

1992-1993 Annual Report

**The Hunter College Center for
Occupational and Environmental Health**

October, 1993

425 E. 25th Street
New York, NY 10010
(212) 431-8790

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
ANNUAL REPORT OF CENTERS AND INSTITUTES
July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992

Please use this form and, if needed, additional paper to provide information about your center of institute.

College: HUNTER COLLEGE

Center/Institute: Center for Occupational and Environmental Health

Director's: Stephen R. Zoloth, PhD, MPH and David Kotelchuck, PhD, MPH

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10/7/93
Date

Stephen R Zoloth
Signature/Title: Director of Center/Institute

Date

Signature/Title: Chief Academic Officer of the College

Date

Signature/Title: Chief Fiscal Officer of the College

Please return the completed form to:

Dean Yaakov Shechter
Office of Academic Affairs
CUNY
535 East 80th Street
New York, NY 10021

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The Hunter College Center for Occupational and Environmental Health

I. MISSION

- A. **Clearly define the mission of the center/institute. Please pay particular attention to its consistency with the proposal of the center/institute as originally presented to the Board.**

The mission of the Hunter College Center for Occupational and Environmental Health is to improve the health and well-being of working people and their families by assisting workers, their representatives, and their organizations in developing their capacity to identify, analyze, respond to and abate workplace and community environmental health hazards.

The existence and persistence of occupational risks of injury, acute illness, and chronic disease are due to a combination of individual, group, political and economic factors. Effective prevention of occupational injury and illness therefore requires a comprehensive approach which starts with the development and reinforcement of individual and group skills among workers to understand and analyze work-related risks and to act collectively to improve their working conditions. An informed, skilled and cognizant working community is most likely to overcome the economic and political obstacles to workplace change.

- B. **Indicate any changes in the mission of your center/institute. Include new initiatives.**

Over the past year, COEH has incorporated into its organizational and programmatic goals an effort to better integrate community environmental health programs with occupational health programs. In June, the Hunter College Community Environmental Health Project, directed by Nicholas Freudenberg, ceased formal operations. Hunter COEH and Nicholas Freudenberg are now collaborating on surviving grants, and regard this year as one in which community environmental projects will be taken on by Hunter COEH.

Drawing on work accomplished in 1991-1992 (and described in last year's annual report), Hunter COEH has received funding from the NYC Department of Health to develop educational efforts in Brooklyn (Bushwick and Bedford-Stuyvesant) and Central Harlem to assist community organizational efforts to prevent childhood lead poisoning. These efforts are targeting groups working with mothers at-risk, tenant organizations, and health care facilities. Hunter COEH has also worked with the Mayor's Task Force on Lead to develop consensus recommendations around lead paint abatement. Hunter COEH has also expanded its previous efforts to identify industrial sources of workplace and community lead contamination.

Finally, COEH has responded to the NYC tuberculosis epidemic by expanding its staff expertise in environmental controls against TB transmission, and is collaborating with other groups to expand their abilities to assess their facilities for risks associated with tuberculosis transmission and make necessary improvements.

II. ACTIVITIES (1992-1993)

A. Publications

1. **Books and book chapters**

- a. Kotelchuck D and Guttmacher S, The Health Status of Americans, In Press, 1993. Drs. Kotelchuck and Guttmacher have updated and expanded a previous book edited by Dr. Kotelchuck, Prognosis Negative: Crisis in the Health Care System.
- b. Chapter by David Kotelchuck in Demanding Democracy After Three Mile Island, Raymond L. Goldstein and John K. Schorr, editors. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1992.

2. **Scholarly papers in refereed journals**

Zoloth S., Safyer S., Rosen J. et al. (1993). Anergy Compromises Screening for Tuberculosis in High Risk Populations. Am J. Public Health 3:749-751.

Welch L., Michaels D., Zoloth S. (in press). The National Sheet Metal Worker Asbestos Disease Screening Program: Radiologic Findings. Am J. Ind. Med.

Kotelchuck, D. Journal of Public Health Policy, Book Review. 1993.

Kass D., American Journal of Industrial Medicine, Book Review of "Teaching Workers about Occupational Hazards" by N. Wallerstein and H. Rubenstein. (In Press).

Michaels D., Zoloth S., Bernstein N., Kass D., and Schrier K. (1992). Workshops are not Enough: Making Right to Know Training Lead to Workplace Change. American Journal of Industrial Medicine 22:637-649.

3. **Abstracts**

To the American Public Health Association:

McGarrahan, S., Zoloth S., Michaels. D., Welch, L.. Symptoms and X-ray Abnormalities in Lifetime Nonsmoking Sheetmetal Workers.

Hodge D., The Occupational Health of Unorganized Workers: The Challenge of Prevention.

4. **Other Publications**

Manowitz A, Kass D (1992): Trabajar Sin Dolor: Guia de Los Trabajadores de La Industria Papelera Para Mejorar las Condiciones de Trabajo en el Sector de Conversion. (A guide to ergonomics in the paper conversion industry) Spanish Translation published by the United Paperworkers International Union. 29 pages.

Kass D, Hodge D (1993): Reducing the Risk of Tuberculosis in your Workplace: A Guide to Improving Natural Ventilation. Published by Hunter College COEH. 20 pages.

Kass D (1993): The Workplace Incident Surveillance System (WISP): Software written in Clipper to record and analyze workplace injuries and illnesses. Release 1.1.

Factsheets of significance: COEH has self-published and distributed dozens of factsheets to unions, trade associations, and private and public employers throughout NYS.

B. Lectures, seminars, and papers presented in conferences and professional meetings.

Assessing the Needs of Workers for Occupational Health Programs. Occupational Health Educators Roundtable Seminar. November, 1992.

Literacy and Health. Occupational Health Educators Roundtable Seminar. February, 1993.

Teaching about Occupational Health Regulations. Occupational Health Educators Roundtable Seminars; June 1993.

Seminar: A Site-Specific Chemical Hygiene Program for Medical College Faculty and Students; Meharry College of Medicine, Nashville TN, May 1993.

Seminar: Engineering Controls against Tuberculosis Transmission; NYCOSH, November, 1992.

Conference Planning: American Public Health Association Occupational Safety and Health Section. Program Planner, Daniel Kass. 1992-1993.

Daniel Kass: A worksite Injury Surveillance Package (WISP): the application of new software technology in preventing workplace injury. American Public Health Association, Oct. 1992.

Derrick Hodge: Addressing laboratory hazards in a multi-site university setting -- effecting organizational changes and fulfilling employee training requirements. American Public Health Association, Oct. 1992.

Stephen Zoloth: Homelessness among a Mentally Ill Incarcerated Population. American Public Health Association, Oct. 1992.

C. Educational Activities (curriculum development, teacher training, faculty development).

Over the past 12 months, COEH has provided direct training to over 1,400 individuals. The programs have been conducted with joint sponsorship by labor unions, employers, or jointly with labor and management. Our union-based training, by far the most significant

numerically, has been conducted on behalf of four unions outside NYS, over 20 in New York City, and 8 around NYS. COEH has jointly conducted training to prevent repetitive trauma disorders with the Workplace Health Fund of the AFL-CIO and the United Paperworkers International Union. Other educational programs have been conducted with or on behalf of community organizations including the Brooklyn Coalition on Lead Poisoning, The NYC Emergency Response Network, the NYS Occupational Medicine Clinic Network, the NYC Coalition to End Lead Poisoning, among others. COEH has developed curricula and trained employees and staff of City and State agencies, including the NYC Dept. of Transportation, CUNY, NYC Health and Hospital Corporation, the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, the NYC Dept. of Sanitation, and many others. Some innovations in these programs include:

- public health laboratory health and safety program development and training at CUNY campuses and county public health laboratories in NYC and Long Island.
- ergonomic hazard awareness and prevention training to workers in the paper industry, communications industry, service sector, and garment industry.
- emergency response training of managers at each of the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation hospital facilities and satellite.
- implementation and refinement of an injury surveillance program for the NYC Dept. of Transportation.
- public policy development around worker and childhood lead poisoning
- assessment of ergonomic risks among NYS paperworkers through a pilot effort to develop the capacity of local organizations to conduct and report survey results.

D. Outreach Activities (community service, public programs)

COEH staff are encouraged to participate in community organizations, coalitions and public health programs. In 1992-1993, COEH staff served in the following capacities:

1. Member of the NYC Mayor's Task Force on Lead. Daniel Kass participated in formulating city policy on training and certification requirements for lead paint removal, and wrote the subcommittee final report.
2. New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health. Derrick Hodge is an active member of the Infection Disease Task Force, and Amy Manowitz is an active member of the Repetitive Strain Illness Task Force.
3. Hunter College Students of Color. Derrick Hodge founded a group of graduates and current students in the Industrial Hygiene Program at Hunter College. The organization provides tutoring and advocates on behalf of people of color within the program. It is the only alumni organization within the EOHS Program.
4. Julie Quinton and Daniel Kass are members of community coalitions to prevent lead poisoning.

5. Daniel Kass is the 1993 Program Planning Chair for the American Public Health Association Occupational Safety and Health Section, responsible for organizing the October 1993 conference in San Francisco for over 1,000 section members.
6. David Kotelchuck is a member of the Board of Directors of NYCOSH, and an advisory board member of the Bellevue Hospital Occupational Medicine Clinical Center.

In addition to community activity by staff, COEH has provided technical assistance on occupational and community environmental health concerns in the forms of short trainings, telephone consultations, material development, on-site walkthroughs and employee surveys for a number of community organizations serving the needs of minority workers, women workers, the unemployed, and parents of at-risk children. Some of these during 1992-1993 include NYCELP, Legal Aid Association of New York, Legal Services Foundation of New York, Prostitutes of New York (PONY), New Jersey Community Research Initiative, the Orphan Project, National Committee for Health Rights in Central America, Lower East Side Tenants Organization, and many others.

COEH has also conducted, formally and informally, outreach on behalf of the Community Health Education Program and the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Program at the Hunter College School of Health Sciences, recruiting potential students and linking current students with community organizations for internships and employment.

III. FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

A. Grants Obtained between July, 1992 and June, 1993.

List project title, principal investigator(s), effective dates, amount, funding agency.

1. "Preventing Workplace Injuries: New Populations and Ongoing Support". Stephen Zoloth and Daniel Kass. 7/1/92 - 12/31/93. \$270,000. New York State Dept. of Labor. (continuation grant from previous award).
2. "Hazardous Materials Worker Training." David Kotelchuck. 9/1/92-8/31/93. \$64,000. National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (UMDNJ lead agency).
3. "Preventing Tuberculosis in a Correctional Institution": 4/1/93 - 12/31/93. [Consortium Agreement between Hunter COEH, Hunter Center on AIDS, and Montefiore/Rikers Island Prison Health Service. Hunter COEH: \$24,000. NYS Department of Labor.
3. "Community Based Lead Poisoning Prevention Education". Daniel Kass and Nicholas Freudenberg 7/1/93-6/30/94. \$60,000. NYC Department of Health.

B. Grant Proposals Generated between July, 1992 and June 1993.

List project title, principal investigator(s), amount requested, funding agency.

1. "Preventing Workplace Injuries: New Populations and Ongoing Support". Stephen Zoloth and Daniel Kass. 7/1/92 - 12/31/93. \$270,000. New York State Dept. of Labor.
2. "Hazardous Materials Worker Training." David Kotelchuck. 9/1/92-8/31/93. \$72,000. National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (UMDNJ lead agency).
3. "Preventing Tuberculosis in a Correctional Institution": 4/1/93 - 12/31/93. [Consortium Agreement between Hunter COEH, Hunter Center on AIDS, and Montefiore/Rikers Island Prison Health Service. Hunter COEH: \$31,000. NYS Department of Labor.
4. "Community Based Lead Poisoning Prevention Education". Daniel Kass and Nicholas Freudenberg 7/1/93-6/30/94. \$60,000. NYC Department of Health.
5. "A Workplace Injury Surveillance Package: A Demonstration of Data Gathering and Analysis for Worksite Prevention Activities." Stephen Zoloth. \$345,000 (3 years). National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
6. "Reporting the Results of Asbestos Disease Screening to Sheetmetal Local Unions". Stephen Zoloth. \$22,000. Sheetmetal Workers Special Trust.

C. Other Financial Support (contracts, gifts, in-kind services).

1. Contracts:

- a. United Paperworkers International Union. \$34,000.
- c. New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. \$66,000.
- d. NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation. \$2,000.
- e. Sheet Metal Workers Asbestos Trust. \$13,500.
- g. Communication Workers of America. \$21,000.
- h. Workplace Health Fund, AFL-CIO. \$6,000.
- i. South Nassau Communities Hospital. \$6,500.

2. Course Fees and Miscellaneous Support

- a. Fees generated from Hazardous Materials Worker Training Program from various sources (4/92 - 6/93): approximately \$44,000.
- b. Consulting Projects of various sources, approximately \$8,500.

3. In-Kind Services

Building Renovation. In June, 1993, the New York City District Council of Carpenters renovated an office for Hunter COEH in the West Building of Hunter College Brookdale Health Sciences Center. The labor costs are estimated to be equivalent to a \$2,500 gift.

Miscellaneous Demonstration Equipment. 3M Respirators and Lead Check swabs were donated for demonstration purposes to Hunter COEH. These are valued at approximately \$400 and \$80, respectively.

IV. PERSONNEL

A. Staff

List all staff members, their titles, whether full- or part-time. (If part-time indicate percentage of time in the center/institute), and amounts of salaries and/or release time.

1. Stephen R. Zoloth, Ph.D. Director, Program in Community Health Education, Hunter College School of Health Sciences, and Co-Director of Hunter COEH. Dr. Zoloth works part-time on Hunter College Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH) activities (20%). Summer salary provided in 1992-1993: \$10,000.
2. David Kotelchuck, Ph.D., Director, Program in Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences, Hunter College School of Health Sciences, and Co-Director of Hunter COEH. Dr. Kotelchuck devotes significant time to our projects, though does not, however, take release-time or summer salary from COEH activities.
3. Daniel Kass, MSPH, Co-Director of COEH. 100%. \$43,000.
4. Amy Manowitz, MPH, Project Coordinator, COEH. 57%. \$30,160.
5. Micki Siegel, MPH. Director of Curriculum Development. 100% Salary: \$42,120.
6. Derrick Hodge, MS, Industrial Hygienist, COEH. 100%. \$34,840.
7. Dan Katz, MA, Health & Safety Specialist, COEH. 100% \$33,500. (Until 2/15/93)
8. Sylvia Callender-Carter. Trainer, Hazardous Materials Worker Training Program, COEH. 100% Salary: \$33,500. (Until 1/30/93).
9. Sabina McGarrahan, MA. Research Associate. 100%. \$33,000.
10. Yolanda Lora, Program Assistant. 100% Salary: \$27,872.
11. Katherine Whitman, Administrator. 100% Salary: \$26,500.
12. Charlotte Thomas, Secretary. 20% Salary: \$4,200. (Until 6/1/93).
13. Barbara Johnson, Secretary. 30% Salary: \$10,000. (Until 6/15/93).
14. Anne Lamb, Program Assistant. 40%. Salary: \$8,040.
15. Research Assistant at CUNY Medical School. 40%. Salary: \$6,240. (Until 6/1/93).

In the summer of 1993, COEH hired additional staff. They include:

1. Dawn Queen, Health Educator, 100%
2. Julie Quinton, Community Educator, 100%
3. Ellen Kirrane, Industrial Hygienist, 100%

V. STUDENTS' INVOLVEMENT

List all students involved with the center/institute. Indicate (1) whether undergraduate or graduate; (2) source and amount of financial support; and (3) percentage of time spent in the center/institute.

1. Gary Hogg, Graduate Intern, and student in Hunter College Program in Community Health Education. Volunteer on Lead Poisoning Prevention Projects, 20% from 2/93 - 8/93.
2. Debbie Carson, Graduate Intern, and student in Hunter College Program in Community Health Education. Volunteer on Repetitive Strain Education Program, 20%, 6/93.
3. Fitzalbert Reid, Graduate Student and Research Assistant. Volunteer on Mortality Study, 20% from 4/93.
4. Philip Gillick, Graduate Intern, and student in Hunter College Program in Community Health Education, 5% from 9/92 - 6/93.

In June, 1993, Hunter COEH, together with the Community Health Education Program applied for funding from the public health service to begin paid internships and field work in occupational health with Hunter COEH. Funding will begin in October, 1993.

VI. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT:

A. Describe the size and current usage of the space occupied by the center/institute (offices, laboratories, conference rooms, etc).

COEH is housed at the Brookdale Health Sciences Center of Hunter College at 425 East 25th Street in Manhattan. COEH now occupies 9 offices, not including those of principal investigators and co-directors Zoloth and Kotelchuck. In the Summer of 1993, COEH was fortunate to consolidate its offices into one area of the 7th Floor of the West Building. The generosity of the Nutrition Department and Cooperation of Dean Everlina Holmes enabled COEH to create a physical environment conducive to greater staff interaction and cohesiveness. COEH also utilizes 1 storage area in the basement level of Brookdale and maintains its equipment in a part of one laboratory in the same building. COEH uses Brookdale conference rooms for education programs including the North Lounge, Osborne Room in the Media Center, and Rooms 721 and 1017.

B. List major equipment used by the center/institute.

COEH utilizes 9 IBM compatible computers and 1 Apple MacIntosh, with accompanying printers purchased from grant and contract funds. A significant amount of industrial hygiene monitoring equipment and demonstration personal protective equipment (including self-contained breathing apparatus and respirators) is operated and maintained by COEH through NIEHS and other grant monies. COEH also utilizes the CUNY Academic Computer for data storage and analysis. COEH shares in the lease of a photocopy machine located on the 10th Floor of the Brookdale campus.

VII. BUDGET (FY 1991-1992)

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number of Staff (FTE)</u>
Salaries (including fringe benefits)	*/\$ 315,914	Approximately 8.2 (varies throughout year)
Faculty Release Time & Summer Salary (including fringe)	\$ 12,600	Approximately 2/9
Other than personal costs (includes consultants)	\$ 130,000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$ 458,514	
<u>Income</u>		
Tax-Levy Funds (University & College)	0	
Non Tax-Levy Funds	*/\$441,000	

*/ These figures reflect monies awarded or utilized between July 1, 1992 and June 30, 1992. Note that a small deficit is apparent because some of our grant years end in December, September as well as June, the end-date for this report.