What is Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM)?

- The prevention and treatment of occupational and environmental injury, illness and disability of workers and their families; including individual patient care.
- OEM physicians champion the health and safety of workers, workplaces, and environments.
- OEM physicians also manage the health of populations with programs and services that protect the health and safety of workplaces and enhance worker productivity.
- Subspecialty of Preventive Medicine.
- Certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM).

Occ and Env Hazard Examples

- Physical, chemical, biological, psychological, safety and ergonomic hazards
- Workplace Hep B/HIV exposure
- Asbestos in Libby, Montana, community
- Hexavalent chromium in water (Erin Brockovich)
- Popcorn workers' lung
- SARS Virus outbreak

Where are Careers in OEM?

- Academia
- Corporate
- Hospital-based & private clinics
- Government; federal; military

Residency Training in OEM

- Residents complete a two-year program that includes course work leading to a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree as well as practicum rotations at key clinical training sites in the region
- Residency programs are fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)
- Residents are supported with stipend, benefits, MPH tuition and malpractice insurance (programs are funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health [NIOSH])
- Rotations include Medical Center occupational health clinics, employer-based clinics, federal & state regulatory agencies (OSHA; State Dept of the Health & Environment), labor unions, corporations; NIOSH; and the Veterans Administration.
- One year of internship is required prior to the OEM residency
- Applications accepted in the fall; Match day is December 15
- Combined IM/OM or FM/OM residencies can be arranged

For a review of the wide variety of careers in OEM, check out:

- the 17 Special Interest Sections;
- the downloadable series of Careers Teleconferences.

Other relevant websites:

- Association of Occupational and Environmental Health Clinics (http://www.aoec.org/training.htm)
  - Medical student internship opportunities
  - ACGME approved OEM Residencies
- NIOSH Science Blog (http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/blog/index.html)