

AOEC E-News December 2009

AOEC Activities

The California Wellness Foundation has awarded AOEC a three year renewal for our Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP). This grant covers many of the OHIP activities focused on lower income/underserved populations in California. Best yet, in these difficult times, the grant was increased from \$50,000/year to \$60,000/year. Applications for the summer 2010 OHIP program will open in early 2010.

Stephen M. Levin, MD, an internationally known expert in occupational medicine and asbestos-related disease, was named a recipient of the international Collegium Ramazzini's prestigious Irving J. Selikoff Memorial Award on December 2, 2009 in New York. Dr. Levin is the longtime medical director of the Mount Sinai- Irving J. Selikoff Center for Occupational & Environmental Medicine and prior director of the World Trade Center medical monitoring and treatment programs. "This prestigious award is given periodically to a scientist or humanist whose studies and achievements have contributed to the protection of workers' health and the environment," explained Dr. Philip Landrigan in presenting the award, which has been conferred only five times in the academy's 27-year history.

We're also pleased to announce that *the Praeger Handbook of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, has been published. The handbook was written by AOEC member and former Board President Tee L. Guidotti. The handbook is published in 3 volumes and is available from Praeger/Greenwood.

The Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) and the Cambridge Health Alliance are pleased to announce that their program has received American Board of Internal Medicine and American Board of Preventive Medicine approval to offer a joint internal medicine/occupational medicine residency. The residency will cover four years and will include an MPH from HSPH.

Actions of the AOEC Board

The AOEC Board of Directors approved the latest report on Asthmagens completed under the leadership of Ken Rosenman, MD. Copies of the report are available from the AOEC office by e-mailing kkirkland@aoec.org. Updates and corrections to the Exposure Code Look-up are underway and should be completed by January 15, 2010. In the interim, the Exposure Code Look-up is still working well and can be accessed at <http://www.aoecdata.org/ExpCodeLookup.aspx>.

View from Vermont Avenue by Katherine Kirkland, Executive Director

As expected, Congress has passed an Omnibus Appropriation Bill. While the final exact distribution of funds is a bit murky at the moment, the bill includes good news for those involved in occupational and environmental health and safety. First and foremost, David Michaels gets to start his career at OSHA with a much improved budget. OSHA received roughly an 8.9% increase over FY09. Dr. John Howard will find the end of his "sabbatical" from NIOSH eased

by an increase in the NIOSH budget of approximately \$12,613,000 (4.7%). MSHA received \$357,293 million or roughly a 3.1% increase.

Finally, while certain Congressmen have been beating up on ATSDR (unfairly in my opinion), apparently Drs. Henry Falk and Howard Frumkin have been able to make their case on behalf of the agency. The ATSDR budget is reported as \$74,039,000 making this a 3.7% increase.

New from Federal Agencies

NIOSH, NIEHS, EPA, OSHA, CDC and NTP co-sponsored a workshop *Making Green Jobs Safe: Integrating Occupational Safety and Health into Green and Sustainable*. The workshop was held December 14-16 with Opening Remarks by Christine Branche, PhD, Principal Associate Director of NIOSH and Closing Remarks by David Michaels, PhD, Assistant Secretary for OSHA. The workshop agenda can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/PtD/greenjobs.html>. More information about the NIOSH Green Jobs Initiative can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/PtD/greenjobs.html>

NIOSH has put up a blog to initiate discussion about the use of periodic spirometry evaluation for respiratory disease prevention at workplace. NIOSH would like to hear from people who conduct/use periodic spirometry in the workplace to find out whether periodic spirometry is being used for prevention and intervention efforts, if not what are the barriers, and how NIOSH can help in this process. Go to http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/blog/nsb121409_spirometry.html

NIOSH also has a nanotech round-up at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/upd-12-08-09.html> and a report on genetics in the workplace and implications for occupational safety and health at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-101/>

The Department of Labor will hold a *National Action Summit for Latino Worker Health and Safety / Cumbre de Acción Nacional para la Salud y Seguridad del Trabajador Latino* on April 14 - 15, 2010, in Houston, Texas.

OSHA envisions the Conference will bring together representatives from employer associations, labor groups, community organizations, worker centers, the medical community, safety and health professionals, educators, government officials, Consulates, the media and other non-traditional partners to develop new partnerships, target and expand outreach and share the most effective strategies to reach Hispanic workers. There will be more information, including registration information, in the next few weeks at www.osha.gov. In the meantime, please save the date.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) have launched a National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures, working with government, professional organizations, tribal groups, community and nonprofit organizations, health professionals, business and industry, and members of the public to create a national action agenda. The kick-off meeting was held in June and working groups established with meetings held since. To check on the progress of this important initiative go to <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/nationalconversation/>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requesting public comment on options for disclosing inert ingredients in pesticides. In this anticipated rulemaking, EPA is seeking ideas for greater disclosure of inert ingredient identities. Inert ingredients are part of the end use product formulation and are not active ingredients. Revealing inert ingredients will help consumers make informed decisions and will better protect public health and the environment.

EPA will accept comments on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking for 60 days after it has been published in the Federal Register. More information:

<http://www.epa.gov/opprd001/inerts/index.htm>

Cook Snyder Fund Needs Your Help

As noted last month, the Cook Snyder fund is in need of donations. AOEC established the Cook-Snyder Scholarship over ten years ago in honor of two former Board members, Judy Cook and Meta Snyder. The scholarship was established to provide travel funds for students and new members of the OEH professions to attend professional meetings.

One big difference in the Cook Snyder Fund from most charitable funds is that 100% of the donations sent by check and 98% of the PayPal/charge card donations (we do have a service charge on these) are used for the students. AOEC covers the overhead out of our management and general budget.

AOEC is a 501(c)3 organization therefore donations to Cook Snyder are tax deductible. If you would like to contribute, please send a check made payable to AOEC with Cook Snyder in the memo line or go on line to <http://www.aoec.org/content/payment.htm>. Although it has a Paypal button, you can either make a payment through Paypal or via charge card.

The thumbnail bios for those of you who never had the opportunity to meet these two wonderful women are as follows: Judy was a worker organizer and director of the Manitoba Federation of Labour for many years; Meta was a nurse who championed education in occupational and environmental health for nurses. This doesn't truly describe all they did for our profession and if you want to learn more, please drop me an e-mail at kkirkland@aoec.org.

Positions Available

Faculty Position: Environmental Epidemiologist Boston University School of Public Health.

Position: The successful applicant will join an established graduate program and talented faculty with expertise in the areas of human exposure assessment and biomonitoring of emerging contaminants, immunotoxic and neurological health effects of environmental exposures, spatial epidemiology and analyses of environmental exposures, and community-based participatory research. For full information: <http://sph.bu.edu/index.php/Faculty-Openings/Faculty-Openings/menu-id-407.html> (the in-page link was not working correctly as of 12/19/2009-you may need to scroll down page)

**Supervisory Team Leader Medical Officer
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
Morgantown, WV**

Division of Respiratory Disease Studies (DRDS), Surveillance Branch (SB)

The primary purpose of this position is to provide medical and epidemiologic expertise, leadership, and direction to the Division and NIOSH for designing, conducting, analyzing, and interpreting clinical and/or epidemiological research and surveillance focused on medical monitoring for occupational respiratory disease.

Individuals interested in seeking a challenging opportunity and future career in occupational respiratory disease who feel they qualify for this position are encouraged to apply at <http://www.usajobs.gov>, Job Announcement Number: HHS-CDC-D1-2010-0001 (External Announcement) and /or HHS-CDC-T1-2010-0001 (internal to federal employees) before March 31, 2010. Please contact Eileen Storey, MD in the SB, DRDS at 304-385-6382 or ESTorey@cdc.gov if you have any questions.

**Health and Safety Project Manager
Silver Spring, MD**

CPWR, a non-profit construction safety and health research and training institute, is seeking a health and safety project manager in our downtown Silver Spring, MD office. The successful candidate must have a master's degree in public health or safety, or similar education and experience in occupational health and safety. Experience in the construction industry would be preferable. He/she will continue development and management of Construction Solutions, a database designed to promote adoption of best practices in the industry, and will have primary responsibility for safety solutions. He/she will also coordinate other CPWR projects. Requires some travel, potentially including accessing active construction sites and training centers.

Interest in moving safer technologies from research to practice required. Position requirements include communicating with outside stakeholders, unions, researchers, and contractors, maintaining databases and generating reports, identifying innovative commercially available injury and exposure control measures, and developing solution content. Excellent organizational, writing, and communication skills are required. Competitive pay and excellent benefits package.

Please send cover letter and resume to swilson@cpwr.com with subject line "Construction Solutions Manager"

Educational Courses

Free Online CME Course for Health Care Providers – Adult Lead Poisoning

The California Department of Public Health's Occupational Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is pleased to announce a new online course - *Overview of Adult/Occupational Lead Poisoning in California*. Based on the latest health information about lead poisoning, this course:

- Describes the problem of adult lead poisoning
- Uses a case to illustrate issues and challenges in diagnosing lead poisoning in adult patients
- Offers guidelines for providing state-of-the-art clinical management of adult lead poisoning
- Provides an overview of the medical responsibilities under OSHA Lead Standards

While developed for a California audience, the material in this course is applicable to anyone interested in the care of lead-exposed adults.

Course available at <https://chtapps.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/servlet/QaStudy?tid=269>

US-Mexico Border Health Training Opportunity

The South Texas Environmental Education and Research (STEER) Program of the University of Texas School of Medicine-San Antonio (UTSOMSA) provides in vivo training experiences at the US-Mexico Border for medical students, residents and other health professionals in an unique and informative setting. STEER engages nearly 100 instructors, most of them volunteers, including health department leaders, community healthcare workers, and professors, to teach the dozens of ½ to 1-day segments that make up the 4-week program.

The STEER program is offered as an elective during the below mentioned dates in both Laredo and Harlingen, TX. There are no tuition fees. Housing is provided at no cost to students from the University of Texas Health Science Center. Housing for visiting students is \$600 for the month. Students are responsible for their own travel to/from Laredo or Harlingen, meals, personal daily expenses and after-hours transportation and activities.

STEER program is offered monthly if there are at least three qualified applicants. Limit of 10 students per rotation. See the website <http://steer.uthscsa.edu> for information and a downloadable application, or contact directly: steer@uthscsa.edu.

NIOSH Approved Spirometry Courses

All the currently approved NIOSH spirometry courses which are available are listed at <http://www2a.cdc.gov/drds/spirometry/schedule.asp>

North Carolina Occupation Safety and Health Education and Research Center

Occupational Health Nursing

Master's in Public Health in the Occupational Health Nursing concentration via distance education from The University of North Carolina @ Chapel Hill is only a click away. You can attend classes on-line anytime of the day or night. Tuition assistance is available. For more information contact Judy Ostendorf (judy_ostendorf@unc.edu) or Bonnie Rogers

(rogersb@email.unc.edu) and visit our website:

http://www.sph.unc.edu/phlp/distance_mph_in_occupational_health_nursing_2083_7115.html

Earn a Certificate in Occupational Health Nursing via distance education from The University of North Carolina @ Chapel Hill. Earn 11 – 12 academic credits in 12 months, which could be transferred into the MPH Program. You can attend classes on-line anytime of the day or night. For more information contact Judy Ostendorf (judy_ostendorf@unc.edu) or Bonnie Rogers (rogersb@email.unc.edu) and visit our website:

http://www.sph.unc.edu/phlp/occupational_health_nursing_certificate_4796_8853.html

30th Annual Occupational Safety and Health Winter Institute February 15-19, 2010 in St Pete Beach, FL <http://osherc.sph.unc.edu/institutes/winter10/index.htm>

Short Course in Occupational Safety

Jan 12-14, 2010; Apr 19-23, 2010; May 18-20, 2010 in Chapel Hill, NC

<http://osherc.sph.unc.edu/email/shortcourses2.htm>

Certification Review Courses http://osherc.sph.unc.edu/cert_review.htm

Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene Online January 11-April 28, 2010; August 24-December 8, 2010 http://osherc.sph.unc.edu/ce/courses/fund_ind_hyg_online.htm

Respirator Selection and Cartridge Change Out Schedules

February 23 & 24, 2010 Hampton Inn and Suites, Salt Lake City, UT Fee \$430. Contact Roy McKay, PhD, University of Cincinnati Medical Center, PO Box670458, Cincinnati, OH 45267-0458, 513-558-1234 or www.DrMcKay.com

Sponsored by the University of Cincinnati Medical Center

Correspondence Course: Practical Aspects of Health and Safety Management

Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH)

Practical Aspects of Health and Safety Management, that is based on the Royce Moser, MD, MPH text, "Effective Management of Health and Safety Programs--A Practical Guide, 3rd Edition". Reflecting the additional chapters and other material in the 3rd edition, it is approved for a maximum of *45 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™. It is also approved by the American Board of Preventive Medicine as meeting the requirements of an educational module under the ABPM re-certification program. Information on the book can be found at

<http://www.oempress.com/product/347/1>. A brochure for the correspondence course can be found at <http://medicine.utah.edu/rmcoeh/ContEdProg/pammgmt1.pdf>.

Free Online Continuing Education Course for Health Professionals on Pediatric Environmental Health

Now Available at: http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/emes/health_professionals/pediatrics.html

This course is based on the Pediatric Environmental Health Toolkit: An American Academy of Pediatrics endorsed clinical tool. This is an online course developed in conjunction with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) Division of Toxicology and

Environmental Medicine, the University of California San Francisco Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit, and Physicians for Social Responsibility, Greater Boston. Free 1.5 Credit Hours for: Physicians, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, other health professionals (check the course site). Access this interactive online course in the comfort of your own home or office to increase your knowledge base of common pediatric environmental health issues. Users can log in and out to complete the course in several sessions.

Additional ATSDR Environmental Health and Medicine continuing education offerings can be found at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/emes>

Massachusetts Nurses Association- Health and Safety Courses Online

Available at <http://www.massnurses.org/nursing-resources/continuing-education/mna-ce-online>
Course topics currently include: Workplace Violence, Fragrance Free! Creating a Safe Healthcare Environment, Latex Allergy Program, Fatigue and Sleeplessness, and Work-related Asthma in Nurses and their Co-workers.

Program requirements: To successfully complete a program and receive contact hours, you must read the entire program, take and pass the Post-Test and complete the Program Evaluation. To pass the Post-Test, you must achieve a score of 80% or above.

Accreditation: The MNA is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

*All programs are free to MNA members and others.

American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA[®]) will now offer "Advancements in Exposure Assessment: Practical Tools and Rules for Decision Making," a virtual symposium on March 1 - 3, 2010. Register Today: <http://bit.ly/1kuOHJ>

Sponsored by AIHA's Exposure Assessment Strategies Committee, the sessions will provide a valuable experience with new and existing exposure assessment tools and strategies for more effective and efficient risk management decisions.

Group trained employees can earn up to 1.5 IH CM Points/1.0 CEUs/1.0 COCs. One registration covers an unlimited number of participants in the live virtual presentations scheduled throughout each day. Individuals who register before February 17, 2010 will save \$100. Register today! (link to <http://www.aiha.org/education/dl/Pages/VirtualSymposium.aspx>)

Explosive Dusts in Industrial Ventilation Systems

Date: LIVE on January 27, 2010 **Time:** 2:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time (GMT -05:00, New York)

Registration and Course Information Link:

http://www.acgih.org/events/course/Explosive-Dusts_webinar.htm

Conferences and Meetings

Be Safe, Be Profitable: Protecting Workers in Agriculture
January 27-28, 2010, Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

<http://www.ashca.com/dotnetnuke/NewsEvents/ASHCAConference/tabid/97/Default.aspx>
For more information on the conference, visit www.ashca.com.

**5th International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment
Bangalore February 1 – 3, 2010**

Location: National Institute of Advance studies, Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore. Karnataka. India. Organized by the International Network on Children's Health Environment and Safety (INCHES) and the H.P.Foundation, Bangalore
Call for abstracts for posters until December 1, 2009 Additional information can be found at <http://www.inchesnetwork.net/second%20announcement%20ICCHE%202010%20Bangalore.pdf>

2010 Rocky Mountain Academy Conference

Aurora, CO February 5-6, 2010

Planes, Trains, and Trucks: The Role of Occupational and Environmental Medicine in the Transportation Industry. Sponsored by The Rocky Mountain Academy of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Inc. (RMAOEM). For questions regarding the conference please contact Janessa Conca, Event Coordinator, at 303-798-1210 or email: [Janessa Conca](mailto:Janessa.Conca).

American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Annual Conference

Anaheim, CA April 9-15, 2010

AAOHN Annual Conference is the premier educational and networking event for occupational health nurses and other professionals in related disciplines.

<https://www.aohn.org/conference-items/aaohn-2010-annual-conference.html>

International Symposium of Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace and Environment (RHICOH 2010)

Taipei, Taiwan, April 20-21, 2010

The symposium is organized by the Department of Environmental and Occupational Medicine, National Taiwan University Hospital and in collaboration with the International Commission of Occupational Health (ICOH) Scientific Committee on Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace. Information at: <http://www.rhicoh2010.tw/index.html>

Occupational Health under Globalization and New Technology

Taipei, Taiwan, April 20-25, 2010

The EPICOH and MEDICHEM Conferences are a series of annual meetings of the world's leading scientists and students working in Epidemiology and Chemical Safety in Occupational Health, where all participants share their latest research findings, exchange ideas and establish new collaborations. Information at: <http://www.epicohmedichem2010.tw>

American Occupational Health Conference

Orlando, FL May 2-5, 2010

The brochure is now available for the [2010 American Occupational Health Conference \(AOHC\)](#) to be held May 2-5 at Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Florida.

Hindsight is 2020: Looking Back at the Last Decade, Looking Ahead to the Next

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Annual Meeting
June 6 -10, 2010 in Portland, Oregon

Call for Abstracts: The CSTE 2010 Annual Conference Program Planning Committee invites you to submit abstract proposals for breakout, roundtable and poster presentations at the upcoming conference to be held. **Abstracts must be received by Friday, January 8, 2010 at 11:59 PM EST** through the online CSTE abstract submission database at the following address <http://www.cste.org/abstracts.asp> .