

2023 ERC REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM

April 14th, 2023

Ann Arbor, MI



**Great Lakes Center for
Occupational Health
and Safety**



University of Cincinnati
Education and Research Center

M | COHSE CENTER FOR OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH AND SAFETY ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Sponsored by the NIOSH Education &
Research Centers at the University of
Cincinnati, University of Illinois at Chicago &
University of Michigan

Meeting Challenges in Occupational and Environmental Justice

2023 Regional Education and Research Center Symposium
April 14, 2023 | University of Michigan, Union

Program Objectives

- Describe the prevalence and impacts of occupational and environmental injustices
- Recognize that environmental injustices are often dwarfed by occupational injustices, and that reducing only environmental injustices may not significantly improve overall justice
- Evaluate needs and opportunities for OSH and EHS education and training on occupational injustices
- Discuss research and policy initiatives that could help integrate occupational risk reduction into EJ

8:30-9:00am	Welcome Breakfast- Kuenzel Ballroom
9:00-9:15am	Opening Remarks & Overview – Rick Neitzel- Director COHSE
9:15-10:30am	<p>Invited Speakers: Reducing Occupational Injustices as we Reduce Environmental Ones <i>Equity and Justice Today at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:</i> 9:15-9:30am Matthew Tejada – Director, EPA Office of Environmental Justice</p> <p><i>A Holistic Reduction in Chemical Exposures: A Resilience-Building Approach:</i> 9:30-9:45am El'Gin Avila– Director of OEH and Equity, BlueGreen Alliance</p> <p><i>Environmental Justice in the Workplace:</i> 9:45-10:00am Donele Wilkins – Founder/CEO Green Door Initiative</p> <p><i>Aggregate Exposures to Residents, Consumers, and Workers across their Microenvironments: Implications for Environmental Justice:</i> 10:00-10:15am Jon Levy– Professor and Chair of EHS, Boston University</p> <p>Discussion: 10:15-10:30am</p>
10:30-10:45am	Break
10:45-Noon	<p>Invited Speakers: Occupational and Environmental Justice work across our ERCs <i>Occupational Injustice in Home Healthcare:</i> 10:45-11:05am Kermit Davis, PhD, CPE– Professor of EOHS, University of Cincinnati ERC</p> <p><i>Chicago: Hot Bed of Occupational Justice Then and Now:</i> 11:05-11:25am Susan Buchanan– Clinical Assoc Professor of EOHS, University of Illinois-Chicago ERC</p> <p><i>The Keys Aren't Under the Lamppost: We Need 'Occupational Justice' First:</i> 11:25-11:45am Adam Finkel– Clinical Professor of EHS, University of Michigan ERC</p> <p>Q&A With ERC's: 11:45-noon</p>
12:00-12:45pm	<p>Catered Lunch and Keynote: <i>From the ERC, to Dow, to the Erb Foundation: Observations on Occupational and Environmental Justice</i> Neil Hawkins – President, Erb Family Foundation</p>

1:00-3:00pm Moderator: <i>Rick Neitzel</i>	Occupational Justice Workshop: Assigned groups Interdisciplinary group discussion to address symposium objectives: 1:00-2:15pm "Ignite"- Style Presentations: 2:15-3:00pm
3:00-3:15pm	Break- Afternoon Snack
3:15-4:30pm	Poster Session and Reception- South Lounge
4:30-4:35pm	Closing Remarks- Kuenzel Ballroom

Saturday April 15th **Ford Rouge Factory Tour (Registration Required)**

8:30am	Bus Departure: School of Public Health/Markley Hall 1503 Washington Heights, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
10:00-12:00pm	Ford Rouge Factory Tour: Dearborn, MI (water, snacks, and earplugs provided)
1:00pm	Bus Return: School of Public Health/Markley Hall 1503 Washington Heights, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

CE Credits	This Symposium has been accredited with .6 CEU, approval number 23.03 The event contains 6 contact hours Certificate available at completion
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SPEAKERS

Matthew S. Tejada



(He/Him) Matthew S. Tejada is the deputy assistant administrator (DAA) for environmental justice within EPA's national program Office for Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR). Matthew joined EPA in March of 2013 as a career senior executive and director of the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), a position he held until the reorganization of OEJ into OEJECR in September of 2022. As DAA, Matthew provides leadership for all aspects of EPA's EJ portfolio. Before his career at EPA, Matthew spent over five years as executive director of the EJ advocacy organization Air Alliance Houston. Matthew received his MPhil and DPhil degrees from Oxford and a BA in English from the University of Texas at Austin, and served two years in the Peace Corps in Bulgaria.

El'gin Avila



El'gin joined BGA in October 2020 as Director of Occupational and Environmental Health and Equity (OEHE) at BlueGreen Alliance. Originally from Detroit, Michigan, El'gin's passion stems from his experiences and knowledge of environmental and social injustices that have plagued disenfranchised and marginalized communities both in the US and abroad. As OEHE Director, he works to bring a more just approach to environmental and occupational health structures and systems. He aims to ensure that vulnerable and historically marginalized populations engaging in precarious work are protected regardless of worker classification, and looks to elucidate precarity and financial instability as a factor of worker health and wellness. El'gin uses his technical expertise as an industrial hygienist to enhance the capacity of BGA's occupational and environmental health agenda.

El'gin expects to receive his Ph.D. in Occupational Health and Industrial Hygiene from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health later in 2023. He has an MPH in Environmental Health Science from the George Washington University and a B.S. in Psychology and Biology (2015) from Eastern Michigan University.

Donele Wilkins



Donele Wilkins is Chief Executive Officer of the Green Door Initiative, a nonprofit organization promoting environmental justice in Michigan. She is a sought-after public speaker, and a recipient of many awards, including most recently being named an Innovator with the Campaign for Black Male Achievement, and the 2023 Michigan Chronicle Women of Excellence Award. For more than two decades, Wilkins has led local movements for environmental justice, played a key role in developing the Michigan's Environmental Justice Policy, launched the city's first green jobs training program, advocated for citizen involvement in public policies and citizen science, and placed environmental stewardship on the agenda of community leaders and decision makers.

Located in Detroit Michigan, Green Door Initiative's mission is to ensure that everyone is environmentally literate, capable of promoting and living a sustainable lifestyle. They envision a world where everyone irrespective of racial background, zip code and income bracket thrive in a healthy environment. Where environmental racism is a distant memory for generations to come and environmental justice is a reality for all.

Jon Levy



Dr. Jonathan Levy (Sc.D., Harvard School of Public Health, 1999) is Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Health at Boston University School of Public Health. His research centers on urban environmental exposure and health risk modeling, with an emphasis on spatiotemporal exposure patterns and related environmental justice issues. Recent and ongoing research topics include spatial patterns of air pollution in near-airport communities, the cardiovascular health effects of aviation-related noise, and the patterns and predictors of COVID-19 in Massachusetts.

He has been a member of several National Research Council committees, including the Committee on Science for EPA's Future, the Committee on Health Impact Assessment, and the Committee on Improving Risk Analysis Approaches Used by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Neil Hawkins



Dr. Neil C. Hawkins is President of the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, an innovative and collaborative foundation dedicated to nurturing environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant communities in metro Detroit and supporting the Great Lakes. Hawkins was a 31 year employee of Dow, where he served as the Chief Sustainability Officer and Corporate Vice President for Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S). He led Dow's 2025 Sustainability Goals and was the architect of several groundbreaking collaborations, including the Dow/Nature Conservancy Collaboration on valuing nature in business decisions, which won the Harvard Roy Family Award for Environmental Partnership, as well as the innovative Dow Sustainability Graduate Fellows Program at the University of Michigan.

Hawkins is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR); a member of the International Olympics Committee (IOC) Sustainability and Legacy Commission; and a member of the Committee on Policy and Global Affairs of the National Academies of the USA (NAS). Hawkins was awarded the Corporate EcoForum's 2012 C.K. Prahalad Award for sustainability leadership by an individual, and has been named one of the top 30 most influential sustainability voices on social media by The Guardian.

He holds doctoral and master's degrees from the Harvard University School of Public Health, as well as an undergraduate degree from Georgia Tech. He and his family are very active in advocacy for individuals with disabilities and are enthusiastic supporters of community and professional theatre.

Kermit Davis



Dr. Kermit Davis is a Professor at the University of Cincinnati where he is the graduate program director of the Environmental and Occupational Hygiene and Occupational Safety and Ergonomics programs at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Davis is a past-President of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) and a Fellow of HFES (2013) and American Industrial Hygiene Association (2019). His research has concentrated on reducing ergonomic stressors of healthcare workers and patients in healthcare settings (e.g. hospitals, long-term care facilities, and home healthcare). In the last year, his research has focused on virtual offices.

Susan Buchanan



Dr. Susan Buchanan, MD, is the director of the Great Lakes Center for Children's and Reproductive Environmental Health and a clinical associate professor of environmental and occupational health sciences at the UIC School of Public Health. Buchanan is an expert in health problems related to toxic substances and other environmental hazards in the workplace or community. Her research interests include the health of minority, low-income, and immigrant workers; of children; and reproductive environmental health. She has published studies on the impact of fish consumption and mercury exposure in the Asian communities in Chicago; the use of protective gear among Latino day-laborers; and lead exposure among Chicago's children.



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Adam Finkel



Dr. Adam M. Finkel (Clinical Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, UMSPH) is one of the nation's leading experts in analyzing and reducing risks from environmental and occupational pollution, with 35 years' experience in government and academia. He is one of two scholars in the nation chosen to serve on both of the National Academy of Sciences panels (1994 and 2008) that recommended ways for EPA and other agencies to improve their risk assessments.

He was an appointee at the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) under Presidents Clinton and GW Bush, first as OSHA's chief scientist and then as Regional Administrator in charge of all OSHA activities in the Rocky Mountain states.

Adam is very broadly trained in science, economics, and policy, and has been a professor at Rutgers (medicine), Princeton (public administration), Penn (law) and now Michigan (public health).

He has a doctoral degree in environmental health sciences from the Harvard School of Public Health, a master's degree in public policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, an A.B. in biology from Harvard College, and is a Certified Industrial Hygienist. In 2006, he received the David P. Rall Award for Advocacy in Public Health from the American Public Health Association, for "a career in advancing science in the service of public health protection."