

The objectives of this event are:

- to discuss the possible impacts of nanotechnology on health, work and life of workers, and the environment;
- to present the result of research conducted in Brazil on the impacts on health and the environment, and, to promote exchanges among researchers.

There will be oral presentations and posters, and the main topics will be public policies, workers' health and safety, environment, toxicology, education and capacity-building, dissemination of scientific issues, regulation and risk communication. On 25 May there will be a "Roundtable on International Actions in Nanotechnology and the Health of Workers".

From NIOSH, USA

**NIOSH and NHCA present 2010 Safe-in-Sound Excellence in Hearing Loss Prevention Awards
Sent by Christina Spring, E-mail: CSpring@cdc.gov
and R. Johnson, E-mail: RAJohnson1@cdc.gov**

Work-related hearing loss is a permanent but preventable problem. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), in partnership with the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA), is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2010 Safe-in-Sound Excellence in Hearing Loss Prevention Award, honoring those who have shown their dedication to the prevention of noise-induced hearing loss through innovative or excellent hearing loss prevention practices in the work environment.

The awards were presented at the 35th Annual Hearing Conservation Conference on February 26, 2010 in Orlando, Florida.

The award honors hearing loss prevention programs in the construction, manufacturing, and service sectors. In addition, it recognizes individuals or organizations for innovation in hearing loss prevention and their dedication to fostering and implementing new and unique advances in the prevention of hearing loss.

"This year's awardees highlight how work-related hearing loss affects people across all industry sectors," said NIOSH Director Dr. John Howard. "The impact of partnerships and innovation in developing solutions and policies to address the preventable problem of work-related hearing loss is clear in these initiatives."

The Safe-in-Sound Awards Expert Committee (comprised of experts in the fields of public health, hearing loss prevention, audiology, and industrial hygiene) evaluates applicants against key performance indicators. Examples include: development and adoption of new strategies for hearing loss prevention; demonstration of increased awareness of the value of healthy hearing and the

The target audience will include: occupational health and safety professionals; employers, workers, union leaders, members of CIPAs (Internal Committees of Prevention) and of quality programs of companies; leaders of NGOs and entities related to the environment, consumer protection and related areas; teachers, academia and researchers; members of health councils; human resources and legal professionals, as well as the general public interested in the subject.

The working languages will be Portuguese and English (simultaneous translation).

prevention of hearing loss and tinnitus; documented reduction in noise levels and hearing loss registered longitudinally, and, the use of a participatory approach between workers and employers.

The recipient for Innovation in Hearing Loss Prevention in the Manufacturing Sector is:

Etymotic Research, Inc., a research and product development group founded in 1983 that creates products designed to measure, improve, and protect hearing. It is recognized for its pioneering technical expertise, remarkable influence, ardent support, and essential sponsorship of hearing loss prevention research, services, products, and public outreach. Etymotic Research's innovations have had a direct impact on the quality, delivery, and effectiveness of hearing loss and tinnitus prevention programs.

The recipients for Innovation in Hearing Loss Prevention in the Construction Sector are:

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) and Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. (PB), recognized for their combined efforts in developing, implementing and overseeing the New York City Construction Noise Mitigation Rule. The rule, which is a result of a mayoral charge to update the New York City's Noise Code and creates a new law establishing rules for construction noise, established noise emission limits and mitigation measures for all construction within New York City and also proactively addressed work-related exposures.

The recipients for Innovation in Hearing Loss Prevention in the Services Sector are:

Associate Professor Dr. Kris Chesky and the College of Music, University of North Texas, recognized for their contribution towards raising the awareness of the importance of hearing loss prevention among student and professional musicians. Dr. Chesky and colleagues are pursuing innovative research and methodology, education and advocacy to contribute to the success of hearing loss prevention among individuals involved in music performances and practice. Their work is bringing additional attention to the risk of music-induced hearing loss to other professionals in entertainment venues and to the general public.

Nominations for the next awards will be accepted until September 1st, 2010. For further information please visit www.safeinsound.us.

Through research and the NORA cross-sector program, NIOSH has developed a number of resources to assist workers and employers in reducing noise exposure as well as in finding and fitting the proper kind of hearing protection and determining hazardous levels of noise. NIOSH recommends removing hazardous noise from the workplace whenever possible and using hearing protectors in those situations where dangerous noise exposures have not yet been controlled or eliminated. For more information about noise and hearing loss prevention research at NIOSH please



Awards presentation, left to right: Erich Thalheimer (PB), Mead Killion (Etymotic), Kris Chesky (UNT) and Award Presenter CAPT Margaret Kitt (NIOSH)

visit

www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/about/abouthlp.html.

NIOSH is the federal agency that conducts research and makes recommendations for preventing work-related injuries and illnesses. Mention of any company or product does not constitute endorsement by NIOSH. More information about NIOSH can be found at www.cdc.gov/niosh.

News from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)

World's biggest workplace health and safety campaign goes from strength to strength

The Agency's new Healthy Workplaces campaign (2010-2011) will be launched officially on 28 April, the World Day for Safety and Health at Work. The campaign raises awareness of the importance of maintenance for safe and healthy workplaces and the need to protect workers that carry it out. EU-OSHA's focal points already call for nominations for the national Good Practice Awards 2010/2011.

See link: <http://osha.europa.eu/en/campaigns>

Risk Assessment Tools Database

The Agency has developed a risk assessment tools database with tools from all over Europe. The database is regularly updated.

The most common risk assessment tools are checklists, which are a useful tool to help identify hazards. Other kinds of risk assessment tools include: guides, guidance documents, handbooks, brochures, questionnaires, and 'interactive tools' (free interactive software, including

Sent by: Birgit MÜLLER, E-mail: muller@osha.europa.eu

downloadable applications which are usually sector-specific). These tools can be either generic or branch/risk-specific.

See link: <http://osha.europa.eu/en/practical-solutions/risk-assessment-tools>

Outlook: New and emerging risks in occupational safety and health

The safety and health of EU workers is affected by changing demographic structures, new technologies and the shift to service sectors. This Outlook offers an overview of the present and future trends of relevance to occupational health, the main workplace risks and their prevention. Outlook is available in 22 languages.

Read the current issue of Outlook at: <http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/outlook>

Visit the European Risk Observatory at: <http://osha.europa.eu/en/riskobservatory>