

Nominees for the 2007 Alice Hamilton Award

A1: John Howard

A2: Davitt McAteer

A3: Mary Salazar

A4. Rosie Sokas

A5: Group Award: - John Dement and Joseph "Chip" Hughes

A1. John Howard

Before working at CalOSHA, John was active in the HIV/ AID community. Wanting to get more involved in public policy, he contacted both the Democratic and Republican Gubernatorial candidates to volunteer on their campaigns and raise awareness on this issue. He was only contacted by the Republican candidate (Deukmejian- who won in 1982), and later he was appointed the head of CalOSHA where he religiously reached out and involved Labor in all of his work.

When one of our members was killed by a patient at the main California forensic hospital, John directed CalOSHA to produce the first in the nation workplace violence prevention guidelines for healthcare and social service workers and lead a series of workplace violence prevention conferences across the State.

When Julie Gerberding refused to buy safer needles for our members when she ran the HIV Prevention program at San Francisco General Hospital, it was John Howard who worked with us to file a CalOSHA citation to successfully challenge her intransigence. (This also helps explain the icy relationship that has existed between Dr. Howard and Gerberding, in addition to the fact that she abhors occupational health and safety due to her narrow anti-worker infection control mindset.) In recent years in Washington, DC, John has been one of the only few in the federal government who has consistently been paddling upstream as the current is carrying most federal health and safety efforts in a downstream torrent. After more than a quarter century doing this work, John remains incredibly enthusiastic, imaginative and energetic in pursuing solutions to the health and safety challenges that workers in this country continue to face.

Nominator: Bill Borwegen

A2.. Davitt McAteer

Davitt McAteer has dedicated his life's energy to protecting mine workers from death, disease and injury. As a young lawyer, he teamed up with Ralph Nader to demand strict enforcement of the 1969 Federal Coal Mine H&S Act. He later served as the Solicitor of Safety for the UMWA, and then Director of the Center for Law and Social Policy's mining project. In 1984 he founded the OSH Law Center which represented workers and their families, promoting tougher regulations, equitable compensation for victims, and better accountability and transparency of public agencies. During this same time, Davitt collaborated with South Africa's National Union of Mine Workers to develop provisions of a comprehensive mine safety law. After the fall of apartheid and the 1994 of Nelson Mandela, a progressive law took effect, based largely on the tireless efforts of the union and their partnership with McAteer.

Davitt was nominated by President Clinton to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health; he was confirmed by the Senate in February 1994 and served until December 2000. McAteer forced the mining industry to focus on health hazards faced by miners, and was not reluctant to use the Mine Act's authority to conduct dozens of special inspection blitzes and aggressively prosecute negligent employers. During his tenure, MSHA issued 14 major rules, including ones on diesel particulate matter, noise, and hazard communication. Since 2001, Davitt has been managing a labor law practice in Shepherdstown, WV and serving as Vice President of the Appalachian Institute at Wheeling Jesuit University. In 2006, WV Governor Manchin appointed Davitt to lead a special investigation of the Sago and Aracoma Alma mine disasters which claimed the lives of 14 coal miners.

Davitt McAteer's career illustrates the profound importance of merging public health, social justice and legal advocacy to protect and advance rights of working people.

Nominator: Celeste Monforton

A3. Mary Salazar

Mary Salazar, EdD, MN, FAAN is a renowned leader in occupational health and safety exemplifying excellence in research, practice, and education. Her contributions to the specialty of occupational health nursing are remarkable and have enduring impacts.

Mary is the editor of the *Core Curriculum in Occupational and Environmental Health Nursing*, the preeminent resource for OHNs worldwide. She is a top OHN scholar and long served as the Director of the OHN program of the NIOSH-funded Education and Research Center at the University of Washington. Her research has informed occupational health, particularly regarding the needs of marginalized workers, and, innovatively incorporated qualitative methods and community-based participatory research approaches. She has extensively published research and practice articles in top tier journals and presented her work internationally. Through the years, Mary has collaborated generously with colleagues across disciplines.

She is a role model for leadership having served as Program Chair for the APHA-OHS Section, chaired the board of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, provided expertise for board certification exams, and represented occupational health nursing on national committees. Mary has consulted globally promoting occupational and environmental health and teaching a variety of courses. Most recently she cultivated partnerships to advance occupational health nursing and public health in Thailand and Iraq.

With students, Mary exemplifies the best of true mentorship being accessible, mutual, flexible, genuine, and caring. Her students express the highest regard for her, noting her tireless efforts to guide them toward higher levels of knowledge and empowering them to pursue challenging careers.

These are only a few examples of Mary's amazing career. She is a highly regarded scientist, colleague, mentor, advocate, and a person of profound integrity and humility who has defined occupational health nursing. Moreover, she cares deeply for workers, citizens, and communities. This award would be a fitting honor for Mary as she retires this year.

Nominators: Butch de Castro, Karen Worthington, Susan Wilburn, Michael Silverstein

A4. Rosie Sokas

Dr. Rosie Sokas has worked tirelessly over her 30 years in occupational health to advance the vision and work of Alice Hamilton. In 1977, Dr. Sokas' began her life-long contribution to improve the lives of workers as a U.S. Public Health Service Core physician working with the Las Marias Migrant Health Center in Puerto Rico where she directed the medical care to 2,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families. Following this experience, she received advanced training as a NIOSH Fellow in Occupational Health at Harvard School of Public Health and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. Since completing this training, she has worked continuously to protect worker health through a combination of public service, research, teaching and academic medicine. Specifically, Dr. Sokas served as Director of OSHA's Office of Occupational Medicine where as a strong worker advocate, she provided leadership to the Agency and field and technical support to the larger occupational health community. She continued her public service as NIOSH's Associate Director for Science, a leadership position which she used to promote NIOSH's critical contributions to the larger CDC mission. Within NIOSH she was a tireless advocate for the need for NIOSH to focus on the service industry, especially health care and its expanding and highly diverse workforce.

Dr. Sokas has had an exemplary academic career distinguished by her focus on advancing worker's role in occupational health research. Currently, she is Director and Professor of the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. In addition to teaching and leading a post-doctoral traineeship, Dr. Sokas conducts extramurally funded research of training intervention effectiveness among construction workers and home health workers. She serves on the Governor's Panel to address Latino Workforce Injuries and Fatalities and the Attorney General's Task Force examining asbestos contamination at Illinois Beach State Park. Her service to the American Public Health Association's Occupational Health Section includes serving as Section Secretary (1997-98), Governing Council member (1999-2001) and Section Chair (2002-03).

Nominator: Jane Lipscomb

A5. Group Award - John Dement and Joseph “Chip” Hughes

John Dement and Joseph “Chip” Hughes have led the development and implementation of the Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). Since 1987, the WETP has supported worker health and safety training programs at more than 100 unions, higher education programs, COSH groups, and environmental justice organizations. It has likely been the single greatest financial support of the US H&S movement through the Bush I, Clinton, and Bush II years.

Dr. John Dement worked at NIOSH in the early 1970s in the Division of Field Studies and Clinical Investigations as a U.S. Public Health Service officer, and later became the Deputy Director of the Respiratory Disease Studies program. After joining NIEHS, he became the first WETP director, meeting the needs of unions and workers. Dr. Dement has conducted extensive research with unions in many sectors: multiple building trades, healthcare, poultry processing, and manufacturing. His research has addressed: work environment justice, health promotion, cancer, respiratory diseases/silica, falls and safety, and interventions.

Joseph “Chip” Hughes has directed the WETP since the late 1990s. During the 1970s Hughes was the Research Director for the Institute for Southern Studies, a fellow with the John Hay Whitney Foundation, and the Director of Education and Training for the Carolina Brown Lung Association. He evaluated the state OSHA enforcement programs and worker compensation systems in the Carolinas, implemented training programs for active and retired textile workers, and ran an OSHA New Directions program with the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. During the 1980s, Hughes was a researcher for the U.S. DOL, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the North Carolina Safety and Health Project. He worked on community and worker education and organizing projects with the Farmworkers Legal Services Corporation, the Workers Defense League (AFL-CIO), and the East Coast Farmworker Support Network. As WETP director he has shepherded the program through expansion and political attacks, and provided H&S support for workers involved in response, recovery, and remediation efforts at the World Trade Center and in areas devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Nominators: Craig Slatin, John Morawetz, Tom McQuiston

Nominees for the 2007 Lorin Kerr Award

B1: Celeste Monforton

B2: David Newman

B3: Scott Schneider

B1. Celeste Monforton

Celeste has advocated for improved H&S rights of workers in many areas. From 1991-1995, she served as a policy analyst in the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In late 1995, she transferred to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), where she served as special assistant to Assistant Secretary. As an advisor to the MSHA chief, her efforts focused extensively on regulatory and enforcement programs to protect mineworkers' health, including initiatives to reduce exposure to coal mine dust, crystalline silica, diesel particulate matter, and noise. Celeste received the Secretary of Labor's Exceptional Achievement Award in 2000.

From January through August 2006, Ms. Monforton served as senior investigator with J. Davitt McAteer on the State of West Virginia's special investigation of the Sago Mine Disaster which claimed the lives of 12 coal miners. Her inside knowledge of these agencies have made her a key advocate to fight for changes to improve the health and safety rights of workers. Celeste has supported the role and rights of family members to play a significant role in the fatality investigation and actively engages with United Support and Memorial for Workplace Fatalities (USMWF). Her work has helped support a growing movement of family members of workplace fatality victims who are organizing themselves to demand more rights

In her current role at George Washington University, Celeste is able to expand her role as H&S advocate. She helps energize and mentor students in the field and contributes regularly to the popular "Pump Handle" blog. (<http://thepumphandle.wordpress.com>)

Celeste has also been one of the "engines" behind the workings of the APHA OHS section for many years. She chaired the program committee for several years, served as secretary, and worked on the Washington DC Host Committee.

Celeste Monforton is a great example of the dedication, hard work and high spirit that helps our section achieve our work in advocacy for worker health and safety.

Nominators: Peter Dooley and Mary Miller

B2. David Newman

David Newman is an industrial hygienist who has, since September 11th, 2001 coordinated a coalition of union representatives, community members and environmental organizations in a fight to demand that workplaces and residences in Lower Manhattan be appropriately cleaned, that workers who worked at and around Ground Zero and community residents be provided with medical screening and treatment. From the day of the attack on the World Trade Center, David began working to determine the toxicity of the dust which covered Lower Manhattan and produced, with assistance from other members of the NYCOSH staff, the first of a series of fact sheet of for workers and residents about the need for training and respiratory protection in cleaning up the dust from the collapse of the World Trade Center. David conducted on site inspections at the request of Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union, Professional Staff Congress (the union representing teaching faculty at the City University) and numerous other workplaces and residences.

David, working with others, was instrumental in organizing and staffing a coalition of community, environmental, labor, tenant, religious, disaster recovery, small business, and social service organizations, residents, school parents, workers, property and small business owners in areas affected by World Trade Center pollution, who have been concerned about unaddressed environmental and public health issues since September 11, 2001. Its work as community and labor representatives in that process has been acknowledged on a formal basis by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) process. David, working with others, was the backbone of the coalition – helping to staff the organization, providing technical assistance and working with its diverse constituents to determine its political direction. David, along with members of the labor/community coalition, has continued to deal with the aftermath of the 9/11.

David worked from over twenty years as a telephone technician for Verizon where he was active as a shop steward and leader of a rank and file caucus in his union. In his union has was active on safety and health issues and developed safety and health protocols for workers engaged in confined spaces. He returned to school to get a Masters in Industrial Hygiene from Hunter College, CUNY which he received where he was regarded by some of his professors as the best student to every graduate from the program. He has also published several articles in New Solutions Magazine and a forthcoming article on the occupational and environmental issues which arose following the collapse of the World Trade Center September 11, 2001.

Nominator: Joel Shufro

B2. Scott Schneider

Scott Schneider is a tireless advocate for workers and the people. He is the behind the scenes person that supplies the front people with the rhetoric to support their convictions. Scott has done this through years of painstaking study and research. Although quick to give the corny quip, it is always backed by sound science. He was instrumental in the passage of OSHA rules on asbestos and many others. His work has helped make ergonomics a major issue in the construction industry and highlighted the problem of hearing loss among construction workers. A long time union activist that is willing to back up his rhetoric with action, whether that means stumping for progressives candidates or marching on Washington. Scott activities do not stop at 5 pm, he leads a purpose driven life, he is a socially conscious person and, let's not forget, he is genuinely nice and pleasant company. Scott embodies all that a Lorin Kerr nominee should represent.

He is currently the Director of Occupational Health and Safety, Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America. Prior to that, he was an adjunct faculty member at the National Labor College, George Meany Center for Labor Studies. He was also the Ergonomics Program Director for the Center to Protect Workers' Rights and directed a large research grant program funded by NIOSH to investigate workplace musculoskeletal disorders among construction workers and how they can be prevented. He is a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) and has been an industrial hygienist for the Occupational Health Foundation/Workers Institute for Safety and Health and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters before that. Scott has produced numerous publications and conducted research on many of the safety and health issues of our day. Scott has made numerous presentations to all the important occupational organizations in favor of increased worker protections. e.g., AIHCE, APHA, NSC, ASSE, National Hearing Conservation Assoc., NIOSH Symposia, IEA and others on topics such as Asbestos and Ergonomics Regulation, Ergonomics in Construction, Health Hazards in Construction, Retrospective Exposure Assessment, Construction Noise, Respirators, Protective Clothing and Wood Dust.

Nominator: Walter Jones

Nominees for the 2007 Tony Mazzocchi Award

C1: Tammy Miser
C2: Jonathan Rosen

C2. Tammy Miser

Tammy Miser lost her brother in an explosion in the Hayes-Lemmerz cast aluminum automotive wheel manufacturing plant in Indiana. Tammy transformed her grief into a movement of families who had lost loved ones in workplace incidents fighting to improve working conditions for American workers. She launched an organization and website called United Support & Memorial For Workplace Fatalities to support individuals dealing with the repercussions of a workers death and dedicated to preventing more such tragedies. She has also been responsible for compiling the Weekly Toll - a list of recent workplace fatalities - first as part of the Confined Space blog, and as a freestanding website after Confined Space ended.

The mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters of those killed in our nation's workplace are a powerful, but largely untapped resource in the fight for safer workplaces. Organizing those family members, bringing them into the struggle, and helping them fight to ensure that their loved ones did not die in vain seems an obvious and powerful weapon in the fight for safe workplaces, and a means to bring some sense of closure to tens of thousands left wondering why their lives have been destroyed. Tammy saw the need and acted, enabling people not just to mourn for their dead, but to dedicate themselves to fighting for the living.

Nominators: Jordan Barab and Peter Dooley

C2. Jonathan Rosen

Director of Safety and Health for the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF), Jonathan has been a tireless health and safety activist for more than 25 years. Whether giving advice and comfort to an injured worker, energizing a health and safety committee, or testifying in state and national legislative hearings, Jonathan always keeps the needs of the injured worker foremost.

For the past 15 years, Jonathan has been a leader nationally on the issue of workplace violence prevention. His compassionate approach to individual workers who have been beaten and abused while on the job has resulted in legions of activist workers who often present their stories in graphic detail at trainings, hearings, and conferences. Jonathan was instrumental in the development of a special compensation fund and union benefit for PEF victims of workplace violence. He knew from listening to injured workers that their financial situation often deteriorated substantially after injury. He understands that the union benefit helps workers both materially and emotionally.

Jonathan will not accept the mistaken notion that, for some workers, getting assaulted is “part of the job”. He encourages PEF leaders to develop constructive relationships with local police and district attorneys so that perpetrators of assaults can be appropriately prosecuted. Even with the lack of a workplace violence standard, he has doggedly pursued and obtained “General Duty Clause” citations following egregious, obviously preventable incidents. In no small part due to Jonathan, New York State now has a model Workplace Violence Law, and a number of other states are considering similar statutes.

Finally, Jonathan has been instrumental in shaping the field of workplace violence research, insisting on participatory action research methods that emphasize the importance of including workers in all phases of a research project.

We hope you will agree that Jonathan Rosen is well deserving of the Tony Mazzochi Award for his tenacious and far reaching work.

Nominators: Kate McPhaul and Jane Lipscomb

Nominees for the 2007 International Award

D1: Jagdish Patel

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Jagdish Patel is the main force behind the Peoples Training and Research Centre (PTRC), an innovative grassroots OHS advocacy group in the state of Gujarat in India. Without his tireless work, creative strategies, and dedication, the workers of Gujarat would have almost no access to health and safety information and services.

Gujarat, in western India, is heavily industrialized, with millions employed in desperately unsafe and unhealthy conditions. A fifth of India's "major accident hazard" facilities are in the state. In the face of non-existent health and safety services, information, and compensation for workers, 20 years ago a group of workplace safety activists formed Vyavsayik Swasthya Suraksha Mandal (VSSM) – the Gujarat equivalent of the US COSH movement. And in 1992, they opened PTRC, a mixture of OHS advice center, training and advocacy organization, and roving clinic.

PTRC recognized from the outset the need to support struggles taken up by workers. It works with local communities and union activists to identify problems, provide help for those afflicted with work-related ill-health, and to press for workplace improvements and access to occupational health services. A major role of PTRC is to train shop floor union activists in their legal rights and in identifying H&S problems and solutions. PTRC's exhibit, 'Our body, our work', has toured the region raising awareness of OHS issues. It runs "diagnosis camps" and clinics in the community where workers get medical check-ups and advice on compensation, state benefits, workplace safety law, hazards, and safer work methods. They have uncovered problems including chrome ulcers among chemical factory workers and an epidemic of silicosis among gem workers. It also publishes a newsletter, and does HIV/AIDS prevention education for workers and in schools.

PTRC currently is the Secretariat for the 'Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational Accident Victims' (ANROAV).

Nominators: Maggie Robbins and Rory O'Neill