National Occupational Research Agenda
Cross-sector research in the second decade

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NORA Vision

A national partnership effort to define and
conduct priority occupational safety and health research

The overall vision of NORA has not changed: NORA is a set of national research priorities defined with partners where the research is conducted by NIOSH, its partners and others

Sectors and Cross Sector Issues

Priority Area

Sector	Allergic and Irritant Dermatitis	Asthma and COPD	Fertility and Pregnancy Abnormalities	Hearing Loss
Agriculture	X	X	X	X
Construction	X	---	X	X
Services	X	X	X	---
Mining	X	X	---	X
Manufacturing	X	X	X	X

Ten years ago, the book that outlined the NORA process and presented the 21 priority research areas had this table. This points out that all OSH research is intended to benefit workers, who are in sectors, and that research is concerned about such issues as health effects, workplace factors and populations that cut across sectors. The results of that research needs to be applied in many of the sectors. The first decade of NORA approached the establishing of research priorities through these cross-sector issues (from the top). As we enter the second decade of NORA, our hope is to build on the successes of NORA and to have an even greater impact on workers and their workplaces by structuring NORA priority-setting around sectors (from the side).

Second Decade of NORA

Move research to practice in workplaces through sector-based partnerships

Why sector-based? All workers are in a sector. The sector approach helps us consider the needs of all workers and to bring new partners to the table who can help the OSH research community use the resources available to do the research that will most effectively lead to safer, healthier workers.

NORA Research Councils

The organization of NORA will center on eight NORA Sector Research Councils. The Cross-Sector Research Council is the executive committee made up of the two co-leaders of each of the NORA Sector Research Councils. It will help assure consistency, share good ideas and promote efficient ways to meet the needs of similar priorities of different sectors.

NORA Sector Research Councils

Diverse inputs will lead to robust research strategies

Each NORA Sector Research Council will have members who identify more with cross-sector issues.

Each Council will be charged with not only setting priorities for the research that can be done now to have the most immediate impact in workplaces but also to set priorities for research that can be done now that will add to the knowledge pool so even more effective measures can be taken in the future to reduce the burden of occupational injuries, illnesses and fatalities on workers and society.

Each NORA Sector Research Council will have access to the full NORA Docket of stakeholder comments.   They will consider not only the comments that relate to their sector but also all the comments received on cross-sector issues that are relevant to their sector.

Strategic Goal
Disease
Exposure
System

The NORA Sector Research Councils are being asked to develop a research strategy for the nation in their sector. The strategic plan will have strategic goals, intermediate goals and an implementation plan. A strategic goal might call for such things as the reduction of a disease or exposure, improvement of surveillance or increasing the effectiveness of OSH systems in a sub-sector

Intermediate Goals
Surveillance
Etiological studies
Engineering controls
Intervention effectiveness
Diffusion

The intermediate goals will list those research goals whose accomplishment will lead to reaching the strategic goal. The areas listed are simply examples of the many different types of research that might be called for.

Note about Etiological research - Some goals will point to the need for research now on fundamental cause and effect relationships, so we will have the knowledge necessary to develop and apply better programs and interventions in the future.

Other priorities will call for developing new prevention strategies and testing their efficacy. Thus, we will need those who have traditionally identified themselves as specialists in research focused on a disease or exposure to stay involved in NORA.

Diffusion is an established research field, but applications in occupational safety and health are relatively new

Again, these are example of research approaches that might be highlighted in the intermediate goals. I hope you see that your research specialty will probably be called for in at least some of the sector research strategies.

Accessing NORA Research Priorities

Cross-Sector Issue	NORA Priorities
Surveillance	MIN:SG1:IG1; TWU:SG6; ...
Exposure Assessment	MNF:SG3:IG3; ...
Instrumentation Development	MIN:SG1:IG4; ...
Chemical Method Development	AFF:SG4:IG8; ...
Health Disparities	AFF:SG4; CON:SG5
etc.	

Once the sector research strategies are established, we will have them on our website. They will not only be accessible by sector but also we will index the goals, so those interested in a particular cross-sector issue, e.g., exposure assessment, will be able to click on a link that will take them to, e.g., manufacturing sector strategic goal 3 intermediate goal 3 related to exposure assessment research needs. Similarly for the other cross-sector issues. Thus, those identifying with cross-sector issues will be able to easily find themselves in the large number of sector strategic and intermediate goals.

Building on the Success of NORA

Multi-disciplinary partnerships working on sector priorities

Where do researchers and public health practitioners gather to discuss:

- Sector priorities
- Efficient approaches
- Opportunities to make a difference
- Results and successes

Where there are long-standing professional societies, the set of sector research priorities related to their discipline will help focus their attention on the research councils' view of where their attention is most critically needed to make a difference in workplaces.

Where new multi-disciplinary communities formed during the first decade of NORA, "institutionalizing" those communities will allow them to focus on the priorities in the next decade. Maintaining those communities will require consideration of where the community gathers (which meetings, conferences, workshops) and who can facilitate those meetings in the future.
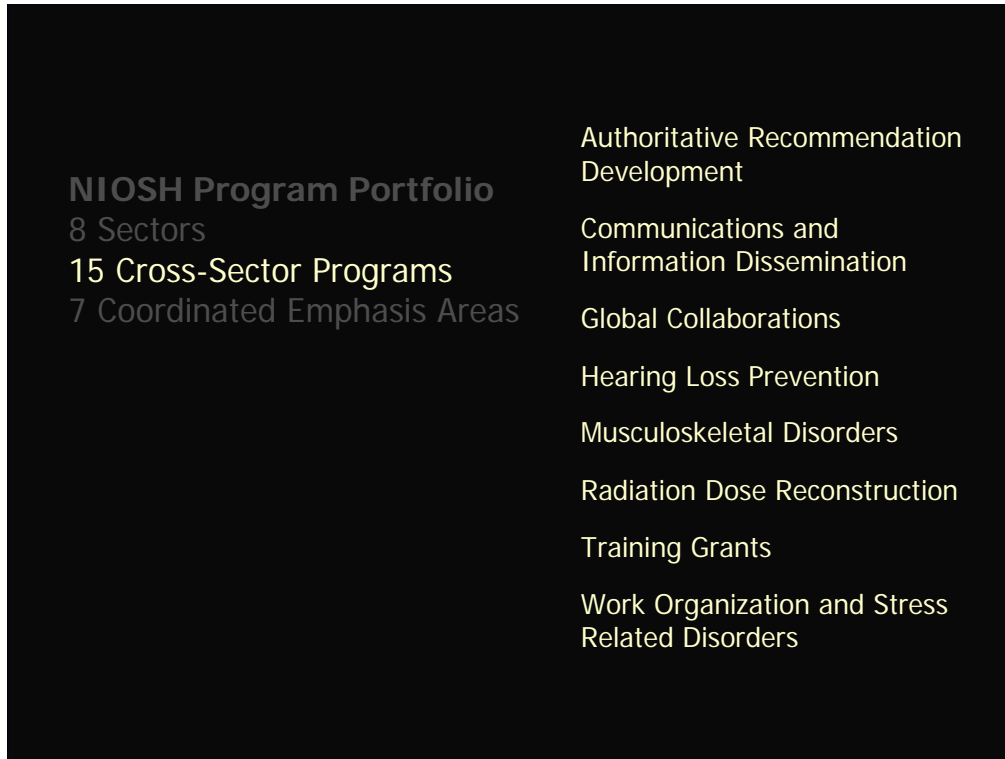
Which partners can make sure this happens?

Professional societies and their OSH sections

Existing research partnerships

NIOSH

NIOSH Program Portfolio
8 Sectors
15 Cross-Sector Programs
7 Coordinated Emphasis Areas

Authoritative Recommendation Development

Communications and Information Dissemination

Global Collaborations

Hearing Loss Prevention

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Radiation Dose Reconstruction

Training Grants

Work Organization and Stress Related Disorders

NIOSH understands the importance of maintaining cross-sector communities.

NIOSH is establishing 30 high-level internal communities based on the matrix approach of 8 internal sector programs, 15 Cross-Sector Programs and 7 Coordinated Emphasis Areas. Each of the 30 Programs has a high-level NIOSH leader as Manager and a senior scientist as Coordinator. Thus, NIOSH is ready to be an effective partner in institutionalizing cross-sector communities to address sector priorities, which are the priorities judged most likely to impact workers and workplaces.

NIOSH Program Portfolio
8 Sectors
15 Cross-Sector Programs
7 Coordinated Emphasis Areas

Cancer, Reproductive, Cardiovascular, Neurological, and Renal Disease

Emergency Preparedness

Health Hazard Evaluation

Immune, Dermal, and Infectious Disease

Personal Protective Technology

Respiratory Diseases

Traumatic Injury

NIOSH Program Portfolio
8 Sectors
15 Cross-Sector Programs
7 Coordinated Emphasis Areas

Economics

Engineering Controls

Small Business Assistance and Outreach

WorkLife Initiative

Exposure Assessments

Occupational Health Disparities

Surveillance

In the second decade, NORA will have impact by:

Defining worker-related, sector-based research priorities

NORA will have impact by defining priorities and focusing OSH research to address these priorities, including research done by those who traditionally have not thought of themselves in terms of a particular sector

In the second decade, NORA will have impact by:

Efficiently conducting much of the research through existing cross-sector communities

Register for NIOSH eNews for regular updates about NORA:

www.cdc.gov/niosh/enews

Provide your input to the NORA Docket at:

www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora

In case of questions:

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