literature. This presentation will describe workers' compensation data and trends for TBI in both the US and Canada. Occupational and non-occupational factors impacting recovery and RTW will be highlighted. Additionally, the prevalence of ACOEM recommended and non-recommended treatments and their potential impact on patient outcomes. Finally, best-practice return to work strategies will be outlined, including key strategies for practical applications.

Learning Objectives

- Summarize the demographics of workers most impacted by traumatic brain injury.
- Identify common treatments that may help or harm patient outcomes.
- Synthesize the impact of jurisdiction and health systems on traumatic brain injury patient outcomes.

Faculty

Kerri Wizner, MPH;

W. Shane Journeay, PhD, MPH, MD

Dan N. Jolivet, PhD

324 How Regulatory Systems Perpetuate Environmental Injustice

Current federal and state regulatory systems for hazardous air pollution perpetuate environmental injustice in the United States. New research from the Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology uses ethylene oxide, a known human carcinogen, to examine the effectiveness of the current regulatory framework in protecting the public from identified hazards. A 2018 assessment by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) showed that areas around EtO-emitting facilities had cancer risk levels up to 24 times the national average. This research analyzes differences in federal and state responses to these identified cancer risks and considers the social and political factors associated with differences found. Wealthier white communities who exerted pressure saw facilities close or cut emissions. State and federal inaction in environmental justice communities led to continued cancer risks for over 1 million people. This session will explore the current gaps in the regulatory process for hazardous air emissions that disproportionately impact environmental justice communities

Learning Objectives

- Recognize the impact on public health of the delegation of Clean Air Act enforcement by the EPA to the states.
- Assess the beneficial impact of community action on effective hazard control by state and federal agencies.
- Describe the gaps in the current regulatory framework to protect the public's health, particularly in environmental justice communities.

Faculty

Marilyn Howarth, MD, FACOEM; Adrian Wood, MPH
Adrian L. Wood, MPH

325 Global Warming in Africa: Decreased Arable Land, Food Security, and Changes in Vector-Borne Diseases

The impact of climate change on Africa is severe because of high agricultural dependence and limited capacity to prepare for, adapt, and cope with extreme weather-related events. Agriculture employs 60% of Africa's population, but climate change has diminished arable land by 21%. In Southern Africa, about 14 million people need food assistance, while the number of undernourished people in sub-Saharan African countries has increased by 45.6% since 2012 (FAO). In 2019, Tropical Cyclones Idai and Kenneth resulted in over 1200 deaths, loss of over 480,000ha of crops, and hundreds of thousands of displaced persons. - Warmer areas are increasing the transmission of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue, and yellow fever, and water-borne diseases such as cholera. Public health providers must appreciate that limited resources and competing priorities constrain the ability of African governments to generate and implement fully integrated climate policies and strategies.

Sponsored by Environment Health Section

Learning Objectives

- Analyze the relationship between climate change and food security.
- Define how global warming in Africa affects population health.
- Predict the challenges African governments face when developing climate policies and strategies.

Faculty

Kushinga M. Bvute, MD, MPH

Warren Silverman, MD, FACOEM, FACPM

326 Mobile Medical Apps 2023 - the Rapidly Shifting World

Are your patients asking for mobile apps to help them with their medical and health issues? Though you may not be prescribing mobile medical apps to your patients, research indicates that 60% of US citizens having at least one medical application on their smart phones. Despite this, only one third of the 325,000 medical apps now available have a licensed medical professional involved either in creation or testing; and the FDA has issued 2022 guidelines that take what has been described as a laissez-faire attitude on many kinds of mobile medical applications. This presentation will demonstrate several mobile medical apps of likely use to OEM health professionals, and will outline the current state of research on mobile medical app efficacy, privacy, and safety. This presentation contains information you need to know, if only to keep up with your patients!

Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate some Mobile Medical Apps they might consider for their or their patients' use.
- Discuss the results from evidence-based studies and the issues impacting research in the medical literature on Mobile Medical App efficacy, safety, and privacy.
- Describe of the FDA regulatory framework published September 2022 governing Mobile Medical App safety, development and use.

Faculty

Constantine J. Gean, MD, FACOEM, MS, MBA

327 Challenging Cases in Disability Management: Current Issues in the Americans with Disability Act, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and Reasonable Accommodation

This session will provide real world examples and OEM case discussions including litigation, disability management, the Americans with Disability Act, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and Reasonable Accommodation. It will end with a panel discussion with top experts in the field.

Sponsored by the Corporate Medicine Section and Human Performance Section

Learning Objectives

- Discuss with the Alphabet Soup of Litigation
- Explain the practical application of ADA, EEOC and reasonable accommodation
- Explore complex disability management cases with a panel of OEM Experts

Faculty

Stephen Frangos, MD, MPH

Kevin L. Trangle, MD, MHA, MBA

Richard Vinroot, MD, MPH

328 How Can a Health and Wellbeing Programme for a High Performance Formula E Racing Team Benefit the Staff and Customers of a Company? How Can You Make Your Health and Wellbeing Initiatives High Performance? Come and See.

Jaguar Racing have a Formula E team that need to perform at their best throughout the race season to win and get on the podium. Jaguar Land Rover make cars that define Modern Luxury. We aim to improve the wellbeing of the drivers and occupants of those cars both on the track and on/off road. What can we learn from the health and wellbeing programmes that the race team use? How can those activities used by the high performance team translate into corporate health and wellbeing programmes? Would you describe your current health and wellbeing programmes as High Performance? Come and find out how to make your health and wellbeing programme a High Performance programme. Learn how to make incremental gains to achieve greater success. Learn what goes into making a winning team, and it isn't just having a great driver!

Learning Objectives

- Discuss Formula E, one of the fastest growing motorsports and how the winning teams adopt a High Performance strategy in everything they do including health and wellbeing. Describe the clinical and health demands and activities of the team and the drivers.
- Discuss what it takes to achieve High Performance in health and wellbeing programmes and activities. Assess the differences between their own programmes and activities and those of a High Performance programme and activity.
- Explain how to change for the better your own programmes and activities to make them High Performance. Implement actual practical changes to their own programmes and activities to make them High Performance.

Faculty

Steven P. Iley, MBChB FFOM

329 Agile Development of Innovative Interactive Hazard Recognition and Mitigation Tools/Learning E-Platforms for Workers Involved in the Rescue and Recovery Operations in Diverse Flooding Environments.

Objective: Health and Safety of construction workers is becoming an increasingly important health problem as natural weather disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity. The recent COVID19 pandemic has shown that these workers are at high risk for respiratory borne infectious diseases. To meet this need, an innovative e-learning tool, Pocket Ark, has been developed. Pocket Ark is an elearning tool designed to improve the education, health, safety, and security needs of the construction worker working in the post flood environment.

Methods: Pocket Ark's effectiveness was tested with a single group pre-posttest study design with a group of day laborers (n=11).

Results: Taking the educational learning module in Pocket Ark significantly improved construction worker knowledge of proper health and safety practices in flooded environments.

Conclusion: These initial findings have to be interpreted with limitations inherent in a small pilot study. However, the results suggest that the Pocket Ark application can be used as a tool to improve constructor worker knowledge on how to prepare to work in post flood environments.

Sponsored by Environment Health Section

Learning Objectives

- Describe the unique hazards that construction workers who specialize in renovating recently flooded areas face
- Discuss what health hazards are associated with flooding
- Describe a novel approach to improving that the researchers have developed to help improve the construction worker safety.

Faculty

William B. Perkison, MD

Ismail Nabeel, MD, MPH, MS

330 What is the Big Deal about Asbestos?

This would be a didactic presentation on the development of knowledge about asbestos and what disease occur following exposure and who is exposed. There would be a discussion of the international nature of use and disease, and how to prevent future diusease.

Learning Objectives

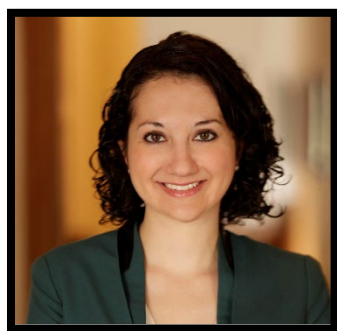
- Discuss the range of asbestos related diseases.
- Recognize unusual sources of exposure.
- Discuss the prevention tools needed to prevent future disease from exposure to asbestos.

Faculty

Arthur L. Frank, MD, PhD

General Session with Patterson Lecture

Building Trust, Combating Misinformation, and Navigating Uncertainty in the Practice of Occupational and Environmental Medicine



Sara Gorman, PhD, 2023 Patterson Lecturer

The 2023 Patterson Lecturer is Sara Gorman, PhD. Dr. Gorman is a public health and behavioral science who has written extensively about science denial, misinformation, science communication, and psychology, among other topics. Sara's first book, *Denying to the Grave: Why We Ignore the Facts That Will Save Us*, explores the psychology behind irrational health beliefs and decisions. The book also provides advice for how the general public can discriminate between valid and invalid science, and considers how public health professionals and

doctors can communicate with patients who have a fundamental mistrust of science and medical research. Sara is currently working on a second book for Oxford University Press on medical mistrust, conspiracy theories, and the U.S. healthcare system.

Sara's work has appeared or been reviewed in *TIME*, *The New Yorker*, *Science*, *Psychology Today*, *The Atlantic*, BBC and NPR, among others. Sara is also co-founder of Critica, a community committed to making rational decisions about health.

William B. Patterson, MD, MPH, FACOEM, died March 31, 2008, at age 59. At the time of his death, Dr. Patterson was a member of the ACOEM Board of Directors, Chair of the Committee on Ethical Practice in OEM, and was Assistant Vice President at Concentra Health Services, responsible for clinical operations in New England and New York. In recognition of Dr. Patterson's life and service, ACOEM schedules a lecture at the AOHC in the spirit of Dr. Patterson's work and to support ethics-oriented leadership development for OEM residents and young physicians.

401 Training in Hyperbaric Medicine to Enhance Your Occupational Medicine Practice.

This session will introduce the occupational medicine physician to avenues to enhance their practice by getting additional training in hyperbaric medicine. With further education focused on hyperbaric medicine, the occupational medicine physician could be able to approach public safety organizations and commercial diving companies. In addition, those with more interest could explore the possibilities of training in hyperbaric medicine to expand their practice for wound care or the treatment of any one of the 14 indications of using hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the ways of getting additional training in hyperbaric medicine. These include short or long courses that would allow a physician to be able to evaluate and treat commercial divers.
- Describe training opportunities in hyperbaric medicine that would allow the physician to practice hyperbaric medicine as an addition to their practice.

Faculty

Tony Alleman, MD, MPH

Bob Sanders, MD

402 The Department of Veterans Affairs Post Deployment Cardiopulmonary Evaluation Network: State of the Art Care in Pulmonary Assessment of Burn Pit-exposed Veterans

In 2019, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Airborne Hazards Center of Excellence established the Post-Deployment Cardiopulmonary Evaluation Network, or PDCEN. With 6 regional sites as of 2022, the PDCEN performs comprehensive, standardized clinical evaluations for veterans who report certain respiratory health problems, especially unexplained dyspnea, and who report exposure to burn pits and other airborne hazards. This case-based session, featuring 3 pulmonologists - 2 of whom are occupational medicine-trained - and an expert exercise physiologist, will describe the purpose and structure of the VA's PDCEN program, explain how PDCEN veterans undergo clinical evaluation for airborne hazards exposures and pulmonary health effects, and highlight how some of the diagnostic tools may be relevant to other occupational health evaluation needs. Educational Gaps: This session will highlight the role of tools beyond basic chest x-ray and spirometry in fully evaluating dyspnea in patients exposed to burn pits and airborne hazards. Occupational medicine physicians can then incorporate these diagnostic tools to better evaluate their own patients with inhalational exposures and respiratory symptoms.

Sponsored by the Federal and Military Occupational and Environmental Medicine Section

Learning Objectives

- Describe the purpose and structure of VA's Post-deployment Cardiopulmonary Evaluation Network.
- Summarize the PDCEN approach to exposure assessment for military and non-military occupational & environmental hazards in post-9/11 veterans.
- Name 3 diagnostic tools to identify markers of respiratory disease missed by conventional spirometry.

Faculty

Michael Falvo, PhD;
Silpa Krefft, MD, MPH
Stella E. Hines, MD, MSPH
Anays Sotolongo, MD

403 Hazard or Opportunity? You Decide

Philadelphia offers a unique opportunity to explore the environmental implications of the oldest and largest oil refinery on the east coast, a near-environmental disaster as the refinery exploded and burned in Philadelphia, and the aftermath. The Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery had been in operation since 1860 and was the largest point source of volatile organic chemicals in Philadelphia before the explosion. In June 2019, the refinery explosion raised immediate concerns due to the risk of leakage of large volumes of hydrogen fluoride stored on site. The refinery closed and the 1300 acre site is being re-developed. Ongoing pollutants include benzene in the air, lead in the soil and hydrocarbons in the ground water. These pose significant health implications for the site's re-development. In this session, we will explore the history of the refinery, legacy pollutants, regulatory perspective and community involvement. To enhance clinical insight into the many environmental issues raised, the audience will be challenged to explore ways they could participate in helping the community assess environmental health risks and plans for re-development.

Sponsored by Environmental Health and Undeserved Occupational Populations

Learning Objectives

- Analyze how the environmental regulatory framework impacts the redevelopment of a hazardous site
- Describe the implications of legacy pollution that environmental justice communities face
- Develop practical tools to be a health resource for different audiences such as policy makers and concerned residents

Faculty

Marilyn Howarth, MD, FACOEM

Pouné Saberi, MD, MPH

404 Substance Use Disorder in the Workplace: The Barriers for Employees and the Impact for Employers

Substance use, including tobacco, alcohol and opioids, has been on the rise for years and the COVID-19 pandemic has only amplified the problem. Addiction is not just a personal chronic medical condition. In fact, more than 70% of individuals suffering from substance use disorder are active in the workforce and addiction significantly impacts all organizations and employers with medical spend and lost productivity mounting to more than \$25 billion dollars per year. As an occupational medicine specialist, understanding substance use disorder and its impact to employers and employees help us create a dialogue as a clinician and break down the stigma associated with it. In this session, we will discuss: (1) the current state of substance use disorder in the U.S. post the COVID-19 pandemic, (2) the barriers that exist today for employees and the impact for employers, and (3) the current best practices in substance use care and evidence based novel solutions that may help employees with their recovery.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize the current state of substance use disorder among the workforce, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to substance use care.
- Summarize the evidence of substance use disorder impacts on employers and organizations, and the barriers to care for employees.
- Describe the current evidence-based best practices and the use of novel solutions in substance use care for organizational employees.

Faculty

Justin (Chih Chao) Yang, MD MPH

406 A Systematic Review on Current Solutions for Preventing Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders

Researchers will discuss the outcomes of their systematic literature review on current prevention methods for musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). This review was conducted to better understand interventions for MSDs, uncover promising solutions, and determine where to focus future research efforts. Six electronic databases were systematically searched for peer-reviewed, MSDs-related publications within the last decade. Two researchers reviewed 8,365 articles for pre-determined inclusion criteria, and disagreements were resolved by a third reviewer. Data were abstracted and synthesized from 58 articles that met the inclusion criteria. Results highlight intervention strategies, such as enacting specialized patient handling equipment and material handling devices, exoskeletons, or engaging in exercise programs to prevent MSDs. This review provides a first-of-its-kind insight into current MSD prevention interventions and suggests future research directions.

Learning Objectives

- Determine possible barriers to implementing interventions to prevent MSDs.
- Explain current interventions used in order to avoid or reduce MSDs.
- Consider future directions for additional research in the prevention of MSDs.

Faculty

Sydney T. Mosser, MS
John Dony

407 Social Media Business Applications for the Occupational Medicine Practice

Social media is a powerful tool that can be used to promote your brand, build your patient base, advocate for a cause, improve patient education, and educate your patient base (and companies) on a variety of pertinent health and safety issues. This session will explore relevant applications and pragmatic use cases of social media that meaningfully apply to your day-to-day practice, encourage and empower you to create an online presence, and learn specific strategies to maximize engagement with your existing and new audiences.

Learning Objectives

- Describe how to strategically leverage social media as a digital tool to multiply yourself and your effectiveness in the marketplace
- Utilize social media to engage with an online audience and more cost-effectively communicate and promote educational resources to patients
- Use social media as a tactical marketing and PR tool for your practice

Faculty

Manijeh Berenji, MD, MPHS, FACOEM

Parvathi Somasundaram, MD

Duane Wisk, DO, MPH

Erin Ransford, BSPH

408 Post-Offer Employment Testing as a Cornerstone for Total Worker Health: Integrated Data Reveals Holistic Impacts That Support a Cross-Silo Approach to Improving Worker Safety, Health, & Wellbeing

NIOSH defines Total Worker Health as 'policies, programs, and practices that integrate protection from work-related safety and health hazards with promotion of injury and illness-prevention efforts to advance worker well-being.' This session will review findings of a study that examined the impact of Post-Offer Employment Testing (POET) - a specific application of Functional Employment Testing - across a range of outcomes, including safety, health, cost, and employee turnover. The study's findings suggest that the benefits of POET span across organizational silos, thus demonstrating the integrative principle of Total Worker Health. The presentation will describe how Occupational Health Professionals can leverage the integrative impacts of POET and other workforce safety and health programs to engage business leaders and to collaborate with colleagues across business functions to pursue a Total Worker Health approach.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the impact of Post-Offer Employment Testing on a range of outcomes, including medical, pharmacy, workers' compensation, short-term disability, and motor vehicle accident costs, and worker turnover.
- Describe how the wide-ranging impacts of POET support the aim of Total Worker Health.
- Explain how to leverage the holistic impact of POET (or other safety & health programs) to engage company leaders and colleagues in other corporate functions (HR, Benefits, Wellness) to strive toward a Total Worker Health approach

Faculty

Rosandra Daywalker, MD, PhD (C)

Ben Hoffman, MD, MPH

409 Thinking Big and Expanding Employee Health Offerings: How Yale New Haven Health is Helping Our Employees Bridge Gaps to Primary Care and Disease Management Services through 'Easy Care'

Pivoting forward from our expanded role in caring for employees with COVID-19 infections, in June 2022, we helped them advance engagement in their personal health (both physical and mental) and well-being by introducing new clinical services 'right where they work', and with no out-of-pocket costs. Easy Care services include: treating minor personal illnesses and injuries; biometric screenings (blood pressure, BMI, cholesterol, and on-demand glucose and HgbA1c measurements); non-work related vaccinations (e.g., Shingles and Pneumovax); and, importantly, directly connecting our employees to YNHHS benefits and programs such as chronic condition management and health coaching, in-person or virtual urgent care access, Patient Resource Coordinators (for navigation to primary and specialty care), Community Health Workers (for assistance with social drivers of health needs), Employee and Family Resources (EAP services), and HR Connect (for specific benefits questions). The speakers will outline their initial service design, early measures of success, and lessons learned that will ensure the growth of these services across the health system.

Learning Objectives

- Describe strategies to gain leadership support for these services in collaboration with other department leaders, the importance of employee input and feedback, and strategic marketing of the expanded service model.
- Discuss some of the operational, electronic medical record, and legal challenges that were overcome to introduce these services in a manner that is comprehensive, impactful, and compliant.
- Create a business case for these services and demonstrate value-on-investment including: reduced unnecessary ED use and related cost savings, improved engagement in chronic disease management and lifestyle coaching, improved follow through on care plans,

Faculty

Brianna Conetta, MBA

Ryan M. Pastena, MD

410 Pregnancy and Occupational Hazards

Women of reproductive age constitute a substantial proportion of the working population and are exposed to various occupational hazards. Recognition of these hazards and appropriate counselling of women who are either planning their pregnancy or are already pregnant is important to reduce health risks to both the mother and the fetus and find appropriate work accommodation options. At the same time, knowledge of these risks is important to provide reassurance when indicated and potentially avoid unnecessary removal from work. The presentation will cover important work hazards as they relate to pregnancy and female reproductive health.

Learning Objectives

- Better recognize important reproductive hazards.
- Provide evidence-based risk communication regarding major reproductive hazards to female workers.
- Better equipped to help employers reduce pregnancy-related health risks through better control programs and work accommodation.

Faculty

Marina Afanasyeva, MD, MPH, PhD, FRCPC

411 Challenges and Best Practices in Non-Traditional Occupational Health Settings

Many occupational health programs occur within medical centers, large corporations, or universities. Some are standalone clinics or part of a system or network of occupational health clinics. Although each program may have its unique attributes, the more traditional settings benefit from standardized policies, access to an electronic health record system, training and education resources, and even occupational health expertise. This session will present some of the challenges that occur within non-traditional occupational health settings. We will share examples and best practices from the US federal government and private or non-federal settings. The following will be discussed: (1) conducting audiometric testing as part of a hearing conservation program globally; (2) training primary care providers and other healthcare staff on general principles of occupational health; (3) utilizing electronic health records or other systems to track exposures and medical surveillance; and (4) gaining buy-in from leadership and other stakeholders on the importance of comprehensive occupational health services.

Learning Objectives

- Describe at least two approaches to implementing medical surveillance (e.g., audiometric testing as part of a hearing conservation program) at geographically diverse locations.
- Outline options for tracking occupational health data when resources are limited (i.e., there is no or limited access to a robust electronic health record).
- Making policy on the fly to track that which is operationally sound and involves all stakeholders. (identifying and tracking new hazards in a crisis)

Faculty

Sheryl A. Bedno, MD, DrPH
Peter G. Matos, DO, MPH

412 Incorporating Disability Benefits into Clinical Practice

Estimates indicate that up to 1 in 4 US workers will have lost time from work due to illness or injury. Disability benefits offered by employers offer income protection to employees during times of functional impairment but also offer opportunities for clinicians to assist with return to work if usable information is shared with benefits companies. Too often paperwork regarding disability is seen as a nuisance or burden for treating providers when in reality they offer opportunity for interaction with benefits company if clear picture of patient functional capacity is provided. In this session I will review the industry standard definitions of occupational activities including definitions of 'sedentary', 'light', 'medium' and 'heavy' occupations as well as definitions of timing including 'occasional', 'frequent' and 'constant'. In addition to developing a broader understanding of these industry terms I will explain why clear provision of restrictions and limitations can help benefits companies assess patient capacity for return to work and assist with return to work efforts when able.

Learning Objectives

- Assess function of patient in terms utilized by disability benefits carriers.
- Formulate restrictions and limitations for patients that can be translated to everyday work.
- Integrate industry terminology into office notes and in communications with benefits carriers.

Faculty

Tracy Hamill, MD

413 The Importance of Hospitals' Collaboration for Pandemic Preparedness: Lessons Learnt from COVID-19 in Lebanon

We describe our capacity-building project: A Nation-Wide Approach to Respond to COVID-19 Pandemic in Lebanon'. Through this USAID-funded project, the American University of Beirut partnered with ten remote hospitals to assist them in their pandemic response. Pre-assessment visits were followed by on site training, PPE delivery, and post-assessment visits. More than 325 healthcare workers were educated through a train the trainer (TTT) model. Subsequently more than 2.5 million pieces of PPE and medical equipment were distributed. To evaluate the hospitals' baseline preparedness and the impact of the capacity building process, a validated CDC/WHO Hospital Preparedness Checklist was completed. The effectiveness of the implemented training was assessed through structured knowledge questionnaires. A clear progress was noted in all hospitals in most domains, and a significant improvement was demonstrated in the trainers' knowledge scores. A collaborative TTT program between academic/tertiary care centers and remote hospitals that includes sharing expertise and supplies is feasible and highly effective during public health emergencies.

Learning Objectives

- Design an effective intervention that ensures hospitals' preparedness in times of pandemics
- Describe a tool that can be utilized to measure hospital preparedness during pandemic
- Assess the effectiveness of a train the trainer intervention

Faculty

Diana Rahme, MD

Carine Sakr, MD, MPH

414 Laboratory-acquired Infections: A Case Study

This is a case-based session to review the topic of laboratory-acquired infections. The presentation will include a discussion on the epidemiology and the pathogenicity of the agent involved in the case, the recurring challenges with biosafety practices and biocontainment in the biomedical research industry working with emerging pathogens and 'select agent' research.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss what to ask in the pre-employment and periodic medical surveillance to identify a high-risk worker for a laboratory-acquired infection who may require either standard or non-standard PrEP/PEP and/or the placement of additional workplace protection.
- Describe what to look for in a workplace hazards review that would suggest that a laboratory-acquired infection could present with atypical clinical manifestations.
- Explain a very effective method to reduce the risk unnecessary delays in the diagnosis and treatment of laboratory-acquired infections.

Faculty

Michael A. Sauri, MD, MPH&TM, FACP, FACPM, FACOEM

415 Clinical Management for PFAS Exposed Individuals

Upwards of 100 million people in the US have drinking water contaminated with PFAS. Toxicological and epidemiological literature has demonstrated a variety of health harms associated with exposure including cancer and non-cancer effects. The literature, however, is ever evolving with new studies every week. As media attention and public awareness has grown, exposed individuals are asking their providers for information and assessments. Yet, exposed individuals and their clinicians have been without guidance regarding testing and clinical evaluations. In 2022, the National Academy of Science published 'Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Testing, and Clinical Follow-Up.' The document, written by a committee of multidisciplinary PFAS experts reviews the science and offers recommendations for assessing exposure, an evidence-based clinical evaluation, testing protocols, etc. Members of the committee and other PFAS experts will discuss the implications and utility of the report.

Sponsored by the Environmental Health Section

Learning Objectives

- Identify who is subject to serum testing for PFAS and how to interpret the results
- Describe the clinical parameters for assessing a PFAS-exposed individuals
- Characterize the areas of uncertainty related to clinical management for those with elevated serum PFAS levels

Faculty

Kenneth R. Spaeth, MD

Erin Bell, PhD, M.S

Brian Linde, MD, MPH