



August 4th, 2016

Board of Directors

Workplace Health Without Borders – US Branch (WHWB-US)

1100 N. Main St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Re: update on UMIHSA activities relevant to WHWB-US

Dear WHWB-US Board Members:

The University of Michigan Industrial Hygiene Student Association (UMIHSA) is delighted to be partnering with Workplace Health Without Borders through its new US branch, WHWB-US, as the first student chapter. Over the short time period since our affiliation with WHWB-US was officially established, in February, 2016, we have embarked on several activities and projects that support our shared vision of creating a world where workers do not get sick because of their work, with a particular focus on underserved worker populations abroad and here in the US. At your request, we provide the following update on activities relevant to WHWB-US in which UMIHSA has been engaged and/or plans to be engaged in the future.

OHTA Module Translations

Among the current roster of UMIHSA members are students of various nationalities and educational backgrounds. The diverse language skills represented has allowed us to initiate an effort to help OHTA with translations of educational materials within their W201 and W501 modules that had not yet been translated. The languages spoken by our members include Spanish, Hindi, and Mandarin, and we have worked with Roger Alesbury of OHTA to define documents needing translation. This is an on-going effort supported financially by the Michigan Center for Occupational Health and Safety Engineering (COHSE), Industrial Hygiene Core.

Global Internships and Projects

This year, to a greater extent than ever before, IH students have engaged in summer internships and research projects a) with international collaborators, b) at locations outside the US, and/or c) concerning underserved immigrant worker populations. Of the nine 1st-year IH Master's students, five engaged in summer internships that addressed exposures among vulnerable populations either abroad or in the US. Two of our PhD students also are working on projects with global components or collaborations. Stephanie Saylor, who graduated this past May with her MS in IH, has been hired full-time to assist with IH program and research activities, including those related to global occupational health.

John Cho (MS student) and **Aubrey Langeland** (PhD student) spent the month of June in Chiang Rai, Thailand, collaborating with a professor of Occupational Hygiene from Mae Fah Luang University to perform exposure monitoring on workers throughout Northern Thailand. At the

end of July, she traveled to Kalasin, Thailand, to begin an integrated health assessment project with two Thai universities and the Thai Ministry of Health examining exposures among electronic waste recycling workers in a rural village in Eastern Thailand. Both of these projects are headed by Prof. Neitzel. Stephanie Sayler has joined these students in Kalasin to assist with the study.

Malkah Glaser (MPH student) is doing her internship in Israel with the Ministry of Environmental Protection as a member of the First Haifa Bay Epidemiological Monitoring Project. This project is a five-year epidemiological examination of the links between air pollution and morbidity in Haifa Bay. This experience highlights the global variability in total worker health, where non-occupational exposures play important roles in the health effects related to occupational exposures across the globe.

Mary-Catherine Goddard (MPH student) is designing and implementing a research project with Centro de Reflexión y Acción Laboral (CEREAL) in Guadalajara, Mexico, to examine the health and safety concerns of Maquiladoras workers. Her focus group and interview strategy aims to learn about the experiences of workers in the electronics industry. She is also serving as a resource for the electronics workers who attend trainings, meeting informally with interested individuals and answering questions they may have about occupational health and safety. Her UM advisor is Prof. Zellers. Her other advisors are Garrett Brown and Prof. David Foust.

Ritu Pandit and **Rachel Neuenfeldt** (MPH students) are working with Prof. Zellers and Prof. Batterman at the University of Michigan, and with WHWB Vice President, Albert Tien, to investigate the occupational hazards associated with nail salons in the Ann Arbor area. This project will research the various ways employment or contractor status and language barriers may place US nail salon workers, who are predominantly Vietnamese women, at risk of injury or illness. This underserved local population has unique potential exposures and vulnerabilities within the workplace.

Peiyan Sun (MPH student) received an internship with General Motors (GM) in Shanghai, China. Through the summer, she will be working with health and safety staff in an automotive assembly plant to ensure that US workplace standards are applied to GM's manufacturing operations overseas.

Henry Zhan (PhD student) is working with Prof. Zellers on a collaborative project with faculty and students at Shanghai Jiao Tong University involving the development of nano-enabled microsensor array technologies for biomarkers of occupational and environmental diseases. Prof. Zellers visited SJTU in July and delivered two talks to the students and faculty there. He and Henry hold regular teleconference meetings with their SJTU collaborators and they are hoping to get additional funding to continue the collaboration.

Stephanie Sayler graduated in May, 2016 with her MS in EHS but continues to work with faculty in the UM IH Program (i.e., Profs. Zellers and Neitzel) on projects related to global OH. She is in Thailand for part of this summer helping with the e-waste project headed by Prof. Neitzel and is

in Ann Arbor for part of the summer working on the Nail Salon worker study headed by Prof. Zellers and Prof. Batterman.

Seminar Speaker Hosting

With Prof. Zellers, UMIHSA co-hosted Maryanne Levitsky, President of WHWB, for a seminar visit in April, 2016 as part of the COHSE OH seminar series. Informal meetings were held with Ms. Levitsky to discuss current and planned activities in which UMIHSA can support WHWB goals.

Curriculum Development

Prof. Zellers offered a new 1 credit hour course entitled “Global Dimensions of Occupational Health” in the winter-2016 semester, in which 10 UMIHSA enrolled. Students attended lectures, participated in class projects exploring OH&S efforts in other countries and GOH efforts at other universities in the US, Canada, and Australia, and providing critical feedback on course content, delivery, and conduct for revising the course for future offerings. The two guest lecturers were Garrett Brown and Albert Tien.

Prof. Neitzel also offered a new course related specifically to his research on electronic waste workers in Thailand and his plans for field studies that are being conducted this summer. Several UMIHSA members participated.

Support of Symposium Grant Proposal

Ritu Pandit responded to a request by Albert Tien to provide literature articles on the hazards associated with a range of occupations often filled by immigrants or migrants in the US (e.g., agricultural workers, landscapers, beauty salon workers, building renovators, and handymen) in support of the effort by WHWB-US to lead the writing of an R13 proposal to be submitted to NIEHS for funding of a multi-year symposium series.

Student Organization Outreach

UMIHSA aims to work with WHWB-US to increase student membership through the identification and addition of student chapters who share our vision. We will seek to create a relationship where WHWB will provide mentorship, professional guidance, and available resources to student chapters interested in supporting IH projects in underserved regions or directed at underserved US populations.

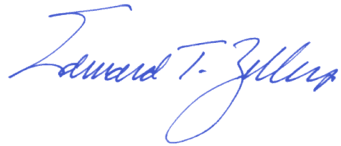
Beginning in September 2016, UMIHSA will actively engage students attending other IH programs supported by NIOSH ERC or TPG grants in an effort to increase participation, foster collaboration, foster networking communications, and furthering the mission of WHWB. Other plans for activities related to GOH are being formulated and will be the topic of discussion in first meetings of UMIHS in fall, 2016.

Thank you for your leadership, professional support, and mentorship - we look forward to continuing to work with WHWB to build a strong network of IH professionals dedicated to improving worker health around the globe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Manning". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Michael Manning, UMIHSA President
mmanning@umich.edu

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward T. Zellers". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a prominent initial 'E'.

Edward T. Zellers, Professor
ezellers@umich.edu