

2010 Safe-in-Sound Excellence in Hearing Loss Prevention Awards were all about Innovation

By: Dr. Thais Morata

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), in partnership with the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA), is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2010 Safe-in-Sound Excellence in Hearing Loss Prevention Awards™, honoring those who have shown their dedication to the prevention of noise-induced hearing loss through innovative or excellent hearing loss prevention practices in the work environment. The awards were presented at the 35th Annual Hearing Conservation Conference on February 26, 2010 in Orlando, Florida.

“This year’s awardees highlight how work-related hearing loss affects people across all industry sectors,” said NIOSH Director Dr. John Howard. “The impact of partnerships and innovation in developing solutions and policies to address the preventable problem of work-related hearing loss is clear in these initiatives.”

The 2010 recipient for Innovation in Hearing Loss Prevention in the Manufacturing Sector is:

Etymotic Research, Inc. (“Et-im-oh-tik” meaning true to the ear). Etymotic is a research and product development group who creates products designed to measure, improve and protect hearing. Founded in 1983, Etymotic Research spans an impressive 27-year history of innovative, practical and high-fidelity solutions to challenging hearing loss prevention issues. Etymotic Research was recognized for their pioneering technical expertise, remarkable influence, ardent support and essential sponsorship of hearing loss prevention research, services, products and public outreach. Specifically, the development of insert earphones, ER-15 and other flat attenuation hearing protectors, isolator earphones and the ER-200 personal consumer noise dosimeter were highlighted. Etymotic Research’s innovations have had a direct impact on the quality, delivery and effectiveness of hearing loss and tinnitus prevention programs. Mead C. Killion, Etymotic’s Chief Technology Officer represented Etymotic in receiving the Safe-in-Sound Award for Innovation in Hearing Loss Prevention.

The 2010 recipients for Innovation in Hearing Loss Prevention in the Construction Sector are:

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) and Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. (PB), recognized for their combined efforts in developing, implementing and overseeing the New York City Construction Noise Mitigation Rule. Parsons Brinckerhoff has been a leader in the transportation and infrastructure engineering industry for almost 125 years, and for this particular endeavor, became the primary consultant supporting NYC DEP to research, develop, write, present and defend the new NYC Construction Noise Rules. These Rules were developed primarily to reduce community noise by establishing noise emission limits and requiring noise mitigation measures for all construction work occurring within New York City, but because of NYC DEP and PB’s insight, the rules proactively address work-related exposures, thereby extending its reach and benefits. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection and Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. were recognized for their combined efforts in developing, implementing and overseeing the New York City Construction Noise Mitigation Rule. Erich Thalheimer, from Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc received the award at the NHCA Conference and Charles Schmoon from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection will receive the award at the Building Trades Employers’ Association Leadership dinner on May 18, 2010 in New York City.

The 2010 recipient for Innovation in Hearing Loss Prevention in the Services Sector are :

Dr. Kris Chesky and the College of Music, University of North Texas, for their contribution towards raising the awareness of the importance of hearing loss prevention among student and professional musicians, a constituency that has not been reached through other traditional mechanisms. Dr. Chesky and

colleagues are pursuing all facets (including innovative research and methodology, education and advocacy) which can potentially contribute to success in hearing loss prevention among individuals involved in music performances and practice. Their work has reached music educators and students from kindergarten through college, university administrators and board members of accreditation agencies. Advocacy is being demonstrated by the development and proposed adoption of position statements that set the agenda for formal music education related to the prevention of music-induced hearing loss and tinnitus. Their work is bringing additional attention to the risk of music-induced hearing loss to other professionals in entertainment venues and to the general public.

Nominations for the next awards will be accepted until September 1st, 2010. For further information please visit www.safeinsound.us.



Back row, left to right: Capt. Kitt, and Award Committee: Noah Seixas, Deanna Meinke, Lee Hager, James Lankford, Pam Graydon and Thais Morata (John Franks and Scott Schneider not present). Front row, left to right, 2010 Award Recipients: Erich Thalheimer, Mead Killion and Kris Chesky.

SAFE·IN·SOUND

EXCELLENCE IN HEARING LOSS PREVENTION AWARD

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
and the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA) extend our congratulations
to the **2010 Safe-in-Sound award recipients.**



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