

From: Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 3:01 PM
Subject: Medical Symposium, Workforce Safety Innovation Center, and more!

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Ohio

**Bureau of Workers'
Compensation**



Register today for the Medical & Health Symposium, April 7 – 9

Exhibitor, free continuing education opportunities available

We invite you to our virtual [Medical & Health Symposium](#), **April 7 – 9, 2022**. [Register](#) today and attend our three-day event online from the comfort of your home or office.

Top 5 Reasons You Should Attend:

1. Registration is **free** and anyone can attend.
2. You can watch a **live orthopedic surgery** Friday, April 8.

3. [National and state experts](#) will address some of today's most pressing [health and medical](#) issues such as COVID-19, Pharmacogenetics and Opioid Use Disorder, Alternatives to Pain Management, Managing the Stress of Change, Optimizing Return to Work, the Aging Eye, and Breaking the Web of Needless Disability.
4. We are seeking [continuing education](#) approval for **19 different health care and legal professions**.
5. Get the chance to interact with over 3,000 registrants worldwide and health care-related exhibitors in our virtual Exhibitor Hall, where you have chances to win valuable prizes.

See [our brochure](#) or website (mhs.digitellinc.com) for more information. Questions? Email us at medsymposium@bwc.state.oh.us or call our provider contact center at 1-800-477-2292.

We hope to see you there!

BWC announces Workforce Safety Innovation Center



The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) announced \$30 million in grants for research and development of personal protective equipment (PPE) innovations to enhance workplace safety. BWC's new Workforce Safety Innovation Center (WSIC) will administer the grants with a goal of accelerating the process for innovations from proof-of-concept to the marketplace.

Based on data collected from BWC claims, WSIC will identify priority areas of focus for cutting-edge technologies and products that will reduce the frequency and severity of on-the-job injuries.

WSIC's objective is to conduct proof-of-concept work from grant applicants to accelerate the creation of new technologies and applications for the prototyping of PPE innovations. This initiative will encourage strong relationships and collaboration among higher education, research institutions and industry to continually create new ways to protect Ohio's workers.

Applicants must be from an Ohio not-for-profit higher education institution or research organization. For more information visit: [Workforce Safety Innovation Center | Bureau of Workers' Compensation](#).

10% Rate Cut for Private Employers

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Administrator Stephanie McCloud announced at the Feb. board meeting that Ohio's private employers will pay nearly \$106 million less in workers' compensation premiums in the next fiscal year due to a 10% rate reduction approved by the BWC Board of Directors. This marks the fourth straight reduction since Governor DeWine took office in 2019.

This rate reduction becomes effective July 1 and follows a 10% rate reduction for public employers – counties, cities, schools, and others – that went into effect Jan. 1.

A history of BWC rate changes since 2011 can be found online by [clicking this link](#).

BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene: We've got you covered!



Ohio employers, BWC's Division of Safety and Hygiene has got you covered! This short video highlights the safety programs, services, and resources that BWC offers to help you create a safe and healthy workplace for your people at no additional cost.

Click the image to watch.

News Briefs

BWC Hires New Investment Director

Walt Stubbings joined the Investment Division of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) as the new Director of Investments on January 31. He has assumed many of the duties and responsibilities of Co-CIO Lee Damsel who retired from BWC on January 31.

Stubbings has extensive and diverse financial experience with proven investment management expertise. His solid record of results in Fixed-Income Portfolio Management and trading along

Important dates

March 22: Better you, Better Ohio! wellness webinar. [More info online.](#)

March 24: Employer update webinar. [More info online.](#)

March 31: Important program deadline for private employers. [More info online.](#)

April 4: Health Hazards and Toxicology Fundamentals. [More info online.](#)

April 6: Virtual Training: Safety Series Module 4: Walking Working and

with his background in equities, real estate, and commodities make him a valuable addition to the BWC team.

Program Deadlines for Private Employers

Participants in the Drug Free Safety Program, One Claim Program, or EM Cap program must complete their requirements by March 31, 2022.

March edition of Safety Update

Check out [the latest news](#) from safety and health experts from BWC, NIOSH, and OSHA.

Emergency Action Plan Basics. [More info online.](#)

April 7: 2022 Medical & Health Symposium. [More info online.](#)

April 13: Virtual Training: Controlling Workers Compensation Costs. [More info online.](#)

April 13: Ohio Safety Council Mega Meeting. [More info online.](#)

Check out our blogs!

We encourage you to visit our blog each month to get the latest on news related to workers' compensation. New stories:

- [You're invited! Medical & Health Symposium is April 7 – 9](#)
- [Resolve to value safety in 2022](#)

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

Vision: To transform BWC into an agile organization driven by customer success.

Mission: To deliver consistently excellent experiences for each BWC customer every day.

Core Values: One Agency, Personal Connection, Innovative Leadership, Relentless Excellence.

Established in 1912, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation is the exclusive provider of workers' compensation insurance in Ohio, serving 249,000 public and private employers. With nearly 1,600 employees and assets of approximately \$25 billion, BWC is one of the largest state-run insurance systems in the United States. For more, visit www.bwc.ohio.gov.

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