

AOEC E-News September 2009

This newsletter is purposely designed to be informal. Click on the following to go directly for news on: ***View from Vermont Avenue, Courses, Positions Available*** and ***Meetings and Conferences***.

Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units Funded for Five More Years

We are pleased to announce that AOEC has been awarded a new five year grant to continue the nationally recognized Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU) Program. Now in its 11th year, the PEHSU program is funded under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) with additional financial support from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through an interagency agreement with ATSDR.

PEHSU sites represent collaboration between AOEC member clinics including not only pediatric and occupational expertise but also toxicology, health education, industrial hygiene, and more. Fact sheets on a diverse range of topics from the impact of wild fires to the latest information on BPA have been developed by the PEHSU staff members.

The Annual PEHSU Meeting will be held in Atlanta on October 28-29, 2009. The meeting is scheduled to immediately follow the ***2009 National Environmental Health Conference***.

Additional information about the PEHSU program can be found at the website www.PEHSU.net or by contacting the AOEC office. Paula Wilborne-Davis, MPH, CHES is the AOEC staff person with primary responsibility for coordinating the PEHSU program. She can be reached at either 888-347-2632 or pdavis@aoec.org.

AOEC Board Elections

Ballots for the 2009 Board election were mailed on September 17 and 18, 2009. The election officially ends on October 2, 2009 but ballots postmarked October 2, 2009 will be counted so the results won't be announced until after October 7 to allow for those mailed on October 2 to be counted.

If you haven't received a ballot please let me know at kkirkland@aoec.org.

The five clinics running for election are:

1. Texas Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, University of Texas Health Center at Tyler
2. Occupational and Environmental Health Clinic, Division of Occupational Medicine, University of California San Francisco
3. Occupational & Environmental Medicine Clinic, Harborview Medical Center, Schools of Medicine and Public Health, University of Washington
4. Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, University of Utah
5. Occupational & Environmental Health Center, Cambridge Health Alliance.

The four individuals running for election are:

1. R. Denny Dobbin, MSc. OH
2. Elizabeth Lawhorn, MSN, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN
3. Howard Cohen, PhD, MPH, CIH
4. David Goldsmith, PhD, MPH.

View from Vermont Avenue by Katherine Kirkland, Executive Director

Congress is back in session but we seem to have more posturing than acting at the moment. One of the items of interest to AOEC members which doesn't seem to be moving at all is the confirmation process for OSHA Secretary. The confirmation process falls under the jurisdiction of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Whether or not you have a strong opinion about who should be confirmed, nominee, I urge you to contact the committee to ask that they move ahead with the confirmation. While Jordan Barab is doing an excellent job as Acting Assistant Secretary, OSHA really needs a confirmed director sooner rather than later.

I'm still sticking with my prediction of last month that we are seriously looking for both a continuing budget resolution (CR) to keep things going and at least some of the departmental budgets being combined into an omnibus bill at some point in early December. The one positive to this is that the CR will maintain 2009 funding levels since the public health and health and safety agencies did reasonably well in that omnibus budget. However, they'd do much better under the budgets approved by the Senate and House appropriations committees for FY 2010.

One agency that has not suffered from the post-summer doldrums is NIOSH. CDC Director Frieden announced the re-appointment of Dr. John Howard to be the Director of NIOSH on September 3 and Dr. Howard officially reported back to NIOSH headquarters on September 8. Seldom has an appointment met with such universal approval. I even heard from several of the other applicants for the position who agreed this was a good decision.

All of us in occupational health and safety owe a debt of thanks to Dr. Christine Branche, who served as Acting Director of NIOSH for over a year. Dr. Branche did a wonderful job as Acting Director. She worked hard both keeping important programs moving ahead and working closely with CDC to ensure that NIOSH not only maintained but increased its funding for 2009. Happily, Dr. Branche plans to remain with NIOSH.

Finally, it's been a sad month for AOEC. This month marked the deaths of long time AOEC member Marcia Trapé-Cardoso, MD, MPH of the University of Connecticut and of Susan Rose, JD, MPH, wife of Board member David Goldsmith, PhD, MPH. Dr. Trapé-Cardoso was a clinician, researcher, and educator, whose research interests focused on reducing occupational injuries and illnesses in migrant and seasonal tobacco farm workers. Ms. Rose was a lawyer and co-author of the book, *Science on the Witness Stand*, which she wrote with Tee Guidotti, MD, MPH, former AOEC Board President.

Members in Action

In July 2009, the University of Maryland, School of Medicine, Occupational Health Program officially became a Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) / World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center. As part of this effort, Drs. Melissa McDiarmid and Joanna Gaitens worked with PAHO to develop and deliver a three-day workshop on occupational health and safety issues for healthcare workers in Georgetown, Guyana. Approximately 30 front-line healthcare workers were trained on how to conduct workplace assessments, identify health and safety issues, and select and use appropriate personal protective equipment. In addition, over 20 regional health officials and hospital directors identified occupational health and safety concerns for their organization, discussed strategies for addressing these concerns, and committed to taking action.

Mark Miller, MD of the University of California San Francisco PEHSU has an online book chapter about "Integrative Pediatrics" published by Oxford University Press. The chapter is co-authored by Alice Brock-Utne, MD and is available online as a web supplement to the text. It lists the PEHSU and AOEC as resources. To access the chapter go to www.oup.com/us/integrativepediatrics and click on Chapter 32.

OHS News Items You May Have Missed

Take Refuge! NIOSH announces the release of guidelines on how to set up, use, and maintain refuge chambers in underground mines. Refuge chambers (emergency structures designed to provide safe shelter) may save the lives of miners trapped underground and waiting for rescue <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/pubs/pubreference/outputid3169.htm>.

Positions Available

Position available – Staff Toxicologist (specialist)

California Department of Public Health, Occupational Health Branch

The Occupational Health Branch of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is recruiting for a Staff Toxicologist. The position is full time and is located in Richmond, California. The Staff Toxicologist will provide expert medical and toxicologic consultation as part of the Hazard Evaluation System and Information Service (HESIS). CDPH is seeking a PhD-level toxicologist with experience in and/or commitment to occupational public health. Thorough understanding of both qualitative and quantitative risk assessment procedures is required. The candidate will work with a multidisciplinary team and should have excellent writing skills. **To apply for this position**, complete a State application (available at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/services/jobs/Pages/StateApplication.aspx>) and send with a cover letter to Dennis Shusterman, MD, MPH, Occupational Health Branch, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Richmond, CA 94804. Inquiries about the position are welcome at (510) 620-5714 or dennis.shusterman@cdph.ca.gov.

Please note that applicants must be California civil service eligible for the Staff Toxicologist (specialist) in order to be considered. To apply for eligibility, see http://www.spb.ca.gov/jobs/exams/exam_bulletins.htm; choose “Exams by Title” and select

“Staff Toxicologist (specialist).” For more information, contact Inez Tamayo at (510) 620-5749 or inez.tamayo@cdph.ca.gov.

**George Washington University Medical Center
School of Public Health and Health Services**

Chair, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health

For full information go to: <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/faculty/facultyPositions.cfm>

Application Procedure: To be considered for Chair interested applicants should submit: (1) a curriculum vitae; (2) a letter of interest including a statement of qualifications. Only complete applications will be considered. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

Please submit all materials electronically to: EOH Chair Search Committee and/or EOH Search Committee, c/o Jo Ann Roberts, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, GWU School of Public Health and Health Services, 2100 M Street, NW, Suite 203, Washington, DC 20037, eahjmr@gwumc.edu,

Massachusetts Dept. of Health--Senior Epidemiologist

The Occupational Health Surveillance Program (OHSP) at MDPH has an opening for a senior epidemiologist. We are looking for someone with strong epidemiologic and biostatistical skills who will be responsible both for hands on epidemiological analysis of large population-based data sets and also serve as advisor to other OHSP epidemiologists who manage specific surveillance systems. This person will have the opportunity to play a leadership role in setting the direction of the program and development of surveillance initiatives.

The full posting is on <https://jobs.hrd.state.ma.us>, position #/key word: J19200.

LOSH Health and Safety Educator/Coordinator

The Health and Safety (H&S) educator/coordinator will be responsible for the successful completion of worker H&S educational activities and the development of a Southern California H&S activist/trainer network. S/he will conduct outreach and assess training, develop or adapt educational materials and curriculum, teach workplace H&S courses, and mentor and support worker trainers/activists. Significant experience working with community organizations, unions, or at a workplace on its H&S program; OR, a Masters Degree in the social sciences, public health, labor studies, education or a related field is required. Bilingual English and Spanish skills are strongly preferred. Contact: Laurie Kominski, MSW, Associate Director of Program Administration, UCLA-LOSH Program, Box 951478, Los Angeles, California 90095-1478, Phone: (310) 794-5992; Fax: (310) 794-6403; Email: lauriek@ucla.edu

See announcement: http://www.los.ucla.edu/pdf/health_safety_educator_coordinator_09.09.pdf

WHO Medical Officer-Pediatric Environmental Health

A P5 position is open for application in relation to the planning, development and implementation of specific activities in children's environmental health in the context of an on-going successful grant between WHO (Public Health and Environment) and NIEHS. The position's duty station will be in Raleigh, North Carolina, US.

For more information, please go to the link below

https://erecruit.who.int/public/hrd-cl-vac-view.asp?o_c=1000&jobinfo_uid_c=20959&vacIng=en
<https://erecruit.who.int/public/hrd-cl-vac-view.asp?o_c=1000&jobinfo_uid_c=20959&vacIng=en>

Educational Courses

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

Your 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

Occupational Health Nursing: An Introduction and Review of Principles and Practice October 20-22, 2009 in Chapel Hill, NC http://osherc.sph.unc.edu/email/ohn_2009.htm
http://osherc.sph.unc.edu/ce/courses/ohn_basic_09.htm

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 Courses in Occupational Safety
November 3-5 and December 15-18, 2009 in Chapel Hill, NC
<http://osherc.sph.unc.edu/ce/courses/shortcourses.htm>

31st Annual Occupational Health and Safety Update December 3-4, 2009 in Chapel Hill, NC
http://osherc.sph.unc.edu/ce/courses/sfy_hlth_update09.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

Occupational Health Nursing Certification Review Course

18th Annual Occupational Health Nursing (OHN) Certification Review Course will be held at the Marriott Suites in Clearwater Beach, FL, January 11- 13, 2010. It is offered by Bonnie Rogers and Associates and twenty (20) contact hours will be awarded. Content relevant to OHN

concepts and practice, industrial hygiene, ergonomics, health promotion, toxicology, management, legal issues, research and counseling will be provided. For brochure and more information, call (703) 497-2119, fax name and address to (703) 491-9656, or send email request to rogersb@email.unc.edu

**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>.

***Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety
2009 Professional Development Opportunities***

October 19-20 • Spirometry Workshop

Birmingham, AL • Hampton Inn Colonnade

October 21-23 • Audiometric Testing and Hearing Conservation

Birmingham, AL • Hampton Inn Colonnade

November 2 • OSHA Recordkeeping – 8 am to Noon

Birmingham, AL • Hampton Inn Colonnade

November 2 • Bloodborne Pathogens Update – Noon to 4 pm

Birmingham, AL • Hampton Inn Colonnade

November 3-4 • Air Sampling for Toxic Substances

Birmingham, AL • Hampton Inn Colonnade

November 5 • 10th Annual Public Employees Safety Council of Alabama

Clanton, AL • Clanton Conference Center, Alabama Power Company

Deep South Center for Occupational Health & Safety

UAB/Ryals School of Public Health, 1530 3rd Ave. South, Birmingham, AL 35294-0022

Gigi Talley 205-934-7178 Fax 205-975-7179 gtt@uab.edu www.uab.edu/dsc

**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). Use this free 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.

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.

Conferences and Meetings

The 2009 National Environmental Health Conference October 26-28th, 2009 - Atlanta, GA

This conference is only held once every three years! Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Registration: Please go to <http://www.team-psa.com/2009nephc/registration0.asp> to register today.

Sustainable and Environmental Atlanta Showcase: A networking event October 26 for all conference goers that will highlight the sustainable and environmental organizations and companies in the Atlanta area.

Screening of the Documentary Films: Big River & Apalachicola River: An American Treasure followed by discussion with the filmmakers on October 27.

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting November 8-11, 2009

An exciting schedule awaits members of the APHA Occupational Health and Safety Section attending the [APHA 137th Annual Meeting and Exposition](#) in Philadelphia.

For AOEC members and those interested in learning more about AOEC we have:

Sunday 11/8/09 -- AOEC "Get Acquainted" Breakfast

8:00am-9:30am in the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room 203A

Also of importance to AOEC is the OHIP Program Presentation Session. It will take place on **Tuesday, November 10, 2009 from 2:30 - 4:00 pm** in the Philadelphia Convention Center Room to be announced (TBA).

For a list of all OHS Section events, visit <http://apha.confex.com/apha/137am/webprogram/OHS.html>

For a list of all Environmental Section events, visit
<http://apha.confex.com/apha/137am/webprogram/ENV.html>

The Health Activist Annual Dinner (formerly Activist Physician Dinner) at APHA
Sunday, Nov. 8 at the Ocean Harbor Restaurant, 1023 Race St., Philadelphia
\$45 in advance, \$50 at the meeting Make Checks Payable to: OHSI – Activist Dinner.
Mail checks to : Occupational Health Services Institute UIC Medical Center (MC684), 835 S.
Wolcott Street, Chicago, IL 60612, For more information contact Peter Orris 312-996-5804, Fx
312-413-8485 porris@uic.edu

**Health and Safety in Transportation Workers: Air, Sea and Land
November 12-14, 2009**

REGISTER <https://www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme/CourseDetail.aspx?coursenumber=MDM10N01>

Phone: To register or obtain registration materials by phone or to inquire about registration status, please call UCSF's CME Registration Office at (415) 476-5808.

On-Site Registration

Time: 7:30 am- 8:00 am Date: Thursday, November 12 & Friday, November 13

Place: Holiday Inn Golden Gateway Hotel, 1500 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 9410

**Nanomaterials and Human Health & Instrumentation, Metrology and Analytical Methods
November 17-18, 2009**

The workshop, sponsored by the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI), will be held on in Arlington, Virginia. Registration is free.

Further information about the workshop and registration can be found at:

<http://www.nano.gov/html/meetings/humanhealth/>

2009 NECOEM / MaAOHN Conference

**Challenging Global Times: Forging Ahead in Occupational and Environmental Health
December 3-4, 2009**

Boston Newton Marriott Hotel-Newton, MA

Registration information at <http://www.necoem.org/events/2009-12-03-registration.html>

Be Safe, Be Profitable: Protecting Workers in Agriculture

January 27-28, 2010, Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

The 2010 ASHCA-NIOSH Conference, *Be Safe, Be Profitable: Protecting Workers in Agriculture*- January 27-28, 2010

<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>

