

## Collaboration with WHWB and Midwest Regional Consortium for R13 Proposal on Global OH

Notes by S. Batterman 5/5/16

**Workers Health Without Borders.** This NGO, with world headquarters in Toronto, <http://www.whwb.org/>, was founded in 2011 as a not-for-profit organization to help address occupational health and hygiene issues in the developing world. WHWB hopes to incorporate ideas from, and work with other organizations in achieving our objectives. Their vision: “A world where workers do not get sick because of their work.” WHWB activities include

- Mentor program: matches highly experienced occupational hygienists with new to mid-career hygienists, realizing that mentoring can be provided at a distance very successfully via Skype and more so using Zoom.
- Course support, e.g., WHWB presented the OHTA course W201, Basic Principles in Occupational Hygiene, in cooperation with Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Feb 23 – 27, 2015.

WHWB staff includes: Mary O’Reilly, President [moreilly@albany.edu](mailto:moreilly@albany.edu), board of directors, and mostly volunteers, e.g., albert tien <atien@me.com>, <atienTienAlbert@outlook.com>, Bert schiller <bertschiller@hotmail.com>, Cheryl Schiller [cshiller1@aol.com](mailto:cshiller1@aol.com), Marianne Levitsky marilev@sympatico.ca via umich.edu. Primarily draw on large number of volunteers worldwide.

UM involvement includes establishing the first US chapter, WHWB-US, in Ann Arbor, MI, with a kick-off meeting in October, 2014; introduced UM IH Student Association members to WHWB members; establishing UMIHSA as first student local section of WHWB in April, 2016, and joining Developing World Outreach Initiative (DWOI)

**NIOSH Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings (R13):** The purpose of the NIOSH Conference Grant Program is to support high quality, investigator-initiated scientific conferences/meetings that are relevant to its scientific mission and to the public health. A conference/scientific meeting is defined as a gathering, symposium, seminar, scientific meeting, workshop or any other organized and formal meeting, whether conducted face-to-face or via the internet, where persons assemble or meet virtually to coordinate, exchange, and disseminate information or to explore or clarify a defined subject, problem, area of knowledge, or gaps in science, prevention/intervention or policies. Funding up to \$20,000 per year for 3 or 5 years. Multiyear proposals should have objectives and outcomes that are progressive in nature to ensure continued, progressive impact. Standard due dates: April 12, August 12, December 12. About 1.5 year lead time before funding.

**Examples:** Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists have 2 grants: a) Western states Occupational Meeting to increase state-based OH surveillance capacity; and b) Southern States Occupational Network to promote general OSH capacity and research. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation have “Heat to Heart: Strategizing an evidence-based approach to reduce cardiac disease and death in the fire service.

**Content of proposals** must address following:

- Identification of industry sector & cross-sectors, and themes, topics and emerging need.
- Public health impact – what recommendations will follow; how to advance state of science, practice, policy and/or intervention. Outputs can include research recommendations, identification of knowledge gaps, identification of what works.
- Outcomes include influencing or compelling stakeholders to use meeting output to advance OSH in the US and/or internationally at the organization, group and/or individual levels.
- NIOSH encourages collaboration, partnerships, assessment, translation, especially for dissemination of outputs, e.g., that improve public health, employer practice, policy, reporting or surveillance.

**Format and themes:** TBD: Possibly include awareness of GOH; advancing practice; best practices for training; different target audiences. Need progressive theme

**Mechanisms:** PI is WHWB; Rotate meetings among Ann Arbor, Chicago, Cincinnati. Use funds for travel and speaker support. Leverage for venue support. Possibly incorporate aspects into curriculum.