

Panel Discussion: Building a TWH Center: From Nuts and Bolts to Politics

Senior leaders from all four NIOSH-funded Centers of Excellence in Total Worker Health™ will describe their center structure and themes being pursued, challenges and solutions, and national or local politics that may have affected their strategy or development. A panel discussion will follow the presentations for the audience to ask questions.

W. Kent Anger, PhD

Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)

Director, Oregon Healthy Workforce Center

Dr. Anger received his PhD in Experimental Psychology from the University of Maine. His early career was at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) where he became a Scientist Director and Chief of the Neurobehavioral Research Section. He moved to OHSU in 1989 where he focused on research on human behavioral neurotoxicology and developing strong applied research outreach and education programs for his Institute. At OHSU he has concentrated on health, safety, wellness and well-being intervention programs in agriculture, construction, health care, technology, and public sector populations. He has over 90 peer reviewed publications in these areas.



Jack Dennerlein, Ph.D, S.M.

Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Northeastern University

Adjunct Professor of Ergonomics and Safety, Harvard School of Public Health

Co-principal Investigator, HSPH Center for Work, Health, and Wellbeing

Dr. Dennerlein has over 20 years of research experience in occupational ergonomics and safety. His primary research goal is the prevention of work-related musculoskeletal disorders and injuries. In addition, his research aims to improve workers' health through integrated workplace health protection (ergonomics and safety) and promotion (wellness) intervention studies. His research experience includes work-station and equipment design, neuromuscular and occupational biomechanics, office ergonomics, construction worker safety and health, and health care safe patient handling and mobilization. Dr. Dennerlein holds degrees from the State University of New York at Buffalo, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of California, Berkeley.



Laura Punnett, Sc.D.

Work Environment, CHP-NEW, Center for Women & Work

University of Massachusetts - Lowell

Dr. Punnett earned her BA at Hampshire College, and her M.Sc. and Sc.D. at Harvard School of Public Health. She completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Michigan Center for Ergonomics & Department of Environmental and Industrial Health. Dr. Punnett helped found the Department of Work Environment at University of Massachusetts - Lowell, where she teaches both ergonomics and epidemiology. Dr. Punnett's research interests include the epidemiology of work-related musculoskeletal disorders, the role of working conditions in explaining socioeconomic and gender disparities in health, and the effectiveness of workplace interventions such as ergonomics programs, health promotion, joint labor-management health and safety committees. She has served as chair of the Scientific Committee on Musculoskeletal Disorders of the International Commission on Occupational Health. Other recent international collaborations have involved the Center for Musculoskeletal Research in Gavle, Sweden, and the Ecuatorian Technological University in Quito, Ecuador.



Diane Rohlman, Ph.D.

University of Iowa

Dr. Rohlman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Occupational and Environmental health at the University of Iowa College of Public Health. Her research activities have focused on the design, development, and validation of computerized test methods to assess neurotoxic effects and neurological disorders in humans exposed to chemical and physical agents. Her numerous research projects employ neurobehavioral and psychological test methods to study populations of all ages, with emphasis on the detection and characterization of impaired populations exposed to workplace hazards. She has extended the methods developed for adult working populations, to children and adolescents. These methods have been applied in research examining the effects of pesticide exposures in migrant workers and families, wartime stressors in Persian Gulf Veterans, and chemical exposures in Air Force fuelers. She has conducted research examining exposure and health effects in agricultural communities including Hispanic seasonal and migrant workers. Her current research is focused on identifying and characterizing adverse effects of pesticide exposure, specifically organophosphate exposure, on neurobehavioral performance.

