

HONOREE: DR. ROBERT HARRISON

Worksafe is thrilled to honor Dr. Robert Harrison for his tremendous contributions to the movement for occupational health and safety in California. Dr. Bob has been a champion of working people throughout his career, and his work has inspired a new generation of occupational health physicians and nurses, public health professionals, and worker justice activists.

Bob is a renowned occupational health physician who has treated thousands of sick and injured workers over the course of his career. In 1984, he founded the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Occupational Health Services and served as its director for over 20 years. He is known as a compassionate doctor, a keen diagnostician, and an effective patient advocate.

Bob is also a well-regarded educator and generous mentor within the occupational health community. As Clinical Professor of Medicine at UCSF, he teaches environmental and occupational medicine and is the associate director of the UCSF Occupational and Environmental Medicine residency program. He also teaches at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health and serves as program director of the NIOSH-funded Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP). OHIP recruits and places students in unions, worker centers, and community based organizations, giving them hands-on experience with workplace health and safety issues. Since Bob co-founded OHIP in 2004, the program has trained more than 200 students across the country.

Bob is also known as a stellar advocate for strong worker protections and a robust public health response to occupational health hazards in California. Bob is chief of the Occupational Health Surveillance and Evaluation Program (OHSEP) in the Occupational Health Branch of the California Department of Public Health. OHSEP tracks work-



related injuries and diseases, studies workplace exposures and health effects, and makes prevention recommendations to employers and employees.

Bob served on the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board and has provided scientific and technical expertise in the development of many Cal/OSHA standards. He has investigated numerous outbreaks of occupational injuries and diseases in California and nationwide, including peripheral neuropathy from n-hexane, bronchiolitis obliterans from diacetyl (butter flavoring), heat-related illness among agricultural workers, and the potential community health impacts of oil and gas extraction. He works closely with NIOSH and other federal agencies on the translation of scientific research into policies that protect workers.

Thank you, Dr. Bob, for your spirited leadership in the occupational health community. Your passion for worker health and safety is infectious and your generous mentorship has done wonders for this movement. Worksafe is grateful for your years of service on the Board of Directors and looks forward to many more years of collaboration and friendship.