



for the Improvement of Mine Safety and Health, Inc.

## Press Release

### Alpha Foundation Announces \$2.6 million for Latest Round of Research Grants

October 7, 2016

Lenoir City, TN- The Alpha Foundation for the Improvement of Mine Safety and Health has announced approximately \$2.6 million in additional research grant awards directed towards fulfilling its mission to improve mine health and safety through funding research and development projects by qualified academic institutions and other not-for-profit organizations.

The Foundation published a call for research proposals in its third major grant cycle, in December 2015. Following the submission of 69 concept papers, 24 full proposals were received and peer reviewed, from which six have been selected by the Alpha Foundation Board of Directors, comprised of highly experienced professionals in the mining safety and health field. The six grants that have been awarded are listed below. Once again, the projects targeted for award include all of the Foundation's four main focus areas: 1) Health and Safety Interventions; 2) Mine Escape, Rescue and Training; 3) Safety and Health Management and Training; and, 4) Injury and Disease Exposure and Risk Factors.

The Foundation was established as part of a non-prosecution agreement entered in December 2011 by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia, the United States Department of Justice and Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. and Alpha Appalachia Holdings, Inc. Pursuant to that agreement, Alpha agreed to establish an independent foundation with \$48,000,000 to fund projects designed to improve mine safety and health.

The recently funded project titles and lead institutions are:

Further Characterizing Respirable Coal Mine Particulates: Submicron Particles, Metals and Diesel Exhaust	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Removal of DPM, silica, and coal dust using high volume fog generation	Clemson University
Experimental Testing and Design of Protective Measures for Communications and Tracking Systems Subjected to Catastrophic Events in Underground Coal Mines	University of Kentucky

Linkage of Active Miner Surveillance, Former Miner Disability Evaluations, and Mortality Data Sets to Evaluate and Prevent Lifetime Risk of Cardiopulmonary Disease in U.S. Miners	University of Illinois
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Mortality and Diesel Exhaust in Miners	University of California, Berkeley
Systematic Evaluation of Multi-axial Suspension to Reduce Whole Body Vibration Exposures in Heavy Equipment Mining Vehicle Operators	Oregon State University

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