



MIHS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gerald Plattenberg, CIH

"Value added", a buzz phrase of today's economy. Does your product have an advantage as being "value added"? Do you provide "value added" services to your clients? Are you as a health and safety professional providing tangible, "value added" benefits to the company's bottom line? I am sure that most of you have been commissioned with the task of demonstrating value added benefits relating to health and safety in one form or another. As President of MIHS, I feel that we as an organization have an obligation to provide services to our clients (the membership) that will assist them in becoming more effective health and safety professionals (value added). I would like to take this opportunity to illustrate how I believe we are accomplishing this task and how the membership can take advantage of these services.

First and foremost, MIHS continues to strive to provide pertinent, up to date information that is of interest to the membership. This is accomplished in a variety of formats, including Professional Development Courses (PDCs), the quarterly newsletter, the MIHS website, and broadcast e-mails. PDCs provide an excellent opportunity for the membership to receive the latest information on new and old topics that can be applied directly to their respective workplaces. The quarterly newsletter (which you are reading right now) provides an excellent forum for MIHS to communicate PDC announcements, legislative activities, and any other information that we feel would benefit the membership. Along with the newsletter, the MIHS website has become our "storefront". This is where you can find anything MIHS. PDC announcements, PDC registration, calendar of events, legislative updates, and the MIHS forum are just a few of the many items you can find at www.mihswb.org. Related to our website is the use of broadcast e-mails by MIHS. This has become an excellent vehicle for communicating to the membership current MIHS activities, as well as other health and safety information that we feel would benefit the membership (e.g. ASSE CSP exam review).

Secondly, MIHS pursues opportunities to advance the Industrial Hygiene profession through community outreach activities. In the past, these activities have included participation in the Michigan Science Teachers Association Conference, local science fairs and career days, the Annual Michigan Safety Conference and interaction with local university AIHA student sections. MIHS will continue to pursue these opportunities from the officer and board level. However, participation of any MIHS member in these or

other activities is encouraged, and MIHS as an organization will provide any of the necessary resources for individuals who would like to answer the proverbial question "What in the world is an Industrial Hygienist?". If you are interested in participating in your local high school's career day, and need resources, please contact any MIHS Board Member or myself. Even if you do not require our assistance, I would like to hear about any activities our membership is participating in to further the profession.

Other areas where I believe we are providing value added benefits to our membership include:

ABIH Certification Maintenance (CM) Point Tracking. As a member of MIHS, your CM points accumulated from MIHS sponsored PDCs will be tracked and accessible through the MIHS website. We are also in the process of seeking approval from ABIH the acceptable methods of reporting these points. Likely it will be in the form of a letter from MIHS to each member with an annual summary of points. MIHS will keep you posted on developments pertaining to this issue.

The CIH exam review course held biannually at the University of Michigan provides local access to one of the top-rated CIH exam review courses in the nation.

MIHS is recognized nationally each year by presenting the MIHS Best Paper Award at the American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition.

I encourage you take advantage of all the "value added" benefits that MIHS strives to provide its members. A simple first step is to check out the MIHS website at www.mihswb.org. Here you will find the latest on upcoming PDCs, track your CM points, and view MIHS officer and board contact information. If you have any questions concerning current MIHS activities, would like to become involved in planning MIHS activities, or simply have ideas that MIHS could utilize to provide greater opportunities to the membership, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other MIHS Board Member.

Regards,

Gerald Plattenberg, CIH
MIHS President

Introducing New MIHS Board Members

Suzanne Monahan - MIHS Board



After receiving an undergraduate degree in Industrial Health and Safety from Oakland University in 1988, I obtained a Master of Science degree from Wayne State University in Occupational and Environmental Health in 1993.

My working career has ranged from working as a Health & Safety Representative with Mazda Motors, working with The Pickering Environmental Company on industrial hygiene, asbestos remediation and environmental assessment projects, to my current position beginning in 1995, with General Motors World Wide Facilities Group. In 1995, I joined the Industrial Hygiene Department at General Motors. My responsibilities at GM include IH coverage for our Service Parts Operations Division, Non-Manufacturing and Engineering facilities and participating on various committees.

The practice of industrial hygiene is never static. There are always new challenges and learning opportunities to become involved with. I have been fortunate to work with many exceptional health and safety professionals and intern students, especially in my current assignment at GM. Above all, I have learned the value of team work in developing creative solutions to complex issues. It is how we grow as individuals and professionals.

I have been a member of AIHA since 1988 and joined MIHS in 1993. I joined the MIHS board last year and volunteered as Chair Person for the MIHS Best Paper Award in 2002. The most enjoyable aspect of this association has been meeting IH and Safety advocates from many diverse business backgrounds and cultures. I encourage everyone to volunteer and participate in this important organization.

On the family front, my husband and I are proud parents of two athletic boys, Casey 12 and Patrick 8. We both enjoy watching them from the side lines as their biggest fans. I also enjoy many outdoor activities including gardening and photography.

Are you interested in becoming an MIHS Officer or Board Member?

We need you!

(Elections will be held in the first part of 2004.)

Contact:

**Tim Kearney, MIHS President-Elect
800-873-0456 x111 or
tkearney@argus-group.com**

News Release:

Argus Group Opens Expanded West Michigan Facility



The Argus Group is proud to announce that the relocation of our Western Michigan sales and service center is complete. This larger industrial facility is much more conveniently located in Byron Center, just off the 131 expressway at 76th Street and Clyde Park. Our new telephone number is (616) 583-0760, with a toll-free line at 800-962-7837. From our Byron Center location, we will continue to provide the highest quality sales, rental, service and repair services that our customers have come to expect. The Argus Group is ISO 9001:2000 registered, giving our customers added assurance of our commitment to quality.

What's in *The Synergist*?

by Andrew Berryman, MIHS Board

The September 2003 Technical Exchange article summarizes an attempt made by NIOSH to evaluate industrial hygienists' use of field portable analytical methods for airborne lead. This NIOSH effort was part of a health communication research project to increase awareness and use of field portable methods for monitoring airborne lead. One of the primary goals of this evaluation was to determine the barriers that are preventing IH's from using these field portable analytical methods. As you might expect, cost and accuracy were at the top of the list. A top concern in one of the focus group sessions, at the 2003 AIHce, was that the FP methods met NIOSH's accuracy requirements, but exceeded the OSHA accuracy limits for lead exposure. Another concern was over the legal ramifications of not using an accredited laboratory for sample analysis.

As a result of these concerns, the OSHA Salt Lake City Technical Center will be releasing two methods for lead analysis by X-ray fluorescence. OSA-1 will be used for airborne lead collected on filters and OSS-1 will be used for surface lead collected on wipes. These analytical methods will reduce the accuracy barrier to using field portable methods. This action is a positive indicator of NIOSH's commitment to continually evaluate, improve and promote their analytical methods.

The following article was reprinted with permission from *The Synergist*.

The Synergist - Volume 13, Number 9 - September 2003, pp: 30-31.

NIOSH Field Portable Analytical Methods for Airborne Lead: Identifying and Overcoming Barriers to Their Use

By Sybil D. Ott and Tara A. Williams

Health communication researchers from NIOSH attended AIHce 2003 to talk with industrial hygienists about the NIOSH field portable analytical methods for airborne lead. The focus group sessions included three main goals: (1) to better understand where IHs find information in their field; (2) to identify barriers preventing IHs from using field portable analytical methods for airborne lead; and (3) to gather feedback on the NIOSH communication intervention materials.

Presently, there are four methods in the NIOSH Manual of Analytical Methods for measuring airborne metals using

field portable technologies. They are:

- NMAM 7700-Lead in Air by Chemical Spot Test
- NMAM 7701-Lead by Ultrasound/Anodic Stripping Voltammetry
- NMAM 7702-Lead by Field Portable X-ray fluorescence
- NMAM 7703-Chromium, Hexavalent, by Field-Portable Spectrophotometry.

Complete copies of these methods are available on the Internet at www.cdc.gov/niosh/nmam/nmammenu.html. All methods can measure airborne lead on-site with same-day speed. This allows the IH to quickly assess worker exposures and implement or adjust control measures accordingly. The methods can also be used in concert with laboratory-based analytical methods for confirmation purposes if exposures are close to, or exceeding, the occupational exposure limit. Further information and studies on the development and evaluation of these methods are listed in the "References" sidebar (p. xx).

Over the past two years, NIOSH has contacted AIHA members through two message-based communication interventions. The communication interventions were a key component of the NIOSH-based health communication research project and were designed to heighten awareness and identify ways to increase use of the FP methods for monitoring airborne lead. The first communication dealt with possible exposure of lead in the workplace, health effects of lead exposure, FP methods for monitoring airborne lead and the advantages of using these methods.

After this first intervention, an evaluation identified four main barriers preventing IHs from using the methods: cost, accuracy, need and peer approval. Therefore, NIOSH disseminated a second communication, speaking specifically to the four identified barriers. Both communication interventions included informational mailings, a project-related Web site and advertisements in the AIHA Journal.

Focus Group Sessions

Although information was disseminated and evaluations were conducted, it was important to talk face-to-face with IHs regarding these methods to better understand how NIOSH can more effectively communicate emerging information to this group of professionals. To accomplish this, NIOSH conducted focus group sessions at AIHce consisting of IHs who monitor lead exposure. Each session included between seven and 12 IHs, a discussion moderator, a note taker and a technical assistant.

Throughout the sessions, IHs expressed their concerns about the methods and their likes and dislikes of the NIOSH intervention materials and gave NIOSH suggestions on how to more effectively communicate with them regarding the FP technologies.

The first area of interest was to determine what sources IHs use to obtain information in their field. The top two responses were the internet and professional colleagues. When participants were asked what Web sites they frequently visit, the list included government sites (NIOSH, OSHA, EPA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the National Library of Medicine), manufacturer sites and professional association sites (AIHA, ACGIH and others specific to participants' expertise). Other reported channels included periodic updates, such as eAlerts, newsletters, NIOSH eNews and journals.

One IH reported that when needing to use a new method, it is most beneficial to contact an experienced IH who knows the advantages and disadvantages of using the method. One of the top ways this peer interaction was reported was through professional conferences and seminars.

Barriers to Overcome

The second goal was to gain a better understanding of the barriers that prevent the use of the methods. The top two barriers in all sessions were accuracy and cost. A repeated concern in all of the sessions was that while these methods meet the NIOSH accuracy criteria, some of them exceed the OSHA accuracy limits for lead exposure. One participant stated, "If you could show a much greater accuracy level, people would be more likely to use the methods." The accuracy issue was driven by concern over the legal ramifications of not sending samples to an accredited laboratory. Another participant said, "You are putting yourself on the line if you don't send your samples to an accredited lab for testing." If an IH were to be questioned in a court of law, having lab results would provide necessary support.

With regard to this concern, the OSHA Salt Lake City Technical Center is in the process of releasing two methods for lead analysis by X-ray fluorescence, OSA-1 for lead in air collected on filters and OSS-1 for surface lead collected on wipes. Following OSHA's approval of these methods, it is anticipated that the accuracy barrier to using the FP methods will be reduced, leading to a greater acceptance and use by IH professionals.

Please note that these methods can be used by accredited labs under the United States Environmental Protection Agency's National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program. See www.epa.gov/lead/nllapacr.htm for more information.

Improving Communications Efforts

NIOSH was also interested in opinions of the NIOSH communication intervention materials. The majority of those attending the sessions reported remembering they received the NIOSH communications and liked the graphics and tables presented in the informational brochures. One IH said, "The intervention came at a perfect time because I was teaching a training session on field portable technologies and was able to use the information." Other comments included "well put together" and "well designed."

Some participants felt this wasn't the best approach to increase the use of these methods. They mentioned that the advertisements need to be more specific and should include more information on the accuracy of the methods. One participant said that the intervention looked more like a "vendor advertisement" than an information campaign. It was recommended that the information be released in a peer-reviewed journal or in a more technical format such as the NIOSH Criteria Documents.

The discussions with IHs at AIHce provided valuable information for NIOSH. These focus group sessions were the final component to the communication research project and revealed that the accuracy barrier is prohibiting the acceptance and use of the methods. Comments from the focus groups suggest that the release of OSHA methods for lead measurement by FP X-ray fluorescence and further validation of the accuracy of NIOSH methods involving these and other technologies will lead to the acceptance and use of these methods.

Ott is project officer and Williams is project administrator of the NIOSH project "A Message-Based Intervention for Technology Transfer." Both authors are health communication fellows in the NIOSH Health Effects Laboratory Division.

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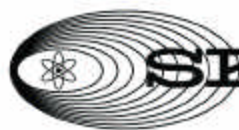
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Acknowledgments

The research mentioned in this article is part of a larger research program, "Portable Analysis of Multiple Airborne Metals," coordinated by Nicholas Lawryk in the Health Effects Laboratory Division of NIOSH. The goal of the overall program is to develop and evaluate emerging field portable methods for measuring airborne metals. Other research components in this program include "Portable Monitors for Airborne Metals at Mining Sites" by Pamela Drake of the Spokane Research Laboratory and "Screening Methods for Airborne Metals in Construction" by Kevin Ashley of the Division of Applied Research and Technology.

We thank Cathy Tinney-Zara and Melissa Reynolds for their assistance in conducting two of the four focus group sessions. Tinney-Zara served as the session moderator and Reynolds was the note taker. We also thank Nicholas Lawryk for serving as the scientific advisor on the methods discussed at these sessions.



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Noise and Vibration PDC

By Laura Randall, CIH, MIHS Board



Lisa Quiggle, MIHS President-Elect
Lee Hager, Sonomax Great Lakes
Presented "Hearing Conservation and
Hearing Protection: New Developments"



Lisa Quiggle, MIHS President-Elect
Bernard Martin, Ph.D., Center for
Ergonomics, University of Michigan
Presented "Occupational Vibration"



Lisa Quiggle, MIHS President-Elect
Thais Morata, Ph.D., NIOSH
Presented "Toluene, Styrene, Carbon
Monoxide: Risk Factors for Hearing Loss"



Attendees

A full day MIHS Professional Development Course (worth 1.0 CIH points) was held on September 16, 2003 at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, Michigan. The topic was Noise and Vibration.

During the first half of the day, Bernard Martin, Ph.D., from University of Michigan, Center for Ergonomics, presented "Human Vibration: Understanding the Effects and Using Appropriate Methods to Prevent Disorders". He gave an overview of human vibration, starting with Ramazzini, who was the first occupational physician who pointed out the harmful effects of vibration that emerged with industrialization. He discussed the harmful effects of vibration from biomechanics, physiology and pathology. He described how vibration affects motor skills and performance, and other disorders ranging from vascular disorders ("white finger" and Raynaud's syndrome), to bone and joint disorders, to neurological and muscular disorders. He described preventative measures, both administrative and technical, and presented design examples for handles, tools, gloves and seats to reduce the effects of vibration. Since Dr. Martin is originally from France, he was happy to point out the accomplishments of French scientists in the field of vibration. It was a fascinating presentation.

After a delicious Bavarian Inn chicken dinner, the second half of the day was divided into two sections.

The first section, presented by Mr. Lee Hager of Sonomax Great Lakes, was "What's New With Noise? Hearing Conservation Updates and Changes To The Noise Reduction Rating". He discussed recordkeeping, hearing protection issues, and new technology for hearing protection including noise-canceling devices. He also presented an interesting emerging issue of research findings from NIHL, which discusses free radicals in the cochlear fluid that may contribute to hearing loss. Also, he discussed gene therapy findings in which hair cells may be regenerated subsequent to injection of viruses. Very interesting!

The final speaker of the day was Thais C. Morata, Ph.D., from NIOSH, who presented on "Toluene, Styrene, Carbon Monoxide: Risk Factors for Hearing Loss". She described in detail the synergistic effects of noise combined with chemical exposures to toluene, styrene and carbon monoxide. She also predicted that the majority of neurotoxic chemicals are also ototoxic, affecting the auditory nerve. She explained the "Response Level", an Action Level-like criterion developed by NIOSH. It is the level of chemical exposure (alone or with noise), at which employees should be enrolled in hearing loss prevention programs. A very note-worthy presentation!

Many thanks to Lisa Quiggle, MIHS President-Elect, and Gerry Plattenberg, MIHS President, for putting together this interesting PDC.

Michigan Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation - MIFACE

submitted by Pat Brogan, CIH, PhD

Now that MIHS has its website up and running, communication and seeking information becomes easier and easier. Recently I asked that a link be established from the MIHS website to the Michigan Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (MIFACE) site at Michigan State University Occupational and Environmental Medicine website - www.chm.msu.edu/oem. I was extremely pleased that this was accomplished in a matter of days.

This article is to notify you of the link and website and tell you a little about MIFACE.

In September, 2000, Dr. Ken Rosenman of MSU, with the assistance of MIOSHA, began a three-year research program to investigate all occupational fatalities occurring in Michigan. The grant to fund this research was awarded on a competitive bid basis by as part of the settlement of the Rouge Power House boiler explosion in 1999 where six workers were killed. I had submitted a proposal to study the contribution of noise and hearing impairment to occupational fatalities. The grant committee suggested that I combine my study with that of MSU, which I did, thereby becoming one of the fatality investigators. I, as the principle investigator for Wayne State University, investigate the fatalities in SE Michigan. Deb Chester, whom some of you will know, investigates the fatalities in the rest of the state for Michigan State University's Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

The research that we began in 2000, was patterned after the NIOSH FACE program that had been in existence for about 15 years. NIOSH funds 15 states on a competitive basis to conduct fatality investigations. Michigan is now one of those states. Michigan had been unsuccessful in obtaining one of the NIOSH grants prior to implementing a program with the settlement money.

The goals of MIFACE are to:

- Identify types of industries and work situations which are at an increased risk of fatalities;
- Identify the underlying causes of the work-related fatality;
- Formulate and disseminate prevention strategies to prevent similar work-related fatalities.

Although MIFACE receives information regarding occupational fatalities from MIOSHA and interacts with the investigating compliance officers, it does not enforce regulations. MIFACE is interested in the root causes of

the death and how similar deaths can be prevented in the future.

If the parties involved agree to participate, Deb and I make an appointment to conduct a site visit to better understand the series of events that led to the fatality. We may take pictures. Sometimes they will be provided to us. We obtain the autopsy and police reports of the incident and any information available that will help understand what happened and help us determine the cause of the death. All identities are kept confidential.

Our reports are reviewed by MIOSHA, the MIFACE Advisory Committee, and sometimes by an expert in the occupation involved in the fatality. They are then published on the MSU OEM website that I identified earlier. They are sent to everyone we can identify in Michigan who might benefit from being made aware of the fatality and the steps that might have prevented its occurrence. We send them to labor unions, trade associations, college and university safety programs - anyone we can identify who might be receptive to using the information. The MSU OEH website includes summaries of all occupational fatalities that occur in Michigan whether or not we are given an opportunity to investigate the site and write a full report.

Once the reports are published on the MSU OEM website, they become public domain and can be accessed and used by anyone. We know some are being used for health and safety training. We hope more will be as more people are made aware of their existence.

Last year MIOSHA received funding from the Centers for Disease Control through NIOSH to continue the research as a NIOSH FACE state. The NIOSH grant will allow the project to continue through 2006. As a result of becoming a NIOSH-funded state, all the Michigan reports are now published on the NIOSH FACE website, also. You can find the reports from the other NIOSH-funded states at its website, also. The NIOSH FACE website address is:

www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/faceweb.html. If you have any questions or would like further information regarding the MIFACE study, please give me a call at 313-993-4233. We would be pleased to have you visit the website and let us know what you think.

MIHS BALANCE SHEET
by Deb Moilanen, CIH, MIHS Treasurer
 4/1/03 - 9/21/03

ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
MIHS	6,319.28
Certificate of Deposit	24,179.36
PETTY CASH	60.32
Undeposited Checks	645

TOTAL Cash and Bank Accts	31,203.96

TOTAL ASSETS	31,203.96
 LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
LIABILITIES	
EQUITY	31,203.96

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	31,203.96

**REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR
MIHS MEMBERSHIP**

Membership dues for the upcoming year are payable between September 1 - November 30 for current members. Go to www.MIHSweb.org to renew your membership. If you have any questions, contact Andrew Berryman, MIHS Membership Committee Chairperson at 248-276-3622 or andrew_berryman@adp.com

**Looking for new job
opportunities?**

Be sure to frequently check the job-posting page on the MIHS website. Go to www.MIHSweb.org, click on "Informational & Support Links", then click on "IH Job Postings".

Calling All CIH's...

When was the last time you could earn a CM point, locally, for free? Have you ever wondered how ABIH acquires all those questions for the CIH exam?

A free of charge opportunity to earn a certification maintenance point is now available. MIHS will sponsor an ABIH Question Writing Session at the following date, time and location. We will even feed you breakfast and snacks throughout the day! What a deal!

All you need to do is register through Nancy McClellan at 248-828-8103 or email at mmc1431@wideopenwest.com, and show up with your "thinking cap" on!

ABIH Question Writing Session
November 20, 2003
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Safety Council for Southeast Michigan
21700 Northwestern Highway, Suite 110
Southfield, MI

**Certification Maintenance Points
by Deb Moilanen, MIHS Treasurer**

Are you a CIH? Are you wondering how many points you have accrued attending MIHS meetings? Have you looked at our member area lately on the website?

If you have paid, attended, and signed-in at our sponsored events, we've kept that information and have added it to your personal member area by total points and ABIH CM point number. We have also sent ABIH an inquiry to determine if a hard copy of this information signed by an MIHS Board member will provide sufficient documentation for you in the event you are audited. Watch the web site for updates on their response. In the meanwhile, if you suspect that the data is not correct and you want us to check it, please contact Deb Moilanen at moiland@basf.com. Be a little patient - we'll get back to you once we review our records and verify the data.

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