

University of Michigan Center for Occupational Health and Safety Engineering Success Stories

2019: The **University of Michigan ERC Occupational Nursing Program** recently developed and tested a new educational program that addresses noise hazards faced by 23 million children in farm and recreational environments, which can cause hearing loss and tinnitus that increases risks of injury, lower academic performance, behavioral problems, and low self-esteem. The program has been adopted by the *Progressive Agriculture Foundation Safety Day* program and is now delivered to up to 100,000 farm and rural youth annually.

2019: Dr. Alexis Handal was hired as an Associate Professor in the **University of Michigan Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Program**. Dr. Handal comes to the University of Michigan after working at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Handal's research interests include environmental epidemiology, reproductive epidemiology, and child and health development examined within a social/political/economic context and in global settings.

2019: Dr. Leia Stirling joined the Department of Industrial and Operations Engineering as an Associate Professor. Dr. Stirling will teach courses in the **Occupational Safety Engineering Program** and work closely with the OSE Program. Dr. Stirling comes to the University of Michigan after spending several years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Stirling's research interests include computational dynamics, human-machine interaction, system automation, signal processing, human factors, and experimental biomechanics.

2019 Dr. Clive D'Souza and Dr. Sheryl Ulin received the Achievement Honor Roll Award, from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity on October 11, 2019 for their work in organizing the conference "Transportation Careers for Students Blind and Low-Vision" in collaboration with the MI Bureau of Services for Blind Persons. Additionally, Dr. D'Souza received the James T. Neubacher Certificate of Appreciation for his work on advocacy of disability issues at U-M by the U-M Council for Disability Concerns on October 25, 2019.

2019: The **University of Michigan ERC** helped organize and co-sponsored the *ERC Regional Research Symposium* which focused on disaster and emergency response in occupational health and safety. This symposium rotates between the four ERCs that are members of the consortium. Michigan sent 13 attendees to the symposium, which was held at the University of Cincinnati, including students, faculty, and Pilot Project Research Training (PPRT) awardees, and we presented 6 posters by Jackie Cha, Illona Argion, Xuan Wang, Nan Lin (all PPRT) and Yadianna Acosta-Sojo (OSE) and Michael Begin (IH). Michael Begin won best poster in the judged competition. Other attendees included Stuart Batterman (Center Director), Saskia Berrios-Thomas (Center Program Coordinator), Fantasia Williams (OEE), Sue Ann Bell (OHN faculty, guest speaker at symposium), Steven Vanderlaske (IH), and Sophia Ridl (IH).

2019: The **University of Michigan ERC** sponsored a *Detroit Environmental Tour* in March of 2019. 30 individuals attended the tour, including 14 bachelor's students and 15 graduate students. The tour highlighted various environmental concerns in the Detroit area and delved into the relationship between industry and the community. Tour guide Ren Farley, a UM Professor Emeritus and Detroit historian, and Katherine Savoie, a community activist and organizer, engaged students and educated them on the history of the city and the environmental health impacts on workers.

2019: The **University of Michigan ERC** sponsored a tour of the *Ann Arbor Waste Water Treatment Plant* in November of 2019. 39 individuals attended the tour, most of whom were ERC students. The tour included various occupational concerns at the treatment plant, and included viewing of the solids handling site and the headworks. Plant workers guided students on a walking tour of the plant, pointing out occupational hazards and safeguards.

2019: The University of Michigan ERC hosted a film screening of *The Devil We Know*, an award-winning film focused on the impact of PFAS on a small community and its workers. Panelists included Gerald Tiernan, District Supervisor of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; Sarah Page, Drinking Water Quality Manager of the City of Ann Arbor; Sung Kyun Park, Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan School of Public Health; and Terese Olson, Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Michigan College of Engineering. 49 individuals attended the film screening, including undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, staff, and community members.

2020: Associate Professor Leia Stirling has been nominated as a 2019-2020 AAAS Leshner Leadership Public Engagement Fellow. This prestigious cohort of 15 scholars from an area of research at the nexus of science and society will convene for a week of intensive public engagement and science communication training and public engagement plan development.

2020: The **University of Michigan Industrial Hygiene Program** and **Apple** have partnered to study sound exposure and its impact on hearing health. This groundbreaking study – called the *Apple Hearing Study* – will measure sound exposure levels through a person’s Apple Watch or iPhone to better understand listening behavior and its impact on hearing health, ultimately guiding policy and prevention programs designed to protect and promote hearing health in the US and globally.

2020: The **University of Michigan Center for Occupational Health and Safety Engineering** conducted a new 3-day program entitled *21st Century Transportation: Careers for Students who are Blind or Have Vision Impairments*. Forty high school students attended this event, which included presentations, group activities, campus and laboratory visits, a luncheon with corporate leaders developing autonomous vehicles, riding an autonomous shuttle, and learning from blind or visually impaired professionals. Program sponsors included the *Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons*, *National Federation for the Blind*, and *Michigan Parents of Children with Visual Impairments*.