



Committed to the health, safety and well-being of healthcare workers

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AOHP to Address the Work of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare on a Global Scale

PITTSBURGH – The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP,) the nation's only professional organization with the exclusive mission of addressing the needs and concerns of occupational health professionals in healthcare settings, is now expanding its reach to a global audience.

Through its partnership with the Infection Control Support Association of Japan (JICSA), a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of infection prevention and control in Japan, AOHP is now supporting the work of occupational health professionals internationally. AOHP's well respected resource manual *Getting Started: Occupational Health in the Healthcare Setting* has been translated into Japanese and will be released July 19, 2014 at a meeting in Osaka, Japan of more than 500 of the country's nurses and other health professionals who work in the areas of occupational health, infection control, sterile processing and central distribution. The translated manual will serve as a valuable resource for training and education.

AOHP President Emeritus Sandra Domeracki, FNP, RN, COHN-S will keynote the day-long meeting in Osaka. Her discussion, which will be presented in English and translated into Japanese by an interpreter, will highlight the specialty profession of occupational health in the United States, how these professionals collaborate with other members of the healthcare team, and the value of credentialing in demonstrating the level of expertise these professionals require. This message is important for Domeracki's international audience as the role of occupational health professionals is just now being developed as an area of specialized nursing expertise in Japan's healthcare system. She will also present the history, mission and vision of AOHP to attendees.

"A core goal of AOHP leadership is for our organization to be recognized as a world class leader in the field of occupational health," Domeracki explains. "As the defining resource and leading advocate for occupational health, safety and well-being in healthcare, we appreciate this opportunity to present our message to an international audience. Now that AOHP has been able to elevate the profession of occupational health

in Japan through the translation of *Getting Started*, we hope that other countries will now look to AOHP to help advance their occupational health practices."

AOHP is a national association with nearly 1,000 members. Its' *Getting Started* manual provides an overview of the essential information that new occupational health professionals use to build a foundation for the provision of occupational health services for healthcare personnel and also serves as a valuable reference for experienced occupational health professionals who are embarking on new projects or seeking the most up-to-date information available.

"*Getting Started* is an excellent resource for occupational health professionals, and we are excited and honored to be able to offer this information to our fellow occupational health professionals in Japan," says AOHP Executive President Dee Tyler, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN. "Though laws and regulations that impact the work of occupational health professionals can differ from state to state and country to country, the core function of what we do to improve the health and safety of the healthcare workforce and our patients is most definitely cross cultural."

AOHP promotes health, safety and well-being for healthcare personnel through: advocating for employee health and safety; occupational health education and networking opportunities; health and safety advancement through best practice and research; and partnering with employers, regulatory agencies and related associations. The AOHP/JICSA partnership was formalized in 2010.

For more information, please call AOHP Headquarters at 800-362-4347, or e-mail info@aohp.org.

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