



# CHRONOLOGY OF COEH DEVELOPMENT

CENTER FOR OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

## 1977 **Workers become sterile at a pesticide formulation plant**

Male workers are found to be infertile, due to their exposure to the agricultural chemical Dibromochloropropane (DBCP). The state finds insufficient institutional mechanisms to prevent occupational injuries and illnesses.

## 1978 **Occupational Health Centers are established by Assembly Bill 3414, Chapter 1245, Statutes of 1978, Kapiloff**

The California Legislature passes a bill mandating that the California Department of Industrial Relations, under the leadership of Don Vial, establish Occupational Health Centers in Northern and Southern California under contract with the University of California. Professor **Robert Spear** is founding director of the Northern Center, which links Berkeley, San Francisco, and Davis.

## 1981 **The Centers become a permanent part of UC**

The Northern California Occupational Health Center (NCOHC) develops teaching, research, and service programs:

- Occupational Hygiene (MS, MPH, PhD)
- Toxicology (PhD)
- Occupational Epidemiology (MPH, PhD)
- Ergonomics (MS, PhD)
- Occupational Medicine Residency at UCSF
- Occupational Health Nursing (MS, PhD, MS/MPH joint with UCB)
- Continuing Education
- COEH Community Services (LOHP)
- Clinical Services

## 1980s **Clinics**

Clinics are established in San Francisco and Sacramento that treat patients for work-related illness and injuries; survey work sites; provide preventive care for employees; and offer consulting services to employers, physicians, unions, attorneys, and government.

## 1982 **NIOSH Education and Research Center (ERC)**

NCOHC becomes a regional Education and Research Center (ERC) funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). **Robert Spear** is the founding director.

## 1987 **Superfund Basic Research Program**

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) funds a program to address the effects of pollution at Superfund hazardous waste sites. COEH Professor **Martyn T. Smith** is founding director of the Berkeley program.

## 1987 **Superfund Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program**

NIEHS establishes a nationwide training program to protect workers at hazardous waste sites. COEH Program Director **Robin Baker** is founding director of the Berkeley component.

## 1988 **Lung Biology Center**

COEH Professor **Dean Sheppard** of UCSF establishes the first basic research laboratory in the U.S. devoted to lung injury and repair due to chemical and biological agents.

**1990 Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH)**

NCOHC changes its name to COEH to acknowledge the interconnection between environmental and occupational health.

**1992 Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety**

NIOSH establishes regional centers to protect farmers and farmworkers. COEH Professor **Marc Schenker** is the founding director of the UC Davis research and outreach center.

**1995 UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR)**

DANR and COEH establish a partnership under the direction of Cooperative Extension Specialist **James Meyers**. Dr. Meyers establishes AgSafe, a non-profit coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to reducing injuries, illness, and fatalities in California agriculture.

**1992 Ergonomics**

COEH Professor David Rempel establishes a joint UCSF/UCB teaching, research, and service program and links to UC Davis as they develop ergonomics research and teaching activities.

**1995 Department of Public Health Sciences**

COEH Program Director Marc Schenker is founding chair of a new clinical and basic research department in the School of Medicine at UC Davis. Originally established as Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine.

**1996 Agricultural Ergonomics Research Center (AERC)**

UC Davis professor John Miles partners with COEH Professor **Julia Faucett** of UCSF and Specialist **James Meyers** to establish a research center at Davis to understand and apply ergonomic approaches to agricultural equipment design and work practices that prevent musculoskeletal disorders. Their success prompts the UC Davis Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering to recruit a faculty member in ergonomics.

**1996 COEH International Program**

COEH Associate Director for International Health **Kirk R. Smith** of UCB is awarded a grant from the Fogarty International Center for COEH's international activities. **Allan H. Smith** takes over this grant in 2001.

**1998 Health, Environment, and Development (HED) master's program**

COEH Professor Kirk R. Smith establishes an interdisciplinary master's program at UCB aimed at helping developing countries with occupational and environmental health problems.

**1998 CHAMACOS (Center for the Health Assessment of Mothers and Children of Salinas)**

COEH Professor Brenda Eskenazi of UCB establishes one of eight national centers funded by the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institute of Environmental Health Science to study children's health. CHAMACOS focuses on pesticide exposure of farmworker children.

**2002 Center of Excellence in Environmental Public Health Tracking**

Director **John Balmes** establishes one of three centers funded nationally by the CDC to help state and local health departments establish a nationwide tracking system linking hazardous exposures to disease outcomes that will guide federal health and environmental policies.

**2002 MPH Degree program at UC Davis**

Established in the School of Medicine, the first director is Professor **Stephen McCurdy**.