

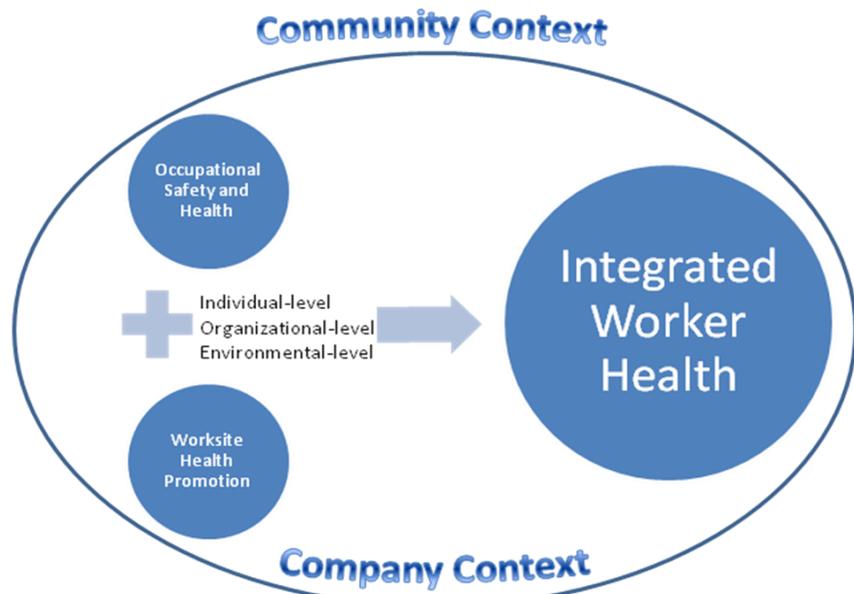


IAWHP's **LAS VEGAS ANNOUNCEMENT** ON *WORKSITE HEALTH*

March 27, 2012

Two essential health-related activities that are central to effective workplace health programs are the **protection of worker health** to avoid illness, injury and disability, and the **promotion of worker health** to maintain and improve health, function, and well-being. Traditionally, these functions have existed separate from each other and operated in silos.

Worker health protection has traditionally been under the auspices of the safety and health committee of an organization and includes activities such as compliance with safety regulations, safety training, work organization and ergonomics issues, and use of protective gear, among others. Worker health promotion has typically focused on maintaining and improving the health of workers through individual behavior change, team- or group-based activities that promote health, and changes in organizational policies and protocols to reduce health risks factors through environmental changes (physical and psychosocial).



Integrated Worker Health

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) *Total Worker Health* program (1) is focused on integrating occupational safety and health protection with health promotion to prevent worker injury and illness and to advance health and well-being. This approach is consistent with goals outlined by the World Health Organization's *Healthy Workplaces: A Global Model for Action* (2) concept and the European Network for Workplace Health Promotion mission (3). Earlier this year, **IAWHP** introduced the *integrated worker health* topic (4) and with this announcement, **formally endorses the strategic integration of worker health protection and promotion to prevent worker injury and illness, advance worker health and well-being, and optimize organizational performance.**

References

1. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). [cited 2012 March 16]. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/>.
2. World Health Organization. Healthy Workplaces: A global model for action. See: http://www.who.int/occupational_health/healthy_workplaces/en/index.html
3. European Network for Workplace Health Promotion (ENWHP). See: <http://www.enwhp.org/the-enwhp/vision-mission.html>
4. Pronk, N.P. Integrated worker health: the fusion of worker health protection and promotion. *ACSM's Health & Fitness Journal* 2012;16(1):37-40.
5. Graphic above courtesy of *ACSM's Health & Fitness Journal*.

This Announcement was adopted by the IAWHP International Board of Directors and presented to attendees at the 2012 Annual IAWHP Global Symposium in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.