



## Sunshine Education and Research Center at the University of South Florida

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<http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/erc/>

### **Summary**

The Sunshine ERC at the University of South Florida is a regional resource for industry, labor, government and the public in the areas of occupational health and safety. The ERC continues to follow its goal of promoting workplace safety, health and well being through education, research, continuing education and outreach. Its academic programs include (1) industrial hygiene, (2) occupational health nursing, (3) occupational medicine residency, (4) occupational safety, and (5) occupational health psychology. For students, there is strong interdisciplinary coordination and a research experience. The Sunshine ERC has many partnerships including the OSHA 21d consultation and training institute programs at USF, other ERCs, and NIOSH.

Our highlights below illustrate our commitment to the trainee research experience, interdisciplinary activities and the collaboration with other institutions to promote workplace health and safety.

Next year, USF will continue to cultivate partnerships and collaborative relationships with regional OH&S programs; and continue to champion continuing education, outreach, training and research strategies that improve the practitioner's environment and meet their OS&H needs.

### **Relevance**

The Sunshine ERC at the University of South Florida continues to train OS&H professionals in industrial hygiene, occupational health nursing, occupational health psychology, occupational medicine residency and occupational safety to provide a vast array of services, ultimately promoting workplace safety, health and well being. The ERC also provides continuing education to workers and OS&H professionals in the community.

## Contacts

<p><i>Center Administration</i>          Thomas E. Bernard, Director          813-974-6629  <a href="mailto:tbernard@health.usf.edu">tbernard@health.usf.edu</a></p> <p>Candace Burns, Deputy Director          813-974-9160  <a href="mailto:cburns@health.usf.edu">cburns@health.usf.edu</a></p>	<p><i>Address</i>          USF College of Public Health          13201 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.          Tampa FL 33612-3805</p> <p><i>Center Administrator</i>          Nolan Kimball          813-974-1120  <a href="mailto:nkimball@health.usf.edu">nkimball@health.usf.edu</a></p>
<p><i>Industrial Hygiene</i>          Yehia Y. Hammad, Director          813-974-6625  <a href="mailto:yhammad@health.usf.edu">yhammad@health.usf.edu</a></p> <p>Steve Mlynarek, Deputy Director          813-974-6628  <a href="mailto:smlynare@health.usf.edu">smlynare@health.usf.edu</a></p>	<p><i>Occupational Health Nursing</i>          Candace Burns, Director          813-974-9160  <a href="mailto:cburns@health.usf.edu">cburns@health.usf.edu</a></p>
<p><i>Occupational Health Psychology</i>          Paul E. Spector, Director          813-974-0357  <a href="mailto:pspector@usf.edu">pspector@usf.edu</a></p> <p>Tammy Allen, Deputy Director          813-974-0484  <a href="mailto:tallen@mail.usf.edu">tallen@mail.usf.edu</a></p>	<p><i>Occupational Medicine</i>          Thomas Truncala, Director          813-974-7537 (OMR Office)  <a href="mailto:ttruncal@health.usf.edu">ttruncal@health.usf.edu</a></p> <p>Hamisu M. Salihu, Co-Director          813-396-9578  <a href="mailto:hsalihu@health.usf.edu">hsalihu@health.usf.edu</a></p>
<p><i>Occupational Safety</i>          Thomas E. Bernard, Director          813-974-6629  <a href="mailto:tbernard@health.usf.edu">tbernard@health.usf.edu</a></p> <p>P. G. (Pete) Rentos, Deputy Director          813-974-6661  <a href="mailto:prentos@health.usf.edu">prentos@health.usf.edu</a></p>	<p><i>Continuing Education</i>          Hana Osman, Director          813-974-0989  <a href="mailto:hosman@health.usf.edu">hosman@health.usf.edu</a></p> <p>Robert Nesbit, Deputy Director          813-974-6879  <a href="mailto:rnesbit@health.usf.edu">rnesbit@health.usf.edu</a></p>

## Highlights

*Research Experience:* Once again, the ERC trainees highlighted their research experiences through the 2012 Research Day activities and to network with other OHS students in the region. The activities included a reception on Thursday night with our guests from the University of Puerto Rico and Florida International University, and 22 poster presentations on Friday morning, followed by lunch with a presentation by Thomas Bernard on his Fulbright experience.

([http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/erc/Research\\_Day\\_2012.htm](http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/erc/Research_Day_2012.htm))

Many of our trainees published papers as well as made presentations at national and statewide professional meetings. Interdisciplinary research experiences are encouraged. This past year, two of the Occupational Medicine Residents received special recognition for their papers at the annual American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine meeting.

*Summer Institute:* Our first Summer Institute was held on June 10-15, 2012. Fifteen upper level undergraduates from the Tampa Bay area and across the country attended. There was a picnic Sunday evening followed by five days of tours of local workplaces and discussions of occupational health and safety. The participants resided at USF and also had a full social schedule in the evenings. The participants were very positive about the experience.

([http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/erc/SERC\\_Institute\\_2012.htm](http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/erc/SERC_Institute_2012.htm))

*Sunshine ERC Student Association:* Trainees meet regularly to promote ERC activities. One highlight of their leadership was organizing a Dean's Lecture by Dr. Linda McCauley of Emory University on "Farmworker Women and Reproductive Health". The annual lectures sponsored by the Student Association rotate among the disciplines.

(<http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/erc/linda-mc-lecture.htm>)

*Regional Activities:* Along with sister ERCs in Alabama (Deep South Center) and North Carolina (North Carolina ERC) and with NIOSH, the Sunshine ERC organized an R2P Symposium at the Workers Compensation Institute and Florida Safety Conference in Orlando.

The same partnerships arranged the first SouthON meeting to bring together occupational surveillance programs in the Southeast. This first meeting led to a joint effort with the University of Kentucky, who took the lead, in submitting a conference grant application.

(<http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/erc/SouthON.htm>)

Two trainees attended the Utah ERC Young Investigators NORA meeting.

*Recruitment and Outreach:* In addition to the Summer Institute, we had 12 other recruitment activities that included laboratory tours and information sessions.

([http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/erc/2011-2012\\_SERC\\_recruitment.htm](http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/erc/2011-2012_SERC_recruitment.htm))

For continuing education, we provided training to 4,563 individuals among 800 employers in Florida and beyond.