February 2018 JOEM People & Events

The 2018 American Occupational Health Conference (AOHC) will be held April 29-May 2, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside in New Orleans, La. Conference sessions will run Sunday through mid-day on Wednesday.


A highlight of the conference will be the Sunday evening Opening General Session which will include the Sappington Lecture. Exhibits, poster sessions, and pre- and post-conference course offerings will augment the meeting. Visit www.acoem.org/AOHC.aspx for more information and on-line registration. Questions can be directed to ACOEM at 847/818-1800.

In conjunction with AOHC 2018, ACOEM will hold a number of pre-conference courses April 27-28, and post-conference courses May 2-3. Several new courses will be offered including the pre-conference AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment 6th Edition; the Cutting Edge Work Disability Prevention Techniques: Early Screening and Intervention in High-Risk Cases; and Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Workshop for the Occupational Medicine Provider.

Five other pre-conference courses will be presented:

- The 2-day Foundations of Occupational Medicine is intended for physicians and health professionals interested in but not particularly familiar with, occupational medicine. The course provides practical information useful in managing the clinical, regulatory, and administrative functions of an occupational medicine (OM) practice at a primary care level. Topics will include toxicology, medical emergency response planning, the health of business travels, and much more.
- Medical Review Officer (MRO) Comprehensive is a 2-day course that offers current and aspiring MROs an opportunity to increase and update their knowledge and familiarity with changes in substance abuse testing and federal regulations affecting the role of MROs. The course meets Department of Transportation MRO qualification training requirements. The Medical Review Officer Certification Council (MROCC) will hold a MRO certification examination Sunday morning, April 29 (separate exam registration required at www.mrocc.org).
- The Occupational Medicine Board Review provides expert assistance and instruction in advance of board certification or recertification. This 2-day course is intended as an exam refresher to help participants identify their strengths and weaknesses and provides insight on how to concentrate on areas needing additional review. The American Board of Preventive Medicine will hold a Maintenance of Certification exam Sunday morning, April 29 (separate exam registration required at www.theabpm.org).
- The 1-day Medical Center Occupational Health Basics is designed for occupational physicians who provide medical direction to occupational health programs for health care personnel, with specific focus on physicians who are relatively new to caring for this population. The course will cover principles of immunization and TB surveillance programs, infectious exposure evaluation and post-exposure prophylaxis, management of infected health care workers, chemical and radiation hazards, and the basics of health care ergonomics.
- The 1-day workshop on Spirometry Testing in Occupational Health – Physician Update provides down-to-earth guidance, drawing information on spirometry from a comprehensive NIOSH-approved course, and selecting case examples for a physician audience to illustrate the use of spirometry and other diagnostic tools to evaluate workers for occupational lung disease and/or for medical clearance to use their respirator.

ACOEM will also offer three post-conference courses:
- Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Workshop for the Occupational Provider is designed for health care providers who are exploring musculoskeletal ultrasound to enhance the evaluation and management of the patients with upper limb injury and complaints. This 1 1/2 day course will cover the shoulder, elbow, and wrist joints in detail, faculty will present a systematic and focused assessment with ultrasound. The course will include both live scanning and when and how to intervene. Participants will develop ultrasound pattern recognition of the major tendons, ligaments, nerves, and muscles surrounding these joints. The case discussions will focus on pathologies that are commonly encountered. In addition, regenerative medicine topics including percutaneous needle tenotomy, platelet rich plasma, and stem cell therapy will be discussed.
- CAOHC Professional Supervisor of the Audiometric Monitoring Program Workshop is an intermediate-level course that emphasizes the real-world application of audiology expertise as encountered in occupational settings. Lectures will review the current literature and practice guidelines. Instructors present employee case studies for participant problem solving, critical thinking and small-group discussion. Case presentations discuss professional supervisor responsibilities, guidelines for managing problem audiograms and determination of work-relatedness.
- Getting Difficult Cases Unstuck: Tactics for Stalled Recovery and Prolonged Work Disability explores the growing body of scientific evidence that supports new interventions that address remediable issues impeding recovery in biological, psychological, sociological and economic (BPSE) realms. Attendees will learn how to expand their personal skill set and therapeutic repertoire in order to help redirect "stuck" patients towards a better future and become more prepared to make evidence-informed changes to their practices. Familiarity with the BPSE model of sickness and disability as well as the work disability prevention approach is a prerequisite.

For additional conference and course details and on-line registration, visit the ACOEM Web site at www.acoem.org/ACOEMcourses.aspx. For telephone registration, call 847/818-1800.