

Summer | 2023 Vol. 4.3

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ACOEM Quarterly



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF  
OCCUPATIONAL AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE

# Climate Change: The Biggest Health Threat Facing Humanity

*How OEM Providers Can Help  
Shape the Future of Medicine*

# From the President's Desk

Kenji Saito, MD, JD, FACOEM, ACOEM President, 2023-2024



In the first three months of my presidency, I've had the opportunity and great honor to champion ACOEM around the world. In an exciting event this May, I joined Dr. Maria Borda, President of the Colombian Society of Occupational Medicine, who hosted a groundbreaking conference in Cartagena, that united industry leaders, researchers, and healthcare professionals. With a focus on improving worker well-being, the conference fostered collaboration and knowledge exchange. Key takeaways included prioritizing workplace mental health, implementing preventive measures, and embracing technological advancements. Experts emphasized early intervention, ergonomic workstations, and innovative wellness programs. The integration of wearable devices and virtual reality simulations showcased the transformative power of technology. The conference served as a catalyst for creating healthier work environments and propelling the field of occupational health into an inspiring future. This conversation continued at the NCCI Annual Insight Symposium in Orlando where I joined a distinguished panel of experts discussing the trends, medical procedures, and technological advances that continue to enhance the lives of injured workers. From cutting-edge resuscitation to virtual reality trauma treatment, we journeyed into the future of medicine and how it may impact work-

ers compensation. In June, ACOEM continued our strategic relationship with Society of Occupational Medicine and Faculty of Occupational Medicine where we met in Newcastle, UK, for their Occupational Health 2023 Quality and Innovation Conference. This fall, I was invited to speak at the occupational health conferences in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico and ending in Nigeria this winter, with additional collaborations in the spring of 2024.

At the June Board Meeting, the Board of Directors approved a proposal to simplify the pricing structure for ACOEM International Membership. Now, international occupational and environmental medicine professionals will have the opportunity to join ACOEM in the International Member category for one low rate (50% discount of regular Active Member dues) and will be able to submit their application online. International physicians who are interested in serving in leadership roles or in pursuing ACOEM Fellowship may apply for regular Active Membership at full price and must complete the requirements of Fellowship to be considered for the designation.

There is tremendous potential to grow our international membership. ACOEM is a global leader in occupational and environmental medicine. Our guidelines, in conjunction with US guidance and standards are used as benchmarks around the world. In the next year, our member engagement

department will be making concerted efforts to reach a broad international audience, promoting ACOEM's world-class educational offerings and programs.

In addition to international conferences, I look forward to connecting with you at several upcoming regional component meetings this fall. Back in May, I joined Dr. Yogesh Reddy, President of the Texas College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine for their final Annual Symposium in Fort Worth that took place in conjunction with the Texas Medical Association meeting. Key topics included workplace safety, toxic exposures, and emerging occupational health challenges. The conference provided a platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration among professionals dedicated to protecting the health and safety of Texas workers. We look forward to welcoming the newly formed Southern Component of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (SOCOEM) and larger footprint for next year's inaugural component conference.

It's hard to believe a quarter of my presidential year has already passed. In the next issue, I look forward to providing updates on my task forces and other new initiatives. I hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer and take the opportunity to reconnect and recharge with your fellow OEM colleagues!

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*ACOEM Quarterly*, the official membership newsmagazine for the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, is a free information resource for our members.

*ACOEM Quarterly* is an informational publication intended to provide news and a forum for opinion for ACOEM members. The statements and opinions contained in *ACOEM Quarterly* are solely those of the individual authors/contributors and not the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM). The College and its editorial staff disclaim responsibility for any injury to persons or property resulting from any ideas or products referred to in this newsmagazine.

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AMERICAN COLLEGE OF  
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## New at ACOEM

### Citizen Ambassador Program to Send Delegation to Cuba



ACOEM members have a unique opportunity to serve as Cultural Vistas Citizen Ambassadors to Havana, Cuba, from December 5-10, 2023. Led by ACOEM Immediate Past President Dr. Douglas Martin, the program offers delegates an opportunity to learn about Cuba's national health system, meet with the Cuban Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the Ministry of Work and Social Security, visit the University of Medical Sciences of Havana and several additional healthcare institutes, hospitals, and worksite visits throughout the region.

by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the United States Treasury Department. This delegation will be traveling under OFAC regulation 31 CFR §515.564 General license for professional research. This license supports access to the highest-level professionals in Cuba.

Each member of the delegation must be in compliance with the General License issued by OFAC authorizing full-time professionals to conduct a full-time schedule of research activities in Cuba with the likelihood that this research will be publicly disseminated. To ensure compliance, each participant in the program will be required to provide a professional profile and sign an affidavit attesting to his or her status as a full-time professional, paid or unpaid, in the focused field of the delegation. An undertaking of this nature requires considerable development and input



The vision for the Citizen Ambassador Program began as an initiative of the US State Department under the Eisenhower Administration. President Dwight D. Eisenhower envisioned private citizen exchanges, where citizens of diverse cultures would gain an international understanding of their peers and profession through the exchange of ideas and experiences. Today, the Citizen Ambassador Program is a part of the US non-profit organization, Cultural Vistas. Based in Washington DC, it administers State Department leadership exchanges, US government and NGO small grant programs, and programs which support Fulbright Exchanges.

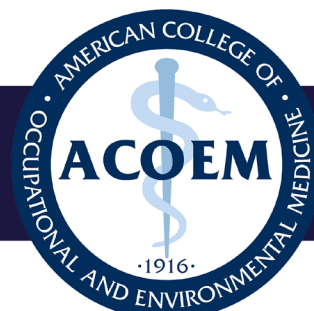
from overseas coordinators. Interested parties must submit a letter of intent by October 1. For US citizens, expenses associated with this delegation may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense if participation is closely related to one's business or occupation.

Additional information and a downloadable application form can be found on the delegation communication webpage at <https://citizenambassador.org/acoem-cuba-delegation-communication-page>, and/or contact Assistant Program Officer Kasey McKeivitt at 202-545-7034 or at [citizenambassador@culturalvistas.org](mailto:citizenambassador@culturalvistas.org).

Travel to Cuba for most US citizens, remains restricted

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**VIRTUAL FALL SUMMIT**  
NOVEMBER 15-17, 2023



## Message from the CEO

### Staff Changes and Future Directions

Craig M. Sondalle



Change is the only constant. As ACOEM navigates a changing healthcare landscape and the lasting impact COVID-19 had on medical associations, we are striving to embrace change and uphold our mission of advancing the specialty and promoting optimal health and safety of workers, workplaces, and environments. For ACOEM to be the invaluable and enduring home for all OEM professionals, we must have internal alignment to our newly adopted strategic plan. And, to execute that strategy, we must have conviction, consensus, clarity, and be effective communicators. We must also develop initiatives to drive our objectives and priorities, define the expected results, identify leaders for initiatives, marshal our resources, and imagine products and services that fill in identified gaps in the marketplace and member experience.

As I have iterated with the Board of Directors, their primary role is to provide direction, strategy, goals, evaluation, and accountability to the College. The operations, tactics, and delivery are the job of ACOEM staff.

I firmly believe ACOEM will only succeed if its staff succeed. As of July 1, staff departments and roles have been restructured to better position the staff, and ACOEM, for that success. Ginny Costello, previously Senior Manager of Member Engagement, has been elevated to Director of Engagement. Isabel Montoya, MPH, previously Manager, CMSS Grants, has been elevated to Senior Manager of Scientific Affairs. Three directors' roles have been realigned: Julie Ordning, MPH, is now the Director of Scientific Affairs; Michelle Suarez, CMP, DES,

is now the Director of Education and Experience; and Erin Ransford is now the Director of Operations and Governance and the Assistant Executive Director.

Additionally, Marianne Dreger, MA, will be transitioning into retirement after over four decades of service to ACOEM. Some of Marianne's responsibilities will transition to Julie's department, and others to the new Director of Marketing and Communications, which is one of three planned hires. In addition to a new Director of Marketing and Communications, ACOEM plans to bring on a Senior Manager of Education, as well as a Coordinator of Experience, depending on budget availability.

In my nine months at ACOEM, I have been honored to work with Marianne. Her extensive knowledge of the College and the specialty of occupational and environmental medicine has served as an invaluable resource. I thank her for her dedication, her years of service, and her commitment to success.

Every morning as I walk my sons to the school bus I ask them, in the words of country music star Tim McGraw, to stay humble and kind. I've asked the ACOEM staff to adopt that same mantra in their interactions with members and each other. I now ask the same of you. This incredibly dedicated and passionate team deserves nothing less.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me any time at [craig@acoem.org](mailto:craig@acoem.org) or by phone at 224.265.6774.

*Learn about the ACOEM staff and their roles within the College on pages 6 and 7.*

## ACOEM Congratulates Marianne Dreger, MA

After 42 years at the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Marianne Dreger is retiring. She's served as the Director of Publications and the Director of Communications during her tenure at ACOEM. Marianne managed the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* (JOEM) and oversaw the development of the Guidance for the Medical Evaluation of Law Enforcement Officers. She managed the first (1997) and second editions (2004) of ACOEM's Practice Guidelines and worked with the Council on Scientific Affairs overseeing the development and publication of numerous guidance and position statements. In addition to *ACOEM eNews*, Marianne developed the weekly COVID-19 newsletters to members during the pandemic and assisted with development of ACOEM's public comments to government on a variety of occupational health-related topics. Marianne cares deeply about the members with whom she worked, and her steadfast commitment to facilitating meaningful communications and sharing information to improve the health and safety of workers will be missed by all. We wish her all the best in her retirement!





## Embracing Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion within ACOEM

Raúl Alexander Mirza, DO, MPH, MS, CPS/A, FACOEM



Membership organizations play a vital role in fostering communities, advancing causes, and driving positive change. ACOEM is no exception. As a global leader in advancing occupational and environmental medicine within an increasingly interconnected and diverse world, ACOEM has prioritized justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) to create a welcoming and empowering environment for all its members. By embracing JEDI principles, ACOEM resolves to cultivate an atmosphere that values every individual practicing occupational medicine, celebrates differences, and works towards a more equitable and just professional community. Ultimately, the intent is that ACOEM's JEDI efforts transcend members' OEM practices and reach workers, for whom we collectively desire to optimize health and safety.

ACOEM's 2023 - 2026 Strategic Plan reinvigorates a mission "to advance the [OEM] specialty and promote optimal health and safety of workers, workplaces, and environments." In conjunction with the mission, ACOEM established organizational values or core beliefs that act as guiding principles to offer purpose and direction and set the tone for interactions among members and other stakeholders:

- **Collaboration:** Occupational and environmental medicine requires teamwork. We recognize and respect everyone's unique value and expertise.
- **Inclusion:** We are the home for all OEM professionals.
- **Innovation:** We pursue bold and courageous change.
- **Integrity:** We make informed, evidence-based decisions and promote quality in the field.

### Understanding the Principles of JEDI

#### Justice: *Creating Fairness and Equal Opportunities*

Justice serves as the foundation of ACOEM's commitment to JEDI. It encompasses fairness, impartiality, and equal treatment for all members. When justice is upheld, ACOEM ensures that its processes, policies, and decision-making structures are transparent and unbiased. ACOEM strives to empower its members to participate and contribute to the community by providing equal opportunities for engagement, leadership roles, and professional growth. Justice strengthens the sense of belonging and fosters an environment where every voice is heard and respected.

#### Equity: *Reducing Disparities and Promoting Inclusion*

While equality focuses on treating everyone the same, equity recognizes that individuals have different needs and experiences. ACOEM's JEDI Committee has begun addressing systemic barriers disproportionately affecting marginalized members and member groups, particularly regarding member experiences and leadership position opportunities. By embracing equity, ACOEM will actively work toward reducing disparities and promoting inclusivity. ACOEM aims to accomplish this by, in part, the JEDI Committee's work, including allocating resources and opportunities based on members' unique circumstances and ensuring historically underrepresented members have equal access to experiences, networking, and leadership positions. Equity fosters an environment where everyone can thrive and contribute their talents without facing unnecessary hurdles.



#### Diversity: *Embracing Differences and Enriching Perspectives*

Diversity represents various identities, backgrounds, and experiences within organizations. By embracing diversity, ACOEM recognizes the inherent value of differences and strives to create spaces where members can bring their authentic selves. A diverse membership cultivates a rich tapestry of perspectives, ideas, and approaches, leading to more innovative solutions and robust discussions. It broadens the collective knowledge base and enables members to challenge assumptions, broaden their horizons, and foster cultural competence. By prioritizing diversity, ACOEM will optimize its status as a hub of professional creativity, collaboration, and learning.

*Continued on page 13*

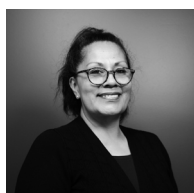
## MEET THE ACOEM STAFF



### **Ginny Costello**

*Director, Engagement*

Ginny started her career with associations shortly after graduating college, working for 12 years for the South Korean Tourism Association. She became passionate about recruitment, retention, and marketing and continued to advance her career as a membership professional with various other associations. She joined the ACOEM team in 2022 and recently became Engagement Director. The most important part of Ginny's life is family and friends. Ginny and her husband Sean have two children Ian and Maevae. They are avid sports fans and love to visit Maevae at Western Michigan University to tailgate at football games. Ginny also spends time training their family dog Lola Belle, a 120-pound Great Dane she rescued in 2021. Traveling, decorating and woodworking keep her busy as well.



### **Sandra Cruz**

*Coordinator, Member Experience*

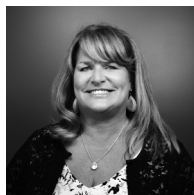
Sandra's primary focus is on providing outstanding customer service and support for inquiries related to membership, educational activities, and information regarding ACOEM's services. As an integral part of the ACOEM customer experience infrastructure, Sandra works collaboratively with all departments to streamline and improve the member experience. Sandra's experience in the association field spans over two decades, and her previous experience includes account management, sales, and customer support. Sandra enjoys taking her dog Max for long walks, and when not answering calls from ACOEM members, you can find her doing arts and crafts or watching a docuseries.



### **Danielle Feinberg**

*Manager, Education*

Danielle has been with ACOEM since August of 2021 and is a part of the Education Team. She serves as an admin for the Learning Management System, oversees webinars, and supports ACOEM's summits and annual conferences. She has a background in education and theater. Danielle likes to spend time with her pups, reading mysteries or thrillers, and enjoys autumn and the cooler weather.

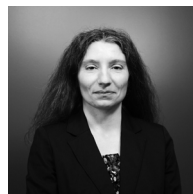


### **Janet Fyock, IOM**

*Senior Manager, Partnerships*

Janet is responsible for ACOEM's partnership development and management. She builds relationships, secures sponsorships, and manages advertising and exhibit sales for AOHC and other ACOEM events. Janet has been with ACOEM for 8 years and is also charged with the development and execution of event marketing promotions and email campaigns. In addition, she is the liaison for OEM Explore, the new map-based career research platform. She also represents ACOEM at industry events. Janet has been married for 24 years

and is mom to two terrific sons and "GranJan" to a lively and loving granddaughter. She has an extensive background in advertising, project management, and association marketing and holds a BA in International Relations and French from Michigan State University. She is a lifelong learner, an avid sports fan, loves travel, nature, new experiences, and meeting new people.



### **Nathalie Lacour**

*Coordinator, Education*

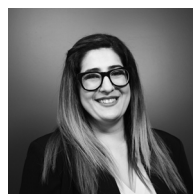
As a member of the Education and Experience team, Nathalie is responsible for ACOEM's Joint Provider program, MOC Part 4, as well as support of all educational offerings and ACCME PARS, including data tracking of events and transcripts. She has been with ACOEM for 15 years.



### **Chad Lovegren**

*Senior Manager, CRM*

Chad is a Salesforce Certified Administrator (SCA) and holds a degree in Telecommunications. Chad oversees ACOEM's customer relationship management technology and works with both the engagement and education teams. He has two young daughters and a dog named Blue. Chad likes to collect comic books and enjoys going to concerts with his wife.



### **Isabel Montoya-Curtis, MPH**

*Senior Manager, Scientific Affairs*

Isabel manages the Specialty Societies Advancing Adult Immunizations (SSAAI) grant funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS). Isabel collaborates with ACOEM's health system partners and employers across the United States to ensure seamless management, communications, and logistical execution of the project. Additionally, she manages the new and improved Guidance for the Medical Evaluation of Public Safety Employees. Prior to joining ACOEM, she worked at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). There, she managed a CDC grant that focused on mitigating threats to environmental health toxins in children, such as lead poisoning, through outreach and education. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, gardening, cooking, and traveling to new places.



### **Julie Ording, MPH**

*Director, Scientific Affairs*

Julie oversees the College's scientific and guidance-related initiatives. Specifically, she leads ACOEM's role in the CMSS and CDC grant. She also serves as staff liaison to the Council on OEM Science and is responsible for ACOEM's Practice Guidelines, Guidance for the Medical Evaluation of Public Safety Employees, and the International Occupational Medicine Society Collaborative (IOMSC). Julie has been with ACOEM for over 20 years and has expertise in grants management,



## MEET THE ACOEM STAFF

evidence-based medicine, research, and writing and editing publications. She holds an MPH from the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. Julie enjoys spending time with her family, watching her 3 children play soccer, seeing live music, cooking, and going for walks.



**Charlie Peckman**  
*Coordinator, Marketing and Communications*

Charlie has been with ACOEM since November of 2020. His primary expertise is in social media marketing, short and long-form content creation, and facilitating ACOEM's communication efforts, including *ACOEM Quarterly*, marketing collateral, and internal/external communications. Charlie comes to ACOEM from the University of Iowa, where he studied journalism, entrepreneurial management, and German. A journalist at heart, Charlie is passionate about telling stories. When he is not writing, you can find Charlie fixing vintage watches, going on long photo walks in the Windy City, or watching *Frasier* reruns.



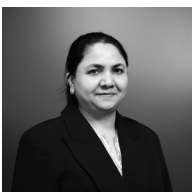
**June Quercia**  
*Manager, Operations and Governance*

June joined ACOEM in 2022. She manages activities for ACOEM's Board of Directors, House of Delegates, as well as office management and HR for ACOEM staff. She also helps support the College's volunteers and volunteer bodies. June has over 25 years of association experience, including board governance, occupational safety and health, and process improvement.



**Erin Ransford**  
*Director, Operations and Governance (Assistant Executive Director)*

Erin oversees the governance and operations of the College, focusing on process improvements and innovation. She also produces *OccPod*, ACOEM's official podcast, and serves as the editor in chief of *ACOEM Quarterly*, ACOEM's member news-magazine. Erin has nearly 20 years of medical association experience. She holds a BS in Public Health with a concentration in Health Administration as well as a Certificate of Business Foundations and a minor in psychology from Indiana University. She came to ACOEM as a consultant in 2018, was brought on full time in 2019 as the Senior Manager of Strategic Projects, and served as the Director of Engagement from 2020-2023. Prior to ACOEM, she was with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons for 14 years. Outside of work, Erin enjoys roller skating, bicycling, hiking, yoga, or any sort of adventuring.



**Shahida Razvi**  
*Manager, Education*

Previously working with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, Shahida brings a wealth of association experience

and knowledge to ACOEM. She joined the College in October 2022 and supports the overall planning, implementation, and evaluation of ACOEM's live and virtual meetings, including the annual conference. Shahida enjoys traveling with her family, and in her free time, you can find her reading or watching CNN.



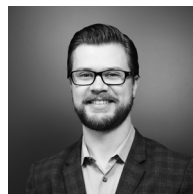
**Craig Sondalle**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Craig became ACOEM's CEO in November 2022. He has had a 25+ year career in association leadership, most recently as Executive Vice President of the Association Solutions division of MCI USA. He joined the engagement and experience agency after the acquisition of Sentergroup, a leading Chicago-based association management company he founded in 2000 and led as CEO through 19 years of corporate and client-focused success. Through Craig's stewardship and approach to value-based leadership, Sentergroup provided innovative, tailored, and growth-orientated membership, marketing, education, event, and strategy solutions to a broad portfolio of associations and non-profit organizations. Throughout his career, Craig has led and supported close to 50 associations, including a large and diverse roster within the healthcare arena. Craig enjoys spending time with his wife Anne and two sons, Graham and Patrick. He's a lifelong fan of the Wisconsin Badgers and appreciates the great outdoors.



**Michelle Suarez, CMP, DES**  
*Director, Education and Experience*

Michelle is responsible for all aspects of meeting planning and logistics for ACOEM's events and experiences, including program development of educational offerings; as well as strategic analysis, support, recommendations, and implementation of ACOEM's live, online, virtual, and hybrid events. She joined ACOEM in 2023 with 14+ years of association management meeting experience. When Michelle is not thinking about the best ways to enhance the experience of ACOEM's events, she enjoys being outside and spending time with her family.



**Adam Walaszek**  
*Coordinator, Engagement*

Adam is an integral part of ACOEM's membership infrastructure. His responsibilities include membership recruitment, database management, governance support, and managing the Fellowship program. After graduating from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2016, Adam worked for the American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) as the Staff Associate in the Government Affairs department. There, he learned the inner workings of associations, and the importance of maintaining relationships with internal and external stakeholders. Adam is a huge Chicago sports fan and enjoys playing golf in the summer and hockey in the winter. He has two cats named Stevie and Betty.

### Climate-Informed Health Care: Another Reason for the 'E' in ACOEM

Robert K. McLellan, MD, MPH, FACOEM, FAAFP



As the premier medical society specializing in environmental medicine, the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) has the opportunity to lead efforts to incorporate climate and health education and practice throughout the US healthcare system.

According to the World Health Organization, “climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity.” Climate-driven changes in the ambient and occupational environment are making work increasingly hazardous for those segments of our population already shouldering the burden of health inequities. Vulnerable people, including outdoor workers, indoor workers in unconditioned work environments, workers with comorbidities, immigrant and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) workers, and workers from under-resourced communities, are at the highest risk. These workers and their families experience climate anxiety and increased healthcare visits for climate-related illnesses such as asthma triggered by poor air quality, heat-related conditions, more frequent vector-borne diseases such as Lyme, and exacerbation of mental health disorders including depression and PTSD.

According to a recent Pew Research Center survey, 60% of Americans are somewhat or very concerned that climate change will harm them personally. Healthcare professionals (HCPs), especially doctors and nurses, are among the most trusted voices in our communities about personal and public health matters. Yet, HCPs generally do not discuss climate change and health during patient encounters. As a result, patients do not connect their own or their families’ health with climate change. They are not given information or the incentive to act personally or as part of a more prominent workplace and community voice.

Medical students have begun grading their education about climate and health using the Planetary Health Report Card. Of the grades for 74 medical schools in the United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, and Japan, only two US schools received an A and five a B; all the rest were C or worse in 2021-2022. In a 2021 survey of US medical students, 87% reported that their school did not provide adequate climate education; and 94% did not feel prepared to discuss climate change with a patient. No wonder practicing physicians and nurses feel unprepared for this health crisis.

The US healthcare system contributes 8.5% of the country’s greenhouse gases and 25% of the global health sector burden through its supply chain and operations. The US Department of Health and Human Services and the National Academy of Medicine have set standards and timelines for health systems to reach net-zero emissions. Still, few systems or institutions have signed on to a Climate Pledge sponsored by the White House and Department of Health and Human Services. Many health system leaders have pushed back against an “optional” environmental sustainability standard that the Joint Commission created this year with the anticipation of making it a requirement for certification in the future.

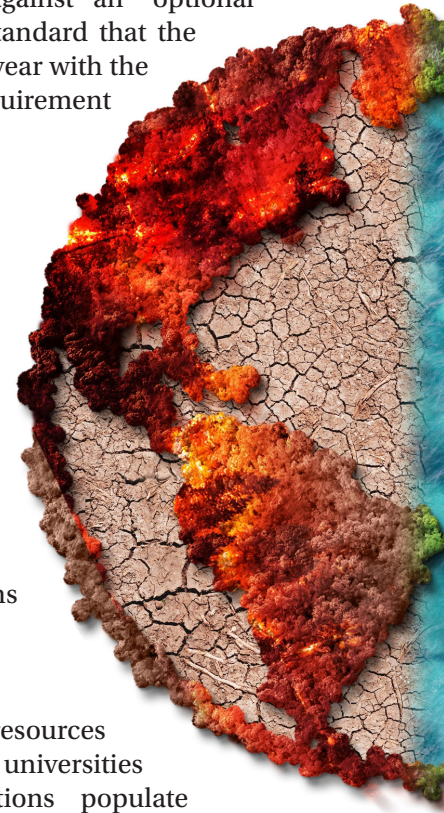
#### What Can OEM Professionals Do?

##### Learn about the impact of climate change on occupational and environmental health.

- ACOEM has published guidance statements, created courses, and provides conference sessions on the health impact of climate change.
- Scientific and medical resources provided by respected universities and non-profit organizations populate the internet. For example, look up The Harvard School of Public Health Center for Climate, Health and the Global Environment, The Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, and the University of Arizona’s Project ECHO courses on climate and health.

##### Incorporate climate-informed health care into your practice and teach others how they can do this.

- With reference to ACOEM guidance statements, educate your patients, worker populations, and business leaders about approaches to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Find published examples of how other practitioners have done this. The Medical Society Consortium for





## Member Views

Climate & Health offers approaches to educate a spectrum of constituencies.

### Urge your healthcare systems and private offices to accelerate their decarbonization and climate resiliency efforts.

- Suggest benchmarking your system's efforts with healthcare system leaders in decarbonization, such as all Harvard-affiliated hospitals and clinical institutes.
- Refer to resources such as Practice Green Health or the DHHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity Health Sector Resource Hub for ideas about how to proceed.
- Point to The Joint Commission's recent voluntary standard urging hospitals to take action now with the forewarning that a similar standard will become mandatory soon.

### Advocate for employers to adopt climate-friendly policies and protections to prevent climate-related occupational diseases and injuries.

- Benchmark with and learn from employers aggressively taking action to decarbonize their operations and build business resiliency, such as the more than 300 companies that work with Business for Social Responsibility.
- Help inform and support labor organizations fighting to protect the occupational health of workers at risk from climate change.

### Join ACOEM in advocating for national standards, such as OSHA's proposed Heat Standard, to protect workers.

- At the state level, raise your voice with your regional Component to pass laws to protect workers from climate change.
- Vigorously object to laws such as that recently passed in Texas, which overrides local ordinances that mandate life-saving drinking water breaks for outdoor workers.

### Offer to share your climate and health knowledge with your medical colleagues, medical schools, medical societies, and community groups.

- The Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health and Physicians for Social Responsibility provide extensive resources to support your educational efforts.
- Advocate to include climate and health as integral to residency and medical school curricula. Avoid doomsaying.

### The severity of the impact of climate change can be overwhelming. However, doomsaying paralyzes action.

- Emphasize reasons for optimism by citing all the hopeful and impactful work underway. Sign up for The Climate Optimist as one good, frequently updated source.
- Refer to *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* by Paul Hawken, which is just one of many resources that lays out existing approaches to combat climate change.

### ACOEM's Opportunity

ACOEM has led efforts to protect workers and communities from occupational and environmental harm, and is well-positioned to support its members in becoming part of the solution to the impact of climate change on occupational and public health. However, the complexity of the climate problem requires that ACOEM undertake unprecedented collaboration with other medical societies and disciplines in a spirit of humility and openness to diverse approaches.

*Robert K. McLellan, MD, MPH is the recently retired Chief of the Section of Occupational and Environmental Medicine of Dartmouth-Hitchcock, where he was also the Medical Director of Dartmouth-Hitchcock's Live Well/Work Well program. He has extensive experience as an occupational and environmental medical consultant in a wide range of economic sectors and maintained a clinical practice in OEM for close to 40 years. As a preventive medicine specialist trained in population health management as well as individual clinical care, his work encompasses the design and deployment of a wide variety of services, programs, and environmental interventions to improve the health, safety and well-being of workers. He is a past president of ACOEM as well as the New England College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.*

### James "Jim" Moran - Hero of the Philadelphia Labor Movement

Magdi Elghannam



James "Jim" Moran is a name that resonates with unions, labor activists, and workers all over Philadelphia. Hailing from Kensington (dubbed the "skid row of Philadelphia"), Mr. Moran was no stranger to the struggles that faced the working class. Mr. Moran began his journey of labor activism when he dropped out of Northeast High

School at the age of 16 to start working at the North American Lace Factory. It was here Mr. Moran joined his first union, the Textile Workers Union. After experiencing the power and advocacy of the Textile Workers Union, Mr. Moran continued to work exclusively in union factories, and he had been a member of seven unions until he was terminated from Gould ITE for leading a wildcat strike. While the termination was an attempt to suppress workers' rights, it inadvertently led to the foundation of one of the biggest workers' advocacy groups in Philadelphia.

"One night the phone rang in my office - it was Jim Moran," recalls labor rights activist Rick Engler. "He was calling to see if it was okay to bring 20 of his coworkers from Gould ITE to an educational lecture I ran in Hahnemann Hospital about basic workplace safety and health issues for workers." At the time, Mr. Engler was having difficulty recruiting workers to rally for labor rights, and to him, that phone call felt like a spark of hope. Mr. Engler expressed his admiration for Mr. Moran's ability to connect with and unite people from all walks of life, stating, "Jim was a dynamic leader and motivated people to mobilize by providing bedrock leadership."

From then on, a powerful partnership bloomed, and in 1975, Mr. Moran and Mr. Engler cofounded the Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health (PhilaPOSH). PhilaPOSH organizes and mobilizes unions, health, and legal professionals with the primary focus of addressing health and safety issues faced by workers. One of their most influential triumphs was their campaign to pass one of the strongest Right-to-Know laws in the country, despite opposition from large corporations like Rohm and Haas. Mr. Moran and PhilaPOSH activists gave city officials a glimpse into the life of workers by opening an unknown canister of gas in city hall and asked

them a simple question: "Don't we have the right to know?"

The subsequent Right-to-Know law guaranteed access to information on any of the 450 chemicals designated as toxic by OSHA. It gave workers and community residents the right to know the generic names of the chemicals being used, stored, or manufactured in the workplace or neighborhood. After passing the Right-to-Know law in Philadelphia, PhilaPOSH continued to advocate until they got the law passed in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Moran and PhilaPOSH ultimately took the fight to Washington D.C., leading to the establishment of the Right-to-Know as an OSHA standard that covered 100 million workers and their families.

Jim Moran was known for his extravagant advocacy style, often employing powerful and controversial tactics to elicit change. When Mr. Moran found out that congressman Cass Ballenger had introduced a bill to weaken the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), he did not write letters or get signatures for a petition. Instead, he decided a wanted poster was more fitting. The congressman's "mugshot" along with his crime of "Conspiracy to maim, injure and kill American workers" were printed and plastered all over the country. This and other worker advocacy efforts led to the death of the bill. Mr. Moran was fearless and was ready to take the fight for labor rights anywhere, including City Hall. Close friend and colleague Pat Eiding recounts a time when Mr. Moran organized a walk-through of Philadelphia City Hall with a casket to support one of the strongest asbestos bills in the country: "We could not have gotten this bill through without Jim pressing the issue and leading the way."

Mr. Moran even organized a protest of 120 people right out front of Pennsylvania Senator Richard Schweiker's house after he sponsored a bill to cripple OSHA.

While he might have been known as a mischievous disrupter to corporations and lawmakers, his friends, family, and coworkers knew him for his kindness. "He was upbeat and positive about people's potential to make a difference" PhilaPOSH cofounder Rick Engler commented in an interview. Mr. Engler continued to describe Mr. Moran's enormous patience and big heart as he recounted watching him spend hours working with individuals

# AQ

ACOEM Quarterly

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## OEM History

on their worker's compensation cases. Individuals who were so touched by Mr. Moran's kindness, went on to become leaders at PhilaPOSH continuing the fight for workers who were once in their position.

Apart from his work at PhilaPOSH, Jim Moran was interested in revitalizing the Labor Movement by organizing community gatherings and parades such as the Labor Day parade, Worker's Memorial Day, and the May Day celebration. Mr. Moran believed that the most important part of reviving the labor movement was to "get people on their feet, learning to march, learning they are part of something larger." So, when Mr. Moran found out in the late 80s that there had not been a Labor Day parade in Philadelphia in over 106 years, he went to work and founded the Labor Day committee. He continued to be the chair of the committee for the following 16 years. During the first parade in 1988, only a handful of workers showed up, but now the parade is coming up on its 36th year and regularly has thousands in attendance.

The annual Worker's Memorial Day observance takes place on April 28<sup>th</sup> to remember workers who have lost their lives or have been injured while on the job. In a beautiful and somber procession, Mr. Moran would lead a march of hundreds of mourners wearing placards with the names of the fallen around their necks down Columbus Boulevard. The procession would then travel down to the Delaware River, where the names of the victims would be spoken in turn next to an empty casket. After each name was read, the mourner would place a flower into the river to "represent life's continuous flow and reaffirm the struggle to prevent injury, disease, and death on the job." Mr. Moran and fellow organizers thought that by naming the workers that passed, we honor them and their memory. They hoped this would motivate the public to do everything in their power to stop another tragedy from happening.

Jim Moran was also the chairman of the May Day USA Education Committee. This committee was founded in 2008 to promote education and awareness about the history and ongoing struggles of workers and labor movements, especially May Day, a day Mr. Moran describes as being "as American as apple pie". Moran stumbled upon May Day, a holiday to commemorate the victory of the American Labor movement getting the 8-hour workday, when he was reading a history book while in labor school. At the time the only information broadcasted about May Day was that of the Moscow Red Square May Day parade, which gave the holiday a "red" connotation.

Disgusted with the blatant suppression and misinformation about this imperative holiday, Moran vowed to revive May Day and educated people about the real history and heroes of this holiday. Before his passing, Mr. Moran annually organized a full program of speakers who spoke about the labor movement's efforts to organize workers, the fight for a safe workplace, immigration reform, and much more. The Philadelphia May

Day celebration is regularly held at Elmwood Park Labor Monument and is coming up on its 15th year with no sign of stopping anytime soon.

Whether it was union workers, immigrant workers, discrimination issues, injured workers, welfare recipients, disability rights, the unemployed, or the homeless, Jim Moran worked tirelessly to uplift and give those oppressed in Philadelphia a voice. Mr. Moran will always be remembered for his vision, valor, and steadfastness in his lifelong fight on behalf of the Working Class and the disenfranchised.

*Magdi Elghannam is a medical student at the University of Maryland and was one of the winners of ACOEM's History and Archives Section 2023 Student Essay Contest.*



ACOEM

[acoemvaxinfo.org](http://acoemvaxinfo.org)

# Advancing Immunizations



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SPECIALTY SOCIETIES ADVANCING  
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## Component Corner

### Conference on Human Performance in Health and Disability

*ACOEM's International Component Presents in Cairo, Egypt 2023*

Cairo hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> International and 18<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Human Performance in Health and Disability June 8-9. The conference was organized by the Egyptian Society of Fitness, Occupational Disability, and Environmental Health in cooperation with The International Component Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ICSOEM) as part of ICSOEM initiative Conferentia Globalis. The event welcomed prominent experts in occupational medicine, including ICSOEM leaders, Professors Yohama Caraballo-Arias and Ahmed Albady.

### Upcoming Component Meetings and Events

**August 20, 2023**

Florida Occupational and Environmental Association  
(FAOEM) Annual Member Meeting  
*Orlando, FL*

**August 30 – September 3, 2023**

Western Occupational Health Conference (WOHC)  
*Anaheim, CA*

**September 22-23, 2023**

Central States Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
Association (CSOEMA) Fall Seminar  
*Minneapolis, MN*

**September 23, 2023**

Michigan Occupational Health Conference  
*Troy, MI*

**October 19-21, 2023**

Southeastern Atlantic Component of Occupational and  
Environmental Medicine (SEACOEM)  
*Charleston, SC*

**October 27-28, 2023**

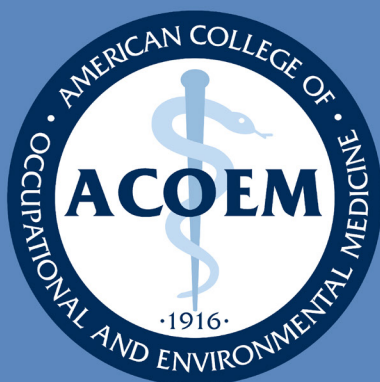
Tri-State Occupational Medicine Association  
*Cincinnati, OH*

**October 27-29, 2023**

2023 Virtual Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference in  
Occupational and Environmental Medicine (MARCOEM)

**November 29 – December 1, 2023**

NECOEM / MAAOHN 2023 Annual Conference  
*Boston, MA*



## Medical Review Officer Fast Track Course *LIVE*

**October 28-29, 2023**

OEM Learning Center • Elk Grove Village, IL

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### ACOEM Seeking to Identify Subject Matter Experts on OEM Topics

*Council on External Relations and Communications to Establish SME Bureau*

Occupational and environmental medicine is in the news more than you realize. In today's world, public health and workplace safety issues have taken center stage. To ensure that the voice of our members and the voice of OEM reaches a wider audience, we are excited to announce the creation of a specialized group of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to engage with the media on crucial topics.

The media plays an important role in shaping public understanding and awareness of occupational and environmental health matters. We are looking to establish a roster of members who can confidently speak to journalists about various pertinent topics, including:

- **Forever chemicals:** Understanding the impact of persistent organic pollutants on human health and the environment.
- **Toxic exposure:** Navigating the risks, symptoms, and prevention of occupational and environmental toxic exposures.

- **Long COVID-19:** Addressing the long-term health effects of COVID-19 and its implications in the workplace.
- **Workplace safety:** Expertise in implementing and promoting safety measures to protect employees across different industries.
- **Other relevant topics:** Areas including transportation, public health and safety in the Armed Forces, climate change, and more.

Participating in this initiative is an excellent opportunity to enhance public awareness and dispel misinformation. By engaging with the media, we can ensure that the insights of ACOEM members reach a broader audience, advancing the health and safety of workers and communities.

If you are interested in becoming an SME, please email Charlie Peckman, ACOEM Marketing and Communications Coordinator, at [charlie@acoem.org](mailto:charlie@acoem.org).

### JEDI at ACOEM

*Continued from Page 5*

#### **Inclusion: Fostering Belonging and Empowerment**

Inclusion goes beyond mere representation; it entails actively creating an environment where all members feel valued, respected, and supported. Successful membership organizations prioritize inclusion by nurturing a culture that celebrates diversity and actively works against discrimination, prejudice, and bias. Inclusive practices involve listening to diverse voices, engaging in open dialogue, and implementing policies that dismantle systemic barriers. By fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment, ACOEM can further unlock the full potential of its members. Inclusive spaces cultivate trust, encourage collaboration, and pave the way for collective action to address social and medical practice issues.

#### **Benefits of Embracing JEDI in ACOEM**

**Enhanced Decision-making:** JEDI principles promote diverse perspectives, resulting in more robust and informed decision-making processes. By incorporating a wide range of voices and experiences, ACOEM can avoid groupthink and make better choices that reflect the needs and aspirations of its members.

**Increased Innovation:** A diverse and inclusive membership allows for the cross-pollination of ideas, sparking creativity

and innovation. Different perspectives and approaches lead to unique solutions and novel approaches to challenges, driving progress within ACOEM and beyond.

**Expanded Reach and Impact:** By welcoming individuals from different backgrounds and identities, ACOEM can increase its global relevance, credibility, and potential for large-scale societal impact.

**Strengthened Membership Cohesion:** JEDI principles foster community, empathy, and member solidarity. When individuals feel included, valued, and respected, they are more likely to form connections, collaborate, and work towards shared goals, leading to a stronger and more united organization.

ACOEM has the power to catalyze positive change in American society and beyond. By embracing JEDI, ACOEM will unlock the full potential of its members, create a more equitable and just professional community, enhance the experiences and opportunities of individual members, and strengthen the organization's collective impact.

*Visit [acoem.org/jedi](http://acoem.org/jedi) for additional information, including a cultural calendar and JEDI resources for your practice.*

## ACOEM Welcomes New Members, Joining in Second Quarter 2023

### Active Members

- Erika Anderson, MD
- David K. Bonauto, MD, MPH
- Thomas Boyer, DO
- Chris Cawley, DO
- Benjamin Childers, DO
- Matthew Cooper, MD
- Michael DeBusk, MD, MSc, FACS, FCCP
- Dennis Dobritt, DO
- Sean Duffy, DO
- Charles Floyd, MD
- Raymond Horton, MD
- Richard Kim, MD, MBA
- Gary LaPolla, DO
- Paul McGovern, MBBS
- Sean McNeeley, MD
- Natchez Morice, MD, MBA, MHCDS
- James Mucciarone, MD
- Katerina Paraskevas, MD, MPH
- Zandra Petway, MD, MPH, MBA
- Gregory Raczniak, MD, PhD, MPH, MBA, MPhil
- Wayne Starks, MD
- Chinwe Wokocha, MBBS
- Devon Zoller, MD

### Associate Members

- Megan Alm, PA-C
- Judy Birchmier, ARNP
- Selena Carelock, RN, BSN, COHN-S
- Kimelia Clendenin, APRN, COHN
- Amy Colucci, CRNP
- Sharon Cotnam, BSN COHN-S
- Steve Crooks, MS
- Maria Dixon, MSN, FNP-C
- Jennifer E Messinger, BSN, RN, COHN-S, CCM
- Robyn Fuller, MSPA
- Stephanie Furstenau, MS
- Terry Gill, COHN-S, ASP, BSN
- Jessica Hagley, FNP-C
- Niki Hale, RN, COHN-S
- Terri Hartman, MSN
- Kimberly Kirkham, MSN, FNP
- Jessica Knizel, DNP, FNP, MSN, MPHA, BSN

- Catherine Laugesen, BS, BSN, MSN
- Renee Loar Bell, MSN
- Denise Merschman, DNP, FNP-C
- Kimberly Mueller, APRN, FNP-C
- Ruth Nginyi, FNP-C
- Bernie Rafferty, PA-C
- Laura Riemma, PA-C
- Arthur Sanchez, MSN, NP-C
- Karen Santoyo, RN, COHN
- Angie Schmitz, ARNP
- Jane Scott, COHN-S
- Neelam Shah, NP
- Kaleah Simmons
- Scarlet Spain, DNP, MPH, APRN, CNS, FNP-BC
- Lara Stahl, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, COHN-S
- Amy Steinhour, PA
- John Stott, CRNP
- Wendy Tippet, MSN, ANP-BC, COHN-S
- Andrea White, APRN
- Jeanette Zoeckler, PhD, MPH

### International Members

- Tomislav Furlan, MD
- Kishore Madhwani, MD, PhD
- Renier Pieterse, MBChB, MSc, DOH, MBA

### Resident Members

- Cameron Kiani, MD
- Jason Lanning, DO
- James Lo, DO
- Logan Marcus, MD
- Margaret Murray, MD, MPH, MS
- Anderson Penha, MD, MAS

### Student Members

- Cecilia Chimere Chukuka
- Jennifer Han
- Jonathan Irby
- Rabia Noor Khan
- Danielle Madison
- Aromedonghe Precious Osharode
- Bikash Kumar Shah, MBBS

*We can't wait for you to explore what the College has to offer! Questions about your ACOEM Membership? Contact us!*

**Ginny Costello**, Director, Engagement  
[ginny@acoem.org](mailto:ginny@acoem.org)

**Adam Walaszek**, Coordinator, Engagement  
[adam@acoem.org](mailto:adam@acoem.org)

**Sandra Cruz**, Coordinator, Member Experience  
[custinfo@acoem.org](mailto:custinfo@acoem.org)

## Make the most of your ACOEM Membership!

Log in to the ACOEM Community to contribute to discussions within your Component and Sections, get involved by applying for volunteer opportunities, and sign up to participate in the ACOEM Mentoring Program!

[community.acoem.org](https://community.acoem.org)

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## OccPod, ACOEM's Official Podcast, Delivers Topical Content in a Conversational Format

Ismail Nabeel, MD, MPH, MS, FACOEM

For the past three years, I've been involved in the production of the first official podcast for the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. With no prior experience in production and sound manipulation, I thought it would be an amazing way to communicate with the members of the College. I pondered how to use this platform to revitalize the specialty, incorporate new ideas, and bring clinical experiences to the forefront.

Sound is indeed a powerful thing. With a unique accent and a deeper voice, I am passionate to use this platform to engage and inform the audience through storytelling. When *OccPod* was started in late 2020, it primarily covered the different facets of COVID-19 and its impact on the practice of OEM. COVID-19 is a relentless and unforgiving disease, and the pandemic was a challenge for which we were ill-prepared. The podcast provided an outlet to explore the disease in real-time, sharing new data, guidance, and recommendations as they became available. Through the COVID Conversations series, we were able to experience the disease from the eyes of the OEM practitioner, providing pertinent answers to the complex questions. We explored issues related to travel restrictions, vaccine hesitancy, changes in the variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, spread of the infection, viral replication after the vaccination, and more.

The podcast medium was short, succinct, and voice only; an efficient way to deliver vital information to professionals busy on the front line trying to save the lives of countless working individuals, working in diverse settings from slaughterhouses and factories to universities and academic centers.

As the pandemic was winding down, *OccPod* expanded to cover a wider breadth of topics in the occupational and environmental universe. We shared stories from the suffering of healthcare workers on the frontline dealing with deadly diseases to the existential threat of climate change disasters and environmental exposures. A new series, Climate Conversations, focused on environmental health, particularly adaptation and mitigation efforts that have been put forth in the field by OEM experts. Topics ranged from wildfires to hurricanes devastating the American landscape. It gave listeners a raw account from first responders in disaster zones.

Resident Conversations is a newer series of episodes aimed to share experiences of OEM residents. We dug deeper, exploring complicated issues such as the intersection of race, equity, and inclusivity. From the lens of a podcast, we strive to keep each episode around 20 minutes, rich with content, putting complex and challenging topics in a palatable format, ideally setting the stage for listeners to continue the conversations.

World events shape society, ideas, and communities. OEM providers continuously seek solutions to multifaceted problems. In a recent episode, we discussed the Ohio train derailment event where a toxic chemical spill contaminated local water and soil. *OccPod* identified an expert in the area of vinyl chloride exposures and invited him for a conversation on the topic. Dr. Paul Brandt-Rauf was able to concisely and impactfully explain what vinyl chloride is, how it is used, and identify ways this could be prevented in the future.

Another episode highlighted the plight of World Trade Center responders, 20 years after the event. Recently, our 50th episode covered the implosion of the Titan submersible, which dominated headlines for weeks. Our guest expert, Dr. Gary Toups, provided insight on decompression sickness and hyperbaric medicine, sharing a historical look at the field along with the deeper discussion on events including caisson's disease seen in the workers building the Brooklyn Bridge.

Podcasting provides a unique vehicle to share stories and information, as events are unfolding. OccPod aims to document the legacy of occupational and environmental medicine and the future of the field which saves countless workers' lives. I'm proud to host the podcast with Erin Ransford who has been an extremely gracious co-host and producer.

Listen to *OccPod* on the web at [acoem.org/occpod](http://acoem.org/occpod) or wherever you listen to podcasts.

*Ismail Nabeel, MD, MPH, MS, FACOEM is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. He serves on the ACOEM Board of Directors and chairs ACOEM's Council on OEM Science.*



OEM | explore

## ACOEM'S NEW CAREER EXPLORATION PLATFORM

ACOEM is thrilled to announce its new career exploration platform: OEM Explore!

The interactive, map-based platform will feature more information on more OEM career options than anywhere else in the world.

- The most OEM providers and opportunities in one central platform
- Explore employers, jobs and surrounding communities to evaluate your career opportunities
- A personalized search experience tailored to your specific preferences



For more information, email us at [oemexplore@medgeventures.com](mailto:oemexplore@medgeventures.com)



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