

*CROET name change to
Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences*



Issue

A healthy workforce contributes to a safer and more productive workplace and minimizes health care costs. Through research, training and outreach, OHSU is improving worker health in Oregon at the Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology (CROET). The center, like the field of occupational health, is evolving, but the name of the center, which emphasizes a small portion of the current field, has not kept up. In order to better reflect the center's mission emphasizing total worker health, CROET seeks legislative approval to change its name to the Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences.

Background

In 1985 the legislature established the Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology (CROET) at OHSU. CROET's mission is to promote health, and prevent disease, injury and disability among working Oregonians and their families during their employment years and through retirement. CROET conducts research, trains health and safety professionals, provides consultations, and offers the public information on occupational health and safety.

OHSU has found that only 2 percent of worker's compensation claims emerge from environmental exposures, while the vast majority of claims relate to injuries in the workplace and related conditions (i.e. lower back pain). CROET has grown toward a vision that emphasizes total worker health rather than solely research into occupational and environmental toxicology.

Renaming CROET the Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences will more accurately reflect this new vision and overall mission. This will help provide a clearer understanding of the institute's functions as a resource to the public. It will better position the institute to recruit faculty and compete for a broader range of funding opportunities including those associated with health care reform.

Proposed solution.

In ORS 353.460, 353.470, 634.550 and 656.630, OHSU proposes replacing all references to the "Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental and Toxicology" with "Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences." Also, all references to "center" in ORS 353.460 and ORS 353.470 should be replaced with "institute."

Cost

There is no cost associated with this proposal.