

COEH & NIOSH ERC

August Newsletter

[COEH Website](#)



Saying Goodbye to Robert C. Spear



With the passing of Dr. Robert C. Spear, we mourn the loss of a pioneering scientist, educator, and public health leader whose vision and dedication helped shape the field of occupational and environmental health in California and beyond. Shortly after receiving tenure, Dr. Spear was chosen by UC chancellors to respond to California's legislation, AB3414, Chapter 1245, Statutes of 1978, to create a statewide center involving UC campuses in Northern and Southern California which came to be known as COEH. He was charged with establishing a collaborative teaching and research program that would prevent the type of California occupational tragedy that occurred in 1978 when workers at a pesticide formulation plant were determined to be sterile from their exposure to DBCP, the pesticide they were formulating.

Robert Spear's legacy lives on in the work of the Center he founded, the careers he shaped, and the lives protected through the science and policy he helped advance. The field of occupational and environmental health is stronger, more just, and more impactful because of Dr. Robert Spear's leadership. We honor his memory by continuing the work he so passionately championed—with integrity, evidence, and a commitment to equity.

May his memory inspire resilience and gratitude while his vision serves as a guide.

We welcome people to email tributes to Dr. Robert Spear to coeh@berkeley.edu.

[Read the full tribute to Dr. Robert Spear here.](#)

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COEH & NIOSH ERC AIMS TO:

- Train the next generation of OSH leadership to protect workers and ensure a healthier national workforce.
- Provide state-of-the-art interdisciplinary training for the next generation of OSH practitioners and researchers.

Announcements & Events

Robert Spear Internship Fund

We were deeply moved by the celebration of life for **Robert Spear**, which honored his remarkable legacy as a founder, mentor, and champion of occupational and environmental health. To keep his impact growing, we invite you to support the **Robert Spear Internship Fund**, which will provide students with the hands-on experiences and mentorship that Robert valued so deeply. Together, we can honor his memory by investing in the next generation of leaders in worker and community health.



COEH New Trainee Orientation

September 12, 2025 | 3:00-4:00pm

Is this your first year at COEH? Welcome! Make sure to attend the New Trainee Orientation. This will be a virtual event, and it will be a quick crash course on what to expect from your traineeship at COEH.



COEH Trainee Field Trip and Welcome Back

Join us as we welcome COEH trainees back to campus! We will start the day by having interdisciplinary field trips, which you can sign up for here. Then, we will be having lunch together, and have our Welcome Back.

Date: September 19th, 2025

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

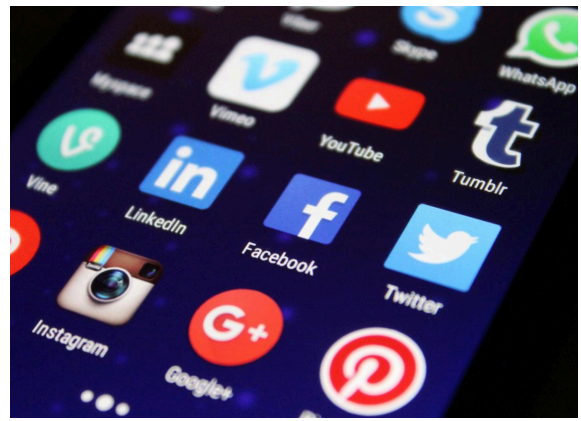
Location: 2121 Berkeley Way West, Berkeley

Reach out to Marianne with any questions at marianne23@berkeley.edu.



Connect With Us Through Social Media

Like, share, or comment on our posts! We will be highlighting the achievements of our trainees and programs. Make sure to follow us and fill out the [social media interest form](#) to be featured on one of our pages!



Upcoming Conferences & Presentations

September Occupational Health Grand Rounds

September 11, 2025 from 8:00-9:00am

Sheiphali Gandhi, MD, MPH

An Approach to Occupational Lung Disease for the Occupational Medicine Clinician

[Zoom Link](#)

[Full Schedule](#)



October Occupational Health Grand Rounds

October 9, 2025 from 8:00-9:00am

Joshua Potocko, MD, MPH

Beyond Boundaries: The Role of Aerospace Medicine in Occupational Health

[Zoom Link](#)

[Full Schedule](#)



Mid-Atlantic Regional & Metro Washington Colleges of Occupational & Environmental Medicine (MARCOEM) 2025

October 24 - 26, 2025

Washington, DC

[More Information](#)

Find additional NIOSH opportunities and updates below:

- [Newsroom](#)
- [NIOSH Science Blog](#)
- [Fellowships and Training Opportunities](#)
- [NIOSH Publications and Products](#)

Job & Internship Opportunities

Neuroscience Hiring 50% GSI position [NEU 110](#) for Fall 2025

[Find full description here](#)

Neuroscience Hiring 50% GSI positions [NEU 172L](#) for Fall 2025

[Find full description here](#)

GSI opening for CalTeach Fall 2025

[Find full description here](#)

Statistics F25 GSI Position Available - Stat 135

[Find full description here](#)

Highlights & Achievements



Read About NIOSH Impact Through our COEH Impact Stories

Through the Education Research Centers funded by NIOSH, the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health has had various success stories of researchers contributing greatly to the present state and the future of occupational health. Reading these stories helps us understand why programs and funding sources like NIOSH are so necessary in the United States.

Read impact stories [here!](#)



Workplace Research Agency Cuts Create Chaos for Safety Programs

An article posted by Bloomberg Law gives us a snapshot of the effects of cutting NIOSH. A quote from the article reads "Cutting these workers "puts the health and well-being of everybody who works at risk for a minimal dollar savings, and also it's a national security issue to lose that expertise," Wagner said".

Read the article [here!](#)

Continuing Education

Upcoming Free Webinars

May
20

[**Beyond the Call: Industrial Hygiene Strategies to Protect Emergency Responders**](#)

9 - 10 AM HST | 12 - 1 PM PT | 2 - 3 PM CT | 3 - 4 PM ET
Speaker: **William A. Jetter, PhD**

Upcoming Courses



[ERG100 | 08/11 - 10/05/2025 | Foundations for Cognitive, Macro and Physical Human Factors and Ergonomics](#)

Register Here

[View all Continuing Education Activities](#)

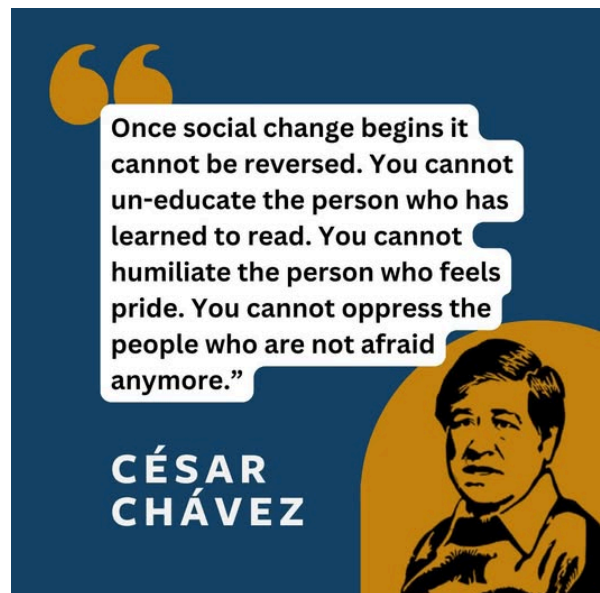
Labor Occupational Health Program

Cesar Chavez Day

Today we honor the legacy of labor leader and civil rights activist #CesarChavezBertha Servín works at a large industrial laundry in Chino, Calif. Servín and her co-workers work long shifts processing linens for hospitals and hotels. They work with large machines steaming napkins or nurses' uniforms, pushing heavy carts that weigh over 500 lbs.

In Chino it can regularly get up to 118 degrees in the summer months and building coolers don't do much to cool down the warehouse. Servín is a shop steward with her union, Workers United, and attended worker leadership training through LOHP's WOSHTEP program where she learned about her rights under the law.

Read more about LOHP by [clicking here](#).



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