

2016 Occupational Health Psychology (OHP) Summer Institute

OHP Innovation and Creative Strategies Leading to Total Worker Health July 12-14, 2016

Location: Portland State University Smith Memorial Student Union, Rooms 327-329
Address: 1825 SW Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97201

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Day 2: July 13, 2016

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Work and Health: Evidence on the Pathways to Implementing Total Worker Health



Abstract: The conditions of work are central to worker health and safety, and represent critical pathways through which integrated policies, programs and practices shape a range of outcomes. These outcomes include occupational diseases and injuries traditionally associated with exposures on the job, as well as other prevalent health conditions, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, obesity, arthritis, substance abuse, and depression. The conditions of work include the physical work environment and the organization of work, e.g., job tasks and demands and psychosocial factors. These conditions of work are a central to the Total Worker Health Program.

This presentation will address three questions important to understanding Total Worker Health: (1) What is it? The presentation will describe what is meant by an integrated approach to worker health and safety, using definitions from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health for Total Worker Health and others, focusing particularly on the central role of the conditions of work. (2) Why do it? The presentation will examine the rationale for this approach from the perspective of worker health and safety outcomes as well as employer outcomes. (3) Will it work? The presentation will describe the evidence for the effectiveness of integrated policies, programs, and practices, and the pathways through which Total Worker Health interventions may operate. In the exploring these questions, this presentation will examine the roles of the conditions of work in shaping health and safety outcomes.