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AOHP's 2012 Julie Schmid Research Scholarship Award Winner Publishes Project Findings

November 7, 2013 – The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) recently published an article by the winner of its 2012 Julie Schmid Research Scholarship Award winner that summarizes the findings of an original research project.

The article - **A Mixed Methods Inquiry into the Injuries Sustained by Security Guards at a Level 1 Trauma Hospital** - is printed in the Fall 2013 AOHP *Journal*. It examines how hospital security personnel are tasked with protecting the safety of healthcare workers, visitors and patients, but that little is known about the protective and risk factors for injuries to these individuals, who are called on to help control violent situations. Security personnel in hospital settings suffer workplace violence injuries at rates two to three times that of registered nurses, as they are placed in the precarious position of having to work with and manage violent people who are also in a vulnerable state.

Article authors Joshua Gramling, Clinical Care Supervisor, Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN, and Patricia McGovern, PhD, MPH, RN and Nancy Nachreiner, PhD, MPH, RN, COHN-S, study the occupational injury experience of these professionals at a Level 1 Trauma Center in a Midwest city, presenting both quantitative and qualitative documentation focusing on the exposure of hospital security guards to work-related violence and to assist hospitals in planning policies and procedures for internal security departments. Support for this research was provided by AOHP through the Julie Schmid Research Scholarship.

The Julie Schmid Research Scholarship was established by AOHP in 2005, inviting annual proposals for an original research project on current or anticipated issues in hospital or healthcare-related occupational health to encourage, promote and strengthen the knowledge base and expertise of the occupational health professional in healthcare. Areas of research can include, but are not limited to: employee assistance; employment examinations; employee health records; hazardous substance exposures; immunizations; infectious diseases; medical surveillance; workplace injuries. Award nominees must describe the impact of the research project on occupational health professionals, significance of the intended results and how the data will be shared.

AOHP is a national association representing thousands of healthcare workers whose vision is to be the defining resource and leading advocate for occupational health and safety in healthcare. It is led by an experienced and dedicated group of occupational health professionals representing occupational health nurses across the nation and beyond.

AOHP promotes health, safety and well-being for healthcare workers 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. For more information about AOHP, contact Judy Lyle, AOHP Executive Director, at 800-362-4347, or e-mail info@aohp.org.

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