

Division of Occupational & Environmental Medicine NEWSLETTER

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Dr. Michael Erdil Receives the 2016 Harriet Hardy Award



On December 2, 2016, the New England College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (NECOEM) awarded Dr. Michael Erdil with the distinguished Harriet Hardy award at its 2016 Annual Conference in Newton. NECOEM presents this award annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the field. Michael Erdil, MD, FACOEM, is a physician with Occupational and Environmental Health Network in Marlborough MA; and an Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center in the Department of Internal Medicine, Section of Occupational Medicine. Dr. Erdil is Board Certified in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and a Fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Dr. Erdil has been involved with evidence based recommendations from several entities over the years. Dr. Erdil served as a reviewer for the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research Acute Low Back Problems in Adults 1994; and the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines 1st edition. Dr. Erdil currently serves on the Editorial Advisory Board for the Official Disability Guidelines Treatment in Workers Comp and has recently joined UpToDate to author the Occupational Low Back Pain topic reviews.

Dr. Erdil has co-authored Cumulative Trauma Disorders of the Upper Extremity, and Biomechanics of Manual Material Handling and Low Back Pain for Zenz' Occupational Medicine Mosby; Cumulative Trauma Disorders: Prevention, Evaluation, and Treatment for Van Nostrand Reinhold; a chapter on Medications and Return to Work for the AMA Physician's Guide to Return to Work (1st ed) and other publications. Dr. Erdil has collaborated on a number of efforts to prevent occupational disease and musculoskeletal disorders, and to improve musculoskeletal care outcomes. Dr. Erdil served as the Advisory Board Chairman for the Connecticut Road Industry Surveillance Project, a National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health funded grant conceived by Dr. Kathy Maurer at Yale University to prevent lead toxicity in road and bridge construction workers. With funding from ATSDR, Dr. Erdil, Dr. Maurer and the CT Dept. of Health developed materials to help Connecticut physicians take an occupational and environmental health history, compiled a resource manual for primary care physicians dealing with exposure related disease, and developed a computer program to help determine if patients developed environmental illness due to exposure to CT Superfund sites.

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Dr. Michael Erdil Receives the 2016 Harriet Hardy Award continued...



Dr. Erdil collaborated with Dr. Martin Cherniack from UConn DOEM to co-author sections of the Health Effects Section of the Preamble to the Proposed OSHA Ergonomics Rule, and testified at the Dept. of Labor hearings to advocate for worker safety. Some recent interests have included implementing educational materials and strategies to help patients make better decisions regarding treatment options for musculoskeletal disorders.

I was honored to receive the Harriett Hardy Award from the New England College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine this past year. Dr. Hardy spent her distinguished career blending clinical practice, education, research and activism. Her autobiography "Challenging Man Made Disease," was influential in my decision to pursue a career in prevention and occupational medicine. I owe inspirational thanks to Dr. Hardy, the individuals who have received this award in the past, including Dr. Kales, and numerous colleagues I have had the privilege to work with and learn from over the years. I hope that my presentation encouraged attendees to become more active at a time when health care and our profession are at a crossroads. — Dr. Michael Erdil

Photo credit: Kathryn Costello

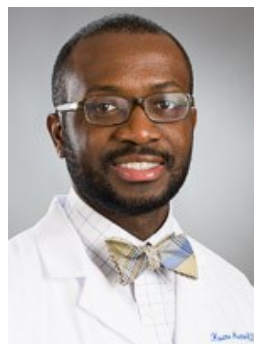
Congratulations Dr. Erdil!

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UPCOMING TALKS

THERE WILL BE NO COLLOQUIUM TALK FOR THE MONTH OF May 2017

Our next Colloquium Session is scheduled for **June 7, 2017.**
with Guest Speaker:



Kwame Asante, MD
(Hartford Hospital)

Dr. Kwame Asante is a Board Certified Physician in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, and Associate Director for Traumatic Brain Injury at Hartford Hospital. Dr. Asante also has an appointment as an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Dept. of Neurology at UConn Health. He received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College and completed his PMR Residency at Temple University Health System. Dr. Asante has special interest in Traumatic Brain Injury, treatment of Traumatic Injuries, Amputee Rehabilitation, Electrodiagnostic Medicine, Spasticity Management, and Sports Injury Rehabilitation.

Title of Talk: “TBD”

Time: 12:00pm—1:00pm

**Location: UConn Health Outpatient Pavilion,
2nd floor, EAST Conference Room.**

*****Flyer to follow*****

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2017, 4th edition

TRENDS IN OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

We will be holding our next “Trends in Occupational Health” on Wednesday, **May 3 from 12-1:30pm** in the Outpatient Pavilion Second floor Conference Room, S2010, at UConn Health. The topic is: “MANAGE AT WORK: RCT of an employer-sponsored psycho-educational program for workers with chronic or episodic illness.” Our guest facilitator will be William S. Shaw, Ph.D., Senior Principal Research Scientist at the Center for Disability Research at Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety, Hopkinton, MA, adjunct instructor at the Department of Family Medicine & Community Health, UMass Medical School, and adjunct scientist at the Institute for Work & Health, Toronto, Ontario. His main research areas include occupational health, pain management, disability prevention, chronic illness, functional assessment, psychosocial factors in health and disability, job accommodation, employer disability management practices, workers’ compensation, injury rehabilitation, worksite wellness, health care services, and patient counseling and education. Those who attend the presentation will be eligible for CME’s.

The link for the presentation’s Mediasite is:
<http://mediasite.uchc.edu/mediasite41/Play/7eb794d0697a4fa2954762d51e5298ab1d?catalog=5a0dec1a-e873-4933-b7ab-4771e47b0615>

As always, lunch will be served! Please **RSVP** to Lisa Rusch (lisa.rusch@uconn.edu) if you plan to attend to ensure we have enough food. This event is sponsored by the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) Occupational Safety and Health Core Interest Group (OSH-CIG).

The **March** Trends in Occupational Health meeting entitled “Integrated Disability Prevention (IDP), A Practical Approach for the Occupational Medicine Practice” was led by Jonathan Torres, MD, FACOEM, Medical Director of St. Mary’s WorkMed, Lewiston, Maine. This meeting was streamed live from UCHC. Dr. Torres led a thought-provoking and insightful discussion on the development and application of the Integrated Disability Prevention program in the treatment of work-related injuries with delayed healing. Please contact Lisa Rusch at lisa.rusch@uconn.edu for any information on this or future Trends in Occupational Health meetings.

The **April** Trends in Occupational Health meeting entitled “Can Wearable Biosensors Revolutionize Occupational Medicine?” was led by Insoo Kim, PhD, Assistant Professor Biomedical Engineering, UConn, and Affiliate, UCHC. This meeting was streamed live from UCHC. Dr. Kim led a thought-provoking discussion about wearable biosensors and their current use in medicine. He discussed their potential, their limitations and their specific application to occupational medicine. Please contact Lisa Rusch at lisa.rusch@uconn.edu for any information on this or future Trends in Occupational Health meetings.

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PRESENTATIONS



Jennifer Garza, ScD, presented a booth at the UConn Health and Safety Fair on April 6, 2017, entitled "*Our Safety Matters*".

Jennifer Garza, ScD, also had an article published in "UConn Today", entitled "*Is Sitting the New Smoking*", published April 13, 2017.