

Summary Abstracts 2024-1 Journal

Editor's Column

This standard feature provides commentary from the current *Journal* Editor, Kim Stanchfield, RN, COHN-S. She reflects on changes and constants in employee occupational health practice and the benefits of both throughout her nearly four decades in the field.

Staying Current on Government Affairs

In his *Journal* column, Stephen Burt, MFA, BS, AOHP Government Affairs Committee Chair, provides analysis of recent government affairs activities. To mark the first anniversary of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act and Providing Urgent Maternal Protections for Nursing Mothers Act, he reviews the requirements of these laws for healthcare facilities. Enforcement actions by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission involving employee discrimination linked to pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions are included.

Association Community Liaison Report

This regular *Journal* article details how AOHP gains visibility as an expert regarding occupational health issues. In this edition, Bobbi Jo Hurst, BSN, RN, MBA, COHN-S, provides: updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding COVID-19 and other respiratory viral illness; information from the *Impact Wellbeing™ Campaign* of The National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety; the importance of measles immunizations; Occupational Safety and Health Administration priority standards for 2024, including the stages of the rule-making process; and the Food and Drug Administration's evaluation of plastic syringes manufactured in China.

Perspectives in Healthcare Safety

Cory Worden, PhD (ABD), MS, CSHM, CSP, CHSP, ARM, REM, CESCO, shares his insights on occupational safety in healthcare in this standing column. This issue's feature – *Surviving Safety – Part Five* – explores lagging indicators and incident analyses, the final steps in the continual improvement cycle of a safety management system. With the information, data, benchmarks, and analysis developed during this phase, the system receives validation of what is working well and how improvements can be made to limit risk. The ultimate goal is continual improvement in health and safety.

Research

Asha Roy, PhD, MBA, MAS, MS, OTD, OTR/L, CSPHP, is the Chair of the AOHP Research Committee. Her article in this issue – *A Stitch in Time Saves Nine: Why Regular Patient Handling Assessments are Essential* – reviews the importance of conducting preventive health checks for the workplace to protect workers from injury and provide cost savings for the employer.

Annual Treasurer's Report

Sarah M. Parris, MSN, RN, AOHP Executive Treasurer, shares the results of AOHP's financial review completed for the year ending December 31, 2023, with an explanation of how AOHP strives to maintain financial stability. An overview of the organization's financial position for 2023, including a summary of income and expense, is depicted using pie charts.

The Frequency and Severity of Obesity in U.S. Hospitals

Understanding the impact obesity has in the healthcare environment is a significant challenge. Susan Gallagher, PhD, MSN, MA, RN, CBN, CSPHP, reviews how planning for care can be difficult to justify without adequate awareness of both the frequency and severity of obesity.

Occupational Implications of Safe Patient Handling and Mobility in the Acute Care Setting: A Round Table

Healthcare personnel are among those most at-risk for occupational injury, specifically musculoskeletal disorders. Many high-performing healthcare organizations are exploring a programmatic approach to worker safety through structured safe patient handling and mobility initiatives. Authors Myrna Young; Susan Gallagher, PhD, MSN, MA, RN, CBN, CSPHP; Joseph McGettigan, MEd, CPE; Tom Modica, PT, DPT, OTR; and Anne Marie Santos, PT, MPT, PCS, explore the lessons learned when implementing such a program across facilities within a hospital system.

Why I Became an Employee Health Nurse Practitioner and Director

AOHP member Mary Giovannetti, DNP, APRN, BC-FNP, shares her journey in employee occupational health and safety. This article is the first in a series authored by various AOHP members to convey their experiences and insight regarding issues that impact occupational health practice.