“Leaving a Legacy in Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety”

Jonathan M. Samet, a pulmonary physician and epidemiologist, is Dean of the Colorado School of Public Health. Previously, he was Flora L. Thornton Chair, Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Southern California and Director of the USC Institute for Global Health. Dr. Samet received a Bachelor’s degree in Chemistry and Physics from Harvard College, an M.D. degree from the University of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry, and a Master of Science degree in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health. His research has focused on the health risks of inhaled pollutants—particles and ozone in outdoor air and indoor pollutants including secondhand smoke and radon. He has also investigated the occurrence and causes of cancer and respiratory diseases, emphasizing the risks of active and passive smoking. For several decades, he has been involved in global health, focusing on tobacco control, air pollution, and chronic disease prevention. He has served on and chaired numerous committees of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine including the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR) VI Committee; the Committee on Research Priorities for Airborne Particulate Matter, Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology; the Committee to Review the Draft IRIS Assessment on Formaldehyde; the Committee to Develop a Research Strategy for Environmental Health and Safety Aspects of Engineered Nanomaterials; the Committee to Review the IRIS Process; and the Committee on Incorporating 21st Century Science into Risk-Based Evaluations. He also chaired the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) of the U.S. EPA and the FDA’s Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee (TPSAC). Dr. Samet has served as editor and author for Reports of the Surgeon General on Smoking and Health since 1984, receiving the Surgeon General’s Medallion in 1990 and 2006 for these contributions. He was the Senior Scientific Editor for the 50th Anniversary 2014 report. Dr. Samet received the 2004 Prince Mahidol Award for Global Health awarded by the King of Thailand, the Alton Ochsner Award Relating Smoking and Health, the WHO World No Tobacco Day Award, the Edward Livingston Trudeau Medal from the American Thoracic Society/American Lung Association, the Luther L. Terry Award for Distinguished Career from the American Cancer Society, and the Fries Prize for Health. He received the Alumni Award of Merit from the Harvard School of Public Health, and was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. He was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (Institute of Medicine) of the National Academy of Sciences in 1997 and received the Academy’s David M. Rall Medal for his contributions in 2015.
Lee Newman is a researcher, physician, public health practitioner, and educator. He is a professor in the Departments of Environmental and Occupational Health and Epidemiology at the Colorado School of Public Health. He is founding director of both the Center for Health, Work & Environment and the Mountain & Plains Education and Research Center. He co-founded Health Links™ and the ColoradoSPH Certificate in Total Worker Health®. Dr. Newman is also a professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. He was founding president and CEO of Axion Health, Inc., an occupational health information technology company. Dr. Newman is recognized for his scientific and practical contributions to occupational health and safety, Total Worker Health, immunotoxicology, biomarker development, occupational lung disease prevention and treatment, beryllium health effects, health informatics, medical surveillance, and intervention science. He has authored over 165 scientific papers and over 100 books, chapters, and monographs. Dr. Newman consults for government agencies, multi-national corporations, small- and medium-sized enterprises, labor groups, and community organizations. His favorite life role is as mentor, second only to husband and father. He is irrationally optimistic.
“Military Occupational Codes: Their Uses and Limitations in Understanding Occupational Exposure Risks and a predictor of Deployment-Related Lung Disease”

Oscar Sanders, MD is a senior resident in the occupational medicine program at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Dr. Sanders is a graduate of the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, MD. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Florida where he graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Physiology. He completed his transitional internship at David Grant Air Force Base in Travis, CA.

Dr. Sanders then served as a Flight Surgeon in the United States Air Force for seven years, where he achieved the rank of Major. During his service, he was appointed Flight Commander in 2014 where he supervised 31 personnel to include one flight surgeon, 4 physician assistants and 2 nurses. He also served as Chief of Aerospace Medicine in 2015 where he directed medical care to base populace of over 2,000 personnel. During his service, Dr. Sanders was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal and the United States Air Force Clinical Excellence Awards.
“Health and Environmental Consequences of the World Trade Center Attacks, September 11, 2001”

Philip Landrigan, MD, MSc, DIH, FAAP is Professor of Environmental Medicine, Public Health and Pediatrics and Dean for Global Health in the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is a pediatrician, occupational physician and epidemiologist. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and President of the Collegium Ramazzini.

Dr. Landrigan’s pioneering research on the effects of lead poisoning contributed to the U.S. government’s decision to remove lead from gasoline and paint, actions that resulted in a more than 90% decrease in the mean blood lead levels of all American children. His leadership of a National Academy of Sciences Committee on pesticides in children’s diets generated widespread understanding that children are uniquely vulnerable to toxic chemicals in the environment and helped to secure the passage of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, the only federal environmental law that contains explicit protections for children’s health. Since September 11, 2001, Dr. Landrigan has been centrally involved in the medical and epidemiologic studies that followed the destruction of the World Trade Center. He has consulted to the World Health Organization. From 2015-2017, he co-chaired The Lancet Commission on Pollution & Health.

Dr. Landrigan is a graduate of Boston Latin School, Boston College, Harvard Medical School and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine where he received an MSc in Occupational Medicine and a Diploma in Industrial Health. He is board certified in Pediatrics, General Preventive Medicine and Occupational & Environmental Medicine. He is a 41-year veteran of the US Public Health Service and the US Navy and retired from the Navy in 2005 at the rank of Captain.
“Update on Colorado’s Firefighter Cancer Presumption Statute, §8-41-209, C.R.S.”

Neil O’Toole is has been representing injured workers under Colorado’s Workers’ Compensation since 1981. He was asked by the Colorado Professional Firefighters to handle the first cases concerning the application of the Colorado Firefighter Cancer Presumption Statute which went into effect in May 2007. Over the past 10 plus years he has litigated numerous cases and argued before the Colorado Court of Appeals and the Colorado Supreme Court on issues related to § 8-41-209, C.R.S. (Colorado’s Firefighter Cancer Presumption Statute), as well as other workers’ compensation issues. He is currently handling several cases at the Court of Appeals at the hearing level under § 8-41-209, C.R.S.
“Firefighter Health: Health Status Health Promotion and Updates in 1582”

Tiffany Lipsey is the Assistant Director of the Human Performance Clinical/Research Laboratory at Colorado State University. As an assistant professor in the Department of Health and Exercise Science, she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses encompassing health, wellness, aging, chronic disease, electrocardiography and exercise testing and prescription. She is an American College of Sports Medicine - Clinical Exercise Physiologist®. Her experience includes nearly 20 years in exercise physiology focusing on cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk assessment, prevention and treatment for CVD. She has been working with Colorado firefighters and emergency personnel for 15 years and has been involved in physiological testing for over 1,500 of them. Projects in firefighting include cardiovascular disease risk assessment, lifestyle modification, temperature regulation, cooling mechanisms using adjunct cooling tools, novel medical devices, noise exposure and performance.
“Effectiveness of Hearing Conservation Program in F-35 Pilots at a Large Federal Logistics Center, a Case Control Study”

Hyeongdo (Joe) Kim is an Occupational and Environmental Medicine resident at Anschutz Medical Campus. Having served in the Air Force prior to starting his training, he has developed a great appreciation and sense of responsibility in the field of occupational medicine. Among his interests in this field is hearing conservation. The next generation of jet aircraft is significantly louder than past and presently operational aircraft. Dr. Kim wanted to look at the current trend in hearing loss specifically in F-35 pilots, and find out whether the current hearing conservation program is doing what it needs to conserve their hearing.
“How to Recoup Dollars and Follow Evidence Based Treatment in Colorado Workers’ Compensation”

Kathryn Mueller, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.O.E.M Tiffany has served as the Medical Director for the Colorado Division of Workers’ Compensation since the inception of this position in 1991. Dr. Mueller is board certified in Occupational Medicine and is a Professor in the Department Physiatry and Rehabilitation Medicine and the School of Public Health at the University of Colorado at Denver. In her position with Colorado Workers’ Compensation she edited and assisted in the development of ten medical treatment guidelines which are evidence based, to the extent possible and include in depth recommendations for opioid use in chronic non-cancer pain. Her activities with ACOEM are numerous including serving as Secretary/Treasurer, two terms on the Board of Directors and as President. She contributed significantly to the ACOEM Occupational Practice Guidelines as Co-Chair of the chronic pain guidelines and as a member of the opioid guideline committee. She was an author for the Workers Compensation Research Institute’s publication “Interstate Variations in Use of Narcotics”. Dr. Mueller also served as a Section Editor for the 6th edition of the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment.
“Help Wanted: MRO Guidance for a THC World”

William Woo is a board certified Occupational Medicine physician. He is a Colorado native who earned his medical degree from the University of Colorado and completed Occupational medicine training at the University of Pennsylvania. He has been with SCL Health since 1987, and is the medical director for Occupational Medicine at SCL Health. His interests include musculoskeletal injuries and cumulative trauma disorders. Dr. Woo is a past president of the Rocky Mountain Academy of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and has served on several task forces with the Colorado Division of Workers Compensation to update the Colorado Medical Treatment Guidelines.
“Assessment of Driving Impairent Related to Cannabis Use”

Stephen Schmitz is a Clinical and Forensic Neuropsychologist, and the founder and director of The Brain and Behavior Clinic, an assessment, diagnosis, and treatment facility with offices in Denver and Boulder for the past 30 years.

Dr. Schmitz received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 1985 and was then awarded a 2 year, post-doctoral fellowship position in Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, under the direction of Dr. Robert Heaton.

Dr. Schmitz is an expert in mild traumatic brain injury and post concussion syndrome. He is also the Clinical and Scientific Director for DriveABLE, an evidence-based assessment tool, which objectively measures an individual’s cognitive competence necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Dr. Schmitz has served as a Board Member and on the Executive Committee of the Brain Injury Association of Colorado and on the Board of Directors of the Spinal Injury Foundation. His research interests and publications have focused on the areas of investigations into intelligence, localization of brain functions, Alzheimer’s disease, the efficacy of psychostimulant medications in the treatment of traumatic brain injury, and the clinical utility of forced-choice malingering tests.

Most recently he has established The Healthy Brain Program to treat patients with SCI (subjective cognitive impairment), MCI (mild cognitive impairment), and early Alzheimer’s disease through the utilization of The Bredesen Protocol, a novel, functional medicine-based approach, which has found initial success in reversing the effects of dementia.
“Total Wellness: Fighting the Hidden Battle”

Lieutenant Shawn Brooks has been a Denver Fire Fighter for the past 20 years. During the last 3 years, he has been assigned to the Denver Fire Academy as the Health and Wellness Coordinator. His job responsibilities include: developing the Health and Wellness program, managing the Denver Fire Physical Therapy program and CPAT coordinator. He has piloted many programs within the Department, including: Rehab after Fire Directive, the Performance Evaluation guideline and the Return to Suppression program.

Lieutenant Brooks is the Strength and Conditioning Coach for the Denver Fire Academy and has been a peer fitness trainer in the Department for the last 6 years. He has a background in Exercise Physiology and has been a fitness trainer for 22 years. Lieutenant Brooks is responsible for the yearly fitness assessments and oversees 24 peer fitness trainers that diligently work to perform VO2 and Functional Movement Screens.

Lieutenant Brooks believes that the best way to prepare and train firefighters is to treat them like functional, professional athletes. Brooks States, “Everything we do in the fire service is awkward, whether it’s lifting bodies or moving hose and ladders. We have to train to be efficient and safe with these movements”. He continues, “My physical therapy team strives to help firefighters with current injuries as well as prevention of others. It is my goal to help firefighters with all the critical issues that they face.”
“A DOT Focused Educational and Biometric Screening Program and CDL Outcomes in a Public Works Department”

Brandon Penix is a current Occupational Medicine resident at University of Colorado graduating in 2019. He earned his B.A in Psychology from Swarthmore College and his D.O. from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He began his medical career with the United States Army in Tacoma, WA where he served as a General Medical Officer for 5 years. While there he held a variety of positions including Battalion Surgeon of the Warrior Transition Battalion and Medical Evaluation Board Physician. These position fostered his desire to continue his education in occupational medicine such that he could better care for injured civilians and soldiers.
A DOT Focused Educational and Biometric Screening Program and CDL Outcomes in a Public Works Department

Eric B. Smith is currently an Occupational and Environmental Medicine Resident at the University of Colorado and is working toward a certificate in Total Worker Health™. He is residency trained and board certified in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine. He completed his Preventive Medicine Residency in 2010 at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA and earned his MPH at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. He recently retired from the US Army in January 2017 after 24 years of service. He has several overseas deployments and has served with notorious units like 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the Multinational Force and Observers in Sinai, Egypt. He currently maintains homes in Tacoma, WA and Denver, CO and can’t decide whether he prefers 300 days of rain or 300 days of sunshine.

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