

Participatory Ergonomics in the Prevention and Management of WRMSD: Engaging Workers in a Facilitated Design Process

Post-conference Workshop
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Faculty:

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Worker engagement in ergonomics problem-solving seems to improve programme uptake and effectiveness. This workshop will provide various examples from a recent European realist review. The Healthy Workplace Participatory Programme (HWPP) elevates the role of frontline workers in analysing safety and health root causes, brainstorming solutions, programme design, and implementation. Successful meeting facilitation creates an environment that engages team members in idea creation and decision-making. HWPP facilitator training focuses on building facilitative leadership skills through discussion, modelling, and practising. The workshop will offer small-group practice in using a participatory process to address specific ergonomics issues selected by the groups.

Learning objectives:

The participant will be able to:

- Explain why worker participation is important to the success of an occupational ergonomics programme.
- Identify behaviors that exemplify facilitative leadership to engage workers in root cause analysis and problem-solving.
- Understand the facilitators and barriers to effective group facilitation.
- Describe the tools and methods involved in facilitating a participatory intervention design process.
- Practice engaging in an occupational ergonomics design process.

About Our Speakers:

Laura Punnett

Laura Punnett is a distinguished Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in the United States. Her research expertise lies in the fields of occupational health and safety, epidemiology, and ergonomics. She is particularly renowned

for her work in understanding and addressing work-related musculoskeletal disorders, as well as her contributions to the evaluation of "Total Worker Health." This concept emphasizes the integration of worksite health protection with various measures aimed at enhancing the overall well-being of workers. Professor Punnett's research also encompasses the investigation of socioeconomic disparities, gender differences in health, and the specific challenges faced by healthcare workers. Her extensive knowledge and commitment to advancing occupational health make her an invaluable contributor to the field.