

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

**Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety
Education and Research Center (MC922)**
School of Public Health
2121 West Taylor Street
Chicago, Illinois 60612-7260

**Great Lakes Centers for Occupational
and Environmental Safety and Health**



World Health Organization
Collaborating Center

Request for Funding of Scholarships

The Great Lakes Centers for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago is requesting funds to install scholarships to a new outreach program.

The new "*International Program in Occupational Health Practice*" is designed to meet the need for modern training in Occupational Health & Safety (OSH) in developing countries where no appropriate training is available. It will provide advanced training for health care providers such as physicians, nurses or managers who manage or provide preventive occupational health services in companies, governments or non-governmental organizations.

While we expect that companies will sponsor their employees to take part in this program, we receive a lot of requests for scholarships from OSH professional in governments, ministries and non-governmental organizations that can not pay to support their OSH specialists.

We want to attract and support these participants from different backgrounds. Our goal is to have 25% of the total number of participants from government institutions and 25% from non-governmental organizations. The funded scholarships will be used exclusively to fund participant fees for the program and the necessary books.

The fees for participants are \$7110 USD if the participant enrolls for the entire program, a 10% discount compared to separate enrollment for each course. Costs of books are around \$200 USD in each course. The program consists of three independent courses. Starting months are September, January and March of each year. Participants can join starting with any course.

We request funds for scholarships to meet the goal of having 25% participants from governments and 25% participants from NGO's from developing countries in this program.

Recipients of these scholarships will be chosen by course faculty and representatives of the Program Advisory Board. Applicants with a high promise for impact and reach from low-income countries will be preferred. Naturally, your institution can also grant scholarships dependent on your criteria for instance a specific country or regional focus (e.g. Africa), sending institution (e.g. government) or other. We would be happy to discuss these options with you.

We sincerely hope that our goal of having an impact to improve working conditions in developing countries is your goal too. We are convinced that reaching out to OSH professionals in low-resource countries by providing them with state-of-the-art training is one of the best ways to have an impact and change the working and living condition to the better.

In the next pages you find more details on the goals and the program. We would be happy to answer any question you might have. Please contact us any time.

Regards

Daniel O. Hryhorczuk

Norbert L. Wagner

UIC

Project Purpose and Background

Worldwide, the World Health organization and the International Labour Organization estimate that approximately 250 million accidents happen at work, resulting in more than 300,000 fatalities, tens of millions of disabilities. This comes on top of the estimated 160 million cases of occupational diseases each year worldwide, in the vast majority occurring in developing countries with very poor resources for prevention. Capacity building is crucial to advance the agenda of preventing diseases and of creating capacity within governments and companies to develop appropriate and effective prevention programs in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH).

The "International Program in Occupational Health Practice" of the University of Illinois at Chicago is designed to meet that need and will provide advanced training for health care providers such as physicians, nurses or managers who manage or provide preventive occupational health services in companies or governments, specifically in developing countries where no appropriate training is available. It will develop leadership and management skills to support changes in company and national policies. It supports the agenda of "*Occupational Health for All*" of the World Health Assembly and the *WHO Global Plan of Action* (WHO, see http://www.who.int/occupational_health/en/). It supports level 4 of the *Agenda 21* for Environment and Development to provide services at community levels.

The overall goal is to improve the quality and the extent to which good preventive care is delivered to the workforce, the formal as well as the informal sector. Specifically to support the inclusion of professionals working with the informal workforce from government and NGO's, we request funds from this foundation.

The program provides specific support for professionals in preventive occupational health in low-resource countries. Amongst others, it introduces the participants to programs, conventions and policies of WHO and ILO facilitating the prevention of accidents and diseases at the workplace, including the informal sector.

The program supports global efforts for reducing accidents and disabling injuries, providing preventive health care to underserved populations, providing training for policy development and good governance by training government officials in ministries of health and ministries of labor.

We consider it crucial to provide training to professionals who work in or with NGOs, trade unions and government agencies. **It is exactly for this group of potential participants from (a) NGOs, such as trade unions, and (b) government agencies and ministries in low-resource countries that we request funding. The entire contribution will be passed on in total to provide scholarships for this program.**

Approach

Industries working in global settings often do not have access to professionals with capabilities to provide occupational and environmental health care and prevention to workers. *The "International Program in Occupational Health Practice"* is designed to develop the skills and abilities of primary health providers to understand and respond to the hazards and exposures of workers to prevent workplace injury and illness. This program specifically addresses managerial skills and competencies so that health professionals will effectively contribute to the protection of employees and the goals of companies and governments by increasing good health and human capacity. It supports government efforts to develop national occupational health agendas and their implementation.

Our goal is to help prevent accidents, debilitating injuries and diseases, negative social effects of disability and death in the population, specifically in the under-served poor workforce. We see it as one small part of expanding social justice by preventing preventable disease, helping to have steady income for long-term poverty alleviation in the workforce.

The program is 100% online. It accounts for low bandwidth connectivity in some countries. It uses a professional e-learning platform. Standard modern textbooks in OSH and actual case studies will be used. It is instructor-led with intensive feedback and will use adult education teaching techniques to have the best learning impact and practical applicability. The participants will undergo several assessments (portfolio



technique) and receive a "Certificate of Completion of the University of Illinois at Chicago". As the course is taught as asynchronous course, participants can come from all over the world, Latin America, South Asia, East Asia, Africa. Teaching is in English, students however can communicate in English, French, Spanish and German.

The curriculum was developed using the input from medical directors of global industries, independent experts and professors worldwide during 2008 and 2009. The teaching faculty includes professionals from several countries such as the USA, Germany, Netherlands and Finland. The program director, Norbert L. Wagner MD PhD, has developed and conducted similar training programs in India between 2002 and 2006, which was recognized by the government as a legal certification for company doctors in India. He is a German specialist in occupational medicine, a certified auditor for OHSAS 18001 and Social Accountability (SA 8000), and an active consultant for global companies in Occupational Health management, health risk assessment, medical service quality evaluation and corporate social responsibility.

The program consists of three independent courses. Starting months are September, January and March of each year. You can find more information at <http://www.uic.edu/sph/glakes/ce/IntPrgOHP.html>.

As UIC is a public institution, the program will not generate private profits but is expected to fund itself fully. Funds would flow back into the program for expansion, new courses and scholarships.

Organizational Experience and Collaborative Partnerships

The "*International Program in Occupational Health Practice*" is located in the Great Lakes Centers for Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health, which is administratively housed in the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Division in the School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago UIC). It was founded in 1977 as one of the first regional NIOSH Education and Research Centers in the United States. Over the past 28 years, the Center has added training and research programs in environmental health, children's health, and global health, and initiated an Occupational Health Service Institute to provide community service. Today, the Centers include a NIOSH Education and Research Center, an ATSDR/USPA-funded Center for Children's Environmental Health (Region V PEHSU), a NIH Fogarty -funded Center for Global Environmental and Occupational Health, a CDC-funded Center of Excellence in Environmental Health, and the Occupational Health Services Institute.

Together they comprise the Chicago-based **World Health Organization Collaborating Centre in Occupational and Environmental Health** at UIC. The Illinois NIOSH-funded Education and Research Center (ERC) is funded since 1977 and comprised of 13 programs. Currently the ERC has five academic programs, three continuing education programs, two research training programs, and a center administration program. Over the past 30 years, the Illinois ERC has worked with professional associations, government agencies, other university and college programs, and individuals to understand and address the occupational safety and health training needs in the region, nationally, and internationally. Each year approximately continuing education is provided to more than 2000 such professionals.

Contact Information:

Prof. Daniel O. Hryhorczuk PhD

Director, Great Lakes Centers for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health
E-mail: dhryhorc@uic.edu, phone: 312-996-7887

Norbert L. Wagner MD PhD

Director, International Program in Occupational Health Practice
Email: nlwagner@uic.edu, cell: 813 362 4896 and

Joseph Zanoni, PhD Candidate, MILR

Associate Director of Continuing Education
Email: jzanoni@uic.edu, cell: 773-209-7110

