



COHSE CENTER FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

COHSE Success Stories for 2022

COHSE program faculty influence national, state, and local policy

Rick Neitzel, Professor and Director of our **Industrial Hygiene Program**, assumed the role of COHSE Center Director in 2022. He also continued to serve a second 3-year term as **Chair of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists Threshold Limit Values - Physical Agents Committee**, which sets widely used limits for toxic exposure.



Christopher Friese, Professor and Associate Director of our **Occupational Health Nursing Program**, continued to serve, through President Biden's appointment, on the **National Cancer Advisory Board**, which guides national policy on cancer research, including actions by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Cancer Institute.



Accolades to our world-leading **Occupational Safety Engineering** faculty included: **Dr. Don Chaffin** was selected for the **Titan Lecture Program** of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, and **Dr. Matt Reed** received the **2022 Kenneth M. Reese Outstanding Research Scientist Award** from U-M.

Our **Occupational Safety Engineering** program also benefited from the launch of a new **Industry Partnerships Program**, which supports communication channels between the department and industry, enabling direct sponsorship of projects, as well as supporting external internships and job placement.



Stuart Batterman, Professor and COHSE Deputy Director, was reappointed by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmore to a second 3-year term on the **Statewide Drinking Water Advisory Council** addressing lead contamination in Michigan's drinking water.

Adam Finkel, Adjunct Clinical Professor and Director of the COHSE **Pilot Project Research Training program**, was a peer reviewer of the 2022 National Academies report **Frameworks for Protecting Workers and the Public from Inhalation Hazards**.



COHSE graduate **Dr. Jalonnie White-Newsome** was appointed **Senior Director for Environmental Justice** in the White House Council on Environmental Quality in 2022.

COHSE program faculty help enhance occupational health and safety education

COHSE faculty, including Professors **Marjorie McCullagh**, **Stuart Batterman**, **Marie O'Neill**, and **Rick Neitzel**, published an article describing methods to strengthen student skills in interprofessional collaboration. Their assessment concluded that introducing interprofessional collaboration competencies into graduate education in worker health and safety can equip students to more effectively work in occupational health-oriented multidisciplinary teams.



Pandemic responses continue with research and training

Our faculty members in the **Industrial Hygiene Program** assist with local, state and federal response the pandemic. Professor **Aurora Le** has an appointment through the Intergovernmental Personnel Act with the **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)** to assist the agency in its response to COVID-19 among construction workers. In addition, Prof. Rick Neitzel and other faculty are conducting surveillance of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in campus environments, including in air and wastewater.



Innovative research provides the scientific basis to decrease workplace injury and disease

The groundbreaking **Apple Hearing Study**, a nationwide study on sound exposures and impacts on hearing and cardiovascular health, is now in its third year. Headed by **Rick Neitzel**, the study has used smart devices to amass the largest-ever dataset of sound exposures, as well as hundreds of thousands of hearing tests.



Marjorie McCullagh, Director of our **Occupational Health Nursing Program**, was recently inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Research Hall of Fame.

Marie O'Neill, Professor and Director of the **Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology program**, co-directs a grant intended to **enhance diversity in Environmental Health Sciences**. Professor **O'Neill**, Professor **Alexis Handal**, and other faculty also published a study titled **Climate Change, Heat, and Farmworker Health**.



COHSE outreach to business and industry shares research advances and best practices

Our **Continuing Education Program** conducts a wide range of live courses and webinars by top faculty and leaders in the field. Our programs were attended by over 4,400 people in 2022. Many of the webinars are also available afterwards for viewing. In 2022, most courses were offered virtually using a combination of synchronous and asynchronous content. Often, case studies and supplementary examples were used during synchronous sessions to provide the opportunity for attendees to interact with each other, the instructors and apply the course material.

Examples of our courses include:

- **Comprehensive Industrial Hygiene Review**
- **Human Factors Engineering**
- **Using the 3D Static Strength Prediction Program™**
- **Noise Measurement, Effects and Control**
- **Ergonomics Principles for Workplace Assessment and Design**
- **Updates in Nursing and Physical Assessment for the Occupational Health Nurse**

We also co-sponsored the **Michigan Industrial Ventilation Conference**, the **Multi-Professional Oncology Safety Simulation and Training**, and the **Workplace Mental Health Conference**.

Our training and our graduates make the workplace safer and more productive

Undergraduate, masters and doctoral students are assisting Assistant Professor **Aurora Le** in our **Industrial Hygiene Program** on research entitled **Evaluating Occupational Biohazards, Stress, and Readiness for Uptake of Total Worker Health Interventions in U.S. Waste Workers**.

We are dramatically increasing our on-line offerings through our new **Michigan-Ohio Occupational Research Education Program**, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. In the next 4 years, we will develop and deliver training and research experiences for students and practitioners in several areas: (1) exposure assessment; (2) home health care; (3) sustainability and occupational health and safety practices; and (4) ergonomics and aerosol exposure. The highly multidisciplinary team involves experts from the **University of Michigan, University of Cincinnati, and Michigan State University**.

COHSE is also hosting the **2023 Regional Symposium**, which will bring together faculty, and students from the **University of Michigan, University of Cincinnati, University of Kentucky, and University of Illinois-Chicago!**



University of Michigan Center for Occupational Health and Safety Engineering <https://cohse.umich.edu/>

