SHEILA A. HIGGINS
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Education

1990 - 1992	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA MPH; Occupational Health Nursing	Chapel Hill, NC
1975 - 1981	UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT BSN, Cum Laude	Storrs, CT

Positions and Employment

1981 - 1982	Staff Nurse, Neurosurgical Unit, Morristown Memorial Hospital, Morristown, NJ
1981 - 1990	Nurse Corps Officer, US Navy, Active Duty.
1990 - 1992	Contract Occupational Health Nurse, Duke Occupational Health Service
1991 - 2002	Nurse Corps Officer, US Naval Reserves, Retired 2002
1992 - 2004	Occupational Health Services Manager, United Parcel Service
2004 - present	State Occupational Health Nurse Consultant and Manager of Occupational Health Surveillance Unit, Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch, NC Division of Public Health, Raleigh, NC

Other Professional Affiliations and Memberships

1992 - present	Member, Tarheel Association of Occupational Health Nurses
2004 - 2006	Vice President, Tarheel Association of Occupational Health Nurses
1992 - present	Member, American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
2004 - 2006	Council Member, Midstate Safety Council
2004 - present	Member, Advisory Committee, Occupational Health Nursing Program, NC School of Public Health, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, NC
2004 - present	Member, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
2005 - present	Member, State Public Health Nurse Consultants, NC Division of Public Health
2008 - present	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dept. of Public Health Nursing, UNC School of Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC

Honorary Societies/Honors:

1990	NIOSH Nursing Traineeship, UNC Chapel Hill School of Public Health
1991	Sigma Theta Tau; National Nursing Honor Society
1991	Delta Omega; Honorary Public Health Society
1992	Sigma Theta Tau Research award
1993	Navy Achievement Medal
1994	AAOHN Membership Award
1998	Navy Commendation Medal
1999	Selected for inclusion in "The Great 100" Nurses of North Carolina
2007	Tarheel Association of Occupational Health Nurses, "2007 Tarheel Nurse of the Year"

Community Activities:

1997 - 2009	Part-time volunteer staff nurse, Open Door Clinic, Raleigh NC
1999	Special Olympics World Games, Venue Clinic Mgr., Cary NC
2005 - Present	Umstead Coalition
2007 - Present	Historical Interpreter, Yates Mill Pond County Park, Raleigh, NC
2007 - Present	Special Events Committee, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh

Certification, Licensure and Specialized Training:
Registered Nurse in North Carolina
Certified Occupational Health Nurse-Specialist, 1998 to present
Spirometry Technician, 1990

Audiometry Technician, 1990
Epi Info, 2004
Geographic Information Systems (GIS), 2005
DHHS Leadership Course, 2006 Graduate
ICS 100, 200 & 700, 2005
Microsoft Access XP Level 1& 2 May/June 2007

Peer-Reviewed Publications:

Rogers, B., Winslow, B., & S. Higgins, S. (1993) Employee satisfaction with occupational health services. American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Journal, 41 (2), 58 – 65

Langley, R., Higgins, S., & Herrin, K. (2006) Risk factors associated with fatal animal-vehicle collisions in the United States. Wilderness and Environmental Medicine, 17, 229-239.

Calvert, G. et al. (2007) Case report: Three farm workers who gave birth to infants with birth defects, closely grouped in time and space – Florida and North Carolina, 2004 – 2005. Environmental Health Perspectives, 115, (5), 787-791.

Calvert, G. & Higgins, S. (2008) Case Study: Using surveillance data to promote occupational health and safety policies and practice at the state level. American Journal of Industrial Medicine. (In press).

Presentations:

Discussion: Underutilized Reporting Sources. NIOSH SENSOR-Pesticides, June 2009 CSTE Conference, Buffalo, NY

Legislative Developments: North Carolina, February, 2009, NIOSH SENSOR-Pesticides Winterfest Conference, Oakland, CA.

Pesticides; Farm Safety 4 Just Kids. February, 2009. N.C. Cooperative Extension Office

Co-presenter at the Sixth International Symposium – Public Health and the Agricultural Rural Ecosystem (PHARE) Saskatoon, Canada, October 2008. Presented 2 topics: Pesticide Surveillance and Prevention Skills in Eastern NC Health Departments & The NC Pesticide Illness and Injury Surveillance Program.

Pesticide Poisoning Surveillance Program Obtains Funding Support in North Carolina. NIOSH E News. Volume 6, Number 6, October 2008.

Instructor for regional training team for recertification of all N.C. County Cooperative Extension Agents responsible for providing continuing education to licensed/certified pesticide applicators. Oct – Dec, 2008.

Governors Task Force on Preventing Agricultural Pesticide Exposure. February – April 2008, Raleigh NC. Co-coordinator with State Health Director (Chair) and panel speaker.

N.C. Pesticide Illness and Injury Surveillance Program, Poster Session, NC Crop Protection School, Raleigh, NC, 2007.

N.C. Pesticide Illness and Injury Surveillance Program, State 4-H Youth Development and Family & Consumer Sciences In-Service Conference, RTP, NC, 2007

Pesticide Illness & Reporting, NCCHCA Quarterly Clinical Network Meeting, Cary, NC, 2007.

NC Pesticide Injury and Illness Surveillance Program, Poster Session, 2007 State Cooperative Extension Conference, Raleigh, NC, 2007.

Birth Defects and the NC Occupational Health Study, Perinatal Health Committee, NC Child Fatality Task Force, Raleigh, NC 2007.

Maternal Occupational Pesticide Exposure During Pregnancy and Three Babies Born with Birth Defects. 19th Annual East Coast Migrant Stream Forum, Myrtle Beach, SC 2006.

Maternal Occupational Pesticide Exposure During Pregnancy and Three Babies Born with Birth Defects. NC Farmworker Institute, Durham, NC, 2006.

Pesticides and Birth Defects With a Case Example of the Ag-Mart Investigation. NC Division of Public Health, Epi Lunch and Learn, Raleigh, NC, 2006.

Open Forum to Discuss Topical Pesticide Issues. NIOSH SENSOR Pesticides Program Breakout Session, 2006 CSTE Annual Conference, Albuquerque NM.

Assessment of Management Support for the Department of Health and Human Services Wellness Initiative. DHHS Leadership Course, Raleigh, NC, 2006

Investigation Report: Occurrence of Birth Defects in Babies Born to Three Migrant Farmworkers. NIOSH SENSOR-Pesticides Winterfest Conference, St. Augustine, FL, 2006.

Investigation Report: Occurrence of Birth Defects in Babies Born to Three Migrant Farmworkers. NC Farmworker Health Program; Outreach Worker Training, Raleigh, NC, 2006

NC Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance Program. Forsythe County Lead Coalition, Winston Salem, NC, 2006.

Healthy Snacking. DHHS Wellness Initiative, Raleigh, NC, 2006.

Establishing Health Surveillance Programs. 18th Annual, Occupational Health Nursing: An Introduction to Principles and Practice, NC Safety and Health, Education and Resource Center, Chapel Hill, NC 2005, 2006.

Occupational Health Surveillance, Occupational Health Trends in NC. NC Division of Public Health, EPI Lunch and Learn, 2005.

Germbusters at Work and Home. Progress Energy Safety Committee Meeting, Wilmington, NC, 2005.

Occupational and Environmental Health Nurse Consultant. UNC Chapel Hill, Occupational Health Nursing Masters Program, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007.

Pesticide Illness Monitoring Program. NC Pesticide Board, Raleigh, NC, 2005.

Maximizing Worker Health When Performing Shiftwork. Western Chapter; Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Asheville, NC, 2005.

Ongoing Research Support:

1. EPA Grant: North Carolina Occupational Pesticide-Related Illness and Injury Surveillance
Role: Primary Investigator. This grant supports the data collection and assessment of occupational and non-occupational, pesticide-related injury and illness. Data is disseminated to stakeholders and utilized for intervention planning and priority setting**.** $ 75,000 10/1/2006 – 10/1/2009.

2. ABLES: Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance Program
Role: Project Manager. This program was established in 1994 to provide for the reporting of elevated blood lead concentrations in adults. The information collected is used to identify where over-exposure is occurring, for referral to regulatory agencies to assist with compliance activities, and to guide targeted interventions aimed at reducing blood lead levels in adults. YEARLY CONTRACT OF $ 21,000.