

# AIHA-NCS Monitor

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August

## President's Message

### ***“Changes, Challenges, Obstacles and Opportunities”***

Members, colleagues and friends,

Well, here it is July and I am a bit flustered that this is my first published President's message and newsletter. The delay was not for the lack of caring or motivation or spending my time on a tropical beach somewhere (sadly, the latter is far from reality) but, as the title of my message suggests, we've been doing our best to manage the changes that our section is currently undergoing.



A little over a year ago, we changed website providers which significantly changed our business process. We also saw a new executive committee take the reins with significantly more position changes than normal: a new Secretary (Martin Bermudez) and Treasurer (Joe Barsky) as well as a new first year Director (Trevor Bausman) and President-elect (Jyoti Kumar). On the positive side, the new blood on the executive committee comes with new ideas and fresh perspectives. On the other hand, the loss of institutional knowledge of our business practices has made the transition into these positions a bit more of a challenge.

As mentioned, our website continues to challenge us in terms of integrating our operations. While more powerful than its predecessor, the differences in both functionality and architecture has demanded considerable time from our webmaster in configuring the site to our specific needs as well as validating the functions to ensure security for both financial transactions and our member's personal information. It has also changed the way we do business, not only with our members, but with our vendors and sponsors as well. And we're still working out some bugs: we continue to receive reports from members who are having difficulty accessing the member area as well as trying to figure out how to make our site easier to navigate.

Yet amongst the challenges I remain optimistic: I try to speak with as many members as possible at the dinner meetings, educational events and through website messaging to find out how to best serve you all. Our membership has a lot of energy and I see us heading in some new directions while still maintaining our identity.

**Continued on next page →**

## → President's Message continued

While we will continue to support the programs that work well (i.e. the Developing World Outreach Initiative, Student night, healthy relationships with CIHC, AIHA national and other organizations), a number of new initiatives are in the process of being implemented. These include:

1. The new Charles H. Powell scholarship which is open to all Bay Area students studying Industrial Hygiene and/or Environmental Health and Safety;
2. The return of vendor night to coincide with student night (as most of the money we generate from our vendor sponsors is towards student scholarships);
3. More continuing education opportunities, including technical tours; and
4. More co-sponsored events with other professional organizations, such as ASSE.

There are also some other initiatives that we are exploring: starting a local student section through AIHA national and streamlining our membership categories.

In retrospect, my agenda was a bit ambitious. Our chronic challenge is time: getting our officers up to speed in their roles, writing new business procedures, configuring the new website, engaging volunteers, addressing membership concerns and finding top rate speakers for our dinner meetings and educational events. These all have considerable time demands. As a volunteer organization, we understand that it's often difficult to devote time to the section amid our employer, family and personal obligations. Although we are fortunate that we have a number of very talented members contributing their skills to improve our section, we can always use a little more help. Even an hour or two a month can make a difference. So, if you're interested in contributing some time to your local section, please contact our volunteer coordinator (and Past President) Laurel Davis ([ladavis@lbl.gov](mailto:ladavis@lbl.gov)).

So seemingly in the blink of an eye, a year has passed. We have a couple of new faces on the executive committee: Dr. Ahleah Rohr Daniels as our incoming first year director and Maria Griffin, former IH in the Community Chairperson joining the Executive Committee as our new Treasurer. Also, returning to the Executive Committee are several familiar faces: Trevor Bausman and Michael Cooper as second and third year directors, respectively, Martin Bermudez as Secretary, Steve Derman (formerly one of our CIHC reps) as President-Elect and Jyoti Kumar as President. In August, Bob Nocco informed the AIHA-NCS Board that he would be unable to continue as 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Director this year. Michael Cooper has agreed to serve as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Director. Thank you to both Bob and Michael!

By the time our newsletter is published, we will have had our July dinner meeting at Michael's Shoreline on July 21<sup>st</sup>, which will be Past President's night and our annual presentation on global EHS issues.

The executive committee will also be meeting for our annual strategic planning meeting in August. We would love your input: if you have and suggestions, input, concerns or questions, please feel free to contact either me or Jyoti Kumar through the website.

In closing, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. The fact that you have devoted your careers to making the world a better place by protecting workers and the environment, families and the community, is an inspiration to me and the rest of the Executive committee. On behalf of the section, we look forward to seeing you all this summer at our dinner meetings and educational events.

Respectfully,

Rob Kleinerman, MPH, CIH  
Past-President

# July 21, 2015 Meeting Highlights - *Past Presidents Night & Developing World Outreach Initiative (DWOI) Dinner Meeting*

**First Speaker: Perry Gottesfeld, MPH, OK International**

## **Silica Exposures in Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining and Implications for Tuberculosis Prevention**

In 2014 the Developing World Outreach Initiative (DWOI) supported a project to conduct silica air sampling in small-scale gold mining in Tanzania. The results from this project are the first ever published documenting respirable silica in these mines. Mr. Gottesfeld presented the research linking silica exposures in mining to tuberculosis (TB) and the implications for countries with a high HIV prevalence. He described opportunities for TB prevention among high risk mining communities and talk about the need to prioritize TB prevention programs based on the findings in his recently published research which is available under open access in the [Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene](#).

**Second Speaker: Todd Jailer, Managing Editor Hesperian Health Guides**

## **Workers' Guide to Health and Safety, A New Publication Overview**

Todd Jailer, co-author of Workers' Guide to Health and Safety and editorial manager at Hesperian Health Guides, spoke about how this new resource incorporates the issues most affecting workers in export factories, from ergonomics and wages to chemicals and violence. AIHA –NCS members got a sense of the contents of this new book, how it was developed, and how it can be used to improve health and safety in the workplace.

**Third Speaker: Richard Hirsh, MPH, CIH, AIHA Fellow: DWOI Update & Annual Fundraiser**

Richard provided an update on DWOI activities and initiatives. A detailed report of recent DWOI activities is provided starting on page 6 of this newsletter.

## New Officers Introduced!

The following new officers were introduced –

- President – Jyoti Kumar
- President-Elect – Steve Derman
- Treasurer – Maria Griffin
- First Year Director – Ahleah Rohr Daniel



Robert Kleinerman receiving recognition for serving as President of AIHA-NCS from Jyoti Kumar, incoming President

## Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to welcome the newest members of our section!

Pat	Payne	Torrent Laboratory, Inc.
Pamela	Bilovesky	Pamela Bilovesky Associates
Coby	Graham	Department of Toxic Substances Control
Michael	Hall	Mission College
Sophia	Hightower	Genentech
Melissa	Lash	AEMTEK, Inc
Rainbow	Leung	SRI International
Michelle	Richards	Google

Please help us grow our membership and expand the professional experiences of your colleagues. Reach out to those who you know in the EHS profession and encourage them to join the AIHA Northern California Local Section. You don't need to be a National AIHA member to join. The NCS [membership application](#) is available on the website. If you are a National member you can join the NCS at the same time you renew your National membership. If you did not renew by March 1, 2015, you can still renew your membership directly on the AIHA NCS website.

## Volunteer Opportunities

The NCS has several openings for coordinator positions as well as other volunteer opportunities. If you are a new professional, this is a great opportunity to get involved and expand your network. For some of you seasoned professionals, you might want to give back and contribute to a profession that has served you well. Please contact Ahleah Rohr Daniel ([rohrac@gmail.com](mailto:rohrac@gmail.com)) if you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the NCS.

## 2015 Student Award Recipients

The awardees for this year's AIHA-NCS student awards are;

Bernard D. Tebbens Award:  
**Rachel Blythe**, UC Berkeley



Robert T. Legge Award:  
**Amee Raval**, UC Berkeley



Charles Powell Award:  
**Alifia Merchant**, UC Davis





## Einert Award – Last Call for Nominations!

The Einert Award is given in honor of the memory of Dr. Christine Einert. The AIHA-NCS has established this award to be given annually to a local section member whose qualities as a professional and a colleague have been marked and appreciated over the years by his or her fellow members. Recipients should be an active member of the local section, generally for a decade or longer, and have contributed to the success of the local section.

Dr. Christine Einert was a physician whose involvement with occupational health started in the 1930's. Dr. Einert joined the California State Department of Health in 1947, where she continued to work until her retirement in 1968. From 1950-51 Dr. Einert studied industrial hygiene at Harvard University, and was later certified by the ABIH. She was active in both the national AIHA and ACGIH. In 1981, the ACGIH honored her with the Meritorious Achievement Award. Dr. Einert remained an active member of the NCS until she passed away in 1983. With her years of experience in occupational health, she was a valuable resource to her fellow industrial hygienists, and took a special interest in young people first entering the field, always offering support and encouragement.

If you would like to nominate someone for the Einert Award, please contact Trevor Bausman at [trevorbausman@gmail.com](mailto:trevorbausman@gmail.com). Deadline is September 11, 2015.

## CALIFORNIA INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COUNCIL

*Advancing public policy to improve the health and safety  
of workers and the community.*



25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
CIHC  
CONFERENCE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

**December 7 - 9, 2015**  
(Monday – Wednesday)  
at the  
**Hilton San Francisco  
Union Square**  
*Registration Opens August 1st*



“Challenges for EHS Practices in Today’s Environment”



CALIFORNIA INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COUNCIL

**EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS  
AFTER OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup> –  
[Online registration](#)**

## DWOI Report: Sowing the Seeds of Change - Asbestos Exposure Assessment in Indonesia

The industrial hygiene community came out in force to help a non-governmental organization (NGO) conduct an exposure assessment at an asbestos cement roof factory in Indonesia. The Developing World Outreach Initiative (DWOI) initiated the project by providing a \$2500 technical grant to the recipient NGO, the Local Initiative for OSH Network (LION). Karen Gunderson, a DWOI member living in Jakarta, Indonesia, provided mentoring and instruction. DWOI facilitated free sample analyses from Forensic Analytical. DWOI also coordinated equipment donations from Lauren Geddes, Randy Cook, and SKC which Karen carried from the U.S. to use in the project.

Asbestos is imported into Indonesia to make corrugated asbestos cement roof sheets, ubiquitous in poor villages, and wood-like planks found in wealthier homes. Workers that fabricate these materials are unaware of asbestos hazards and are told by their employers “not to worry” about it. The purpose of the study was for LION to learn how to perform an exposure assessment and how to collect samples (bulk, air, and environmental) in and around an asbestos cement processing plant. The results, as well as worker health screenings for early asbestos related disease, would be used to inform union workers about their exposures.

LION learned about work practices from union members at a series of meetings over 6 months. Trust grew between LION and the union as did the union leaders’ knowledge of asbestos hazards and protective methods. High risk jobs were identified and employees wore sampling gear under their clothing during the night shifts. The employees collected bulk samples from various areas of the plant with guidance from LION. The LION Project Coordinator, Dimu Pratama, collected air samples in neighborhoods outside the plant and distributed early asbestosis questionnaires to workers.

Sampling results revealed that other hazards existed at the plant besides asbestos. Bulk asbestos imported from Russia contained 95% chrysotile, but dust residues on the floor contained 2-5% chrysotile plus a variety of metals, including arsenic, beryllium, chromium, lead, and nickel. Fly ash is also a component of the finished product and it is known to have mineral residues. Cement is also an input so silica exposures are likely. Periodically the entire plant is clouded with a dusty haze because both the fly ash and cement input pipes leak.

Asbestos was detected at 0.010 f/cc to 0.025 f/cc (10% - 25% of the PEL) in personal samples; an area sample in the asbestos storage room detected 0.048 f/cc (48% of PEL). Though results were below the PEL, they did indicate that exposures were occurring. Exposures are expected to be higher on day and swing shifts. Medical exams of 11 high risk workers did not reveal early asbestosis, but the exposure duration was 4-15 years, which may be early for disease onset. Environmental samples collected were all below the detection limit.

LION gave the union a list of recommendations, including installation of a clothing change-out room, improved facility cleaning procedures, repair of leaky input pipes, additional air sampling, medical exams, and investigation of widespread hand dermatitis. The workers decided to press management to make N95 masks available to all employees (instead of surgical masks) and to start changing their clothes in the bathroom at the beginning and end of shift until a changing room is installed.

Several important connections were made during this project. The involvement of AIHA-NCS and an American CIH gave the project credibility which allowed LION to connect with a PhD student from University of Indonesia and her advisor, an official in the Occupational Health Ministry. The PhD student will focus her thesis research on early asbestosis in Indonesia, a first, and will draw needed attention to the subject. The project also gave LION the credentials to win a \$5000 grant in June 2014 from the Korean Green Asia project to study early asbestos disease in Indonesian asbestos textile workers. In a country where very few people are aware that asbestos is a carcinogen, these are very impactful developments...all from the seed money, equipment and volunteer support provided by DWOI.

**Continued on next page →**

**Karen Gunderson training union members  
how to wear the pumps**



**When the cement pipe leaks, the factory looks  
like this.**



**Training how to wear the pumps**



**Leaky input feed pipe.**





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