



Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to welcome you to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Pathways to Prevention Workshop, entitled “Total Worker Health®: What’s Work Got to Do With It?” This workshop will build on the excellent efforts of the participants of the NIH Pathways to Prevention Organizational Meeting (May 16, 2014) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s Evidence-based Practice Centers [Systematic Review of Total Worker Health](#).

Chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, and cancer are the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the United States (U.S.). Currently, approximately 149 million Americans are employed across the U.S., making the workplace the largest opportunity for the prevention of chronic diseases. Traditional approaches to improve the health of workers have focused on individual health promotion programs. Integrated programs that address both the individual and overall work environment (e.g., occupational safety) provide a wide variety of benefits, including a focus on workers that are at the highest risks of exposure to hazardous conditions and improving the corporate culture and trust of employers.

I am delighted that the NIH Office of Disease Prevention, in partnership with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, is undertaking this important and timely topic at the request of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health at the Centers for Disease Control. Research can enhance our understanding of how integration of health protection and health promotion activities affect work-related environmental factors, individual risk factors, and health outcomes.

The purpose of this workshop is to further explore current scientific evidence as it relates to the integration of worksite health promotion, occupation safety, and health protection. The workshop on December 9 will also focus on factors that influence the effectiveness of an integrated approach and will help develop recommendations for future research in this area.

I appreciate your participation in this workshop and look forward to reviewing your recommendations.

Sincerely,

Gary H. Gibbons, M.D.  
Director