



Occupational Health & Safety Section

Annual Awards Luncheon

October 27, 2021



Occupational Health & Safety Section Awards



Alice Hamilton Award

Alice Hamilton (1869 -1970), considered the founder of occupational health in the United States, was a tireless activist and physician who dedicated her life to improving the health and safety of workers. She was committed to science, service, and compassion. This award recognizes the life-long contributions of individuals who have distinguished themselves through a career of hard work and dedication to improve the lives of workers.

Lorin Kerr Award

Lorin Kerr (1909 -1991) was a life-long activist and served for over 40 years as a physician for the United Mine Workers. He was dedicated to improving access to health care for coal miners and other workers and to obtaining compensation for and preventing black lung disease. This award recognizes a younger activist for their sustained and outstanding efforts and dedication to improve the lives of workers.

Tony Mazzocchi Award

Tony Mazzocchi (1926-2002) was a highly influential labor leader in the occupational health and safety field in the U.S. Tony played a key role in the legislative struggles of the 1960s and 1970s, including passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act in 1970. A founder of the Labor Party, he continued organizing support for the party's national health care program up until his death. This award recognizes grassroots H&S activists in Local Unions or other local organizations fighting for the H&S rights of workers.

Leslie Nickels International Health and Safety Award

Leslie Nickels (1953-2017) used her training as an educator and industrial hygienist to advance social justice for disenfranchised workers. This award recognizes individuals with outstanding achievement in the field of occupational health and safety outside the United States.

Eula Bingham Award for Excellence in OHS Education and Training

Dr. Eula Bingham (1929-2020) was known for putting OSHA on the map and shaping the field of occupational health and safety and toxicology. During her tenure, the Agency focused on adopting strong standards for an employee's right-to-know. This included not just work with OSHA, but collaboration with other Federal Agencies and policy stakeholders. She was an out-spoken and unwavering voice of worker's rights, women's rights, environmental health, and social justice. Throughout her career, she worked with state legislators, labor unions, grassroots organizations, and consumers to implement safety regulations at all levels of government. This award recognizes individuals' innovation and commitment to OHS training and education.

2021 Alice Hamilton Awardee: Peter Dooley, MS, CIH, CSP

For 40 years, Peter Dooley has used his skills as a trainer, organizer, and mentor to advance the right of every worker to a healthy and safe job. He is a master at turning obstacles into opportunities and artfully combines his H&S expertise with his boundless spirit.



Dooley received his master's degree with a focus in Industrial Hygiene from University of Arizona. Thereafter he began his 40-year H&S career at Michigan State University's Labor Education Program (1980-1983). With the support of an OSHA New Directions grant, he conducted worker safety training. That experience led to a job coordinating the United Autoworkers International Union (1983-2004) safety educational programs, and other duties involving organizing and implementing health and safety programs in workplaces.

During that time, Dooley was also involved in fatality investigations, including the explosion in 1999 at the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge plant that killed six men and caused life-altering burns to 14 others. His work also included negotiating H&S contract language and coordinating educational programs. After over 20 years with the UAW, Dooley created LaborSafe, a consulting firm that provides innovative OHS programs. His collaborators include the National COSH Network, the USW, UFCW, and family members of workplace fatality victims. Dooley inspires, thinks big, embraces opportunities to take on challenges, and always focuses on bringing new people into the worker H&S movement. His commitment and passion are hallmarks of his long standing work.

Dooley joined APHA in 1981 and has never missed an annual meeting. He has served in numerous leadership positions and authored APHA policy statements on protections for temporary workers; workers' rights to form a union; injury and illness prevention programs; and access to workplace fatality data. He has been the energy that has led what members affectionately call the "OHS Thespians", the creative satirical theater around OHS issues of the day, enjoyed by all at the annual OHS awards luncheon. Some of his many influences can be found [here](#).

2021 Alice Hamilton Awardee: Eileen Storey, MD, MPH

Dr. Eileen Storey's passion for occupational health was unwavering. An occupational medicine physician, she improved the health, treatment and care of workers for many decades. She dedicated her life to advancing the knowledge of the relationship between indoor environmental factors and adverse health effects, especially respiratory health outcomes. She also inspired many at the University of Connecticut Health Center (UHC) to support and advocate for worker rights, safety protections and well-being, especially via the APHA OHS section. Because of her leadership, her team was encouraged to share their scientific findings and recommendations with many labor organizations, public health departments, and professional associations so that their data reached many audiences who serve working people.



Dr. Storey was an excellent communicator, and she taught others to actively listen to workers and show respect for their self-knowledge. As Director of the Center for Indoor Environments and Health at UHC from 2000-2008, she provided clinical expertise, tracked and evaluated workers' health symptoms, assessed buildings for causes of poor indoor air quality, and recommended engineering and technical resources to reduce worker risk of health symptoms and illnesses. Most notably, Eileen increased the understanding of the prevalence and severity of asthma and other environmentally related illnesses among office workers, teachers, union leaders, public health practitioners, and school children. Dr. Storey also served as Chief of the Respiratory Health Division at NIOSH from 2008-2017 devoting her time to designing smarter surveillance systems for occupational health and safety to improve clinical care, empower patients, and reduce costs. She embodied the same spirit and dedication to occupational health as Alice Hamilton.

The APHA OHS Section extends our deepest sympathies to the loved ones of Dr. Eileen Storey, who passed 3/3/23. Her contributions to worker safety and health will not be forgotten.

2021 Lorin Kerr Awardee: Marysel Pagán Santana, DrPH, MS

Marysel Pagán Santana has devoted her career to improving worker health and safety, particularly those impacted by the climate crisis and public health emergencies in Puerto Rico. Marysel started her career as an industrial hygienist and her doctoral studies focused specifically on disenfranchised workers. She examined how the Worker Protection Standard, the federal regulation to protect agricultural workers from pesticide poisoning, needed improvement to meet the needs of Puerto Rican workers. She interned with a community health center in a remote mountainous area in Puerto Rico, conducting and later leading their farmworker health and safety training program. Her advisors were skeptical that occupational health and safety interventions could take place outside more traditional factory settings. She ultimately convinced them otherwise; they honored her with an environmental justice award, and she changed her dissertation to study farmworker health.



Marysel's studies were interrupted in 2017 when hurricanes ravaged the island. As student body president, she tirelessly advocated to get students and surrounding communities' food, lodging and other assistance. She used this experience to successfully lead a community mobilization project with Migrant Clinicians Network, where she is helping health centers prepare, manage, and respond to emergencies, including how to ensure workers are protected.

Throughout COVID-19 she has been an important advocate for Puerto Rican workers. Endless hours of training and technical assistance to health departments supported the systematic documentation by contact tracers and cases investigators on work-related outbreaks. In addition, she worked with the health department in the development and implementation of health and safety protocols in schools for a safe reopening. She also helped school custodians and teachers prepare for in-person learning, helping them understand how to protect themselves and improve ventilation.

Marysel embodies the essence of the Lorin Kerr Award. Her sustained and outstanding efforts underscore her dedication to improve the lives of workers.

2021 Tony Mazzocchi Awardee: Milagros Barreto

Milagros Barreto started as a MassCOSH winner in 2013. She has a strong background in Human Resources and due to her involvement in the Workers' Center program developed an interest in helping low-wage immigrant workers. Milagros has a thirst for social justice that led her to be immediately driven to develop campaigns to ensure the protection of immigrant workers related to workplace health and safety and other worker issues.



In 2016 Milagros became Worker Center Director, in her role she helped recover thousands of dollars of wages stolen from workers and organized worker-centered groups such as injured worker's committee. Milagros also helps to design Workers Organizer's campaign, Health and Safety committees and identify hazards at the workplace. She teaches workers about their health and safety rights using her facilitation skills in training, she believes that everything begins with knowledge and by knowing your rights. Moreover, Milagros is bilingual (Spanish/English), has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, is an OSHA Authorized 10-hour and 30-hour instructor/general industry. She is a strong believer in women's leadership and is an active member of the Steering Committee of the Domestic Workers Coalition in MA, she was also the recipient of the 2019 National Occupational Safety and Health Council Leadership Award.

Milagros is always interested in taking more advanced worker health and safety trainings. She has taken numerous trainings with ICWUC worker training center in partnership with National COSH. Which gave her the opportunity to collaborate with ICWUC, after Hurricane Maria in her homeland of Puerto Rico on a project called Infectious Disease Training the Training in Spanish and she is a proud member of United Steel Workers (USW Local 9358).

2021 International Awardee: Manti Michael Nota, MSc, AFOH

Manti Nota is a Tanzanian industrial hygienist who has dedicated his career to improving occupational health in Africa. In 2016, Manti left a secure position in Tanzania's largest mine to work with self-employed artisanal miners in communities in northern Nigeria where lead poisoning from gold ore has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of children and severe poisoning of thousands of children and adults. As a staff member of Occupational Knowledge International, a U.S. based nonprofit organization, he has been embedded with Doctors Without Borders who have been leading the response to the lead poisoning crisis in Nigeria since 2010.



Manti has demonstrated dedication to improving the health of mining communities under extremely difficult conditions in a region suffering from kidnappings and violence. He excelled at earning the trust of miners, religious authorities and community leaders to work cooperatively to change work practices in order to reduce lead, silica and other hazardous exposures. He created health and safety committees in the target villages to empower miners to oversee improvements and to ensure sustainability over time. Manti also initiated a train-the-trainers program to facilitate peer training of new miners in response to large numbers of internal displaced people moving into the area.

In this role, Manti has trained more than 4,000 miners in safer mining practices, organized lead hazard awareness training for women in the impacted communities, and provided training and mentorship to state level government employees. The success of these efforts has been documented in two articles in the peer-reviewed literature.

Throughout his five years in Nigeria, he was away from his family for extensive periods of time and based in remote villages where his movements were restricted due to insecurity. Despite these hardships he has proven his dedication and returned to Nigeria to work with these communities.

2021 Eula Bingham Awardee: Debra Coyle McFadden

Debra Coyle McFadden is the executive director of the NJ Work Environment Council (WEC). McFadden has twenty years of experience in public policy and has trained thousands of workers, union representatives, and community members on environmental health and occupational safety and health.



In response to COVID-19, McFadden and the WEC team jumped into action. In March 2020 McFadden reached out to colleagues at Rutgers University LEARN to partner on a webinar titled, COVID-19: Protecting and Educating Workers, that featured state/federal officials discussing COVID-19 and the latest actions by the government. After the success of the initial webinar, McFadden realized the critical need for this type of ongoing education. This led to the creation of the Saving Lives, Protecting Workers weekly webinar series which ran from March 2020 through April 2021. The hour-long webinars provided the latest COVID-19 information and provided a space to hear from frontline workers, union representatives and community members. In total, McFadden and team developed and produced 46 webinars with more than 100 presenters and 4,710 participants in attendance. The series continues on an as-needed basis.

McFadden also contributed to two national and one state COVID-19 reports emphasizing the urgency of COVID-19 worker protections. In addition, she worked with allies in the Protect New Jersey Workers Coalition, which WEC is a member, to advocate for COVID-19 worker protections. This advocacy led to Gov. Phil Murphy signing a worker protection Executive Order that included COVID-19 worker training funds. This was one of the strongest worker rights EOs to be issued in the country.

Under McFadden's leadership, WEC has trained more than 450 participants on COVID-19 awareness and prevention in the workplace and has fielded more than 170 technical assistance requests. In January 2021, WEC received the National Healthy Schools Hero Award from the Healthy Schools Network for its COVID-19 work.

2021 Eula Bingham Awardee: John S. Morawetz

John S. Morawetz took Eula Bingham's cues and turned them into a worker training program, where he could give grassroots workers the tools necessary to create change and teach their peers to be safe. His adult teaching methodology and participatory training techniques fostered the worker's right to know. They provided worker-leaders throughout the industry with the confidence to speak out for safety and health. His work has made her standards for innovation and commitment a reality that has become a standard for today's health and safety training and education by empowering and training workers to deliver training and become subject matter experts.



John's work spans over 40 years. It sets a standard of excellence and integrity for countless trainers, providing training to thousands of workers, ensures employers continue to be accountable during all that time. In addition, his work has impacted worker health and safety and management by creating thousands of subject matter trainer experts across the country. His ability and effort manifested Eula Bingham's vision.

Previous OHS Section Awardees

Alice Hamilton Award

2020: Chip Hughes
2019: Elise Pechter
2018: Bob Harrison
Walter Jones
2017: Thomas Arcury
Sara Quandt
2016: Deeg Gold
2015: Peter Orris
2014: Linda Delp
2013: Letitia Davis
2012: Gregory Wagner
2011: Martin Cherniack
2010: Sherry Baron
2009: Sylvia Kieding
2008: David Kotelchuck
2007: Rosemary Sokas
2006: Darryl Alexander
2005: Frank Mirer
2004: Chuck Levenstein
David Wegman
2003: Dolores Huerta
2002: Thomas Mancuso
2001: Earl Dotter
2000: Mary E. Miller
1999: Jim Keogh
1998: Denny Dobbin
1997: Meta Snyder
David Kern
1996: Jim Moran
1995: Michael Silverstein
Barbara Silverstein
1994: Linda Murray
1993: Jamie Cohen

Lorin Kerr Award

2020: Deborah Weinstock
2019: Marianela Acuña

Arreaza
2018: Nancy Zuniga
2017: Doug Parker
2016: Bethany Boggess
2015: Homero
Harari-Freire
2014: Dan Neal
2013: Sharon D. Beard
2012: Jessica Martinez
2011: Amy Liebman
LaMont Byrd
2010: Tom O'Connor
2009: Kerry Souza
2008: Diane Bush
Tony Opegard
2007: Celeste Monforton
2006: Richard Miller
2005: Marcy
Goldstein-Gelb
2004: Jordan Barab
2003: Work Safe Coalition
2002: NYCOSH
2001: Jim Ellenberger
Bill Borwegen
2000: Susan Moir
1999: June Fisher
1998: Garrett Brown
1997: Joel Shufro
1996: Linda Rosenstock
Peter Dooley
1995: Pam Tau Lee
1994: Nancy Lessin
1993: Peg Seminario
Debbie Berkowitz

Tony Mazzocchi Award

2020: Ramon Torres
Jaribu Hill
2019: PhilaPOSH
2018: UNITE HERE Int'l

and Locals 49, 2, 2850,
483, 19, 30,11
2017: Martha Ojeda
2016: Al Vega
2015: Eric Fruman
2014: Terry Davidek
2013: Warehouse Workers
United
2012: Janet Foley
2011: Barbara Rahke
2010: Steve Mitchell
Wally Reardon
2009: Steve Schrag
2008: Carmen Hacht
2007: Tammy Miser
Jonathan Rosen
2006: Tony Carr

Leslie Nickels International Health & Safety Award

2020: Sanjiv Pandita, India
2019: Sophia
Kisting-Cairncross, South
Africa
2018: Omana George,
Hong Kong
2017: Rima Habib,
Lebanon
2016: Independent
Monitoring Team of
Honduras
2015: Sarath Gunatilake,
Sri Lanka
2014: Kalpona Akter,
Bangladesh
2012: Chen Yuying, China
2011: Salvador Moncada i
Lluís, Spain
2010: Jeong-ok Kong,

South Korea
2008: Jaime Cota, Mexico
2007: Jagdish Patel, India
2006: Metoda Dodi Fikfak, Slovenia
2005: Fiona Murie, Ireland
2004: Rashida Bee Champa Devi Shukla Bhopal, India
2003: Juliana So, China
2002: Le Van Trung, Vietnam
2001: Orapun Metadilogkul, Thailand
2000: Jim Brophy and Margie Keith, Canada
1999: Fernanda Giannasi, Brazil
1998: Mohamed Jeebhay, South Africa, and Rory O'Neil, England
1997: Ricardo Santos, Puerto Rico
1996: Cathy Walker, Canada
1995: Commite de Apoyo Fronterizo Obrero Regional, Mexico
1994: Rajen Naido, South Africa
1993: Antonio Granda, Cuba



The OHS Section Awards Committee would like to extend our sincere thanks to all who participated in the nominations and elections process to recognize the exceptional work being done in the name of worker health and safety. As always, today's awardees are a small sample of the many professionals and workers whose efforts make a difference to improve the lives of workers!

The program's cover image was created by Dr. Saira Malik Rahman, a pediatrician in Indiana, as part of an art series inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic and the country's civil and human rights struggle. Dr. Rahman's work, and that of others, was featured by the *LA Times*. "Hamilton' cookie portraits? See how healthcare workers make art to cope with COVID-19." March 12, 2021. Available at: <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2021-03-12/healthcare-workers-and-creativity-callout-responses>.