

# AIHA-NCS Monitor

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2013

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## President's Message

While it is not common knowledge what we industrial hygienists or occupational health and safety professionals do, the recent news headlines continue to remind me the importance of what we do. NPR and the Center for Public Integrity recently reported on investigations into the dangers of grain bin entrapments... Two children were killed in a trench collapse in North Carolina... Seven workers died while cleaning a tank at a brewery in Mexico City. Our work to improve occupational health and safety is not done!

Last month, Perry Gottesfeld, Executive Director of OK International, spoke at our March dinner meeting on the global lead poisoning epidemic (see a summary of Perry's talk on the next page). Perry's presentation couldn't have been more timely. In February, the New York Times published an article citing the recycling of spent lead batteries from the U.S. to Mexico as a source of lead pollution in Mexico. In the March 2013 issue of the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*, Perry and his colleagues published a study indicating that a high percentage of new paints sold in Cameroon have high lead concentrations. Being that the March dinner meeting was also Student's Night, I think the students left the meeting knowing that our profession is still very relevant, on both a domestic and an international front.

Whether we're working to protect worker health and safety through our jobs or volunteering to further the efforts of the Developing World Outreach Initiative Committee in aiding the efforts on worker health and safety in the developing world, we are forming a community of occupational health and safety professionals.

On the local front, our NCS Board and Executive Committee is always striving to provide professional development and networking opportunities that our members will find valuable. In that spirit, we have organized two events that are new to NCS: 1) sponsoring the live broadcast of the AIHA Webinar, "The New Era of Global Exposure Limit Setting Processes – Harmonization on an OEL Hierarchy Approach" at a much-reduced registration fee, and 2) sponsoring a roundtable discussion on Current EH&S Challenges in the Biotech / BioPharma Industry, free to current NCS members. And don't forget our annual Technical Symposium! I had previously reported the date of May 1<sup>st</sup>, but want to let everyone know that it has been moved to July 10.

In recognizing a few of our members, I would like to extend my congratulations to Chris Laszcz-Davis on being elected to the AIHA Board of Directors. Also, congratulations to James Martin, our current Past-President, on being accepted to the ACGIH TLV for Chemical Substances Committee. James served on the Committee from 1995 to 1998 and had bowed out due to work commitments. He has just been approved as a member candidate to serve on the Committee again. Lastly, my congratulations to Bill Wells and Joel Cohen on being named to the ACGIH Nominating Committee. It is impressive to see how active our local section members are in participating in various occupational health and safety communities.

## Announcing Our New Local Section Officers!

By James Martin

Local section officers and other volunteers are the backbone and strength of our local section. The following individuals have been elected as new local section officers and Board member, effective July 1. Please join me and reach out to them with congratulations.

**Rob Kleinerman – President Elect**  
**Martin Bermudez – Secretary**

**Joe Barsky - Treasurer**  
**Bob Nocco – 1<sup>st</sup> Year Director**

## AIHA-NCS Dues

Final AIHA-NCS membership dues renewal notices were sent to members on March 6. Thanks to all the members who have renewed their membership this year! We really appreciate your support! For those of you who haven't renewed yet, please take a moment to go to [www.aiha-ncs.org](http://www.aiha-ncs.org) and renew today. Click on "Renew Membership" under the Members Only section. You can also renew by mail by printing out the *Form to Pay Due by Mail*. While renewing, please don't forget to update your member profile.

## The Global Lead Poisoning Epidemic March 12, 2013 Dinner Meeting Highlights

Our March dinner meeting was at Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto in Berkeley. Students' night and Perry Gottesfeld of Occupational Knowledge International attracted a large turnout for our March dinner meeting.

Perry described shifts in global health that are related to increasing numbers living in cities and hazardous industries being moved to developing countries. He described lead and silica exposures as major environmental health issues in developing countries. The results of these exposures were explained in terms of occupational disease and death but also in terms of impact on education and economical development.

Perry talked about recent changes to blood lead level reference values and the implications both locally and internationally. Elevated susceptibility in developing countries was discussed alongside increased opportunities for, and sources of, lead exposure. A case study of lead exposure in Nigerian gold mines was presented with information on lead battery recycling, leaded fuel, lead paint, and pigments.

Perry explained that we must act now because architectural paint sales in the Asia Pacific region doubled between 2001 and 2011. We must stop using lead paint now for the billions of dollars it will cost to deal with this in the future. To this end, OK International helped launch the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (GAELP), which is housed at UNEP and WHO. They have asked paint companies to reformulate and list ingredients to inform consumers but have also provided an incentive to paint companies by developing a third party certification program to reward companies that reformulate.



Colleen Thornton with Perry Gottesfeld

## NCS SHORTS

**Michael R. Cooper & James Martin**

### Open Assistant to Forums Chair

AIHA-NCS is still looking for someone to assist with the Forums. Please contact [James Martin](mailto:James.Martin@aiha-ncs.org) or [Steve Derman](mailto:Steve.Derman@aiha-ncs.org) if interested.

### Update Your NCS Member Profile

Many of us have changed jobs, email addresses and phone numbers since becoming NCS members. This information is used to contact members regarding annual dues, volunteer opportunities and other Section business. Help us keep our membership contact information current by clicking on the "Update Member Profile" link here or in the "Members Only" section of the NCS website.

<http://www.aiha-ncs.org/registerupdatemembersform.cfm>

## New Members

The following individuals were approved for membership in the local section by the Executive Committee:

Matthew Bacinkas  
Michael Steinbacher  
Xiaosen Xie  
Karen B. Bouvier  
Sridhar Agraharam  
Roxanne Fynboh  
Alison Gauthier  
Christina D. Juarez  
Fernando I. Nell  
Stanleigh W. Phillips  
Kim M. Worl  
Aaron W. Zude  
Jeffrey R. Wright  
Andrew J. McIntyre  
Heidi C. Lach  
Jed A. Douglas  
Mark E. Divoky  
Antonio Cofresi  
Wesley Chase  
Kevin R. Braun  
D. W. Berman  
Anthony D. Belcher  
Allan W. Ader  
Michael N. Cooper  
Bill Mitchell  
Fionna Mowat  
Carol J. Robinson

## Bylaw Changes Approved

James Martin

Changes to our Bylaws have been approved by local section membership vote. These changes have also been approved by AIHA National. Changes include:

- Minor membership terminology correction.
- Deletion of a student membership clause that restricts some full time students from qualifying for the discounted student membership.
- Several changes to bring the Bylaws up to current day practice allowing for electronic submissions, as is current practice.
- AIHA Director terminology clarification.
- Raising membership dues \$10.
- Deleting a dues related section as unnecessary and inappropriate that requires past members to be forced to pay membership in arrears in order to rejoin the local section.
- Paragraph related to nominations and elections extensively rewritten to bring it up to actual historical and current practice, and improve readability.

## California Industrial Hygiene Council Report

Steve Derman

The CIHC Board has been quite active during the first quarter of the year. There have been several teleconferences, strategic planning sessions, and one meeting.

The 2013 CIHC Conference is scheduled for December 2-4, 2013 at the Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco. The overarching theme is "Connecting Sound Science and Responsible EHS Solutions". The Conference Team is comprised of AIHA local section members throughout California. Conference Chairs include Ed Klinenberg, Chris Laszcz-Davis and Joel Cohen. More details are forthcoming soon. CIHC is in the process of recruiting members to its 2013 CIHC Conference Team. If interested, contact Chris Laszcz-Davis, Joel Cohen, Steve Derman or Ed Klinenberg (Sacramento section).

CIHC members continue to participate in a myriad of Cal-OSHA activities. They include:

- Meeting with Cal-OSHA leadership to enhance our alliance and synergistic relationship.
- Work with the national AIHA's Governmental Affairs staff to provide input to national legislation with impact in California.
- Participation in Cal-OSHA hearings and meetings representing the industrial hygiene profession. This includes the Health Expert Advisory Committee (HEAC), the Feasibility Advisory Committee (FAC), the Cal-OSHA Advisory Committee and the hearings on GHS.
- Participation in Cal-OSHA specific advisory committees.

The CIHC, with several scientific advisors reviewed and commented to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) on the latest proposed Safer Consumer Products regulations. CIHC is continuing to provide input on the California Green Chemistry Initiative. As scientists and advocates, we are continuing to support evidence-based science in the regulatory standard setting process.

CIHC reviewed, categorized, and assigned to each Board member for oversight, approximately 100 California legislative bills that could potentially affect environmental health & safety professionals, employees, and the profession.

Feel free to read more about several bills and CIHC activities at <http://www.cihconline.com>

### May Board Meeting

May Board meeting – May 7, 3:00pm-5:00pm (Teleconference)  
Please contact [Colleen Thornton](#) if you are interested in attending.

# Developing World Outreach Initiative (DWOI) Funds OHS Trainings in India and China

Garrett Brown

In a joint effort with national AIHA and the Maquiladora Health and Safety Support Network, the local section's Developing World Outreach Initiative has funded three OHS workshops with key grassroots organizations in India, China and Hong Kong since the first of the year. The participants included lawyers, unions, mine workers and local government officials in India; agricultural workers and vocational students in southwest China; and union officials in Hong Kong.

These workshops are the latest in a series of trainings on a variety of occupational health and safety topics over the last five years designed to build the capacity of local, pro-worker non-governmental organizations (NGOs) assisting some of the most vulnerable workers in global supply chains and the developing world. The educational events have been supported by joint grants from AIHA, MHSSN and DWOI.

## Assistance for Miners in India

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Institute of Development Studies in Rajasthan, India, 30 participants met to discuss the occupational hazards facing miners and what could be done to protect them under Indian law. Participants include lawyers practicing in Supreme Court, High Court, and local labor courts; labor enforcement officials from the Ministry of Labor; State of Rajasthan labor officials, Mine Workers union staff, NGO staff, academics and law students.

Seminar organizer Krishnendu Mukherjee from the Mine Labour Protection Campaign reported "we held the meeting on a Sunday so that government officials can attend. It was the first time when government officials attended the meeting and shared their views. The officials invited were senior Labour Commissioners in charge of deciding cases related to Workman's Compensation Act. The lawyers were practicing labor lawyers and human rights lawyers. They shared their insights into the legal problems that are faced while filing cases. The most common obstacle is the lack of documentary evidence to prove employer-employee relationship."

"The most challenging aspects of the workshop were when the victims presented their situation to lawyers and government officials. They discussed the threats to their life from mine owner and to livelihood, and hence worried about legal interventions. The labor lawyers present have agreed to look into the matter and see how best cases can be filed without jeopardizing the plaintiff. The government officials encouraged the victims to file cases and access the judicial system," Mukherjee wrote.

## OHS Awareness in Rural China

Forty-five agricultural workers and vocational students participated in all-day OHS training on February 27<sup>th</sup> in Southwest China. The day-long seminar focused on China's workplace health and safety laws, accident prevention, chemical hazard awareness, and detailed explanation of fire and explosion prevention measures for young peasants working locally and vocational students who will go on to work as migrant workers in the giant export factories of China's coastal cities which produce consumer goods for global supply chains.

The workshop was held at the Zhongxian Vocational Educational Center in a rural county of Chongqing Municipality, and was organized by the "Center of Self-Help Services for the Other Abilities (Disabled Persons)." The Center is led by Yuying Chen, who received the International Award of the American Public Health Association Occupational Health and Safety Section at the APHA conference in San Francisco in November 2012. Chen is herself disabled from a factory fire that burned over 70 percent of her body.

Included in the training for the agricultural workers and vocation students was transportation, lunch and dinner – which made participation in the event possible for poor rural workers and students.

"The training was very successful, everybody listened carefully, and said it was very important for their future employment," wrote Chen after the event. "The participants hope we can carry out this kind of training more later!"

(cont. on pg. 7)

# Student Awards

Will Cyrs

March was Students' Night at the dinner meeting. This year we gave awards to three very enthusiastic, qualified and deserving students.

## Bernard D. Tebbens Memorial Award

The Bernard D. Tebbens memorial award is given by our local section as a tribute to Dr. Tebbens, a former professor of industrial hygiene at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health. This award is given for academic excellence and is open to graduate students who have completed at least one year in UC Berkeley's Environmental Health Science Program.

## 2013 Tebbens Award Recipient – Kathleen Navarro

Kathleen Navarro is a PhD candidate in Environmental Health Sciences at Berkeley, with an anticipated graduation date of May 2016. Kathleen developed an interest in IH while studying environmental toxicology at UC Davis as an undergraduate, and refined this interest while working at a consulting firm in San Francisco. Her dissertation research involves assessing urinary PAH concentrations and relating them to various routes of exposure, and she is also researching the interaction between chemical exposure and breast cancer. She is a member of AIHA and ISES. Kathleen plans to stay in academia upon graduation with her PhD.



(Mike Cooper and Kathleen Navarro)

## Robert T. Legge Award

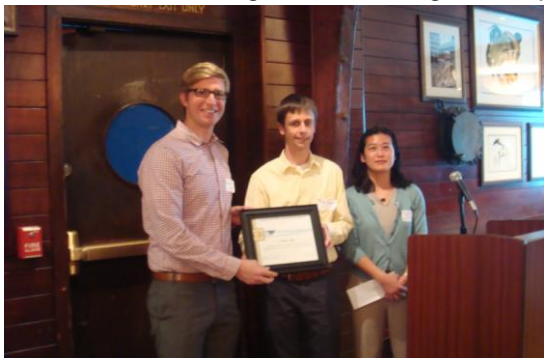
The Robert Legge Students' Award is given by our local section in honor of Dr. Legge, a former professor of industrial hygiene and university physician at the University of California. The award is to commemorate Dr. Legge's contributions to the field of occupational medicine and public health and to support and encourage the study of industrial hygiene.

## 2013 Legge Award Recipient (Undergraduate) – Sunjay Sethi

Sunjay is a BS candidate in Environmental Toxicology at UC Davis, with an expected graduation date of June 2014. Sunjay is passionate about the field of environmental toxicology, and seeks to find "efficient and environmentally beneficial ways to deal with serious toxins or problems." Through a current internship, Sunjay is using liquid chromatography with mass spectroscopy to identify estrogen metabolites and is researching how cells metabolize estrogen under various conditions.

## 2013 Legge Award Recipient (Graduate) – Timothy Glen

Timothy is an MS candidate in USF's Environmental Management program, with an expected graduation date of May 2013. He has over 6 years of experience working in environmental management in the U.S., Australia, and Middle East, and upon graduation, would like to work on an environmental health and safety team of an international organization. He is currently researching urban stormwater management systems in arid and semi-arid biomes, and also has research experience in environmental management, auditing, and impact assessment in various Middle Eastern locales.



(Timothy Glen, Mike Cooper, Colleen Thornton)

## Einert Award Nominations Needed

We are now taking nominations for a recipient of this year's Einert Award which will be awarded during our July dinner meeting. 2013 nominations will be due on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Christine Einert Award is given in honor of the memory of Dr. Christine Einert, a physician who became involved in occupational health in the 1930s. Dr. Einert was active in both national AIHA and ACGIH throughout her career and was an active member of our local section until her death in 1983.

The award will be given to a local section member whose qualities as a professional have been noted and appreciated throughout the years by his or her fellow members. Recipients should be an active member of the local section (generally a decade or longer) and have contributed to the success of the local section. The recipient must not have been a past Christine Einert Award winner.

You can nominate your colleagues on our [website](#) or by directly emailing [William Cyrs](#).

## AIHF Donation

AIHA-NCS continues to support the American Industrial Hygiene Foundation (AIHF). AIHF awards scholarships for students in industrial hygiene and related disciplines. NCS recently contributed \$1200 for the Northern California Local Section scholarship to a qualified graduate or undergraduate student attending a California school and meeting the award criteria outlined by AIHF. Several years ago, NCS pledged a total contribution of \$6,000 to be divided over a period of five years. This year's donation marks our fourth payment, with one remaining payment of \$1200 to be made next year. The recipient of this scholarship will be announced at the AIHce this May in Montreal. Visit the following link to see the past winners: <http://aiha.org/insideaiha/AIHFoundation/Pages/NorthernCaliforniaLocalSectionScholarship.aspx>.

## AIHA Fellow Award

Congratulations to our own Timothy R. Bormann who was recently accepted by the AIHA as a Fellow! AIHA Fellows are individuals who have been a Full or Diplomat member in good standing for a minimum of 15 years. These individuals have been nominated by their local section or standing committee for their recognized achievement in the field of industrial hygiene, either through research, leadership, publications, education, or service to AIHA. The Fellow classification is limited to no more than five percent of the membership.

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## Mentoring Program

men•tor: *n.* A person looked upon for wise advice and guidance.

Are you interested in becoming a mentor or are looking for one? The AIHA-NCS is re-initiating the mentoring program due to increased demand. If you are a student or early career professional interested in building your network to further your industrial hygiene career, the mentoring program is for you!

As part of your professional development, a mentoring relationship can be used to develop or improve key technical, business, leadership, or interpersonal skills that can lead to career growth.

In order to work well, a mentoring relationship must be established formally, for an agreed upon period of time, and must be assessed for effectiveness on an on-going basis. The mentoring program includes conducting preliminary introductions and interview, setting goals and developing a mentoring agreement, and evaluating how the partnership is progressing.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor (or being mentored), please contact [Jyoti Kumar](#) for additional information or submit a request through the [website](#). NCS needs to know about your key skill sets so the local section can pair you up according to your interests and needs. Remember, being a mentor is a rewarding experience and you may also have an opportunity to earn ABIH CM points.

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## \*\*Save the Date\*\* Annual Technical Symposium

The 2013 symposium will be held on July 10, at SRI International in Menlo Park. This year's topic is "Prevention Through Design". The goal of PtD is to work ahead of the causes of workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities through designing out the hazards that are responsible for causing problems. Please come and learn about protecting workers through risk analysis and response to problems identified.

# Upcoming Events

April 23, 2013 2:00 – 4:00pm Followed by networking social	AIHA-NCS Biotech /BioPharma Roundtable: Current EH&S Challenges in the Industry San Francisco, CA <a href="http://www.aiha-ncs.org/cde.cfm?event=408173">http://www.aiha-ncs.org/cde.cfm?event=408173</a>
May 18-23, 2013	AIHA AIHce 2013: The Art and Science of Professional Judgment Montreal, Canada <a href="http://www.aihce2013.org/">http://www.aihce2013.org/</a>
May 21-23, 2013	ASSE – Greater San Jose Chapter Associate Safety Professional (ASP) Review Workshop Mission College, Santa Clara, CA <a href="http://www.assesj.org/events.php">http://www.assesj.org/events.php</a>
July 9, 2013 5:30pm – 8:30pm	AIHA-NCS July Dinner Meeting – Past President’s Night Michael’s at Shoreline, Mountain View, CA
July 10, 2013 8:00am – 5:00pm	AIHA-NCS Annual Technical Symposium Topic :Prevention Through Design SRI International, Menlo Park, CA

## DWOI Funds OHS Trainings in India and China (Cont. from pg. 4)

### Promoting OHS in Hong Kong

The same day, February 27<sup>th</sup>, but 800 miles away on the coast, 36 leaders of nine Hong Kong unions participated in a workshop organized by the “Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims.” The interactive seminar focused on hazard recognition, the importance of injury reporting, medical evaluation and compensation issues, as well as conducting surveys, steward workshops and on-site trainings to promote workplace safety and health. Hong Kong’s workplace safety regulations and workers’ rights under the law were also discussed.

Among the unions participating were those that represent retail, commerce, garment, construction, building maintenance, health care, and hospitality workers in Hong Kong.

One additional training funded by DWOI-MHSSN grants is scheduled this spring related to silicosis diseases among miners and gemstone workers in India.

National AIHA and the MHSSN have both renewed their matching grants for DWOI’s Asian OHS training project for calendar year 2013. NCS members who would like to contribute to this effort can make tax-deductible donations on behalf of DWOI to “New Ways to Work,” PO Box 124, Berkeley, CA 94701.



Union leaders sharing their OHS problems.  
(Hong Kong)



Occupational health & safety law training.  
(China)



Legal workshop for mine workers.  
(India)

## Thanks!

NCS would like to thank Chris Laszcz-Davis for donating a registration to the AIHA Webinar: The New Era of Global Exposure Limit Setting Processes, held on April 11. NCS would also like to thank Environmental and Occupational Risk Management (EORM), San Jose office, for lending their conference room for NCS to host the AIHA Webinar broadcast!

## AIHA-NCS Board

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Save the Date!

Next dinner meeting – July 9, 2013  
Past President's Night

Michael's at Shoreline, Mountain View  
Speakers: David Zalk and Ryan Kamerzell  
Topic: Risk Communication through Risk Assessment

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