



NATIONAL HEARING CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

**PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

**Dr. Peter Rabinowitz of Yale University Presented  
2011 “Outstanding Hearing Conservationist” Award  
by the National Hearing Conservation Association**

**Westminster, Colo. – March 1, 2011** – Peter Rabinowitz, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of Clinical Services at the Yale University Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program, has been named the 2011 “Outstanding Hearing Conservationist” by the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA) in recognition of his career work in hearing loss prevention. The annual award recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions within the field of Hearing Conservation.

“Dr. Rabinowitz was been a tireless and prolific researcher in hearing loss prevention,” said Dr. Timothy Rink incoming NHCA President and Chair of the Awards Task Force. “Dr. Rabinowitz has been instrumental in bringing hearing loss prevention into the mainstream of preventive medicine. His audiometric database analysis focused on calculating rates of hearing loss over time and identifying relationships between risk factors for hearing loss in order to identify metrics for the early detection of noise-induced hearing loss.”

During his thirteen year career at Yale School of Medicine, Dr. Rabinowitz has pursued a research partnership with Alcoa to provide medical consulting services worldwide. Working with Alcoa Occupational Technical Health Manager Christine Dixon-Ernst, Dr. Rabinowitz has analyzed a database of over 500,000 audiograms and calculated the rates of hearing loss over time, as well as the interaction of other risk factors such as workplace noise exposure and exposure to solvents in order to explore the use of “early flag” metrics in the detection of occupational noise-induced hearing loss.

In this analysis, Dr. Rabinowitz discovered that individuals working in high noise levels had a lower incidence of hearing loss than those working in more modest noise exposure areas. This lead to the conclusion that those workers exposed to higher noise levels were more likely to use their personal hearing protection more effectively than those exposed to lower (yet still hazardous) noise levels. Additional findings included the discovery that workers exposed to solvents had higher rates of hearing loss than those workers not exposed and certain audiometric indicators, such as non age-adjusted 10 dB shifts in hearing had good predictive ability for later recordable hearing loss cases.

Dr. Rabinowitz continues his research and clinical investigations in the important areas of genetic susceptibility to noise induced hearing loss and the role of antioxidants in combating noise induced hearing loss, areas that might someday lead to treatment protocols for a health problem that affects an estimated 5.2 million industrial workers in the United States and an estimated 30 million citizens who are exposed to noxious levels of non-occupational noise (amplified music, power tools, recreational shooting, etc.). Dr. Rabinowitz is Board Certified in Family Medicine, General Preventive Medicine, and Occupational and Environmental Medicine and has authored numerous papers and participated in many conference presentations throughout his illustrious career.

Dr. Rabinowitz received his medical degree from the University of Washington. While serving in a family medicine residency program at the University of California San Francisco, he encountered migrant laborers who suffered from occupational noise exposure. This first hand experience inspired him to pursue occupational hearing loss prevention during his fellowship years in both occupational and preventive medicine at the Yale School of Medicine.

Dr. Rabinowitz was presented the "Outstanding Hearing Conservationist" award at the NHCA's "Innovation and Technology" conference in Mesa, Arizona on Saturday February 26, 2011.

### **About the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA)**

The mission of the NHCA is to prevent hearing loss due to noise and other environmental factors in all sectors of society. NHCA's membership includes audiologists, researchers, industrial hygienists, physicians and occupational health nurses, educators, professional service organizations, safety professionals, engineers, audio professionals, students, and others who have dedicated their work to the advancement of hearing loss prevention.

For more information about the National Hearing Conservation Association, visit the NHCA online at <http://www.hearingconservation.org> or call 1-303-224-9022. Follow the NHCA on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/nhcaorg](http://www.twitter.com/nhcaorg), on Facebook at <http://bit.ly/vLRg5>, and on LinkedIn at <http://bit.ly/3X2DfT>.

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