



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

October 21, 1996

Ms. Elizabeth Drye
Chief of Staff
White House
Domestic Policy Council
Office of Policy Development
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Drye:

You spoke with Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut several weeks ago and indicated that you would send a liaison from your office to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to participate in the implementation of the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA). This Agenda was created by 500 stakeholders working with NIOSH between July 1995 and April 1996 and represents remarkable concurrence from a broad constituency regarding priorities for occupational health research in the nation during the next decade. We are pleased that your representative will be joining us in the implementation of this Agenda.

I would like to invite your representative to a meeting of liaisons of the federal agencies to be held on November 21 from 1 pm to 4 pm in Room 337A in the Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20201. The building is two blocks away from the Federal Center SW Metro stop on the Orange and Blue lines.

The purpose of the meeting will be to review the plans for implementation and to explore options for roles of federal agencies in the National Agenda. I have enclosed a list of the federal liaisons. I have also enclosed an Executive Summary, which includes some thoughts about implementation, and a copy of the NORA document. You may wish to consider participating in specific research partnership teams and/or facilitating intramural and extramural research in these priority areas.

Page 2 - Ms. Elizabeth Drye

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Please complete the enclosed response form and return it to Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut at (202) 260-4464 by November 8. If you have any questions, please call her at (202) 401-0721.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Rosenstock", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Linda Rosenstock, M.D., M.P.H.
Director

Enclosures

Response Form

Please fax this form to Marilyn A. Fingerhut at 202-260-4464 by November 8, 1996.

_____ I will attend the National Occupational Research Agenda meeting for federal agency liaisons on November 21, 1996 in Room 337A from 1 to 4 pm in the Humphrey Building at 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC.

_____ I am unable to attend the meeting.

_____ Please send me _____ additional copies of the NORA Document.

Name _____ Phone _____ FAX _____

Internet address _____

Please provide corrections for any errors in your mailing address:

Thank you for your response. If you have any questions, please feel welcome to call me at 202-401-0721.

Sincerely yours,



Marilyn A. Fingerhut, Ph.D.
Assistant Director for Washington Operations
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Room 715H
Hubert Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

NORA Priority Research Areas

CATEGORY	PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS
Disease and Injury	Allergic and Irritant Dermatitis Asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Fertility and Pregnancy Abnormalities Hearing Loss Infectious Diseases Low Back Disorders Musculoskeletal Disorders of the Upper Extremities Traumatic Injuries
Work Environment and Workforce	Emerging Technologies Indoor Environment Mixed Exposures Organization of Work Special Populations at Risk
Research Tools and Approaches	Cancer Research Methods Control Technology and Personal Protective Equipment Exposure Assessment Methods Health Services Research Intervention Effectiveness Research Risk Assessment Methods Social and Economic Consequences of Workplace Illness and Injury Surveillance Research Methods

Implementation

NORA is the first step in a collaborative effort between NIOSH and its many partners to guide occupational safety and health research over the next decade. Implementation is the necessary next phase. As the first step in the implementation phase, NIOSH is committed to bringing together its NORA partners in a public meeting for further refining the preliminary approaches they agreed to when identifying the Agenda.

Among these approaches is the commitment by NIOSH to (1) use the Agenda to guide both intramural and extramural funding decisions, (2) encourage and stimulate other government agencies to include NORA priorities in their internal and

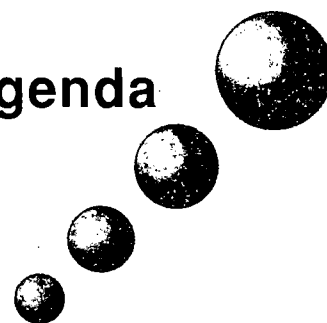
external research programs, (3) develop procedures and capacity to track the impact of NORA activities on health and safety outcomes using existing tracking models, if available, (4) update NORA, and (5) periodically review and communicate the overall role and effectiveness of NORA in occupational safety and health.

Throughout the process of implementing the Agenda, NIOSH will seek to build upon and extend its partnerships and to improve coordination throughout the occupational safety and health community, with the expectation that these activities hold great promise for improving the protection and well-being of workers.

National Occupational Research Agenda

NIOSH

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



The U.S. workplace is rapidly changing. Jobs in our economy continue to shift from manufacturing to services. Longer hours, compressed workweeks, shift work, reduced job security, and part-time and temporary work are realities of the modern workplace. New chemicals, materials, processes, and equipment are developed and marketed at an ever accelerating pace. The workforce is also changing. As the U.S. workforce grows to approximately 147 million by the year 2005, it will become older and more racially diverse. By the year 2005, minorities will represent 28% of the workforce, and women will constitute approximately 48%. These changes will present new challenges to protecting worker safety and health.

Each day, an average of 137 individuals die from work-related diseases, and an additional 16 die from injuries on the job. Every 5 seconds a worker is injured; every 10 seconds a worker is temporarily or permanently disabled. In 1994, occupational injuries alone cost \$121 billion in lost wages and productivity, administrative expenses, health care, and other costs.

The high toll of work injuries and illnesses is not unchangeable. In fact, significant progress has been made in improving worker protection since Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act in 1970 "to assure so far as possible every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our human resources." This progress has been largely based on actions—sometimes voluntary, sometimes regulatory—directed by the science and knowledge generated from occupational safety and health research.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and its partners in the public and

private sectors, have developed the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) to provide a framework to guide occupational safety and health research in the next decade—not only for NIOSH but also for the entire occupational safety and health community. Approximately 500 organizations and individuals outside NIOSH provided input into the development of the Agenda. This attempt to guide and coordinate research nationally is responsive to a broadly perceived need to address systematically those topics that are most pressing and most likely to yield gains to the worker and the nation. Fiscal constraints on occupational safety and health research are increasing, making even more compelling the need for a coordinated and focused research agenda.

The 21 Priorities

The Agenda identifies 21 research priorities (see table). These priorities reflect a remarkable degree of concurrence among a large number of stakeholders. The NORA priority research areas are grouped into three categories: Disease and Injury, Work Environment and Workforce, and Research Tools and Approaches.

*To obtain a copy of the **National Occupational Research Agenda** (DHHS [NIOSH] Publication No. 96-115) or for information on occupational safety and health issues call the NIOSH toll free information number:*

1-800-35-NIOSH

(1-800-356-4674)

or visit the NIOSH Home Page on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html>

NORA Agency Liaisons October 21, 1996

Mr. Louis J. Brown, Jr. Special Assistant to the Associate Administrator for Research and Development National Highway Traffic Safety Administration U.S. Department of Transportation 400 Seventh Street, SW Washington, DC 20590	Dr. Naresh K. Chawla Chief, FDA Safety Staff Twinbrook #3, HF-34 5600 Fishers Lane Rockville, MD 20857 Ph.: 301 827-1010 Fax: 301 827-1018
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Ms. Marcy Gross Director, Women's Health and Special Studies Agency for Health Care Policy and Research U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2101 East Jefferson Street, Suite 603 Rockville, MD 20852	Lyle Hayhurst Federal Highway Administration Department of Transportation Chief Management Services Division 400 7th st S.W., Room 4103 Washington D. C. 20590 Ph.: 202 366-9101 Fax: 202 366-3235

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Richard M. Titus, Ph.D. National Institute of Justice 633 Indiana Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20531	Mr. William L. Weber Safety, Health, Program Analysis and Control Division Bureau of Labor Statistics 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20212

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Ms. Sandra Lange National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences National Institutes of Health NIEHS III TW 104 Alexander Drive Research Triangle Park, NC 27709	J. Taylor Harden, Ph.D., RN, C. Scientific Program Administrator National Institute of Nursing Research Division of Extramural Programs Natcher Building 45/Room 3AN-12 45 Center Drive MSC 6300 Bethesda, MD 20892-6300 Telephone: 301-594-5976 Telefax: 301-480-8260 E-mail: Tharden@ep.ninr.nih.gov

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JoAnna Buffington, M.D. Epidemiology Program Office Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Mailstop C08 1600 Clifton Road, NE Atlanta, GA 30333	Dr. Jack Finklea National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Koger Office Park Vanderbilt Building, Room 10 I 7B 2939 Flowers Road Atlanta, GA 30341
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Dr. Eric Sampson Director, Environmental Health Laboratory Sciences National Center for Environmental Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 4770 Buford Highway, NE Mailstop F20 Atlanta, GA 30341-3724	Diane K. Wagener, Ph.D. Acting Director, Division of Health Promotion Statistics National Center for Health Statistics Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Presidential Building, Room 790 6525 Belcrest Road Hyattsville, MD 20782
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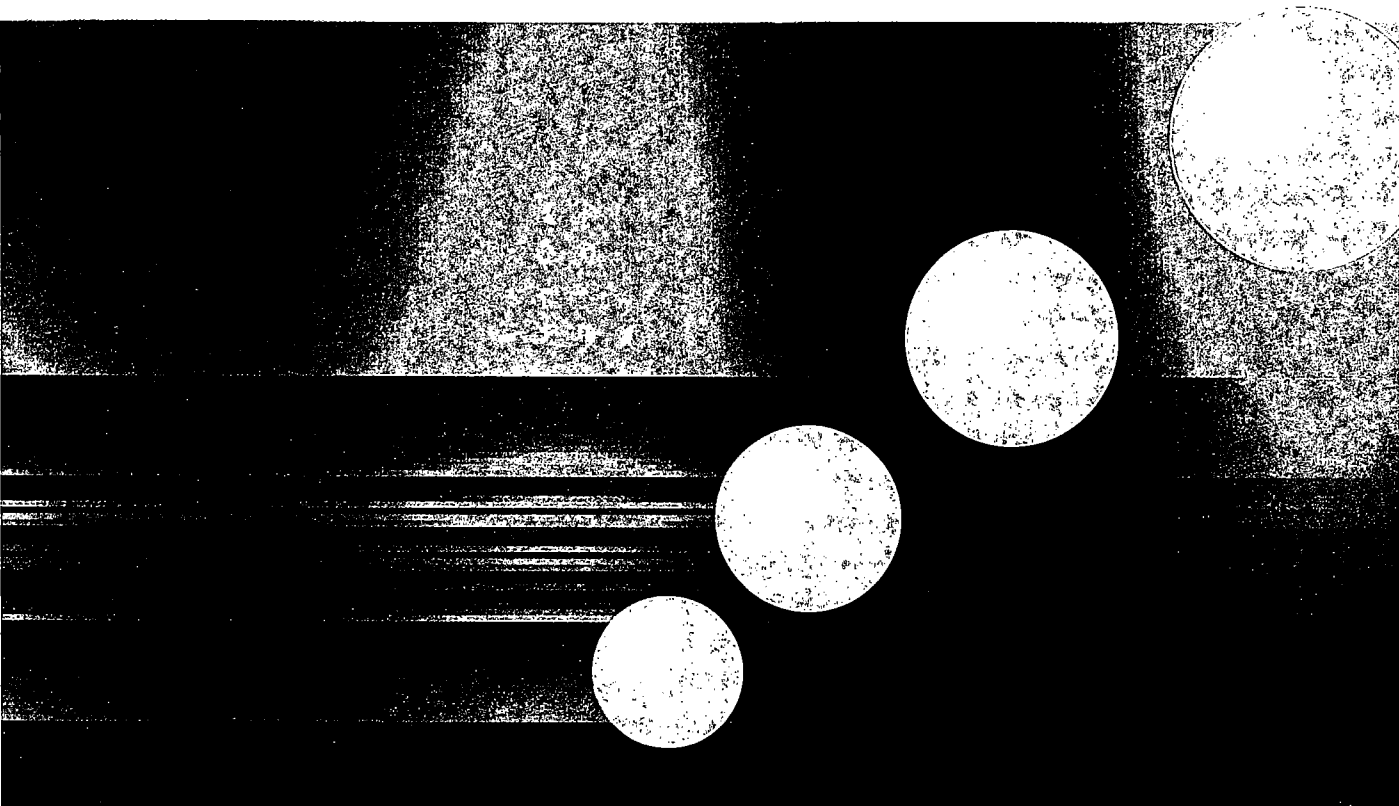
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National Occupational Research Agenda



NIOSH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Federal Agency Liaisons Attendees

November 21, 1996, NORA Meeting

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Priority Areas of Interest

Please indicate priority areas that are of particular interest to you.

6

Name: _____

Agency: _____



National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control
Atlanta GA 30333

January 23, 1997

Elizabeth Drye
Chief of Staff - White House
Domestic Policy Council
Office of Policy Development
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Drye:

We missed having your interaction at the NORA Federal Meeting of CDC Partners on January 7, 1997. A copy of the program and meeting materials are provided. During the meeting, we discussed ways of tracking NORA-related activities. In obtaining baseline data on this collaborative research agenda, we discussed having each federal agency supplying us with the total amounts spent on NORA-related areas. Enclosed you will find a draft copy of the Federal Baseline Data Form that we discussed at the meeting. In order to track progress in NORA priority areas, we are developing a form that will help show what NORA areas your agency spent federal dollars on in FY96.

We need your input on how this form will help your agency give the baseline data needed in this process. Please review the enclosed form along with the instructions and fax your written comments, modifications, or information pertaining to whether you could fill in the blanks to (404) 639-2170 by February 7, 1997. We will return the final form to you during the week of February 10th with a request to have it completed by February 24, 1997. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (404) 639-3773.

I am looking forward to working with you as we move forward with NORA Implementation.

Sincerely,

Duwendolyn N. Cattledge
for William E. Halperin, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Director
NIOSH

Enclosures (3)

INSTRUCTION SHEET

For completing the NORA Federal Baseline Data Sheet for FY96

Directions: *Please follow the guidelines outlined below when completing the attached form for baseline information for your agency.*

1. Please type or print the name of your Agency/Program.
2. Please state the Agency's/Program's total budget for FY96.
3. Please list the name(s) of the NORA Liaison(s) from your Agency.
4. For detail information about the NORA research priority areas, please refer to the NORA document.
5. For each of the NORA Priority Research Areas, please state the total amount your agency spent on intra-and extramural activities during FY96 in that specific area. Please provide the project title and the total amount on the form provided.
 - Only count a particular project in one priority research area. *(If a project fits into several NORA priority areas, please pick one, so that we do not double count funds.)*
 - NORA projects are projects where $\geq 80\%$ of the funds were spent on projects that were both a NORA research priority area and were occupationally-related. Pick the single best category that the project fits into and list the appropriate funding. *Occupationally-related refers to projects that from their outset were explicitly directed at questions to address occupational disease or injury. Do not include projects that in retrospect may be of value for the prevention of occupational disease or injury, but were not so focused from the onset of the project.*
 - Only basic and applied research should be counted — not service programs, technical assistance, risk reduction or guideline development.

For intramural activities: *State the total amounts (including costs of FTE) spent by your agency in the respective NORA categories*

For extramural activities: *Also, state the total number of grants and total amounts your agency spent by NORA category.*

If you have any questions, please call Dr. W. Halperin, Deputy Director, NIOSH at (404) 639-3773.

National Occupational Research Agenda
FEDERAL BASELINE DATA FOR FY96

Federal Agency/Program _____

Total FY 96 Budget _____

Name of NORA Liaison _____

Please complete according to the attached Instruction Sheet.

NORA PRIORITY RESEARCH AREA	INTRAMURAL	EXTRAMURAL	
	TOTAL COST (include cost of FTE)	# of GRANTS	TOTAL COST
A. DISEASE AND INJURY			
1. Allergic & Irritant Dermatitis			
2. Asthma & Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease			
3. Fertility & Pregnancy Abnormalities			
4. Hearing Loss			
5. Infectious Diseases			
6. Musculoskeletal Disorders			
7. Traumatic Injuries			
B. WORK ENVIRONMENT AND WORKFORCE			
1. Environmental Exposures and Controls			
Indoor Environment			
Mixed Exposures			
Emerging Technologies			

NORA PRIORITY RESEARCH AREA		INTRAMURAL	EXTRAMURAL	
		TOTAL COST (include cost of FTE)	# of GRANTS	TOTAL COST
	<i>Control Technology & Personal Protective Equipment</i>			
2. Organization of Work				
3. Special Populations at Risk				
C. RESEARCH TOOLS AND APPROACHES				
1. Methodological Issues	<i>Cancer Research Methods</i>			
	<i>Surveillance Research Methods</i>			
	<i>Exposure Assessment Methods</i>			
	<i>Risk Assessment Methods</i>			
2. Intervention/ Evaluation/ Outcome Research	<i>Intervention Effectiveness Research</i>			
	<i>Health Services Research</i>			
	<i>Social & Economic Consequences of Workplace Illness & Injury</i>			
GRAND TOTAL				

National Occupational Research Agenda
FEDERAL BASELINE DATA FOR FY96

Listing of Projects and Amounts

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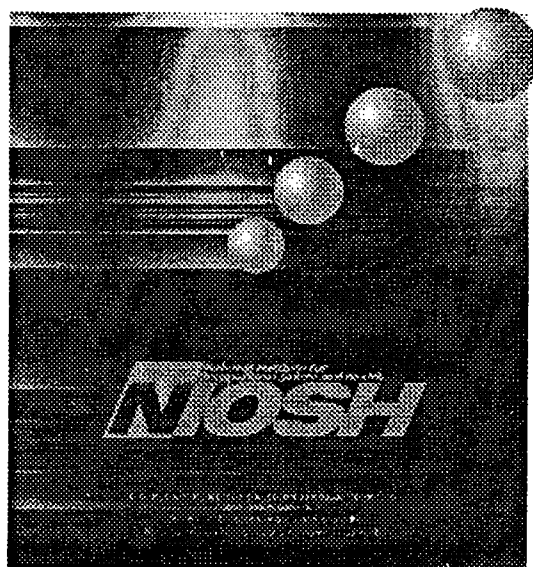
NORA PRIORITY AREA	TITLE OF PROJECT	TOTAL AMOUNT	TYPE OF PROJECT (Check one)	
			Intramural	Extramural

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National
Occupational
Research
Agenda

Federal Meeting

with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Humphrey Building
Washington, DC

November 21, 1996

**To assure safe and healthful working conditions for every
working man and woman . . .**

—Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970