

Presentation Title	Place in Schedule
<p>Total Rural Worker Health: Agricultural Workplace Risks and Health Outcomes</p>	<p>Concurrent Session 3.2 <i>Day 2 – Wednesday</i> <i>May 9th, 2018</i> <i>4:00 – 5:15pm</i></p>
Description of Presentation	Presenter Name(s) And Credentials
<p>Purpose/Objective: This session will detail the workplace risks uncovered through research and efforts undertaken in rural communities to advance worker well-being. Rural residents are often employed in the field of agriculture and because this sector has the highest fatality rates, research with a focus on workers is largely aimed at health protection. However, the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention, and Education (SW Ag Center) has undertaken a number of research projects that examine workplace risks and health outcomes for workers in agriculture, forestry, and fishing (AFF). Efforts to identify and elucidate the burden of negative health outcomes in AFF workers require unique approaches; this panel brings together researchers from various disciplines and methods to discuss worker health promotion in rural agricultural communities.</p> <p>Methods/Efforts: The SW Ag Center engages farmworkers, forestry and logging workers, and commercial shrimp fishermen in research and outreach activities. Investigators funded by the SW Ag Center have employed primary data collection, secondary data analyses, direct measures, health screenings, social media campaigns, testing of proven interventions, among other methods to measure and understand the relationship between work in AFF and poor health outcomes.</p> <p>Results/Findings: AFF workers are often exposed to more workplace risks than their urban counterparts resulting in poor health outcomes. In certain agricultural sectors, workers are transnational migrants and immigrants who may have limited access to health care due to lack of health insurance, limited time in which to access health care, a general lack of awareness of personal health issues, language barriers, as well as suboptimal housing options</p>	<p>Vanessa Casanova, PhD <i>The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler</i> <i>Department of Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences</i></p> <hr/> <p>Amanda Wickman, MBA <i>The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler</i> <i>Department of Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences</i></p> <hr/> <p>Jeffrey Levin, MD, MSPH <i>The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler</i> <i>Department of Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences</i></p> <hr/> <p>Kent Willis, PhD <i>The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler</i> <i>Department of Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences</i></p>

and physical and social isolation. The organization of work – work hours, temporal aspects, physical and psychological demands, and pay structures have an impact on the health outcomes of AFF workers. SW Ag Center investigators find that factors external to the actual work-related tasks and environment as well as personal characteristics of the workforce impact health outcomes in AFF.

Application to Field/Practical Implications:

Researchers studying the agricultural workforce need to engage the human resource arm of employer organizations as well as the worker population in culturally appropriate outreach activities to educate and train them in health promotion topics as well as safety and health protection measures. Creating and delivering interventions based on research findings and developing the business case is a critical step in ensuring a healthy rural workforce.