

MEDIA ALERT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA NEWS RELEASE

June 11, 2010

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New Research Shines a Light on Occupational Health and Migration

WASHINGTON – Every year in the U.S., hundreds of immigrant workers suffer from occupational injuries and illnesses, many of them fatal. Latino workers are among the most affected. Even though occupational fatalities have decreased over the past decade, for Latinos, the number has doubled. There has been little academic or government attention to this situation.

“Immigrants are a source of economic benefits to both their countries of origin and the countries where they work,” says Dr. Marc Schenker, Director of the Migration and Health Research Center (MAHRC), “but their working conditions put their health seriously at risk. We are desperately in need of targeted research regarding this vulnerable population, and implementation of effective policies and regulations to protect the health of these workers.”

The Migration and Health Research Center, a joint effort of the University of California at Berkeley, School of Public Health, and the University of California at Davis, Center for Occupational and Environmental Health; in partnership with the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety, and the UC Global Health Initiative, will bring together a diverse panel to discuss research findings from the April 2010 issue of the American Journal of Industrial Medicine, which is dedicated entirely to migration and occupational health.

The policy briefing *Migration and Health: Shining a Light on the Problem* will be held at the office of the Migration Policy Institute and will feature speakers including Deborah Berkowitz, Chief of Staff for OSHA, John Howard, Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Bruce Goldstein, Director of Farmworker Justice; Marc Schenker, Director of MAHRC; and Xóchitl Castañeda, Director of the Health Initiative of the Americas at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health.

Recent research findings will be presented documenting the increased burden of occupational injury and illness of immigrant workers in diverse industries and occupations, and to suggest directions for research and policies to improve this disparity.

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