

The 2010 OHS Section Awardees are:

Alice Hamilton Award: **Sherry Baron, MD, MPH**

Lorin Kerr Award: **Tom O'Connor, MPH**

Tony Mazzocchi Award: **Stephen A. Mitchell, BA**

Tony Mazzocchi Award: **Wally Reardon, BA**

International Health & Safety Award: **Jeong-ok Kong, MD**



Sherry Baron MD MPH has been a consistent fighter for the health and safety rights of all workers for thirty years. She has championed the documentation and strategies to overcome disparities in the field of Occupational Health and Safety. Her relentless work at NIOSH has brought funding and credibility to this issue that has influenced community groups, grassroots organizations and health and safety activists around the country.

Dr. Sherry Baron is the coordinator for Occupational Health Disparities at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. She was also leader of the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Special Populations at Risk team. Her research at NIOSH has focused on field investigations and developing public health intervention programs for low wage and immigrant workers. Her work included a two-year assignment at the Pan American Health Organization regional center on environmental health in Mexico, where she developed collaborative occupational safety and health training and research projects with the Mexican Health Ministry. She is a board certified physician in occupational and internal medicine.

Recently Sherry has helped organize a special edition in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine on Occupational Health Disparities. She also produced a new compilation of reports for a groundbreaking conference on Occupational

Health disparities that took place at U Mass Lowell. She contributed greatly to the April 2010 OSHA Latino Summit.

Sherry Baron continues to work away at her specialties in a methodical, consistent manner. She produces very reputable science, garners financial support for competent community organizations and helps organize meetings and conferences to share the latest movement forward in Occupational Health Disparities. She is well deserving of recognition.



Tom O'Connor MPH, Executive Director of the National COSH Network, is principal coordinator of the Protecting Workers Alliance [PWA]. For years, Tom has been in the forefront of organizing grassroots and professional groups to bring worker health and to public attention. His efforts have brought us close to being able to pass the Protecting American Workers Act [PAWA].

Selected accomplishments include:

1. Coordinating a national meeting of health and safety activists and worker centers from around the country for an historic two-day meeting. This was the first time that these groups got together to learn about each other's work. Tom obtained the funding for this meeting and then organized it.
 2. Being the glue to keep the Protecting Worker's Alliance together, growing and organizing for grassroots health and safety activism. He has created the PWA website to involve activists and track progress in getting co-signers on the bill. He is implementing a plan to target legislators who are likely co-signers. His coordination of conference calls, e-mails and personal visits in Washington DC has been a relentless reminder that we all can do more.
 3. Continuing to strengthen the COSH Network by coordinating annual conferences, which have included the Health and Safety Summits. Tom's leadership has helped COSH groups be national advocates for worker health and safety and support local COSH groups. .
 4. Using his language skills in English and Spanish to conduct a 2005 study of young Latino workers in North Carolina¹. This work provided new
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insights into the conditions of construction work for young Latinos in the construction industry and outlined needed improvements in worker safety.

Over many years, Tom O'Connor has been an important stimulus to change in the field, helping to engage others in the goals of worker safety and health using his inclusive leadership style and public health skills.



Steve Mitchell BA is the current Health and Safety Representative for United Automobile Workers (UAW) Local Union 974, representing 5,500 workers at Caterpillar Inc. in Peoria, IL area. Also a H&S Peer Trainer (or Local Union Discussion Leader (LUDL), Steve is a role model for other trainers in defining H&S approaches to building the Union. Steve has completed a Bachelors Degree in Safety and Health at the National Labor College which is affiliated with the AFL-CIO. Steve also serves his Local Union as Grievance Representative, Executive Board Member, and most recently, as an appointed representative for the Joint Committee on Safety and Health, a committee which oversees the H&S contract provisions for all UAW-represented Caterpillar worksites. An employee of Caterpillar since 1975, Steve is currently a welding technologist at the Caterpillar Technical Center.

Steve's work as a Union H&S Representative has been exemplary in many aspects. Steve's activities during the protracted labor dispute with Caterpillar resulted in a Circuit Court decision mandating his right as the Union H&S Representative to accompany OSHA inspectors into his workplace while the company was using scabs to replace striking union workers. This was a landmark case for the Union's right and the Department of Labor's right to have access to worksites for H&S purposes. Steve has also challenged the Company's attempts to implement behavior safety programs and other "blame the worker" programs. His work on the 2002 National Negotiations helped yield successful improvements in the H&S contract language.

Steve's sustained, dedicated work in H&S has earned the respect of workers and management alike. A specialist in H&S Legal Rights and Emergency Response Training, he continually shares his knowledge and skills with co-workers, fellow H&S representatives, and all of those around him. His influence on other peer trainers in the UAW and other Unions has moved the dial forward to advance the professionalism of Union H&S Representatives



Wally Reardon BA -After witnessing a catastrophic injury of a fellow communications tower climber, Wallace Reardon knew he had to do something about elevating the health and safety standards in the industry. An experienced climber himself, he was quite familiar with industry-sponsored training and OSHA's requirement of 100% tie-off.

He had a hunch that there were huge and lingering issues in this dangerous and fast-growing industry that had largely been overlooked: the workers' perspectives. Beginning in 2008, Reardon started listening to fellow climbers, collecting information about tower accidents and fatalities, and analyzing his own state's standards against those of other states and other countries. He interviewed OSHA regulators, contacted academic researchers, visited (and photographed) climbers and their worksites, spoke with company owners and managers, and met with family members of deceased climbers.

Working methodically and steadily, Reardon convened what we believe to be the first worker-focused , worker-driven climbers' conference in the nation in April 2010. The event drew climbers and surviving family members and generated a

set of recommendations which, if implemented, could significantly improve the technology, work practices and pace, and regulatory standards of the industry.

New York's Network of Occupational Health Clinics selected Reardon's project as the centerpiece of its commemoration of Workers' Memorial Day at the state capital, but more important, this project will serve as a model for other statewide worker-focused initiatives. The influence of this project extends well beyond New York State as inquiries and requests abound from those in other states.

For his moral vision, perseverance and ability to empower workers to take action that will protect themselves, their co-workers, and ultimately their families, Wally Reardon's on-going work represents the courage and imagination that Tony Mazzocchi displayed in his fight for workers' rights and their very survival.



Dr. Jeong-ok Kong MD MS has been a leading Korean occupational health professional. Involved in numerous research projects and campaigns with labor unions and grassroots organizations of workers on issues of musculoskeletal disorders, and job stress-related physical and mental health, Dr. Kong has extensive experience with Korean rail/subway, shipbuilding, and auto industry workers.

In 2003, Dr. Kong joined the Korea Institute of Labor Safety and Health, (KILSH), who activities center on workplace-oriented action, and the development of workplace-oriented expertise and class-consciousness among workers. She has since served as a fulltime activist and representative of KILSH, and since 2010, has served as chairperson of KILSH's executive committee.

Dr. Kong has been a leading figure among Korean occupational health professionals involved in numerous research projects and campaigns with labor unions and grassroots organizations of workers, mainly related to musculoskeletal disorders, and job stress-related physical and mental health problems.

These projects have included the Seoul Metropolitan Rapid Transit Corporation Workers Union (2003), Hyundai motor workers union(2005~2009), Parker-Hanil Workers Union of Parker Hannifin Connectors Ltd. (2007) and others.

In addition, Dr. Kong organized and participated the collective sick leave struggles of musculoskeletal diseased workers in Korean Metal Workers Union (2002~2004) and the struggle of subway workers in the first-issued mental stress-related compensation cases in 2004-2007.

Dr. Kong has written for both professional journals and the mass media on occupational health issues, and was the Korean-language translator in 2009 for seminal book on occupational and environmental health hazards in the global electronics industry: *Challenging the Chip; Labor Rights and Environmental Justice in the Global Electronics Industry*.

Most recently, Dr. Kong has been playing a central and indispensable role in the struggle of cancer victims of Samsung semiconductor in SHARPS (Supporters of Health And Right of People in Semiconductor Industry). In March 2010, Dr. Kong helped launch and is leading an international campaign to draw attention to cancer and other diseases among young workers in Samsung plants in Korea.

A Doctor of Medicine, Dr. Kong also has a Master's Degree in Environmental Health.