



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SECTION
AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

News Release

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Washington DC — The Occupational Health and Safety Section (OHS) of the American Public Health Association (APHA) announced today the recipients of their awards for outstanding achievements. The OHS Section will celebrate the accomplishments of these individuals during a luncheon ceremony at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia on Tuesday, November 10, 2009. The OHS Section is one of APHA's oldest — established in 1914—and is comprised of individuals who are dedicated to protecting and advancing workers' rights to healthy and safe workplaces. APHA is the largest and most diverse public health organization in the world.

Sylvia Kieding is the recipient of the Alice Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. A health and safety activist for more than 35 years, Ms. Kieding joined the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers' union as a health and safety coordinator in 1973 and was instrumental in the development and publication of *Lifelines*, the first nationwide health and safety newsletter. As OCAW's Health and Safety Director, she directed the first Hazardous Waste Training Program and provided local unions in energy, chemical, atomic and related industries with assistance on health and safety problems, health and safety contract language. Ms. Kieding now directs the United Steelworkers International Union's Worker Health Protection Program, which provides free medical screening for former and current nuclear facility workers.

Antonio de Marco Rasteiro is the recipient of the International Health and Safety Award. An employee of Shell/BASF in Paulínia Brazil for 21 years, Mr. Rasteiro is contaminated with organochlorines and suffers from a number of work-related diseases. In spite of these challenges, he has campaigned passionately for justice for his fellow former workers. He cofounded and coordinates the Association of Workers Exposed to Chemical Substances (ATESQ), which demands recognition of and compensation for the numerous cases of cancer and other chronic diseases caused by pesticide exposures within the plant. Mr. Rasteiro has led a number of marches, rallies, and lawsuits against the two corporations, who continue to deny responsibility for the injustices committed. His leadership has brought to fruition one of the most important campaigns for the health and safety of workers in Brazil.

Kerry Souza, ScD, MPH is the recipient of the Lorin Kerr Award for Activism. Dr. Souza has devoted her energy and passion for occupational health to APHA's Occupational Health and Safety Section for the last several years. As a section member, she has served in numerous capacities, including Section Secretary, Section Counselor, and most recently, chair of the Program Committee. An expert in occupational health disparities and work-related medical conditions among minority and immigrant workers, Dr. Souza co-founded and has organized the Occupational Health Disparities Institute (ODHI) since 2007.

Steve Schrag is the recipient of the Tony Mazzocchi Award for Grassroots Organizing. A dedicated worker trainer, Mr. Schrag has conducted workshops, seminars and conferences for more than 11,000 workers since 1985. Formerly the Eastern Region health and safety coordinator for the Service Employees International Union, he now works with 1199-SEIU in New York, where he has developed a network of 75 worker trainers. He is currently developing a "green" jobs leadership training to ensure that health and safety is included in all aspects of the new green economy.

This year's awardees will be honored on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting, as part of the OHS Section's Awards Luncheon at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Tickets to the event are \$27.00. For more information contact the individuals listed above, or visit us online at:

<http://www.apha.org/membersgroups/sections/aphasections/occupational/>

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