

Roundtable Panel

TITLE: Challenges and emerging issues of participatory, integrated programs for worker safety, health and well-being

Description

The organization of work and the working environment are important factors in the social determinants of health. The World Health Organization and leading public health agencies from Canada, the United States, and other countries support the concept that a “healthy workplace” is comprised of physical and psychosocial aspects of the work environment that directly and indirectly impact health. Integrated program models such as the CDC Total Worker Health[®] (TWH) program, offer specific strategies to make work organization more conducive to safety, health, and well-being. Participatory engagement of workers in the design of interventions is one core strategy that offers a mechanism for designing integrated interventions using a macroergonomic approach. However, participatory, integrated program approaches have not been widely adopted, particularly in some countries. This session will provide an opportunity to discuss specific challenges and emerging issues related to dissemination and implementation of participatory integrated workplace programs. Five panelists will briefly introduce specific topics and a panel Chair will moderate a dialogue with the panelists and the audience.

Panel Chair: Martin Cherniack, MD, MPH, Professor of Occupational Medicine
University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington CT

Presentation topics and speakers

1. International trends in work organization, job insecurity, etc. and their impact on health.
 - Carles Muntaner, PhD, MHS, Professor, Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, & Center for Urban Health Solutions, St Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto
2. Total Worker Health: the international context.
 - Laura Punnett, ScD, Professor of Public Health, College of Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Lowell
3. How to overcome challenges and barriers to successful prevention of MSD?
 - Amin Yazdani, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Kinesiology, University of Waterloo
4. Updating the process of PE with evidence from the field: a protocol.
 - Dwayne Van Eerd, PhD, Associate Scientist, Institute for Work and Health, Toronto, Ontario
5. What Can We Do Collectively to Make Work more Healthy for the Growing Number of Precarious Jobs?
 - Lisa Brosseau, ScD, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Illinois Chicago

Symposium Panel

A participatory approach to Total Worker Health developed by the Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace

Panel Chair: Laura Punnett, ScD, Professor of Public Health
University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell MA

Description

Researchers in the Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace have developed a set of tools for planning, implementing and evaluating a Total Worker Health program. The goal of TWH programs is to integrate protection from work-related safety and health hazards with promotion of injury and illness prevention efforts to advance worker well-being. Participatory action research involving four diverse work organizations was used to develop this set of tools through an iterative design process (R. Henning). In addition, assessment of the intervention design process, evaluation of intervention outcomes, and various indicators of program success were examined (S. Nobrega). Lessons learned from these efforts helped CPH-NEW refine metrics of TWH integration, which can be used to guide intervention design efforts and evaluate program outcomes (L. Punnett). In addition, a means for organizations, practitioners and researchers to assess organizational readiness for implementing a TWH program has been developed to help identify potential obstacles and plan any necessary steps to overcome them (M. Robertson).

1. Iterative design of a participatory ergonomics toolkit for Total Worker Health
Robert Henning, PhD
2. Field tests of a participatory ergonomics toolkit for Total Worker Health
Suzanne Nobrega, MS
3. Development of an organizational readiness instrument based on the total worker health approach
Michelle Robertson, PhD
4. Evaluating TWH programs: A rationale for four key “integration” metrics
Laura Punnett, ScD