



President's Insights

by Ramon Terrazas, MD, MPH, FACOEM

Esteemed WOEMA members,

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize the invaluable contributions of the Latinx community to various aspects of American society. The 2023 US Latino GDP report is a testament to the incredible contributions of the Latinx community to our nation's economic prosperity (<https://latinogdp.u>). This year's report showcases not only the substantial growth in Latinx-owned businesses but also their pivotal role in job creation and innovation across various industries. It highlights how diversity is a driving force in our economy, with the Latinx segment of the US population leading the way in entrepreneurship and workforce participation. According to this year's report, the Latinx community in the United States continues to drive the economy forward – as they've been doing since the 1500s. In 2021, according to the 2023 US Latino GDP Report, despite a second year of COVID-19 pandemic conditions, the U.S. Latinx total economic output, or GDP, broke the \$3 trillion threshold.

As we reflect on these findings, let us recognize the importance of fostering an inclusive and equitable environment, ensuring that every member of our diverse society has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from our nation's economic success.

Mahatma Gandhi's poignant statement, "the true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members," resonates profoundly when considering the situation of Latinx workers in the USA. These workers, often marginalized due to various factors including immigration status and language barriers, represent a vulnerable segment of American society.

Latino workers have made substantial contributions to the nation's economy, particularly in industries such as agriculture, construction, and healthcare. However, they frequently face precarious working conditions, inadequate access to healthcare, and limited legal protections. This vulnerability is further exacerbated by the disproportionate impact of workplace injuries and fatalities on Latino workers.

WOEMA's recent advocacy on behalf of the Latinx manufactured stone workers in Southern California is one of many examples where industry has failed to protect a vulnerable population. Industry has known about the hazards associated with manufacturing fractured stone grinding, cutting, and polishing, yet has acted to prevent deaths in this vulnerable population. WOEMA's Legislative Committee is actively working to prevent exposure to silica dust in the manufactured stone industry.

However, to live up to the ideals of a just and compassionate society, it is imperative that our country ensures the fair treatment, safety, and well-being of its Latinx workforce. Policies that address these disparities, including comprehensive immigration reform, language-accessible workplace safety programs and healthcare access, are essential steps toward honoring Gandhi's wisdom and fostering a society where all its members, regardless of background, are treated with dignity and fairness.

Join WOEMA in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Collegially,

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President, WOEMA Board of Directors
Fellow American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
Diplomate American Board of Preventive Medicine
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Legislative Committee Update

Raj Das, MD, MPH

During the weekly 7:30 AM Friday legislative committee meetings, numerous topics are discussed under the guidance of WOEMA lobbyist, Dr. Raj Das. Specific topics with task forces include Blue Sky (a quality-based forum to improve WC outcomes), silicosis, utilization review and increasing residency training funding and slots. There are opportunities for WOEMA membership to participate in these groups and have a positive impact while learning from the bright minds of WOEMA past and present leaders.

Thanks in large part due to a significant investment in time and thought by legislative committee members, significant attention has been brought to the significant harms that working with engineered stone brings to workers. WOEMA members Bob Blink, Anthony Biascan, Mani

webinar curriculum began in January with an engaging speaker, Dr. Christian Sandrock, who presented the clinical topic, FLU/RSV Update and Post-Acute COVID Syndrome (PACS). Dr. Sandrock conveyed this "Tripledemic" hot topic to the attendees by focusing on PACS, long COVID, and COVID-19, including current pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment options.

In the JEDI/Specific Interest/Wellness webinar category, Dr. Deborah Smith enlightened our attendees on Intersectionality of LGBTQ+ and Occupational Medicine. Dr. Smith highlighted the unique health and wellness needs of LGBTQ+ individuals in the workplace, plus the job related challenges.

On the Administration and Leadership front, Dr. Elaine Tonel hosted the Building Your Own Brand webinar wherein the assessment, development, and implementation of building your personal brand were conveyed to our audience. Another intriguing webinar presented in the Administration/Leadership category was Medical Treatment of Injured Workers Under Worker's Compensation by Dr. Ofer Eibschutz. Dr. Eibschutz provided the best practice and evidence-based recommendations for physicians treating in the worker's compensation claim and how to optimize care for injured workers.

Throughout 2023, we were fortunate to have two speakers, Dr. Paul Papanek and Mr. David Hornung, who collaborated on the Environmental Public Health/Regulatory topic of CAL/OSHA Heat Illness Standard. The attendees were presented with the current outdoor standard, the anticipated new indoor heat standard, how Occ Med professionals should advise clients/employers to keep employees safe in the presence of heat stress, and much more.

WOEMA webinars coordinated by the Education Committee provide CME, but more importantly, expose the membership to subject matter experts while offering an opportunity to engage with the presenters during the Q&A session at the end of every live activity webinar. Post-webinar Evaluations consistently show more than positive feedback from the attendees, such as "very knowledgeable speaker", "Fabulous discussion. Thank you so much for sharing your knowledge.", "Excellent presentation!!", "Timely topic. Thank you", "Great job opening our eyes to a topic that deserves more focus.", "Great speaker and brought forth ideas to incorporate my clinical work.", "Impressive!".

In accordance with our webinars, we continue to develop WOEMA podcasts from the WOHC Conference and webinar speaker interviews/Q&A. The podcast format is typically a 10-15 minute interview with the subject matter expert/speaker touching on the main point of the topic as it relates to Occupational Medicine. Our podcast conversations with Dr. Sandrock regarding the FLU/RSV/COVID Update and Dr. Damon Terrazas for the WOEMA President's Podcast kept us wanting more. Currently, the committee is working on podcasts covering topics such as Heat Illness Standard, LGBTQ Health, Heat Illness Standard, and Workers' Compensation.

In addition to looking back, we are excited to present our future webinars and podcasts for the remainder of 2023 while preparing for the beginning of our 2024 Education Committee agenda! This month, we have an exciting webinar on AI in Healthcare presented by Dr. Matthe

ren, the Co-Director of the Stanford Center for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and Imaging. In November, Dr. George Woods will h
leuropsychiatry webinar. And, to wrap up the webinar curriculum for 2023, we are circling back to the FLU/RSV/COVID topic as we e
u season for an update from Dr. Christian Sandrock.

ave an array of webinar and podcast topics to explore for 2024, as suggested by our current
nittee members and newly added members we've acquired along the way in 2023, including WOEMA members and resident students
r to join, help, and learn:

- Ozempic
- The Nocturnist - This is Love
- Z-Doc
- Space Medicine
- Physical Burnout: Physicians Leaving Other Practices to Become Occupational Medicine Physicians
- Increasing the Pipeline to the Younger Generation of Residents and Medical Students
- Winners of the WOHC 23 Poster Competition
- Future Resident Applicants: ACOEM
- How to Become a Doctor at Disneyland

WOEMA Education Committee looks forward to continuously providing guidance and information to
resident and Board of Directors regarding the education of the members, the medical profession, and the public on all aspects of
oational health and medicine. The Education Committee is charged with offering educational activities, primarily live webinars and
asts consisting of a mix of educational methods chosen as most effective based on a review of the science behind health-care
ovement. To maintain a continuing assessment of WOEMA's efforts to address its educational mission, the Education Committee is
ged with evaluating all WOEMA's educational offerings to judge whether a Continuing Medical Education (CME) program has met its
tives of improving physician competence, performance, or treatment outcomes. The methods may include but are not limited to gath
reviewing the assessments of the members of the planning group, the members of the Education Committee and members of the
erence faculty – all of whom are considered to be informed observers and evaluators – and analyzing the feedback provided by the
dees on the WOEMA evaluation forms and post-activity surveys.

u are interested or know of any colleagues interested in joining our Education Committee, please contact our Chair, Aisha Chaudhry, M
, FACOEM @ Aisha.Chaudhry@kp.org