

AOEC NEWS

Newsletter of the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics

Fall 2005
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PRESIDENTIAL COLUMN

**John Meyer,
MD, MPH**

The fall column for the AOEC president is almost pre-written. We have just finished up our Board elections and I get to congratulate the John Stroger Cook County Hospital on being re-elected to the Board. Cile

Buckley has been ably representing them and will continue in that role. I am also pleased to announce that Karen Mulloy has been re-elected to the Board. Although the by-laws would have allowed her to serve even if she had lost the election, it is especially nice that she won since she takes over as AOEC Board President in December. I am also pleased to announce that there will be new ideas on the AOEC Board from Iris Udasin. Iris is an occupational physician who works at the Environmental & Occupational Health Clinic Center at the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences Institute.

Normally, I'd also thank the outgoing board members however since I am the only outgoing member, I'll skip that tradition. I will be staying on the Board as Past-president so I'm not really leaving anyway.

I am also pleased to announce that the clinics are voting on what we sincerely hope is the final version of the AOEC Medical Management Guidelines for Lead Exposed Adults. This project has been ongoing since the summer of 2002. AOEC with funding from NIOSH and NCEH convened an expert panel in March 2003. Members of that panel worked for two full years synthesizing research and debating points of interpretation. I want to publicly thank the members of that panel: Richard Wedeen, MD, Chair, Rose Goldman, MD, MPH, Dana Headapohl, MD, MPH, Karen Hipkins, RN, NP-C, MPH, Howard Hu, MD, ScD, Michael Kosnett, MD, MPH, Barbara Materna, PhD, CIH,

Pamela Reich, MS, Stephen Rothenberg, PhD, Brian S. Schwartz, MD, MS, Eugene Shippen, MD and Alan Woolf, MD, MPH. Their work was reviewed and utilized by a separate panel of AOEC members to develop the document now circulating among AOEC member clinics and being voted upon. My thanks also to Kathleen Fagan, MD, MPH, Rosemary Sokas, MD, MOH, and Alan Ducatman, MD, MPH for their work on this final document.

I also want to thank our executive director, Kathy Kirkland, who has shepherded this document through the entire process over the past three years. This has been a long and occasionally contentious process and the Board appreciates the efforts she has put forth to achieve this final document.

Other achievements this year have been the receipt of an American Red Cross Liberty Fund grant to continue our work with World Trade Center (WTC) responders. This particular program provides funding for not only screening but also medical treatment (*see page 9 for further details*).

Our clinical experience with WTC has served us well in dealing with post hurricane problems as well. AOEC was called on by the Department of Health and Human Services to provide consultation on medical surveillance for federal responders. The AOEC Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU) also were involved in providing advice on children's health issues post hurricane. Together with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the PEHSU developed a set of recommendations for what infrastructure and levels of environmental repair need to be in place before children return to affected areas. These recommendations are available on the AOEC web site at www.aoec.org/content/Hurricane_recs_AAP_PEHSU.pdf.

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DR. FRUMKIN LEADS NCEH/ATSDR

In July 2005, former AOEC Board President, Howard Frumkin, MD, DrPH, MPH, was named the new Director of CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and ATSDR. NCEH/ATSDR is part of the CDC Coordinating Center for Environmental Health and Injury Prevention. Dr. Frumkin brings many valuable perspectives to the leadership of CDC and ATSDR's environmental health programs. Most recently, Dr. Frumkin was the Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University, and Professor of Medicine at Emory Medical School in Atlanta.

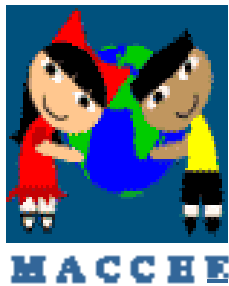
Dr. Frumkin's research interests include public health aspects of urban sprawl; air pollution; chemical toxicity; climate change; health benefits of contact with nature; and environmental and occupational health policy, especially regarding minority workers and communities and people in developing nations. Last year, he co-authored *Urban Sprawl and Public Health* (Island Press, 2004) with former NCEH Director Richard Jackson. He currently serves on the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research, and Medicine. He is board-certified in both internal medicine and occupational medicine and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, ACOEM, and Collegium Ramazzini.

Dr. Frumkin replaces Henry Falk, MD. Dr. Falk served the dual role as director of both the Coordinating Center for Environmental Health and Injury Prevention (CCEHIP) and NCEH/ATSDR. He can now devote his full attention to leading CCEHIP.

COOK - SNYDER AWARDEES NAMED

The 2005 Judy Cook and Meta Snyder Award was granted to Marilyn Dumay, MPH and Laura Podolsky. Last summer, Ms. Dumay, a recent MPH graduate (Industrial Hygiene) of Hunter College, participated in the Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP) in New York City. Ms. Dumay intends to continue working in occupational health and safety. Laura Podolsky, also a former OHIP intern (Los Angeles), is currently a MPH student at UCLA. Both students will attend the APHA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia and will also present on their OHIP experiences and projects (see p.7).

The Cook-Snyder award was established to help students and trainees in occupational and environmental health and safety travel to and participate at meetings related to OEM. It is open to all students, including undergraduate, graduate and post doctoral students, studying medicine, nursing, public health industrial hygiene and ergonomics. The value of each award is \$500.00. AOEC expresses its appreciation to all AOEC members who have made this award possible. The award funds are derived solely by AOEC member support. In FY2005, the Cook-Snyder Fund raised \$630.00.



The Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment

(MACCHE) is the Region 3 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit. Located in the District of Columbia, it is a joint effort of the George Washington University (GWU) and the Children's National Medical Center (CNMC). The Region 3 PEHSU, serving Delaware, District of Columbia, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia is characterized by its extensive collaborative projects and community action.

The MACCHE provides 4 major services: (1) Health education on pediatric environmental health, (2) Electronic and telephone consultations to health professionals and the public, (3) In person clinical consultations at CNMC, and (4)

Access to a library of educational materials on children's environmental health. The MACCHE develops training materials and disseminates authoritative information on children's health and the environment to health practitioners, professionals and other concerned individuals.

The staff of MACCHE consists of the 3 co-directors. Tee L. Guidotti, MD, MPH is an occupational medicine physician with expertise in pulmonology. Jerome A. Paulson, MD and Benjamin A. Gitterman, MD, are both pediatricians. Aurora Amoah, MPH is the Coordinator of MACCHE.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Since its inception in the year 2000, the MACCHE has conducted several educational activities targeted towards a diverse audience such as public health officials, policy makers, advocacy groups, and the interested public as well as practicing clinicians. In our target region, 54% of the activities have been concentrated in the District of Columbia (DC), 18% in Maryland, 14% in Pennsylvania, 7% in Virginia, 4% in Delaware and 3% West Virginia. These activities extend beyond the Mid-Atlantic region to include presentations in Israel, the United Kingdom and Spain.

The MACCHE has hosted approximately 90 health professionals at each of its day-long conferences on children's health and the environment. The third and most recent conference was co-sponsored by the MACCHE, the Region 3 EPA and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. It was held on October 1, 2005 to kick off EPA's recognition of Children's Health Month.

The MACCHE has developed 3 graduate courses for the GWU School of Public Health and Health Services and participates in the training of a fellow, Dr. Monica Pourrat in Pediatric Environmental Health at CNMC.

CLINICAL CONSULTATIONS

The MACCHE provides free telephone consultations for parents and health professional and has established a children's environmental health clinic at CNMC. This is a resource to which the DC Lead Screening and Prevention Program, local pediatricians and family health physicians and other health providers refer patients for evaluation and management. The majority of the cases are related to lead exposure, mercury contamination, autism and developmental issues related to environmental exposures and other complex diagnostic dilemmas.

COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY ACTION

The MACCHE has built a close relationship with state and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations within our target area.

The MACCHE plays a pivotal leadership role in children's environmental health for the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Dr. Paulson serves as the Co-Chair of the Lead Screening Advisory Committee (LSAC) for DC providing advice to the DC Department of Health regarding their CDC-funded Lead Screening Program. MACCHE also maintains an active presence on the DC Asthma Steering Committee. Dr. Gitterman holds an appointed position on the Governor's Board on Children's Health and the Environment in Maryland and is a member of the CDC Lead Prevention Task Force Advisory Committee.

In 2003, the presence of lead in the water supply captured the media headlines in the District. Many residents turned to the MACCHE for expert advice. Drs. Paulson and Gitterman conducted media interviews with the *Washington Post* (cont'd p.12)

SESSIONS AT APHA

For those of you who will be attending APHA this year in Philadelphia, below are a number of workshops and panels involving fellow AOEC members of which you may want to take note:

Sunday, December 11, 2005

Katrina Late Breaker, (276.0) 4:00pm-5:30pm. Rm. 105B. Presenters include: Chip Hughes (NIEHS), Rod Turpin (EPA-National Response Plan), Jaribu Hill (Mississippi Worker Center for Human Rights), Dave Newman (NYCOSH), Chris Trehan (Center to Protect Workers' Rights), and Daryl Malek-Wiley (Sierra Club).

Monday, December 12, 2005

Energy Employees Compensation Program (3047.0), 8:30am-10:00am. Laurence J. Fuortes, MD, MS and Ken Silver, DSc, SM are among the presenters in this session.

Moderated by Geoffrey Calvert, MD, MPH.

Environmental Health Epidemiology (3024.0) 8:30am-10:00am will address various environmental exposures and their impact on health. These exposures include leaded gasoline and other agents associated with vehicle emissions as well as how the design of our neighborhoods affects our children's health.

Health Care Workers: Safety and Health Hazards and Controls (3127.0). 10:30am-12:00pm. Kathleen M. McPhaul, RN, MPH will address focus groups of union home care workers and blood exposure.

Evaluation of an OSHA 10 - hour training program for members of the building trades (3209.0), 12:30pm-2:00pm Rosemary Sokas, MD, MOH and Janie Gittleman, PhD, MRP are among the presenters in this session.

Matthew Keifer, MD, MPH and Robert Harrison, MD, MPH will address *State-Based Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance* (3210.0), 12:30pm-2:00pm.

Legal, Political, and Economic Aspects of OSH (3302.0) 2:30 PM-4:00 PM. Michael Harbut, MD, MPH, FCCP is one of the presenters. He will address the medical, ethical, economic and political issues of asbestos exposure.

Eckardt Johanning, MD, MSc and Tim F. Morse, PhD are among the presenters who will address *Ergonomic Hazards, Surveillance, and Controls* (3303.0). 2:30 pm-4:00pm.

Former OHIP Interns: Mercedes Beaver, MPH Candidate, Marilyn Dumay, MPH, Arturo Elizarov, MS, Luiza Marinescu, MSN Candidate and Laura Podolsky, MPH Candidate will address *Learning from Workers: Past and Present* (3377.0) 4:30pm-6:00 pm.

AOEC at APHA

AOEC Board Meeting, Sat., December 10, 2005, 8:00am-5:00pm, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Rm. 107A.

AOEC Get Acquainted Breakfast, Sun., December 11, 2005, 8:00am-9:30am, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Rm. 103B, (open to current, past, and potential AOEC members).

APHA Occupational Health & Safety Social Hour, Sun., December 11, 2005: 5:00pm-7:00pm, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Rm. 109B.

AOEC staff will be available to discuss new and ongoing activities in **Booth 930** in the Exhibit Hall throughout the conference.

☛ **Remember to check your program and message board for any last minute room location changes.**

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Reaching Out of the Box: The Collaboration of Environmental Health Programs with Communities, (4020.0). 8:30am-10:00am. This session offers examples of partnerships between organizations interested in improving the environmental health of populations.

Manipulating Evidence: Safeguarding the Integrity of Science, (4022.0), 8:30am-10:00am. This session will highlight a number of recent examples of the manipulation of evidence used in public health science. The presenters will explore the public health impact of corporate and industry influence on scientific research and public policy decision-making. Celeste Monforton, MPH is among the panelists.

Strategies for Integrating Environmental Health into Nursing Education and Public Health Nursing, (4122.0), 12:30pm-2:00pm. Presenters will discuss their approaches to integrating environmental health into nursing education and into public health nursing. Mallery Downs, RN, Gene Gallegos, MA and Jeanne Beauchamp Hewitt, PhD, RN are among the presenters.

Poster Session: *Occupational Health and Safety Topics* (4186.0, Board 7), 2:30-3:30pm. Presentations will include: Unintentional injury mortality risk in US workers: The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) 1986-1994 by Lora Fleming, MD, PhD, MPH.

Poster Session: *Issues in Occupational Safety and Health* (4188.0, Board 1), 2:30-3:30pm. Presentations will include: Aircraft Cabin Air Quality Trends Relative to Ground Level Standards by Jim Cone, MD, MPH.

The Role of Labor Physicians in Identifying Health Hazards, (4237.0) 2:30pm-4:00pm. The session highlights the careers and contributions of two seminal figures in occupational and environmental health: Drs. Lorin Kerr and Irving Selikoff. Presentations will address their achievements, including identifying hazards, raising public awareness, and championing legislation and controls, as well as more stringent standards. Peter Orris, MD, MPH is among the presenters.

Community Strategies to Address Environmental Health (4216.0), 2:30 PM-4:00 PM will discuss various community-based action strategies to address environmental health crises in refinery communities.

Linking Occupational and Environmental Health Policy: A Public Health Framework (4246.0) 2:30pm-4:00pm. Peter Orris, MD, MPH is among the presenters.

Moderated by Linda Forst, MD, MPH. *Hispanic Workforce Studies* (4246.1), 2:30pm-4:00pm will address a study which assessed the feasibility for developing and implementing a bilingual occupational health and safety curriculum to be administered to Hispanic workers and also discuss research investigating effectiveness of eye injury prevention within agriculture is limited, particularly regarding Latino migrant farmworkers.

Blogs, Wikis, and Public Health (4329.1) 4:30pm-6:00pm will discuss the growing role of blogs and wikis in

communicating public health, and specifically workplace safety and health information, and advocating for related issues. Organized by Jordan Barab, MA.

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Environmental and Health Concerns In Risk Communication (5100.0), 12:30pm-2:00pm. This session will discuss how perceptions impact environmental public health tracking and interventions, and how risk communication is used to address environmental health concerns. Rebecca T. Parkin, PhD, MPH is among the presenters.

A Voice at Work for Health Care Workers. (5117.0), 12:30pm-2:00pm. Helen Rubenstein, JD, MPH is among the panelists who will address role of unions in helping health professionals establish and maintain high standards of patient care.

Children: The First To Bear The Brunt of Environmental Contamination (5155.0) 2:30pm-4:00pm. This session will describe a variety of programs designed to identify and address children's environmental health concerns. Larry Lowry, PhD (Region 6 PEHSU) is among the presenters.

Orchard Worker Surveillance, (5181.0), 2:30pm-4:00pm. Matthew Kiefer, MD, MPH is among the presenters who will address the injury and illness among orchard workers.

OHS SECTION RELATED ACTIVITIES AT APHA

OHS Awards Luncheon

UNITE HERE, Tuesday, December 13, 2005, 12:30-2:00pm

This year's Awards Luncheon will take place on Tuesday Dec. 13th from 12:30-2:00pm at UNITE (formerly the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees) HERE (Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union) which is located at 22 South 22nd St (between Market and Chestnut Streets). The venue is about 10 blocks from the Philadelphia Convention Center (30-45 minutes walk). Box lunches will be served. Tickets: \$15.00. Tickets will be sold at all OHS Section business meetings.



OHS Dance Party

Mummers Museum, Tuesday, December 13, 2005, 8:00 PM – Midnight

This year's dance party will pay tribute to the music of Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi, compliments of "Choo Choo Charlie and the Spitfires." The band played for partygoers last time in Philadelphia and the music and dancing were some of the best ever for the OHS section. Tickets will be available at all OHS Section business meetings as well as at the OHS Section booth in the exhibit hall.

Choo Choo Charlie is a public health worker, humanitarian and musician at heart who has played with some of the blues and rock and roll greats. With his band the "SPITFIRES" he performs a broad range of musical styles. Charlie would like to recognize some of the great music and culture of an area so hard hit by the recent hurricanes.

Philadelphia's own "taste of mardi-gras," the Mummers Museum, will again be our dance party location. The Mummers Museum is located at: 1100 South 2nd Street (2nd and Washington Streets, 20 blocks southeast of the Convention Center). The phone number for the museum is 215-336-3050.



Like the fall President's Column, the first order of business for my fall column is to thank the outgoing Board President. AOEC has had a succession of excellent Board Presidents. Each has brought her or his own skills to the position. All of AOEC should be grateful that John's skills include grant writing. I have taken a non-credit, graduate level course in grantsmanship. Of course, his penchant for editing also resulted in a new term among the Board. Rewrites of my drafts are now referred to as being *Meyered*. While John decided not to run for re-election, he will still serve on the Board as Past-President and his modern equivalent of the red pencil, 'Word tracking,' will still be sought.

While APHA has changed dates and venues, certain things remain the same. The AOEC Board will be meeting on December 10, the Saturday before the meetings begin. Any member of AOEC is welcome to attend. The Board meeting will begin at 8:00am and continue through the day until at least 4:00 pm in the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room 107A. More fun (at least from my perspective) is the AOEC 'Get Acquainted' Breakfast. This year's breakfast is being held on Sunday, December 11 from 8:00 am to 9:30 am in Pennsylvania Convention Center Room 103B. It is open to any current AOEC member, prospective members, and those just curious about what an AOEC member might be like.

The presence of AOEC members among the ACOEM leadership continues this coming year. Cheryl Barbanel is current ACOEM President with Tee Guidotti currently serving as President-elect. Our string of AOEC representatives as ACOEM President will end for at least a year or two but AOEC individual member Natalie Hartenbaum is running for Secretary Treasurer.

Finally, it wouldn't be Washington without some news of what is happening on Capitol Hill. A colleague from the AIHA, Aaron Trippler, writes an update for his membership regularly and I am one of the colleagues also on the distribution list. His message from early October still rings true and he has graciously allowed me to quote him.

'06 FEDERAL BUDGET

Because of the expected cost of \$200 billion for recovery and rebuilding of hurricane-ravaged areas, there has been much talk of "how do we pay for this?" Some say we need to cut the budget and remove all of the "pork" that routinely shows up in each of the appropriations bills. Others say raise taxes. Still others say we should simply get out of Iraq.

What can we expect to see? The '06 federal budget was supposed to be enacted and begin on October 1. A 45-day continuing resolution has been adopted to keep the government running until mid-November. Expect to see another continuing resolution adopted that would take us to the end of the year. However, also expect to see Congress move quickly to enact the '06 budget before the end of the year. This budget will probably include no cuts and simply increase the deficit to cover hurricane recovery. Again, with an election year coming soon, no one will want to hinder recovery efforts or cut spending on other fronts.

“Worker health and safety is a lot more interesting than I thought,” concluded a first year medical student who participated in the second summer of Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP). “Work is such a big part of life. The internship will definitely have an impact on my clinical practice. I now see that I have to ask patients about their jobs to understand how working conditions affect their health.” Another intern agreed, “I didn’t come to public health school thinking this would be my focus. A lot more people would be interested in occupational safety and health if they knew more about what it is.”

OHIP was established in 2002 by members of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) section of the APHA and AOEC precisely to provide such experiences, to spark the interest of medical, nursing, and public health students in occupational health through field-based projects with unions, worker centers, and joint labor-management programs. Undergraduate students in related fields also participated, and were assigned work on teams with graduate students. Four of the eight summer 2005 interns will present on their projects at the upcoming annual APHA Meeting on Monday, December 12 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in room 103A at the Philadelphia Convention Center (session #3377).

Presenters will discuss projects with Spanish-speaking workers, including hotel room cleaners in Los Angeles and employees of retail businesses in Brooklyn, NY, where lock-ins have been an important safety issue. An evaluation of ergonomic programs at a large US postal facility will be presented, as well as an overview of hazards among New York City hospital employees. Other project summaries available from OHIP cover day laborer centers in Los Angeles, psychiatric hospital employees, silica exposure among bricklayers, and workload and stress issues among restaurant workers in San Francisco’s Chinatown.

The OHIP program continues in large part due to core funding from NIOSH through AOEC, and the dedicated work of the three volunteer regional coordinators: David Kotelchuck, CIH, PhD in NY, Robert Harrison, MD, MPH in Oakland, and Linda Delp, MPH in Los Angeles, as well as our academic and worksite project supervisors and advisors: Pyser Edelsack, Matt London, Steve Mooser, Lee Clarke, Pam Tau Lee, Barbara Materna, and other staff at the California Department of Health Services. Additional funding and support was obtained from the California Wellness Foundation, the Kazan Law Foundation, Hunter College, Labor Occupational Health Program, The California Department of Health Services, University of Maryland, Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, and UCLA Labor Occupational Health and Safety Program. For more information, contact either Gail Bateson, OHIP Program Coordinator at batesong@pacbell.net or Ingrid Denis at AOEC, idenis@aoec.org.

NEW TO THE AOEC-EDUCATION RESOURCE LIBRARY



Silica: The Deadly Dust, Karen B. Mulloy, DO, MSCH and Ken Silver, PhD, 2005. This teaching module is intended to provide a knowledge base and material for an individual to either further their own education, or to teach others, about silica and silicosis. In addition to the slide presentation and script, *Silica: The Deadly Dust*, this comprehensive module also includes *A Walking Shadow – A Case Study*, which contains mini-lectures and handouts. Available only on CD-ROM.

MCN INITIATIVE: SAVING LIVES BY CHANGING PRACTICE



There are numerous barriers to recognizing and treating occupational and environmental health (EOH) problems at the primary care setting. Some of the underlying reasons are the limited EOH training front line providers receive as well as institutional challenges that prevent clinicians from adequately addressing EOH problems. For migrant farmworkers and other vulnerable populations working in hazardous occupations such as construction, an occupational injury or exposure is often the reason for first point of contact with the health care system, underscoring the need to begin addressing EOH concerns at the primary care level.

Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN), the nation's oldest clinical network for the underserved, has a new program to look at EOH issues in the primary care setting. MCN's program, *Saving Lives by Changing Practice*, is part of a five-year cooperative agreement with the US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs, to address pesticides and other EOH issues in practice setting. Integral to this program are MCN's partnerships with AOEC and American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM). Through these partnerships AOEC, ACOEM and MCN will work to link primary care clinicians in Community and Migrant Health Centers with occupational and environmental specialists and clinics by:

- Developing occupational/environmental medicine clinics in migrant health centers.
- Facilitating clinical consults between the primary care clinician and the occupational medicine clinician.
- Developing referral mechanisms for complicated pesticide cases.
- Training primary care providers in occupational/environmental medicine.

MCN will also recruit and work with six to eight Migrant and Community Health Centers to develop a flexible center-based model to integrate EOH in the primary care setting. This will involve working to incorporate key practice skills outlined in National Environmental Education Training Foundation's, *National Pesticide Practice Skills Guidelines for Medical and Nursing Practice (2003)*.

MCN welcomes the participation of occupational medicine specialists and clinics. If you would like to be involved or would simply like more information about this effort, please contact Amy K. Liebman at 410.860.9850 or aliebman@migrantclinician.org.

AOEC WELCOMES NEW CLINICS

2005 marks a few 'firsts' for AOEC. AOEC is pleased to announce its first European member clinic and also its first Associate member clinic:

Clinic Members

Centers for Workers Health (CWH)
St. Francis Medical Center
One AAA Drive, Suite 201
Hamilton, New Jersey 08691
609-890-7100 FAX 609-890-1647
John J. Coumbis, MD, MPSH, Medical Director

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**AOEC RECIPIENT OF AMERICAN RED CROSS LIBERTY DISASTER RELIEF FUND
SEPTEMBER 11 RECOVERY GRANT**



Over 30,000 rescue and recovery workers and volunteers responded to the scene of the World Trade Center. An estimated 15,000 of those workers and volunteers will receive medical and social work services over the next two years for health problems related to the disaster through September 11 recovery grants totaling more than \$16 million from the American Red Cross Liberty Disaster Relief Fund.

As of June 2005, 100 organizations in seven states have been awarded more than \$45 million in September 11 recovery grants from the American Red Cross Liberty Disaster Relief Fund for programs that fall into five broad categories: Access To Recovery Services; Health Diagnosis and Treatment; Mental Health and Wellness; Strategic Opportunities; and Youth Recovery and Resilience. Funding for a sixth category, Community Recovery in Lower Manhattan, will be announced later this year. For more information on this program, visit www.recoverygrants.org

AOEC is among seven organizations that were awarded recovery grants to enhance existing government-funded programs. The federal programs provide funding to screen and monitor World Trade Center responders, but do not cover their treatment costs. The program AOEC is involved in reflects the Red Cross's strategic, short-term support for public and private sector efforts to address the needs of the people who were most seriously affected by the events of September 11. The grant of \$775,000 to AOEC will make screening and treatment for September 11-related health problems available to approximately 500 workers and volunteers from around the country who responded to the World Trade Center site.

Currently, there are over 25 AOEC member clinics enrolled in the program. Participating clinics evaluate and initiate any necessary treatment. The program pays only for out patient services but also allows payment to patients who must travel to reach AOEC clinics.

Mt. Sinai Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine continues to provide medical monitoring of the responders who were originally screened under the NIOSH program. Many of the AOEC clinics are also participating in that program.

Because the patient population covered under the AOEC grant is so scattered geographically, we are asking for assistance from all our members on identifying workers and volunteers who may be eligible for services. *If anyone is seeing WTC workers or volunteers who were involved in rescue, recovery and/or restoration of vital services in the time period from September 11, 2001 through December 31, 2001, please check with the AOEC office to see if they are eligible for this program. Please contact either Ingrid Denis, idenis@aoec.org or Katherine Kirkland, kkirkland@aoec.org or call 1-888-347-2632.*

COURSES & UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2005

▶ "Expanding Horizons - Local and Global," December 1-2, 2005. Bedford, MA. Jointly sponsored by Harvard Education & Research Center and American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. For more details and online registration, go to: www.necoem.org.

▶ Spirometry Workshop, December 5-6, 2005. Birmingham, AL. The Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. For more information, call 205.934-7178, or visit www.uab.edu/dsc.

▶ Audiometric Testing and Hearing Conservation, December 8-9, 2005. Birmingham, AL. The Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. For more information, call 205.934-7178, or visit www.uab.edu/dsc.

▶ Mid-America Pediatric Environmental Hazards Conference, December 9, 2005. Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by the Mid-America Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit and University of Kansas Medical Center Continuing Education. For more information, call 877-404-KUCE (5823) or visit <http://www.kuce.org/kumc/mapeh/>.

▶ American Public Health Association, 133rd Annual Meeting and Exposition, "Evidence Based Policy and Practice," December 10-14, 2005, Philadelphia, PA. For more information, visit: www.apha.org or call 202/777-2534.

January 2006

▶ 6th Annual Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Symposium, January 12-14, 2006. Washington, DC. Hosted by the US EPA. For more information, call 703/ 247-6194 or visit www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/symposium.html.

▶ 26th Annual Occupational Safety and Health Winter Institute, January 23-27, 2006. St. Petersburg Beach, FL. For more information, contact the North Carolina Education and Research Center, 888-235-3320 or visit: www.sph.unc.edu/osherc

February 2006

▶ The Northwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety at the University of Washington is offering the following Continuing Education classes. To confirm this schedule or find more information about these courses, call 206-543-1069 or visit the Continuing Education Web site at <http://depts.washington.edu/ehce>.

Feb 9, 2006 Puget Sound Occupational and Environmental Medicine Grand Rounds: *Pesticide Safety and the Organophosphate Monitoring Rule: Prevention through Risk Assessment and Communication*

Feb 14, 2006 Hazard Awareness for the New Generation Responder

Feb 15, 2006 Basic Instruments for the New Generation Responder

Feb 16, 2006 Safety and Sampling Awareness for the New Generation Responder

Feb 22, 2006 Accident and Incident Investigation

March 2005

▶ Work, Stress, and Health 2006: Making a Difference in the Workplace," March 2-4, 2006. Miami, Florida. Sponsored by the American Psychological Association, NIOSH, the National Institute of Justice, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and the U.S. Department of Labor. For more information, call 202/336-6050 or visit www.apa.org/pi/work/wsh2006.html.

► **Occupational Medicine Faculty Position** - The School of Medicine, State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook is seeking an Occupational Medicine Physician for the position of Assistant/Associate Professor in the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. The Division extends its clinical and educational expertise to Long Island working community. The Island's industries include small and medium size plants, several large companies mostly of electronics and technology fields. Eastern Long Island is largely agricultural with a significant migrant labor force. In addition to interest in the community populations for occupational and environmental diseases and injuries, the Division contractually assumes the responsibility for its University Hospital Employee Health Service and provides other clinical services such as international health and clinical preventive medicine programs. The educational mission of the Division is met through several teaching venues designed for residents, students and the community. Additionally, the Division is engaged in significant field and epidemiological studies thus providing excellent research opportunities.

The position includes clinical and consulting work, research, teaching, and administrative responsibilities. Qualifications: MD degree and license to practice medicine in NY; Board Certification or Eligibility in Occupational Medicine from a residency program preferably with 3-5 years of Occupational Medicine experience, knowledge of health care worker services, administrative skills and certification in a primary care/infectious disease specialty. Send CV to: Wajdy L. Hailoo, MD, Division Head, Division of OEM, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794-8036, Email: whailoo@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.

► The Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW) are independent non profit occupational health clinics funded by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board providing resources to workers, employers, health providers, and organizations for the identification and prevention of occupational illness and injury. We are seeking: **Occupational Hygienist**. As an Occupational Hygienist reporting to the Executive Director you will work as part of an inter-disciplinary team along with Physicians, Nurses, Ergonomists, and Support Staff. The Occupational Hygienist participates in Clinic projects that directly involve workplace interventions, research, and identification of workplace risks. Utilizing tools and knowledge you will provide assessment of the impact of the workplace environment (chemical, physical, biological) upon the physical, mental and social well-being of the individual and groups of workers.

Qualifications: Masters degree in Occupational Hygiene (or equivalent). Successful applicant will possess excellent communication skills and an interest in participating in occupational health research. Experience in surveillance, literature searches, interviewing and presentation skills to assess exposures and convey recommendations is an asset. Familiarity working with union environments would also be an asset. Locations: Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

► **Occupational medicine physician** with clinical experience needed to assist in the direction and operations of the Data and Coordination Center of the WTC Medical Monitoring Program. The Center has oversight and policy responsibilities for this nationwide program that provides clinical evaluations to WTC responders. Competitive salary. For further information, please contact Spencer Carroll, DCC administrator 212-241-4785, Spencer.carroll@mssm.edu.

► **Associate Service Fellow in Epidemiology**. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The Risk Evaluation Branch (REB) of the Education and Information, Division at NIOSH, Cincinnati, is seeking highly qualified candidates for a post-doctoral position in quantitative epidemiology. This person would initiate, design, and direct the development of epidemiologic risk assessments concerned with identifying and quantifying factors in the workplace related to the occurrence of disease among exposed workers. REB epidemiologists, toxicologists and research statisticians work as a team utilizing a multidisciplinary approach to risk assessment and risk assessment methods development.

Applicants should possess a doctoral degree in epidemiology or a related technical discipline. Interested applicants may obtain information about this position from Christine W. Sofge, PhD, Chief, Risk Evaluation Branch, Education and Information Division, NIOSH, 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS-C15, Cincinnati, OH 45226. (513)533-8439, email: CTS6@cdc.gov.

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and the local TV programs concerning this issue. Dr. Paulson testified before the DC City Council, using a model of lead intake and child risk created by the EPA to develop recommendations on the management of this crisis by the DC Government. He also developed recommendations for the management of patients by pediatricians and family physicians.

In October, 2003, a student spilled elemental mercury in the school, contamination spread via the students, into the city, and their homes. As a result of the spill, Ballou High School was closed for 35 days and over 200 homes were tested for mercury contamination. The MACCHE participated in lending their expert opinion and experience to the residents of DC.

In partnership with the National Nursing Centers Consortium, the MACCHE established the Lead Safe DC project. The project created the city-wide lead task force. The Task Force was instrumental in the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the DC Department of Health and the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs; the District's housing code enforcement officials, which will soon allow the residential enforcement officials to report incidents of peeling paint to health inspectors.

The MACCHE continues to grow and seeks funding opportunities to expand initiatives equally within Region 3. We look to develop a research platform and are currently planning three projects with research components. In conjunction with the DC Department of Health and the community, we will be investigating possible health impacts from exposure to gasoline and chloromethane in Lamont Riggs, MD. The second venture is the development of an educational outreach program on Integrated Pest Management in the DC and finally we are exploring the creation of a model asthma education program with our partners at CNMC and the DC Asthma Coalition. Presently we are actively pursuing partners to co-sponsor the 4th Annual Conference on Children's Health and the Environment in 2006.

AOEC

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