

Committee to Review the NIOSH Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Research Program

Committee

Paul D. Gunderson

Chair

Paul D. Gunderson is the director of the Dakota Center for Technology-Optimized Agriculture at Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, North Dakota. Dr. Gunderson has a deep appreciation for farming and its associated hazards and is an expert on farmer suicide. His career exploring the health impact of human activity in agricultural work settings began in 1976 with research on the respiratory effect of working in poultry barns, and continued until his initial retirement in 2000. He was director of the National Farm Medicine Center (1992-1996) and director of the Marshfield Medical Research and Education Foundation (1993-2000), both located in Marshfield, Wisconsin. In those capacities, he conducted numerous research initiatives exploring the health effects of agricultural exposures, convened scientific meetings and seminars, chaired scientific review mechanisms which rate applications for federal funding, and testified before Congress about the need for a national agenda in the agricultural health and safety arena. Dr. Gunderson served as an adjunct professor in public health administration with the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. He received the 2006 Stueland Scholar Award from the National Farm Medicine Center at the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation for his significant contributions to research in agricultural worker health. He has published more than 90 papers about agricultural safety and health in scientific journals and chaired scientific review panels for the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He grew up in Minnesota and began his career as a high school teacher of English and industrial arts, both in the United States and in the South Pacific nation of Papua New Guinea. Dr. Gunderson is also pastor of the Drake, Martin, and Harvey United Methodist parish in Harvey, North Dakota. Dr. Gunderson received his Ph.D. in education from the University of Minnesota, his M.A. in industrial technology from Ball State University, Indiana, and his B.S. in English from Moorhead State College, Minnesota.

Maria T. Correa

Member

Maria T. Correa is an associate professor of epidemiology and public health in the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University. Her expertise is in agricultural health with emphasis on zoonotic diseases, agromedicine, Hispanic/Latino farm worker issues, program development and evaluation, and international public health. Her current research and outreach activities focus on the risk for transmission at the farm level of foreign-animal diseases, bio-and agro-terrorism agents, zoonotic diseases, and biosecurity. Dr. Correa conducts surveys to assess the prevalence of zoonotic diseases and the risk of zoonotic disease transmission and uses epidemiological and anthropological information to understand illness and health. She also conducts evaluations of a target group's knowledge of disease transmission and prevention and identifies factors that limit the group's access to Western medicine or public health information (e.g., use of alternative medicine, socio-cultural understanding of disease, immigration status, isolation of the community). Dr. Correa is a member of the board of directors with the North Carolina Agromedicine Institute. She is a member of the American College of Epidemiology, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association, and Phi Zeta Veterinary Honorary Society. Dr. Correa received her degree in veterinary sciences from the State University in Uruguay, and her M.Sc. and PhD in epidemiology from Cornell University.

R. A. Davis

Member

R. Alan Davis is the safety and compliance manager at American Seafoods Company, one of the largest commercial fishing companies in the country. He develops, directs, and provides biannual safety, health, and emergency training for nearly a thousand multi-cultural employees at American Seafoods; investigates injuries and accidents and identifies the cause; and conducts in-port and at-sea vessel safety inspections, including machine guarding, work practices, OSHA compliance, life safety, and medical provisions. He previously was a loss control specialist at the University of Washington, where he worked with national experts on loss prevention strategies including back injury prevention, repetitive motion injuries, workplace violence, and chemical exposures. Mr. Davis was a safety and security specialist at Tyson Seafood Group where he developed and provided safety and emergency training for more than seven hundred employees, investigated injuries and accidents, and supervised the creation of an injury/illness reporting database. He has served as a member of the NIOSH NORA mining, fishing, and forestry peer review panel, and has participated in numerous International Fishing Industry Safety and Health conferences. Alan has also served in various American Society of Safety Engineer (ASSE) chapters and is a Past President of the Puget Sound Chapter of ASSE. With nearly eight years of experience with commercial fishing companies, he was recently appointed to the U.S. Coast Guard's Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Advisory Committee and has been nominated for a position on the Maritime Advisory Committee to the Occupational Safety & Health Administration. He grew up on a farm in rural North Carolina and began his career in Safety as a Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician while still in high school. Mr. Davis is a Certified Safety Professional and received his B.S. in Occupational Safety and Health from North Carolina A&T State University.

James A. Dosman

Member

James A. Dosman is the director of the Institute of Agricultural Rural and Environmental Health (I.ARE.H) at the University of Saskatchewan, the only institute in Canada that provides research, education, and health promotion to agricultural and rural populations. He is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and a Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. His expertise includes respiratory diseases, occupational diseases, and agricultural medicine. Dr. Dosman has chaired or co-chaired five international symposia on health issues related to agriculture and rural populations. He is a founding chair of the Canadian Coalition for Agriculture Safety and Rural Health (1992); founding co-chair of the Canadian Rural Health Research Society (2002); past member of the Governing Council of the Medical Research Council of Canada (1995-2000); and past president of the Canadian Thoracic Society. Through his work, he helped establish initiatives including the first annual Agriculture Health and Safety Conference, the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program, the Canadian Agriculture Safety Program, and the Agricultural Health and Safety Network, a unique program that provides education services, respiratory health and hearing screening programs, courses in emergency preparedness and other educational opportunities to the rural population. He is a current grantee of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research in areas related to occupational and environmental exposures, and a member of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. He is an Associate Member of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology. Dr. Dosman received his M.D., M.A., and B.A. from the University of Saskatchewan.

William A. Groves

Member

William A. Groves is an assistant professor of industrial health and safety and the graduate program chair in industrial health and safety in the Department of Energy and Geo-Environmental Engineering at Pennsylvania State University. He is a certified industrial hygienist and a certified safety professional. His research interests are in the development of sensors and instrumentation for measurement of organic vapors; exposure assessment methods and strategies; biological monitoring; and personal protective equipment. He developed a sampling system for measuring respirator workplace protection factors for ammonia in livestock production facilities. He is a member of the AIHA (American Industrial Hygiene Association) Gas and Vapor Detection Systems Committee and a member of the Outreach and Graduate Education Committee at Pennsylvania State University. He is a reviewer for the AIHA Journal, The Analyst, and Royal Society of Chemistry. From 1997-1999, Dr. Groves was an assistant professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health and also co-director of the industrial hygiene core at the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, both located at the University of Iowa. Dr. Groves was an industrial hygienist and engineering loss control representative with Aetna Life & Casualty from 1986-1990, and an industrial hygienist at Newport News Shipbuilding from 1990-1991. Dr. Groves received his Ph.D. and M.P.H. in industrial health from the University of Michigan, and B.S. in chemical engineering from Case Western Reserve University.

Ronald L. McAllister

Member

Ronald L. McAllister is Manager of Support and Facilities at CNH (Case New Holland) America LLC, a large manufacturer of agricultural equipment. He is responsible for the prototype shop, which builds agricultural equipment for the New Holland and Case IH brands as part of the engineering product development process, along with drafting, tool design and facilities at CNH in New Holland. His specialty is the design and improvement of equipment related to forage harvesting and round balers. For more than 35 years, Mr. McAllister has been directly involved with safety-related aspects of product development. He was a member of the CNH product safety review committee for 12 years, and chaired the group for 4 years. During that time, he participated in more than 100 product safety reviews and provided recommendations for safety improvements to products prior to production. He was also involved in the development of industry-wide standards. McAllister guided academia and industry leaders toward a unified direction in the revision of ASABE S279 Lighting and Marking of Agricultural Equipment on Highways, and he led support of extensive research conducted at the Ohio State University that helped define the specifications for the revision of that standard. He holds five U.S. patents, each of which was the result of years of research, testing, and design. In 2006, he was awarded the NAMIC (National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies) Engineering Safety Award from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers for his dedication and outstanding leadership and accomplishments in the field of agricultural safety engineering. Mr. McAllister holds a B.S. in agricultural engineering from Virginia Tech.

James D. McGlothlin

Member

James D. McGlothlin is an associate professor of industrial hygiene and ergonomics and director of the Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences Graduate Program at Purdue University. Dr. McGlothlin is a certified professional ergonomist and is retired from NIOSH. Dr. McGlothlin studies the relationships between ergonomics, epidemiology, and industrial hygiene to reduce risk and evaluate and control physical, chemical, and biological hazards in the occupational environment. He develops and administers ergonomic programs to prevent musculoskeletal injuries, promote health, and improve productivity and quality in the workplace. Most recently, he has worked on methods to integrate real-time sampling methods with videography to develop more accurate worker risk assessment profiles and to develop more cost-effective controls. His research also looks to develop rapid detection systems to detect and identify airborne infectious agents such as avian influenza. While at NIOSH, Dr. McGlothlin served as a senior researcher in ergonomics at the Engineering Control Technology Branch (1997-1998), an occupational and environmental safety and health specialist (1991-1996), an industrial hygienist (1985-1991), and chief of the Division of Safety Research (1984-1985). Dr. McGlothlin received his Ph.D. in industrial health with a specialty in ergonomics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He holds a M.P.H. in epidemiology and M.S. in environmental and industrial health from the University of Hawaii, and a B.A. (1975) in industrial psychology from the University of Hawaii.

Susan H. Pollack

Member

Susan H. Pollack is an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine at the University of Kentucky, and a physician Board Certified in both Pediatrics and Occupational Medicine. She manages the Pediatric and Adolescent Injury Prevention Program at the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center. Dr. Pollack is interested in all aspects of injury epidemiology and prevention for the pediatric and adolescent age group and teaches about injury epidemiology and prevention to the public and health professionals. She has also had funding, publications, and a national role in the issue of occupational injuries among working teens. Her other special interests include Child Fatality Review and whitewater river safety. Dr. Pollack received her M.D. from Eastern Virginia Medical School, M.S. in physiology from Georgetown University, and B.A. in environmental biology and sociology from Smith College.

Lorann Stallones

Member

Lorann Stallones is a professor of epidemiology in the Department of Psychology at Colorado State University. She is also the Director of the Colorado Injury Control Research Center and an adjunct professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Her research studies fatal and nonfatal injuries among farmers; adolescent farm work, fatigue, and injuries; the relationship between pesticides and mental health (depressive symptoms and neurobehavioral symptoms); pesticides and safety practices on farms; and pesticide exposures among migrant and seasonal farm workers. She has also studied the relationships between congenital anomalies, birth weight, and pesticide exposures; head injuries and cancer among Hispanic farm workers; and musculoskeletal injuries, suicide, and respiratory symptoms among farmers. Dr. Stallones is on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health. She was a member of the Epidemiology Committee of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute pre-doctoral fellowship panel (1996, 1998, 1999) and Chair of the Committee (2000, 2001). She was on the 2003 NAS Vietnam Education Fellowship Review Panel. She has served on numerous grant review panels for the CDC/ NIOSH, and CDC/NCIPC, was a regular study section member of the Injury Research Grant Review Committee (1991-1995), and the Safety and Occupational Health Study Section (2003-2007). She has reviewed grants for the British Columbia Health Research Foundation, Health Canada, and the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation. She was elected Secretary-Treasurer for Society of Epidemiologic Research (1990-1993). She was president of the National Association of Injury Control Research Centers (1998-1999). She served on the Board of Directors for the American College of Epidemiology (ACE) from 2003-2006 and was recently elected to serve as Secretary of ACE (2006-2011). Dr. Stallones received her Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of Texas School of Public Health, M.P.H. in community health from the University of Texas School of Public Health, and B.A in cultural anthropology from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Don Villarejo

Member

Don Villarejo is co-founder and retired as executive director of the California Institute for Rural Studies after serving the institute for 22 years. He has been working to improve the health and well-being of California's hired farm workers and expand health care to the working poor. His research interests include pest management, farm labor contractors and safety in the fields, farm labor housing, reclamation policy in the western states, and new methods for surveying farm worker populations. In addition to his speaking engagements at agricultural health and safety seminars and conferences, Dr. Villarejo conducts training for attorneys and field staff members of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board. He received the 2005 advocate of social justice award from the Ecological Farming Association for his long-term, significant contributions to the well-being of the people who work in food production and agriculture. He also received a board of directors award from the Mexican-American Concilio of Yolo County in California. Dr. Villarejo received his Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. degrees in physics from the University of Chicago.

Susanna G. Von Essen

Member

Susanna G. Von Essen is a professor of Internal Medicine in the Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep and Allergy Section at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She is also a faculty member of the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Von Essen grew up on a farm in eastern Nebraska. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Zoology and German, she is a graduate of the Washington University School of Medicine and she earned an MPH degree from the University of Michigan. She is also a faculty member of the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She works as a pulmonary and critical care physician, does research on agricultural health and teaches on topics that include rural health and occupational pulmonary disorders. Her current research interests include gene-environment interactions associated with exposures to organic dust through work in production agriculture. She served on the Institute of Medicine committee that prepared the report entitled "Damp Indoor Spaces and Health" and is a member of the Advisory Panel of the Agricultural Health Study.

James J. Zuiches

Member

James J. Zuiches is the vice chancellor for extension, engagement, and economic development at North Carolina State University. Dr. Zuiches leads and coordinates far-reaching extension, engagement, and economic development programs at the university. Efforts include activities of the Cooperative Extension Service, Industrial Extension Service, Small Business and Technology Development Center, non-credit operations of the McKimmon Center for Extension and Continuing Education, the Economic Development Partnership, and the H. Hugh Shelton Initiative for Leadership Development. His research specializations include demography, rural sociology, and research administration. He was a professor in community and rural sociology and project leader for the National Coalition for Rural Entrepreneurship at Washington State University where he also served as dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics for eight years, and director of Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural Research Center for four years. Dr. Zuiches also served at Cornell, Michigan State, the National Science Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. He has more than 70 publications, including professional journals, book chapters, bulletins and editorials. He is a AAAS Fellow, serves on the NRC Committee on the Review of NIOSH Research Programs and has served as a member of the Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources. Dr. Zuiches received his Ph.D. and M.S. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and his B.A. in philosophy and sociology from the University of Portland in Oregon.