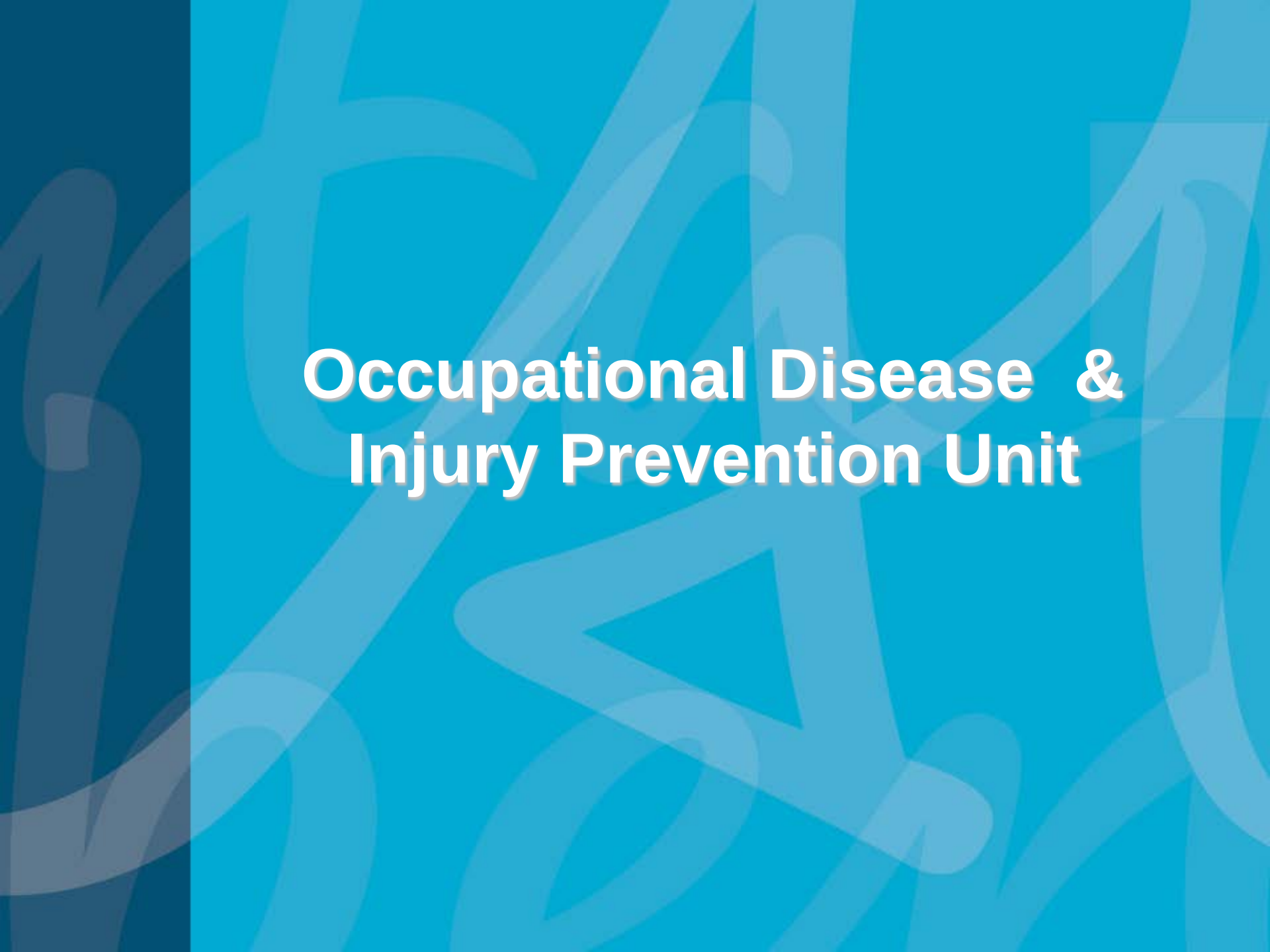




Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Futures Research Funding Program



Dr. Annie Young
Occupational Disease and Injury Prevention
Ministry of Jobs, Skills, Training & Labour
April 16, 2015

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Occupational Disease & Injury Prevention Unit

WHAT is the Occupational Disease and Injury Prevention Section?

OHS Policy and Program Development Branch



Occupational Disease and Injury Prevention Section

Director: Dr. Lisa Ross-Rodriguez

Informatics

Surveillance

Research

Evaluation

Exploration

Scientific Lead: Dr. Annie Young

Information Session

- Introduce and promote the OHS Futures Research Funding Program
- Provide information about the OHS Futures program and application process
- Develop strong relationships with the research community at the University
- Establish a research network to increase awareness of OHS issues and stimulate OHS research in Alberta
- liaise and establish connection between the research community and industries, companies and other academic institutions
- Opportunity for Q & A

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Occupational Disease Prevention and Research

Occupational Disease Prevention

- More workers die worldwide from occupational disease than occupational accidents.
- According to a 2011 International Labour Organization report, of all workplace deaths in 2008:
 - 86% were caused by occupational disease (2.02 Million)
 - 14% were caused by occupational accidents (321,000)

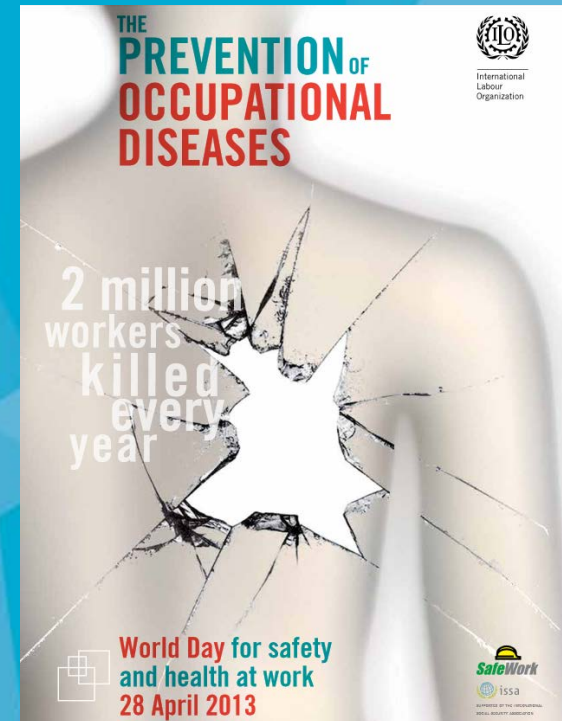


*Image adapted from International Labour Office (ILO). The Prevention of Occupational Diseases, World Day for Safety and Health at Work, 2011, p4, (Geneva). Available at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---safework/documents/publication/wcms_208226.pdf

¹ International Labour Office (ILO). 2011. ILO Introductory Report: Global Trends and Challenges on Occupational Safety and Health, Report, XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, Istanbul, 2011 (Geneva). Available at: www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---safework/documents/publication/wcms_162662.pdf [26 May 2014].

Preventing Occupational Disease

- Research drives prevention
- Identify and addresses knowledge gap
- Identify and understand causes
 - Both single exposure and multi-exposure
 - Cumulative exposure (day, week, career)
 - Contamination exposure
- discover the best available evidence and tools to assist the OHS branch with policy decision-making and program development
- Implement prevention activities using:
 - Policy tools (exposure limits)
 - Compliance tools (inspections, education)
 - Education tools (comprehensive programs for KT & action)



*Image adapted from International Labour Office (ILO). The Prevention of Occupational Diseases, World Day for Safety and Health at Work, 2011, (Geneva). Available at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---safework/documents/publication/wcms_208226.pdf



OHS Futures Research Funding Program

OHS Futures – Research Funding Program

■ Aims:

- To enhance OHS knowledge and capacity through research and collaboration through partnerships
- To fund research that will produce information to drive evidence-informed policy decisions for Alberta's workplaces

■ Opportunities provided by OHS Futures:

- To work together to identify OHS research trends and priorities relevant to AB workplaces and workers
- To establish connections with researchers and industries in AB, nationally and internationally
- To increase awareness and grow OHS research capacity in AB
- To promote knowledge translation by exploring the research evidence and bringing new concepts to AB workplaces through the development of effective tools and best practices

OHS Futures - Research Funding Program

- 2015 competition is now open and application is available at this link: www.alberta.ca/OHSFutures
 - Online application
 - Application supplement
 - Up to \$1 million is available annually to fund accepted applications

- **Timeline**
 - Applications Open – March 27, 2015
 - Applications Close – June 1, 2015
 - Grant Award - October 2015
 - Fund Disbursement – December 2015



OHS Futures – Application & Review

■ Application:

- Online application
 - summary of the research
 - Non-technical component
 - Alignment of research priorities areas
- Application supplement
 - Technical component
 - Provide details of the research

■ Research Priorities:

- Level I: Broad OHS Themes
 - Work-Related Surveillance, Data, and Metrics
 - Disease, illness and injury monitoring of the health and/or exposure of worker populations
 - Physician, worker, and employer reporting of work-related injuries, illness, and disease
 - Programs, Initiatives, and Evaluation
 - Prevention programs and initiatives
 - Emerging and/or hazard control technologies
 - Evaluation of OHS activities, initiatives and emerging technologies

OHS Futures – Application & Review

■ Research Priorities:

- Level II: Specific Hazards, Health Outcomes, Populations, and Impacts
 - Work-related Chemical, Biological and/or Physical Hazards
 - Exposure identification, assessment and methodology
 - Toxic use reduction
 - Work-related Psychological Hazards
 - Psychological impacts
 - Work-related Health Outcomes
 - Cancer
 - Noise-induced hearing loss
 - Interest Populations
 - OHS in small and medium sized enterprises
 - Temporary foreign workers, migrant workers
 - Economic Impact
 - Impact on the healthcare system, public and/or business

OHS Futures – Application & Review

■ External Review

- Scientific soundness, budget appropriateness, timelines
- Important to suggest external reviewers
- External reviewer database
- Recommendations to fund, fund with revisions, not to fund

■ Internal Review

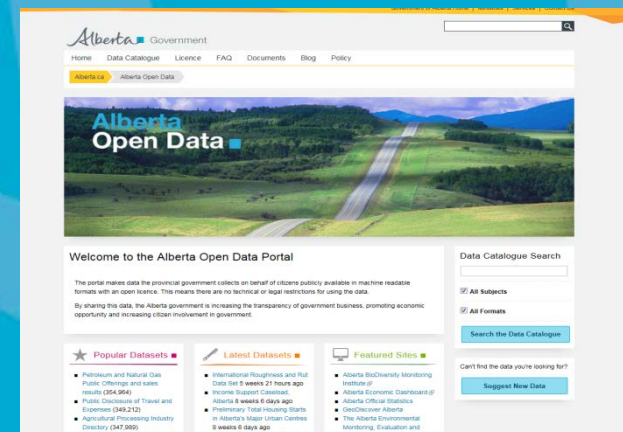
- Panel of JSTL staff
- review applications that passed external review
- alignment with priorities areas (emphasis on highlighted priorities) & applications to Alberta workers and employers
- Recommendations made on a consensus-basis to Senior Management

■ Final approval

- Internal review panel makes recommendations to Senior Management
- Senior Management will make the funding decisions

OHS Futures – Project Data Sharing

- Benefits of Data Sharing
 - Promote and accelerate scientific progress
 - Avoid duplication of the research
 - Enable replication and verification of results
 - Increase research visibility and impact
 - Increase research efficiency due to reusability and exposure
 - Enhance collaboration and community-building
- Data sharing agreement with the Government
 - de-identified, non-personal, record level data
 - Internal capacity to manage data by Informatics/Surveillance areas
- Open Data Portal
 - Public access to data
 - De-identified, record-level data
 - Or aggregate data



2014 OHS Futures Applications

- first launched OHS Futures in 2014
- 21 new applications received for 2014
- 8 new applications and 1 renewal application were funded
- **Keywords that highlight the focus of 2014 OHS Futures applications:**
 - **mental health**; back pain; occupational respiratory disease
 - occupational interventions; work-related disability
 - older workers; **musculoskeletal injury**
 - metals; urine metabolites; **welding fumes**; biomarkers; diesel exhaust
 - health and safety; social work; **health promotion**; **ergonomics**;
 - **workplace violence**; employee well-being
 - engineering control; traffic collisions; commuter model; **migrant workers**
 - bioaerosol; chemical exposures; dermal assessment
 - **fatigue**; **safety literacy**; reflection-based education; cognition
 - **workplace reporting**; **childcare workers victimization**; whole body vibration; **truck driver fatigue**

2014 Competition Results

■ University of Alberta:

- *Healthy workplaces for helping professions: a framework for addressing psychosocial hazards for child and family service workers*, Dr. Thomas Barker
- *Flour exposure, sensitization and respiratory health among Alberta bakers*, Dr. Jeremy Beach
- *Occupational injuries in inter-provincial workers in Alberta: A feasibility study with focus on Newfoundland*, Dr. Nicola Cherry
- *Metabolomics of welding fume exposure: a novel biomarker approach for monitoring health in welding apprentices*, Dr. Paige Lacy
- *WHAT-ME/WHAT-MEN (renewal)*, Dr. Nicola Cherry

2014 Competition Results

- **NAIT:**

- *A qualitative study of reflection-based safety literacy education, Ms. Jodi Howick*

- **University of Calgary:**

- *Workplace violence in Alberta child welfare, Dr. David Nicholas*

- **University of Lethbridge:**

- *Development and validation of a proactive ergonomic intervention targeting Alberta's rural and urban childcare operators and workers, Dr. John Doan*

- **University of Waterloo:**

- *Impacts of vibration reduction on back pain and fatigues in truck drivers, Dr. Philip Bigelow*

Opportunities

- OHS Futures Research
 - More formalized funding approach
 - Working to identify OHS research priorities relevant to AB workplaces and workers
 - Establishing connections with researchers in Alberta, nationally and internationally
 - Expand OHS research and better identification of current exposures in the prevention of occupational disease in the future
 - Exploration of research results and new concepts for applicability to AB workplaces

Questions

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