

SIIA Endeavors

Annual Self-Insured Workers' Comp Conference Offers Strategic, Educational Programs and Sessions

SIIA's Annual Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Executive Forum, May 24th-25th at the JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn Resort & Spa, is the country's premier association sponsored conference dedicated exclusively to self-insured Workers' Compensation. In addition to a strong educational program focusing on such topics as excess insurance and risk management strategies, this event will offer tremendous networking opportunities that are specifically designed to help you strengthen your business relationships within the self-insured/alternative risk transfer industry.

Program highlights include...

► ALTERNATIVE TO STATUTORY WORKERS' COMPENSATION The movement for employers to opt out of workers compensation is moving from Texas to Oklahoma and is gaining interest in other states. Is this good or bad? Hear **Bob Burke**, Law Offices of Bob Burke and **Bill Minick**, President, PartnerSource, two nationally known speakers who will present polar opposite views on this subject. This promises to be a very spirited presentation which you won't want to miss.

► APPLICATION OF BIG DATA You have the data, now discover how to use it. What level of historical data has been available and how was it put to use? What level of data is now available and how has it been applied? Learn about the benefits of retention, finances, new business and others that come with the use of "big data" from **Brian Billings**, Data Strategist, Midwest Employers Casualty Company and **Stan Smith**, Predictive Analytics, Milliman.

► USING BIG DATA TO PREDICT AND PREVENT LOSSES When you think of loss control and safety, you probably think of safety manuals, safety directors, check lists, safety meetings, OSHA, DOT and inspections. Loss control is much more than that – loss control means profits! Learn about using data to predict and prevent losses that incorporates analytics, demographics and predictive modeling from **Don Boatright**, Chief Operating Officer, Alabama Trucking Association (ATA) Workers' Compensation Fund and **Todd Hager**, Director of Claims, Alabama Trucking Association (ATA) Workers' Compensation Fund.

► ALTERNATIVE METHODS TO HEALTHIER EMPLOYEES: WHERE WELLNESS AND WORK COMP INTERSECT Obviously, the best work injury is the one that doesn't happen and workplace safety is an incredibly important part of achieving that goal. But there is a growing consensus that a healthier workforce can not only reduce injuries but also reduce lost time and injury severity. The advent of wearable technology, higher focus on wellness programs sponsored by employers and broader acceptance of alternative treatment modalities has helped make this goal more of a reality. However, there remain skeptics to the value of these kinds of programs because results have often been either anecdotal or overly ambitious. **Kevin Confetti**, Director of Workers' Comp Program, University of California, **Tron Emptage**, Chief Clinical Officer, Helios and **Mark Pew**, Senior Vice President, PRIUM, will discuss the demographics that make healthier employees important, how pharmacotherapy manages but also impacts those demographics, the biopsychosocial model that includes treatment typically denied, how technology is changing motivation and measurement and connecting the dots between Work Comp and Group Health to treat the whole person. Then, to prove that this approach can actually have a measurably positive impact, the University of California system's wellness

program and its positive results will be discussed with takeaways for employers in the audience.

► THE ROAD TO EMOTIONAL RECOVERY AFTER CATASTROPHIC INJURY

The emotional component of recovery is too often overlooked and under addressed in the traditional medical and rehabilitation process following a significant injury. **Jon Pearson**, Director of Life Path Services, QLI will show how the best long-term outcomes are often achieved by skillfully addressing the process of emotional acceptance as well as key aspects of fostering purpose, hope and optimism for injured workers and their families.

► THE EROSION OF THE EXCLUSIVE REMEDY

Exclusive remedy protections provided by workers' compensation laws across the country are under attack. The historic benefit to employers included protecting employers and co-workers from tort based claims arising from an injury; the corresponding benefit to the employee came in the form of timely benefits, despite any negligence of the injured worker. These tenets have been undermined by the establishment of certain causes of actions not subject to the exclusivity provisions and by the prospect of "opt out" legislation, increasing the risk of litigation and exposure to employers. **Charles H. (Clay) Clark**, Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart, LLP and **Frederick L. (Fred) Fohrell**, Wilmer & Lee, P.A. Attorneys at Law will explore this troubling trend surrounding exclusive remedy and the probable impacts to all parties subject to the workers' compensation system.

► ADR PROGRAMS - THE RIGHT WAY TO OPT OUT OF THE TRADITIONAL STATE PROGRAM

Very experienced

speakers from California and New York, will discuss the history and success of ADR programs in their respective states. **Roy Barnes, Esq.**, **Jack J. Frazier**, Senior Vice President, American Global LLC and **Hon. Steve Siemers**, Ret. WCJ will speak to the factors that have helped to decrease the exposure of employers who have negotiated use of these programs. They will share that you can reduce costs, without reducing benefits and in fact can provide a greater level of service to the injured employee, highlighting the role of the Ombudsperson, who acts as an advocate for the injured employee. Because an ADR program must be collectively bargained and jointly operated and managed by both labor and management, all parties are aligned and incentivized to work together to provide an injured worker with the support, care and services they require, to return to health and work. A properly managed ADR program should provide for a safer and more harmonious work environment, as well as reduced exposure and costs.

► SIG TAX UPDATE

William L. Shores, CPA, President, Shores, Tagman & Company, P.A., one of the country's top SIG tax experts, provides an update on the latest IRS enforcement activities and accounting practices that you should consider for your fund.

► MEDICAL OVER DIAGNOSIS: BREAKING THE CYCLE

Physicians and employers are taking critical steps in building a win-win model: happier and healthier recoveries for employees AND lower costs. No gimmicks. Not just winning the process game but using the BPSE (biopsychosocial economic) model to intervene more effectively, to prevent systemic medical over diagnosis and

the resulting surgeries that too often are lose-lose. **Anne Alabach**, Workers' Compensation Manager, CPC Logistics, Inc., **Jennifer Christian**, MD, President, Webility Corporation and **Peter Greaney**, MD, Medical Director, President & CEO, WorkCare will talk about exciting opportunities for improving outcomes.

► OUT FRONT IDEAS LIVE

This interactive session will discuss hot topics with panelists in the Workers' Compensation arena as a part of the Out Front Ideas webinar series. You don't want to miss this engaging and informative hour! **Kimberly George**, Senior Vice President, Senior Healthcare Advisor, Sedgwick will moderate the discussion held by **Mark Walls**, VP Communications & Strategic Analysis, Safety National.

► BATTLE OF THE BLOGGERS

Join this exciting panel with **Mark Walls**, Vice President Communications & Strategic Analysis, Safety National, **David DePaolo**, CEO/President, Editor-in-Chief, WorkComp Central, **Robert Wilson**, President and CEO, Workerscompensation.com, LLC and **Michael Gavin**, President, PRIUM as they discuss hot topics impacting Self-Insureds and SIGs in the workers' compensation arena. ■

For more information on the program, sponsorship opportunities and registration, please visit www.sii.org.