

Presentation Title	Place in Schedule
Falls, Fall Injuries and the Aging Workforce	Concurrent Session 2.3 <i>Day 2 – Wednesday</i> <i>May 9th, 2018</i> <i>2:30 – 3:45pm</i>
Description of Presentation	Presenter Name(s) And Credentials
<p>As individuals age various health conditions and health events become more common. An older adult literally embodies a lifetime of exposures. By anticipating which health conditions are likely to have significant economic consequences as the US population ages, epidemiologic research can help inform prevention strategies that simultaneously reduce the economic burden of poor health and that sustain older adults through their retirement years.</p> <p>Falls and fall injuries become more common as people age. This is true for falls that occur in the workplace, as well as falls that occur outside of work. Falls have a significant effect on the economy. The projected lifetime costs of fall injuries occurring during 2010 in the US was over \$152.9 billion. Falls also are a useful window through which researchers can see how work and health interact to influence retirement decisions. Like some other public health issues, falls have a dual nature. They are, on the one hand, discrete events and they are, on the other, indicators of continuous changes in health and social status. In this way, research on falls may also shed light on the labor force effects of other discrete events that result from gradual changes in health, such as heart attacks and strokes.</p> <p>In the United States, as members of the baby boom generation pass the “traditional” retirement age of 65, the health of this population will have widespread implications for society. Population health is likely to have significant effects on the baby boomers’ retirement patterns, but the relationship between health and retirement is complex. The research presented in this plenary is comprised of three research studies that explore how work and health might influence older workers’ retirement decisions.</p> <p>This presentation will describe the descriptive epidemiology of falls and fall injuries in the workplace and</p>	Kenneth A. Scott, MPH, PhD <i>Denver Public Health</i>

elsewhere. Analytic research studies that have identified risk factors for fall injuries will be briefly summarized, along with research on the consequences of fall injuries and evidence-based prevention strategies. After an introduction to the basic epidemiology of falls and fall injuries three research studies will be summarized. The first study uses data from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses to examine patterns of same-level fall injuries in US workplaces, exploring whether the relationship between age, gender and fall injury incidence varies by industry. The second study uses the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) to test whether, among US workers 65 and older, falls - injurious and noninjurious - are associated with a shorter time to first report of a health-related limitation in the work they can perform. The third study, also using HRS data, takes the next logical step to see whether falling is associated with a shorter time to labor force exit among US workers 65 and older.