

AIHA-NCS Monitor

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August - September



President's Message

I started to write my first President's Message to the membership at 4 o'clock in the morning while the rest of the house is sound asleep. Normally, I too would be sleeping, but as a new mom, waking up before the sun rises is no longer a strange notion to me.

I realized that stepping into the AIHA-NCS's role as President this July is very much like becoming a new mom – I didn't know what I was in for but am learning as I go along. In addition, much like becoming a brand-new parent, I found that I am relying on those who have come before me for their guidance and wisdom but I am still finding the way.

That is why I am thankful for the board this year. While many of the board members are new, as a whole we have a great range of industry experience, as well as many years in our field. I am already grateful and excited for the new insights that everyone has offered. Our current board members can be a reflection of our changing world.

Just the other day, a colleague and I were discussing some recent news articles we had seen. Some of the headlines included, "Growing hamburger in the laboratory" and "The Usage of Smartphones as Personal DNA Sampling Devices." There is no question that our world is rapidly changing around us. Gone or nearly gone are the days of printed newsletters and mailed newsletters. This is now the time of email correspondence and using social media to disseminate mass information. How is our industry going to embrace these changes? How will we ensure that we will not become obsolete and that our profession continues to be relevant even 30 years from today?

The Board had our annual Strategic Planning and Budget Meeting on July 24 at SRI International in Menlo Park. It was a fruitful meeting as we laid out our goals for the upcoming year. We believe that there are two main goals that the local section wants to focus on.

The first goal is to increase our membership. There is no doubt that over the last 10 years there has been a steady decline in membership. This is on par with the downward economy as well as with our aging workforce. This is also a reflection of how we as industrial hygienists no longer operate in the narrower field of the past. We must take on more complex, general roles as health and safety professionals.

The second goal is to retain our current members. The solution is to provide a greater value for the membership. We hope to make AIHA-NCS a valuable asset to our members and to potential members in our industry by providing the opportunity to network, to gain valuable technical knowledge, and to provide continuing education support. During the meeting, we also decided to continue to keep the line of communication between NCS and CIHC open both to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations and to develop a new refreshed partnership. The board will be working hard this year to continue to provide our members with great value and to help our local members become the frontrunners of the new directions for our industry.

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome George Bibbins and Richard Bohrer as new members to our section. George is with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and Richard is with Health Science Associates.

Please help us grow our membership and expand the professional experiences of your colleagues. Reach out to those that 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 Membership Application is available on the NCS website [<http://www.aiha-ncs.org/registernewmembers.cfm>]. If you are a National member you can join the NCS at the time you renew your National membership.

Call for AIHA Fellow Nominations

We are accepting nominations for Fellows of AIHA. Criteria for Fellows include individuals who have been Full or Diplomate National AIHA members in good standing for a minimum of 15 years. These individuals are nominated by a 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. Previously, 32 Fellows have been selected from the NCS.

If you wish to nominate someone you believe to be worthy of this distinction please submit their name along with a brief statement about the nominee, including a summary of the nominee's qualifications and an explanation of why the nominee is worthy of the Fellow status. Send nominations and supporting information to Bob Nocco (roc@chevron.com).

Volunteer Opportunities

The NCS has several openings for coordinator positions as well as other volunteer opportunities. If you are new professional, this is a great opportunity to link in 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 Bob Nocco (roc@chevron.com) if you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the NCS.

New 3rd Year Director

Jyoti Kumar, CIH is stepping in as 3rd Year Director. Jyoti has 14 years of professional environmental, health, and safety experience in multiple industries including aerospace, semiconductor, high technology, pharmaceutical/biotechnology, healthcare, software, and public agencies. She assists clients to implement and manage industrial hygiene and health and safety programs. Jyoti has volunteered in the AIHA - NCS for the last three years spearheading the Expand Your Horizons workshops and serving as Educational Outreach / IH-in-the-Community" Committee Chair.



23rd Annual California Industrial Hygiene Council Conference

December 2-4, 2013

InterContinental Mark Hopkins, San Francisco, CA

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Click the link to register, view hotel information, view the program agenda and more!

www.cihconline.com/events2013

The California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC), founded over 23 years ago to establish a legislative presence in the California State Capitol for the profession, has historically sponsored first rate EH&S conferences which -- draw dynamic speakers and conference participants into a robust dialogue on the latest EH&S initiatives. This year's conference theme, **"Connecting Sound Science and Responsible EH&S Solutions"**, will be held at the beautiful InterContinental Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco. Key topics at this year's conference include *Business, Government, Policy and Regulatory Drivers; Emerging Issues; Labor & International EH&S Partnerships; Cross-Over EH&S Issues; Product Stewardship & Sustainability; and EH&S Case Studies—Learning From Experience.*

Of particular note this year, **Dr. John Howard**, Director of NIOSH, **Ellen Widess**, Chief, Cal-OSHA and **Dick Evans**, Sr. International Business Advisor & Director of Companies and former President and CEO, Alcan, have agreed to speak at the conference along with a panel of world renown experts.

Experts include, among many others, **Dr. Barbara Materna**, Chief, Occupational Health Branch, CA Department of Public Health; **Larry Gibbs**, Associate Provost, EHS, Stanford University; **Aaron Trippler**, Director, Governmental Affairs, national AIHA; **Robert Nocco**, Technical Team Leader, Chevron Occupational Hygiene Center of Excellence; **Dr. L. Casey Chosewood**, Sr. Medical Officer, Total Worker Health, CDC; **Kevin Thompson**, Editor, Cal-OSHA Reporter; **Robert Matthews**, Partner, McKenna Long & Aldridge, LLP; **Dr. James Gibson**, Asst. Vice Chancellor, EHS, UCLA; **Michael Andrew**, Asian Operations Director, Sumerra; **Ben Hensler**, General Counsel and Deputy Director, Workers Rights Consortium; **Dr. Dara O'Rourke**, UC Berkeley and Founder of "The Good Guide"; **Ayesha Barenblat**, "Better Work" program of the ILO-IFC; **Katie Schmitz Eluitt**, Associate Director, Stakeholder Engagement, Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB); **Dr. Michael Wilson**, UC Berkeley; **John Uhlrich**, Green Chemistry Alliance (GCA); **Dr. Zack Mansdorf**, Director, Center for Safety and Health Sustainability; **Beth Concoby**, DuPont Product Stewardship; and **Ben Kollmeyer**, Chief Science Officer, Forensic Analytical Consulting Services.

We are pleased to report that we are keeping the registration fees at 2012 prices, \$495 early bird rate for the 3-day conference, followed by \$595 as the conference time frame approaches.

Continuing education certification points for the conference are being pursued with ABIH, BCSP and REHS.

Come join us. Expand your horizons and professional mastery. Learn from some of the best minds around. Engage in lively conversations with colleagues. Get your CM points at cost effective prices and enjoy the San Francisco area during the holiday season!

Come join us for the premier, West Coast EH&S conference this December!

To learn more about CIHC, please go to www.cihconline.com.

2013 CIHC Conference Chairs,
Ed Klinenberg, Chris Laszcz Davis & Joel Cohen

Risk Communication Through Risk Assessment July Lunch Meeting Highlights



Our July meeting was at Michael's at Shoreline in Mountain View. The guest speaker at the dinner meeting was David Zalk and Ryan Kamerzell both with LLNL.

Achieving prevention of work-related injury and illness is essential to our professional success. However, there are many potential avenues in our profession that require a more improved process to achieve that end.

David and Ryan presented their process to achieve simplified risk communication with workers, and within our profession, as their chosen avenue. To achieve this objective they designed a Risk Level Based Management System (RLBMS) that focuses ES&H resources on the highest risk procedures at LLNL. To implement the RLBMS for their IH group, they have developed a Risk Assessment and Control (RAC) database based on Control Banding strategies.

The RAC is a robust system that encompasses all hazards covered by the wide scope of IH regulatory requirements at LLNL, dividing each into four levels of risk. The Risk Level (RL) is determined by the IH as part of a documented and tracked qualitative risk assessment required for all health and safety tasks. Once the RL is derived for a given task and its hazard(s), all necessary outcomes are determined and presented in standardized format including: hierarchy of controls, work control language, training, medical surveillance, monitoring expectations, and more. As an outcome, the initial qualitative risk assessment not only standardizes control outcomes, it also prioritizes where and when quantitative monitoring needs to be performed.

Although currently utilized by IHs, the results have been an extremely effective risk communication for workers. Once workers know the RL associated with hazards for a given task, expectations are clearly communicated to them to perform their work safely. It also becomes an outstanding tool for facilitating worker participation in the process. The RAC database has been in use for over a year and LLNL IHs are in agreement about the utility of the design and the collective information presented may be useful at other facilities. Its success has created expectations for each ES&H disciplines at LLNL to build their risk assessment process within the RLBMS as the RAC database is OHSAS 18001, ISO 14001, and ISO 9001 compliant. Plans are in place for implementing the process lab-wide for all work control documents and interest in sharing the final product have been expressed by other national laboratories.

September Dinner Meeting

Our next dinner meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at Francesco's Italian Restaurant in Oakland. **Come join us as Fred Walter discusses current topics in Cal/OSHA and Workers Compensation from a legal perspective.**



Recently named by Cal-OSHA Reporter as one of the “Most Influential” people on the Cal/OSHA scene, Mr. Walter has represented employers in California and other states in OSHA compliance matters and “serious & willful misconduct” claims since 1985. He is admitted to practice in all California courts, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. He holds an AV rating by Martindale-Hubble, the highest rating for competence and ethical practice.

Fred works with employers, general counsel, safety directors, risk managers and human resources administrators defending OSHA citations and developing effective safety programs which answer regulatory mandates. He leads the firm’s crisis management practice, providing clients with legal advice and representation during and after critical events. His article “Crisis Management: The Legal Perspective”, was published in the March 2003 edition of Safety Professional.

Fred is often invited to talk on topics related to workplace safety for the firm’s clients, public agencies and professional organizations. A short list of these groups includes ALPHA Fund, Redwood Empire MIF, the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Associated General Contractors (AGC) of California, Associated California Loggers and “The Safety Center” in Sacramento, California.

He has been a guest lecturer on the legal aspects of safety and health at San Jose State University. He is co-author, with his partner, Lisa Prince, of the “Workplace Safety” chapter of the California State Bar publication Advising California Employers and Employees.

Please mark your calendars for September 10, 2013. Register early for extra savings!

Executive Committee: The AIHA-NCS Executive Committee will meet at the restaurant at 3:30 p.m. sharp to conduct Local Section business. As always, interested parties are encouraged and welcome to attend.

On-line registration is now available and encouraged at www.aiha-ncs.org. Please note that a credit card is required for on-line registration. Alternatively, complete the form on the last page of the newsletter and send to Leslie Lawton via mail, fax, or e-mail.

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