

Summary Abstracts Fall 2008 Journal

President's Message

The President's Message is a standing *Journal* column highlighting current hot topics. In this issue, Executive President Sandra Domeracki Prickitt, RN, FNP, COHN-S, recognizes the importance of AOHP's Alliance with OSHA and the Memorandum of Understanding with NIOSH. She also highlights collaborative efforts with The Healthiest Nation Alliance, TJC's Nursing Advisory Council, the AIHA and the CDC.

Vice President's Update

Learn the value of standing up to make a difference from the AOHP Executive Vice President in this regular *Journal* column. Diane Dickerson, RN, MS, COHN-S/CM, SPHR, reviews the important role occupational health professionals have to *stand up* for employees to make a difference in creating and promoting a safe and healthy work environment for healthcare workers. She also discusses some of the valuable ways AOHP *stands up* to support your efforts.

Editor's Column

This standard feature provides commentary from the current *Journal* Editor, Kim Stanchfield, RN, COHN-S. In this issue, she asks all AOHP members to reflect on their unique individual journeys into Employee Health while sharing her personal story. How did you end up in your current position?

Association Community Liaison Report

Through this regular article, MaryAnn Gruden, CRNP, MSN, NP-C, COHN-S/CM, details how AOHP is gaining visibility as an expert regarding occupational health issues. In this issue, she provides details on the new OSHA Challenge program and a resource document on mass immunizations and prophylaxis recently prepared by The AOHP National Association Partnership Team. AOHP is also drafting comments regarding the Federal Register's published proposed rule changes for OSHA's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) standard and other standards that have PPE requirements. Other updates feature NIOSH, CDC post exposure guidelines and TJC's published Sentinel Event #40 – *Behaviors that undermine a culture of safety*.

Ready to Research

Guest author for this standing column is Carol Haus, Assistant Director at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing in Pittsburgh, PA. She explains how a quantitative research study requires that the best instrument be used to measure a concept or variable of interest. Just because an instrument has been used many times in research does not make it right for *your* study. Haus provides instruction on the factors that must be considered in selecting of the most appropriate instrument based on the type of study to be conducted.

AOHP Award Winners Announced

AOHP is proud to announce the 2008 recipients of its Joyce Safian Scholarship Award, Ann Stinson President's Award for Association Excellence, Extraordinary Member Award, Honorary Membership Award and Sandra Bobbitt Scholarships.

Bits and “Bytes”

This new column keeps members up-to-date on important occupational health resources located on the Web. The current article features a link to a New Guide on Osteoporosis Treatment and Prevention by The National Osteoporosis Foundation, as well as a number of important NIOSH updates.

Spotlight on an AOHP Star

The AOHP Star for this issue is Anna Hook, Occupational Health Coordinator for Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System in Mattoon, Illinois. She currently serves as Treasurer for the AOHP Illinois Chapter, and has been a member of AOHP for nine years. A nurse for 36 years, Ann has been with Sarah Bush Lincoln for nearly three decades, having worked in Critical Care, Post Anesthesia Care, Med/Surg and Employee/Occupational Health.

Colleague Connection

Author Susan M. Skelly, RN, COHN-S, BS, MBA, PHR, Director of Employee Occupational Health Services for Inova Health Systems in Falls Church, Virginia, shares an initiative for improving vaccination rates in healthcare personnel that was discussed at a September 2008 meeting of the Department of Health and Human Services. Skelly reviews how healthcare systems have achieved success in breaking down barriers that prevent healthcare workers from receiving annual flu vaccinations, and the important role occupational health professionals have in improving vaccination rates.

relate to some or all of the other barriers identified above.

The Nursing Process Approach

As professionals, we are trained in using the nursing process approach to develop our plan of care. Unconsciously, we use this process on a daily basis to problem solve. This process is applicable in project management, and flu vaccination programs are just that, project management. The following example applies to a flu vaccine program.