A panel of 29 national occupational safety and health experts unanimously scored the RMCOEH an extraordinarily rare “10” in its current competitive renewal for the main CDC/NIOSH training grant supporting the RMCOEH. Among over 80 national Centers’ scores over the past 35 years, this has happened twice before. Our grant application for this largest training grant at the University of Utah included accomplishments over the past 6 years and projected advancements over the coming 5 years.

This perfect score (possible range 10-90), occurred in the setting of competing against 3 other internationally-renowned and highly accomplished competing centers (Harvard, John Hopkins, & Michigan). The reviewers attributed this perfect score to the following major strengths:

“...The well-established faculty; the positive reputation of the Center; strong academic programs, impressive philanthropic and state funding to support the program, including 2 endowed chairs; effective collaborations; the addition of three new OSH degree programs; the focus on interdisciplinary training and research to practice; the enthusiasm exuded in the application; the growth of the RMCOEH faculty and degree programs (MOH, MSOH, PhD, OEH); the leadership provided by the faculty, Advisory Board, and Executive Committee; the number of publications generated by the program; the large size of the student population; student graduate satisfaction with the training and successful employment of students after graduation, especially regionally; and the increase in diversity of the recruited trainees.”

A strong rationale was noted by the very high rates of occupational fatalities in Region 8 (see Figure 1).

The RMCOEH Vision, Mission and Goals statements are our critical guiding statements used to build the RMCOEH and its programs:

**VISION:** Be recognized internationally as a leading Center in meeting current and future occupational and environmental health and safety challenges.

**MISSION:** To protect workers and the environment through interdisciplinary education, research, and service.

**GOALS:**
1. Provide quality academic programs.
2. Accomplish NORA research and translate it into practice.
3. Provide superior continuing education, service, and outreach.
4. Accomplish strong interdisciplinary collaboration.

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**Fatal Incident Rate, 2010**

Figure 1. Occupational Fatality Rates, overall and by industry sectors (BLS 2010). Region 8 is UT, CO, WY, MT, ND, and SD.
Each Program Director then has program-specific goals and objectives to achieve the overall Center goals and guide programmatic efforts. Objectives are structured so that progress in achieving them is evaluated on an ongoing basis.

The grant application included our “Top 10” accomplishments over the past 5-year grant period:

1. Statutorily established the RMCOEH [S.B. 234, 2007 General Session (G.S.)], the first in the U.S. That legislation also established the RMCOEH Advisory Board. This highly unique legislation achieved two major goals. The University is required to operate the center at the University. Additionally, this critically established the center’s name in statute, which now allows legislative bills to name the center in the text of bills.

2. Net increase in FPE faculty by six.

3. Initiated and implemented 3 new graduate OSH/OEH degree programs (Master in Occupational Health, Master of Science in Occupational Health and PhD in Occupational & Environmental Health) which improved the quality of training.

4. Increased numbers of trainees in all programs. At the time of the last competitive renewal, we had trained 363 students over the lifetime of the center since 1978. Currently, we have trained 517 (increased 42% in only 5 years). Part of the reason the student headcounts are up is the new MSOH/MOH programs, which are highly attractive for prospective students.

5. Uniquely honored with 2 new endowed chairs, including the Richards Chair.

6. Broadened and diversified funding, both legislatively and grant funding.
   - Renewed “S.B. 159, 2005GS” funding for statutory 10-year maximum (1HB221, 2010 GS)
   - Established new funding stream, “Eddie Mayne account” (2008 GS, 1SSB15 2009 GS)
   - Secured HRSA funding for the OMR. (2 grants, one training, one equipment).
   - Successfully partnered with Texas for an NIEHS training grant

7. Further developed major research programs in musculoskeletal disorders, respiratory protection and trucking issues. This includes publishing 30 peer-reviewed articles/chapters in the past year, including 13 with student authors.

8. Secured funding for 2 career development (K01) awards (Drs. Thiese and Sleeth).

9. Increased the CE (and HST) student head count, including implemented and extended the RMCOEH as an OSHA training center. The CE program has increased student head counts from 12,426 students in 541 courses to 14,985 in 845 over the 5-year period (See Figure 2). The quality of the CE Program offerings includes such statements as the “best conference I have ever attended” from seasoned attendees.

![Figure 2. CE and HST students trained each year.](image)

10. Developed a second full service Occupational Medicine clinic.

The proposal also included a request to fund doctoral IH training through our newly approved PhD in OEH (IH emphasis). The Targeted Research Training proposal will provide a unique opportunity for well defined NORA Projects that serve as research training platforms for all trainees, while including highly practical techniques and tools that will serve them well in professional careers. This proposal requests continued support of the RMCOEH’s existing academic training programs in Occupational Medicine, Industrial Hygiene, Ergonomics and Safety, and Occupational Injury Prevention Research Training. It also includes Outreach, Continuing Education, and highlighted a few of the vigorous roles that our Center Executive Committee and the RMCOEH Advisory Board continue to play in advancing the Center’s programs.

Over the next 5 year period, we proposed plans in this grant application to:

1. Increase our existing academic programs,
2. Implement a robust Targeted Research Training (TRT) program for interdisciplinary NORA-related trainee experiences and translational research activities,
3. Grow our extramural NORA research programs,
4. Implement a distance-based Master of Occupational Health program,
5. Further invigorate our Pilot/Small Projects Program, and
6. Re-start our OHN Program.

The Center thanks all who helped support this highly successful grant application process and we hope you all join in celebrating this extraordinarily unique achievement of a perfect score!!
The Aerospace Medical Association presented the Kent Gillingham Award to Royce Moser, Jr., M.D., MPH in recognition of his contributions to prevention of aircraft accidents due to spatial disorientation (SD). SD occurs when misleading inputs from the eyes, inner ears, or body sensors convince the pilot the aircraft is flying safely when he is actually on a course to impact the ground or water. Dr. Moser’s first assignment after completing the U.S. Air Force residency in Aerospace Medicine was at Aerospace Defense Command. He conducted an epidemiologic study of aircraft accidents in that Command and found SD was a factor in nine percent of all accidents and in twenty-six percent of fatal accidents. He published the results of his study in his first peer-reviewed article in Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine in 1969.

Almost forty years later, the Secretary of Defense authorized a study of SD accidents. In spite of multiple efforts involving training procedures, simulators, and other efforts, the rate of SD accidents approximated that which Dr. Moser documented decades earlier. As a result the Secretary directed installation of the Automatic Ground Collision Avoidance System which will help prevent SD accidents in Air Force aircraft. Dr. Moser was commended for his study that “will contribute to saving hundreds of lives and billions of dollars in equipment.”

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### Upcoming Continuing Education Classes and Events

#### June Courses
- DOT Hazardous Materials Transportation Training
- OSHA 511/503/501 General Industry
- OSHA 7500 Introduction to Safety & Health Management
- OSHA 7845 Recordkeeping (4 hours)
- 40-Hours HAZWOPER Training
- Asbestos Inspector Training

#### July Courses
- 40-Hours HAZWOPER Training (Price, UT)
- 8-Hour HAZWOPER Refresher (Price, UT)
- Operations Level Emergency Response
- OSHA 2225 Respiratory Protection

#### August Courses
- Comprehensive Review of Industrial Hygiene
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods: Compliance with IATA
- Leadership Development for Hazardous Materials Professionals
- OSHA 511/501/503 General Industry

#### September Courses
- Asbestos Contractor/Supervisor Refresher (Pocatello, ID)
- Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner Refresher (Pocatello, ID)
- OSHA 2045 Machinery & Machine Guarding Standards
- CAOHC Approved Occupational Hearing Conservation & Refresher

#### October Courses
- Chemical Compatibility & Storage
- Pulmonary Function Testing

#### November Courses
- DOT Training for Shippers of RCRA-Regulated Waste
- OSHA 510/502/500 Construction Industry
- Lead Supervisor Training
- NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Refresher

#### December Courses
- Lead Safety for Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Training Course
- OSHA 511/501/503 General Industry
- Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner Training

### Correspondence Courses (Enroll at any time)
- Accidents Investigation, Analysis & Prevention
- Behavior-Based Safety
- Practical Aspects of Health and Safety Management

For additional information on CE classes, including distant learning courses, please visit the continuing education section of the RMCOEH website: [http://medicine.utah.edu/rmcoeh](http://medicine.utah.edu/rmcoeh)
Either it's a minor back strain or something as severe as paralysis, injuries on the job can have a significant impact on workers' lives—and on their employers' bottom line. Working tirelessly to improve workplace safety in Utah and the surrounding region, the RMCOEH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

In April, Dr. Royce Moser was recognized for his service to the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, MA at its 5th Annual Retreat of the HSPH Alumni Council and Association Committee. HSPH Dean Julio Frenk attended the event to thank the volunteers for their service and the changes for growth they have achieved.

Dr. Moser has regularly attended the HSPH alumni activities for many years. He was president of the council from 2009-2011 and will retire this year after 10 years of service in various roles, and was honored for his services to Alumni Association.

He was presented with a custom plaque, featuring a gavel in honor of his presidency and inscribed:

In recognition of service
to the Harvard School of Public Health
Alumni Association
Royce Moser, Jr., AB ’57, MD ’61, MPH ’65
President 2009-2011
Councilor 2003-2013

Dr. Hegmann noted “Dr Moser’s contributions to Occupational Safety and Health, Aerospace Medicine and Preventive Medicine are extraordinary and unprecedented. His devotion to effectively teach management principles, while enjoying his Emeritus status is unique. The Award from Harvard furthers his ongoing reputation as a consummate manager of meetings and organizations.”

Karin Kolbus, DPN, RN, COHN-S, CCM, joined the Advisory Board in 2011. She is the current Chapter President of the Utah Association of Occupational Health Nurses, (UAOHN) and works for Intermountain Healthcare as their Employee Health Coordinator. Other health and safety experiences include service to the electric utility industry as Director of Generation Safety for PacifiCorp, and case management work for Delta Airlines. She started her career as an emergency department nurse and was introduced to occupational health when she accepted jobs as a first responder at a Micron construction site and the Kennecott copper mine.

Karin has been married to John Kolbus for 32 years. Now that their two sons Jake and Andrew are grown, wonderful people, they spend their free time volunteering for American Red Cross disaster operations assignments and training difficult to adopt shelter dogs. Their current shelter dog “in progress” is Charlotte a 2 year old Australian/German Shephard mix with athletic talent to jump even a 9 foot backyard fence.

Karin thinks occupational health nursing is the greatest and best kept secret in healthcare. She has very much enjoyed every job she has ever had. Workforce populations are a perfect environment to share nursing knowledge and values. She and the UAOHN board are looking forward to working with RMCOEH by sponsoring nurses interested in pursuing occupational health education and safety certification. Our Utah workforce needs them.
Royce Moser, Jr. and Lois Moser established their scholarship 11 years ago. It was started so students would be encouraged to study and concentrate on occupational environmental health and safety.

We are pleased to announce this year’s achievers of the Royce Moser, Jr. and Lois Moser Endowed Scholarship in Occupational Health: Aza-deh Farokhi, MD in the Occupational Medicine Residency Program and Brent Haddow starting his 2nd year in the Industrial Hygiene Program.

LIBERTY MUTUAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SAFETY FELLOWSHIP

Andrew S. Merryweather, Ph.D., completed a fellowship through the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety’s joint program with the American Society of Safety Engineers Foundation (ASSEF).

Dr. Merryweather studied the effects of hospital bed adjustments on stability and slip parameters in a population of fall-prone older adults.

“This was truly a choice experience of a lifetime that I will always remember,” says Dr. Merryweather. “I gained a lot of insight from the researchers and appreciated all the hallway conversations and group discussions. The study is still ongoing, and I am actively collaborating with a few of the researchers on multiple projects and manuscripts. I look forward to the opportunity to collaborate on other projects in the future.

BOARD CERTIFICATIONS

Occupational Medicine: We are pleased to announce that 7 of our Occupational Medicine residents took and passed the board exam over the past couple of years. 2011: Eryn Stansfield and Kelli Graziano. 2012: Alex Morgan, Margaret Griffith, Don Mehr, Rahila Andrews and Melissa Cheng

This continues our recent years of success where 100% of our residents taking the exam passed the board examination the first time. This compares with roughly 75% for all residency graduates passing the American Board of Preventive Medicine examination in the specialty area of Occupational Medicine. This brings the number of ABPM Diplomats in Occupational Medicine who have graduated from the RMCOEH since 1992 to 60.

Industrial Hygiene: The Industrial Hygiene Program extends its congratulations to the following recent students who have passed the Certified Industrial Hygiene exam thus receiving their CIH: John Nicholas Rice, John Parker, Justin Mecham, Jonathan White, Daniel Nye, Jamie Freestone Risenmay.

National Science Foundation Grant

Andrew S. Merryweather, Ph.D., was awarded a National Science Foundation Grant (5-years, $123,753) to establish senior design projects in mechanical engineering that focus on developing technologies for persons with disabilities. The SITE program will augment the current senior design sequence at the University of Utah and will focus on new opportunities to expand our efforts. This new emphasis area is to help bridge the gap between technology, scientific contributions and the deaf and blind community’s needs. This effort includes providing assistive technology and devices that will support the development and education of persons with vision and hearing impairments.

RMCOEH Faculty Honored with Fellow

David Wallace, PhD, CSP was honored with the awarding of fellowship in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). A Fellow is one who has attained a membership grade of distinction, at the time of advancement shall be a corporate member of the Society, shall have been responsible for significant engineering achievements, and shall have not less than 10 years of active practice and 10 years of corporate membership in ASME.

Aavid Wallace, Utah State University principal lecturer, and RMCOEH Class of 1991, joins the ranks of the nation’s top professionals in his field as a 2013 American Industrial Hygiene Association Fellow. Among other Utah AIHA Fellows are: Rod Larson, Jeff Burton, Michael Taylor, and Jeff Throckmorton

Less than 360 individuals nationwide currently hold the prestigious title. Wallace was also named 2012 Safety Professional of the Year by the Utah Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers.
Richard E. Johns Endowed Scholarship Awarded

The Dr. Richard E. Johns Scholarship was established by the family of Dr. Johns to memorialize and honor his legacy of education and scholarship. Dr. Johns was the Occupational Medicine Director for the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health from 1987-1989 and Medical Director for ATK Thiokol for many years after academia.

This is the first year for the awarding of the Dr. Richard E. Johns Endowed Scholarship. The committee selected two recipients out of 12 applications. They are:

Susan Balthaser has worked in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as an emergency medical technician and paramedic. She provided medical care for injuries. When she realized that many of these injuries, especially occupational exposures, were preventable, it motivated her to pursue a fulfilling career in worker safety & hazard mitigation. Susan is finishing her first year in the Industrial Hygiene Program.

Myra Cruz is in her first year Occupational Medicine Residency here at the RMCOEH. She spent her first 16 years in the Philippines. Her journey from the Philippines to the US was a life-changing experience. Myra states: "I envision myself contributing to the field not only here in the US but also in developing countries. As an immigrant, she would like to facilitate transfer of knowledge to her native land as well as to other countries.

We are very pleased with the number of University of Utah students receiving awards this year. The University of Utah had, by far, the most scholarship recipients of any other university.
RMCOEH News Corner

Jessica Hanford Scholarship Awarded 20

Safety Haikus
Safety first, my friend.
You might be lost in labor,
But please, safety first.

Myra Cruz

Coal-Fired Power Plant Safety
With massive amounts of fossil fuels beneath the earth, humans one day became aware of their useful worth. And what has resulted from coal production today? Energy independency that creates jobs with good pay. But with combustible dust being a power-plant safety concern, workers must always wear FR clothing, which will not burn.

Jerry Cook

35 years of Service
Connie Crandall, MBA was honored at a luncheon, January 15, 2013 for 35 years of service to the University of Utah. The luncheon was hosted by President David Pershing and Eric Denna, CIO/Interim CHRO. Connie has been with RMCOEH for over 27 of those 35 years.

Congratulations and Thank you!

The University of Utah Academy of Medical Science Educators Fellowship
Kurt Hegmann, MD, MPH, Center Director, has been selected as one of 18 inaugural fellows by the University of Utah Academy of Medical Science Educators. The inaugural class of fellows will serve an integral role in developing the Academy’s mission. His ten hours of annual service will be instrumental for creating a culture of exceptional education in the School of Medicine.

Graduate is 2012 BCSP Award of Excellence
David C. Roskelley, MSPH, CIH, Certified Safety Professional (CSP). In May of 2012, David was the recipient of the Award of Excellence. Each of the award recipients have significantly affected the safety, health, and environmental profession and continue their commitment through everyday life. He has a Masters degree in Public Health with an emphasis in Industrial Hygiene (Class of 1997) from the University of Utah/Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH) and currently teaches as an adjunct faculty member. David is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA). David is founding partner of R&R Environmental, Inc. a comprehensive safety, health, and environmental consulting firm based in Utah.

(Right)

RMCOEH now has over 500 graduates and we would love to know where you are. Please send a photo of yourself either alone or in front of the sign of your employment and a brief description of your job to:
Toni.Chambers@hsc.utah.edu
We plan to highlight 2-3 alumni in every newsletter.
William W. Greaves, MD, MSPH is a 1980 M.S.P.H. graduate of RMCOEH. Dr. Greaves served a Fellowship in Occupational Medicine here at the University of Utah. Some of the highlights of his career include:

- Executive Director, American Board of Preventive Medicine 2012 to Present
- Chair, Department of Preventive Medicine, MCW, 1998-2002
- Director, General Preventive Medicine Residency 1983-1994
- Founding Director, Academic Program in Occupational Medicine (APOM) and the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program in Occupational Medicine
- Founding Director, MPH program in General Preventive Medicine and Public Health (1992) and in Health Services Administration (1996), MCW

He is triple certified by:
- American Board of Family Practice
- American Board of Preventive Med. in Occupational Medicine
- and also in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine

In his career Dr. Greaves has received many Awards and honors. Just a few are:

- Fellowship, American College of Preventive Medicine
- Fellowship, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
- Elected Member of Ramazzini Honor Society

- Educator of the Year, Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine
- Health Achievement in Occupational Medicine Award, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

In March 2011 Dr. Greaves received the Presidential Award from Executive Committee to Ethics Committee members, of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. He was a Trustee with The American Board of Preventive Medicine, and from 2005-2011 a member of the Residency Review Committee for Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Greaves has 30 Peer Reviewed Publications and Book Chapters and 50 international and national presentations to his credit.

Dr. Hegmann noted, “Dr. Greaves is one of our many outstanding alumnae working tirelessly to lead the US in improving occupational safety and health. His current position to run one of the 24 medical specialty boards with ABPM is unprecedented for RMCOEH and provides the US with the skillful, national leadership needed to propel all preventive medicine disciplines.”