

# Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences

MLAC Meeting | October 2, 2025



*Oregon Institute of  
Occupational  
Health Sciences*

# Presenters



Steven Shea, Ph.D., Professor and Institute Director



Leslie Hammer, Ph.D., Professor, Associate Director of Applied Research, Director Oregon Healthy Workforce Center



Erin Flynn, Ph.D., Outreach Program Director

# Overview

- Who we are, and what we do
- Our impact on Oregon
- The case for increased funding

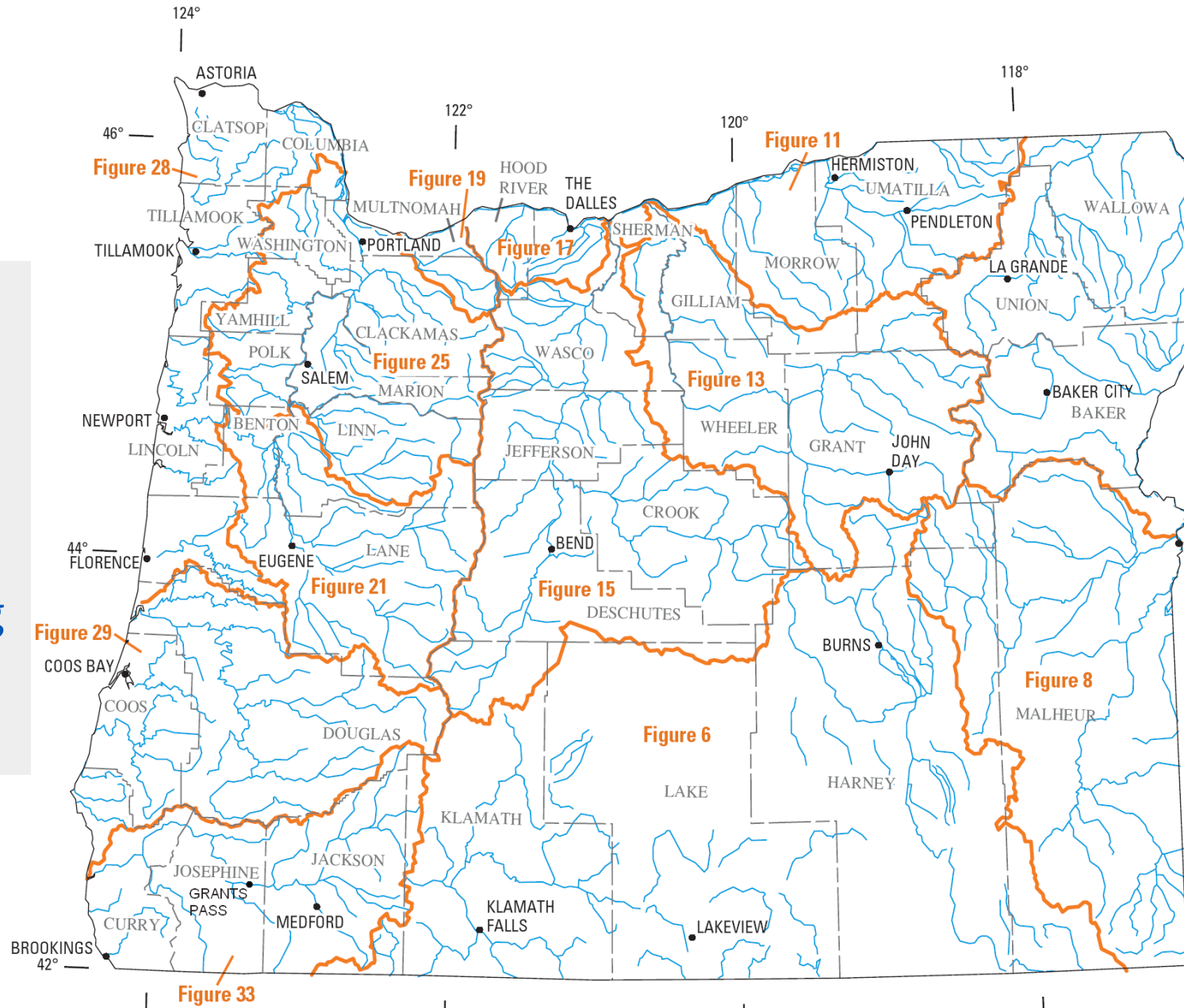


Figure 5. Location map of major drainage basins in Oregon.

# Institute Origins and Funding

Creation  
ORS 353.460

“There is created the  
Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences.”  
(2014)

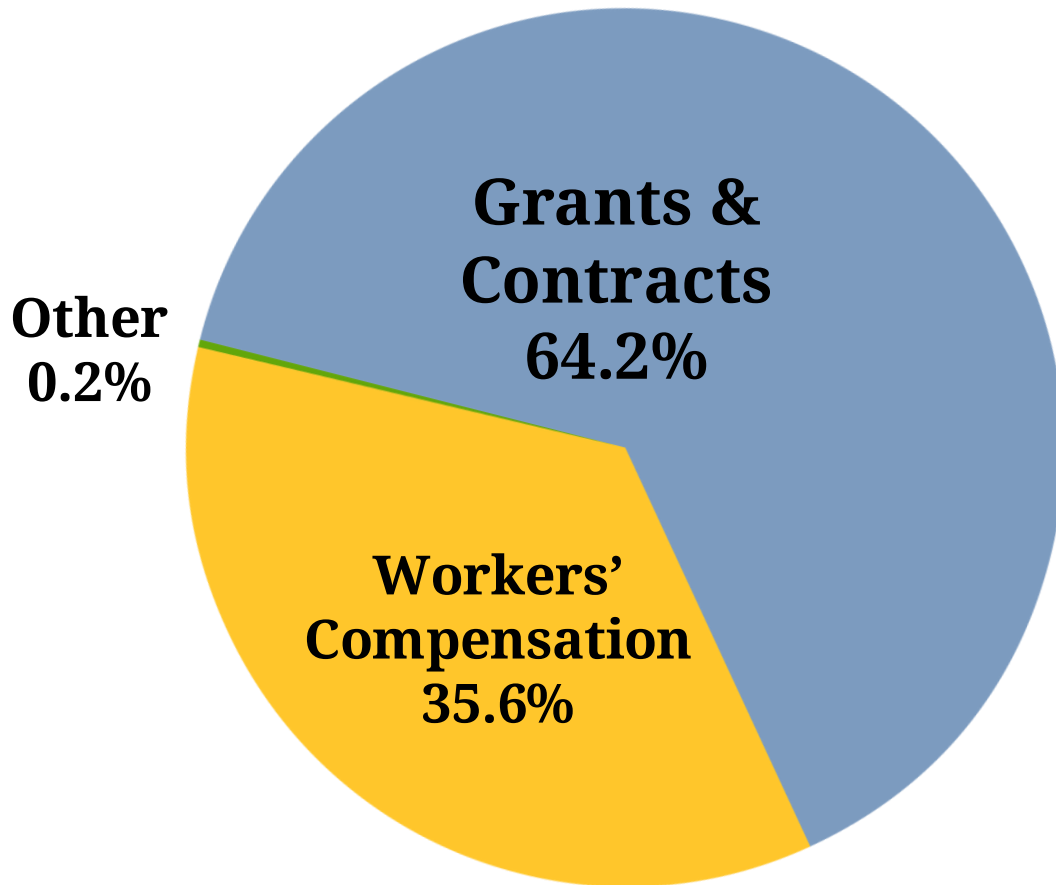
Funding  
ORS 353.470

“... shall operate, on an ongoing basis, from funds provided by DCBS, in addition to any gifts, grants or donations made to carry out the activities of the institute.

“Oregon Health and Science University is not expected to provide funds for operation of the institute...”.

# Financials

## Income by Source



## Fiscal Year 2025

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Workers' Compensation Income   | \$3,881,921         |
| Grants & Contracts             | \$7,012,166         |
| Other (Gifts, Sale of Service) | \$24,071            |
| <b>Total FY25 Income</b>       | <b>\$10,918,158</b> |

**We leverage state funding to obtain highly competitive federal grants (ROI ~200%)**



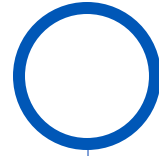
# Our Mission

**We conduct biomedical and workplace research,  
create evidence-based tools,  
and develop training and education  
to improve the safety, health and well-being  
of workers in Oregon and beyond**

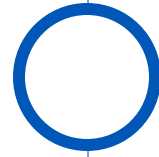




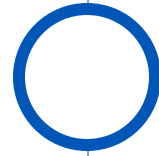
# What We Do



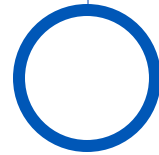
Conduct Research



Develop and Disseminate Tools and Training



Collaborate with Partners



Deliver Educational Programming

# Four Main Research Areas

- Environmental Exposures and Health
- Sleep and Circadian Health
- Safety at Work
- Supportive Workplace Practices





# Research Impact 2014-2024



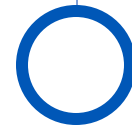
246 new research proposals submitted



213 new research projects funded



\$69.5M in grant and contract awards



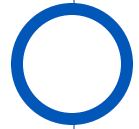
>600 scientific articles published;  
>16K citations by other researchers

# Illustrative Federal Research Grants



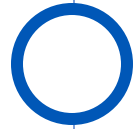
*Mechanisms of Liver Carcinogenesis Following Developmental bisphenol A (BPA) Exposure*

**National Institutes of Health. \$2.5M**



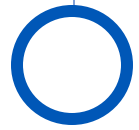
*Circadian Mechanisms Underlying Cardiovascular Risk*

**National Institutes of Health. \$6.4 M**



*Protecting New Transit Operators Against Safety and Health Hazards*

**National Institutes of Health. \$3.4M**



*Effectiveness of Leadership Training for Psychological Health in the Oregon National Guard*

**Department of Defense. \$5.0M**

# Understanding the impact of shiftwork on fertility



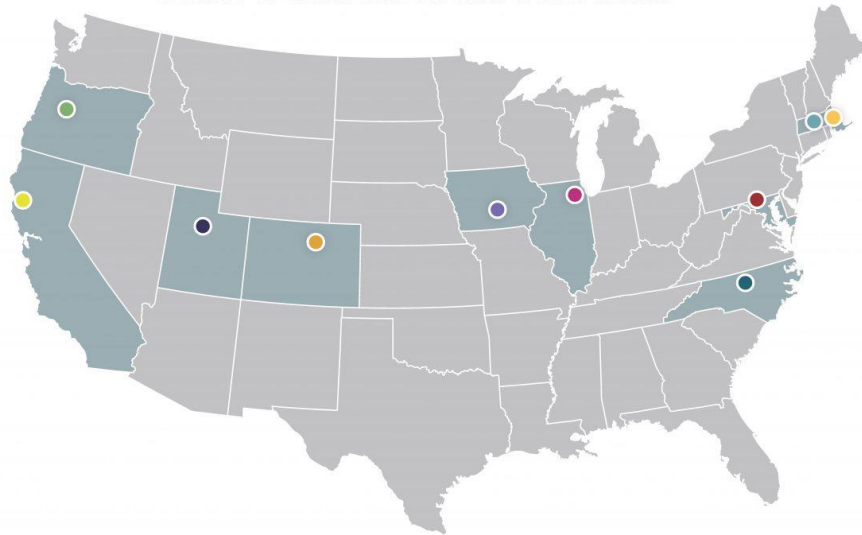
Institute researchers discovered that mistimed eating (as occurs with shift work in humans) reduces fertility in mice. Continuing studies are examining the mechanisms responsible for these adverse reproductive outcomes in nurses.



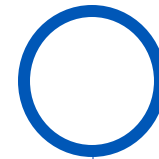
# Impact through Partnership

THE INSTITUTE HAS POSITIONED OREGON AS AN NATIONAL LEADER IN *TOTAL WORKER HEALTH* RESEARCH, EDUCATION & IMPLEMENTATION

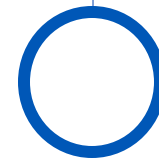
Centers of Excellence for Total Worker Health®



- California Labor Laboratory (CALL Center)
- Carolina Center for Total Worker Health® and Well-being
- Center for Health, Work & Environment
- Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace (CPH-NEW)
- Healthier Workforce Center of the Midwest
- Johns Hopkins P.O.E. Total Worker Health® Center in Mental Health (POE Center)
- Oregon Healthy Workforce Center (OHWC)
- The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Center for Work, Health & Well-being
- UIC Center for Healthy Work
- Utah Center for Promotion of Work Equity (U-POWER)



NIOSH Center of Excellence



Occupational Public Health Program

The Institute has secured

**\$20 Million**

in National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)-funded programming over two decades

# NIOSH-funded Programs



## OREGON HEALTHY WORKFORCE CENTER

*Total Worker Health*® research and intervention

- NIOSH-funded, national center of excellence in *Total Worker Health*
- 10+ associated research/implementation partnerships
- \$15.7M in funding since founding since 2011



## OREGON OCCUPATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

Occupational surveillance and fatality investigations

- NIOSH-funded, state-wide workplace safety surveillance center
- Partnership with Oregon Health Authority
- Tracking, identifying and preventing workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths in Oregon

# Workplace Mental Health Training For Managers

Addressing the widespread increase in work-related stress and poor employee mental health



## TRAINING PURPOSE

Workplace Mental Health Training for Managers is an evidence-based, online program that teaches managers and supervisors to:

- Promote positive employee mental health
- Respond appropriately to employee warning signs
- Reduce employee loneliness and anger through practical strategies

## INTENDED AUDIENCE

Managers and supervisors in a variety of organizational settings



## SUCCESS METRICS:

- 2,000 training seats licensed by federal and state agencies, universities and private organizations
- Training adopted by nine Oregon state agencies
- Training available to 45,000 State of Oregon employees on Workday



# COMPASS Training

In partnership with SEIU Local 503, OccHealthSci developed a training for home health aides that reduces injuries and lessens social isolation. The training was adopted by the Oregon Home Care Commission and is now available to 60% of home care workers in the state.



## INTENDED AUDIENCE

Oregon Home Care Commission, SEIU, Home Care Workers

## SUCCESS METRICS:

- Adopted by the Oregon Home Care Commission
- Available to 60% of home care workers in Oregon
- 651 home care workers have participated in the training, including 110 in 2024
- Training available in Spanish, Russian, Mandarin, Cantonese and Vietnamese

# Safety Climate Scale



## TRAINING PURPOSE

The Scale assesses safety by surveying workers about management's commitment to and support of safety and health. It provides critical information for organizations to make focused adjustments to safety management and improve safety culture.

## INTENDED AUDIENCE

SAIF Corporation, construction, manufacturing and transportation industries

## IMPACT BEYOND OREGON

The scale has been implemented beyond Oregon as of 2024, reaching various states across the U.S. and several Asian and African countries.

## SUCCESS METRICS:

- Since 2020, the Safety Climate Scale has been implemented at 16 Oregon companies surveying nearly 4,000 workers



# Supportive Workplaces

ONLINE TRAINING FOR LEADERS

Advance the health and safety of your workplace  
with evidence-based, online training programs from the  
Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences, OHSU.

Visit: [Supportiveworkplaces.org](https://supportiveworkplaces.org)





# State Partnerships



## TOTAL WORKER HEALTH ALLIANCE

Total Worker Health practitioner education

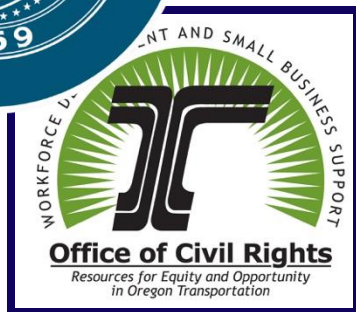
- State-wide *Total Worker Health*® education initiative
- Partnership with SAIF Corporation and Oregon OSHA
- Delivering Total Worker Health education since 2018



## RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE INITIATIVE

*Total Worker Health* for the construction industry

- Solutions for retaining a diverse workforce in Oregon's construction industry
- Partnership with Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry



**W** UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

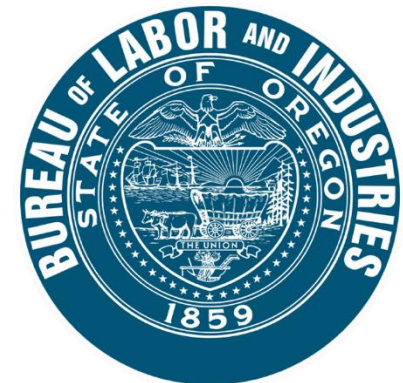


**saif** Work.  
Life.  
Oregon.



RESEARCH-TO-PRACTICE

# Total Worker Health Education, Outreach & Capacity Building



# Total Worker Health Education & Capacity Building

## *Total Worker Health*® Alliance

### SUCCESS METRICS:

- Development of introductory *Total Worker Health*® Curriculum in partnership with SAIF Corporation
- 50+ *Total Worker Health* courses delivered in Oregon since 2019
- Seven to 10 courses offered per year
- 1,500+ occupational health safety practitioners enrolled and completed *Total Worker Health* Alliance courses





Oregon Institute of  
Occupational  
Health Sciences

# WORKING WELL

Conversations at the intersection  
of **work** and **health**.



# Digital Resources & Engagement (2024 metrics)

100+ Digital workplace health and safety resources available for download



2024 WEBSITE VIEWS  
20,000+



2024 SOCIAL MEDIA  
12,000+ FOLLOWERS



STREAMING CONTENT  
90,000+ TOTAL PLAYS



NEWSLETTER  
SUBSCRIBERS  
16,000+

# Increased funding needed to maintain impact

## INFLATION

Base funding has dropped by >50% since 1988  
Shortfall (~\$2.8M annually, adjusted for inflation)  
hampers our ability to fulfill our mission  
(even despite grant successes).

## ACCELERATING IMPACT

Poised to accelerate impact through translation of research-into-practice  
including dissemination of evidence-based training and  
expansion of educational offerings.

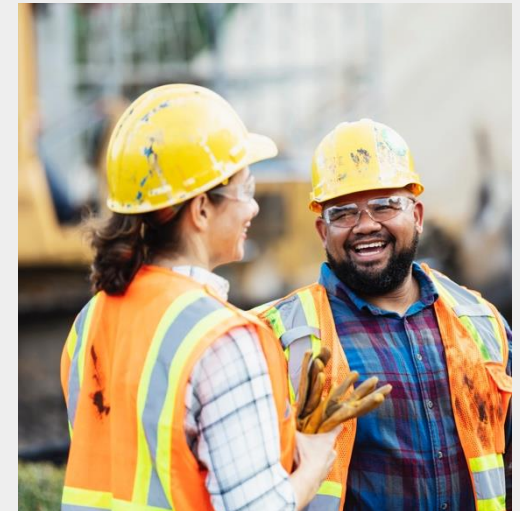
## FACULTY RECRUITMENT

Our success hinges on the ability to recruit top faculty;  
with two recent halted recruitments and  
several imminent faculty retirements.

# A Funding Increase for the Institute is Essential to Maintain its Impact, Tackle New Challenges and Fulfill its Mission

## Examples:

- Expand education, training & outreach for greater statewide impact
- Research new areas of importance (e.g., heat stress/smoke exposure)
- Maintain research by recruiting faculty to replace recent and anticipated retirements
- Advance state-wide OSH initiatives including the Oregon Fire Health and Safety Collaborative and the Respectful Workplace Initiative
- Reinstate cuts in numerous important activities such as pilot projects, innovation funds, sporadic bridge funding for faculty, summer internship program, visits by outside speakers, etc.





# A Proposed Solution

## New Funding Formula

Increase annual base funding from \$4M to \$6M

## Secure MLAC Support

Bring formal Legislative Concept to MLAC for consideration later this fall

## Introduce Legislation

Identify a legislative champion and introduce a bill to change the funding formula

We hope MLAC will endorse  
our legislative concept  
so that we can continue to improve  
the health and safety  
of the workers of Oregon

We welcome Questions