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Winter Newsletter 2003

Volume 11 Number 4

## MIHS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gerald Plattenberg, CIH

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season with family and friends. As we begin 2004, it is my hope is that MIHS will continue with its major charge of assisting the membership in their career development by offering timely and up to date Professional Development Courses (PDCs) at minimal costs. In this regard, MIHS along with the Greater Detroit Chapter of the ASSE is offering an excellent Machine Guarding PDC on February 3, 2004 to kick-off the year. The course is the same one that has been offered at the AIHCE in 2002 and 2003, and has subsequently been rated by participants in the top 10 of all PDCs at the conferences. The \$85 charge offers a full Certification Maintenance (CM) point, a continental breakfast, and lunch. Please visit the MIHS website at [www.mihsworld.org](http://www.mihsworld.org) to register and obtain a map with directions.

The above PDC is the first joint meeting we have had with the local chapter of the ASSE in two years. I believe that the vitality of our organization will continue to depend on reaching out to other local health and safety organizations. When MIHS and ASSE partner, the quantity and quality of PDCs and other opportunities offered to the membership of both organizations will flourish. I will continue to strive for a close working relationship with ASSE, and hope to have further co-sponsored events.

Also as we begin the new year, MIHS is actively seeking candidates who would like to serve as either an officer or board member of MIHS. Becoming active in your local section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) is rewarding in a variety of ways. Most importantly you have an opportunity to get to know your peers in Michigan as you work closely to plan events, and coordinate other activities throughout the year. If you are interested in running for a position, or just have questions, please contact Past-President Tim Kearney, or any other MIHS officer or board member.

Lastly, I would like to close with a concern regarding the current use of the PayPal system on our website for submitting membership dues and meeting registration fees online. An MIHS member brought this issue to my attention. The Michigan Attorney General has issued a warning about a PayPal e-mail virus. I feel that it is an important enough issue that I have included the full text of the warning below and also the web link to the warning.

### Cox Warns Consumers of PayPal Virus

November 25, 2003

Lansing, MI - Consumers should be aware of a new e-mail virus disguised as a message from PayPal that seeks to steal their personal information and sends itself to addresses it finds

on their hard drive, Attorney General Mike Cox warned today. The e-mails are not from the legitimate online payment company PayPal and claim that the recipient's PayPal account will be closed within five business days if not updated with personal information. The message text deceptively states that the information is needed as part of a new security policy "to ensure everyone's absolute privacy." It even warns the reader not to send his or her personal information through e-mail, "as it will not be as secure."

"Consumers must be careful not to be caught off guard by identity thieves who pretend to be legitimate," Cox said. "Requests for personal information such as credit card or social security numbers, whether by e-mail, phone or letter, should never be granted unless the consumer has verified the authenticity of the inquiring party." The scam has been traced to e-mails appearing in the following formats

From: "PayPal.com" donotreply@paypay.com  
Subject: YOUR PAYPAL.COM ACCOUNT EXPIRES  
Or  
From: Do\_Not\_Reply@paypal.com  
Subject: Important

Persons who believe they are the victim of identity theft should contact the Attorney General's Identity Theft Hotline at 1-800-24-ABUSE (242-2873). For additional information regarding identity theft, contact the Consumers Protection Division at 877-765-8388 or the following websites:

Identity Theft Information for Michigan Consumers at: <http://www.michigan.gov/ag/> and scroll down to the Alerts Section to link to the page.

FTC ID Theft Home Page at: <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft>

Please be assured that the MIHS board will continue to monitor these security concerns and examine other cost effective options for online payments. The PayPal issue will be discussed at the next MIHS Board meeting. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding the PayPal system please contact me directly, I would be happy to hear from you.

I look forward to serving you in the upcoming year.

Regards,

Gerald Plattenberg, CIH  
MIHS President

## Introducing New MIHS Board Members

### Andrew Berryman - MIHS Board

Currently, I am a Senior Loss Control Representative for ADP TotalSource (Auburn Hills, MI), which is a professional employer organization (PEO). My current responsibilities include providing health and safety consultation to our clients, through site evaluations, employee training and industrial hygiene support. I have been with ADP since 1999. Prior to joining ADP TotalSource, I completed an internship with DaimlerChrysler's Industrial Hygiene Department.

I have an undergraduate degree (B.S.) in Environmental Health, from Oakland University (1998) and a graduate degree (M.S.) in Occupational and Environmental Health, from Wayne State University (2000). I have been a member of MIHS since 1998 and have been a board member since 2002. My responsibilities as a board member include, promoting our organization, recruiting new members, and serving as the Membership Committee Chairperson.

### Pat Brogan Receives Alice Hamilton Award

AIH [and MIHS] extends its congratulations to Pat Brogan, CIH, who received the prestigious Alice Hamilton Award for 2003.

The Alice Hamilton Award is presented to an outstanding woman who has made a definitive lasting achievement in the field of occupational and environmental hygiene through public and community service, social reform, technological innovation or advancements in the scientific approach to the recognition, evaluation and control of workplace hazards.

Established in 1993 by the AIHA Board of Directors, the first Alice Hamilton award was granted in 1995. To qualify for the award, the recipient must have been engaged in occupational hygiene or a related discipline a minimum of 10 years and be recognized by her peers as "competent in her chosen field, dedicated to scientific truth and committed to positive change for worker health."

Pat is no stranger to the industrial hygiene community. In addition to her many years of IH practice, she has served on numerous IH committees and boards, most recently as president of the Academy.

Please join us in congratulating Pat for winning the Alice Hamilton award, a well-deserved recognition!

*(This article was reprinted with permission from The Diplomat.)*

### Comprehensive Industrial Hygiene Review

COMPREHENSIVE INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE REVIEW is a 4.5-day course that provides an intensive, high-level review of a wide range of industrial hygiene topics. It will be offered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, March 29 - April 2, 2004. This course will provide attendees with comprehensive and contemporary industrial hygiene information and references. More than a dozen experts from the University of Michigan and from the private sector will serve as instructors. The course will benefit individuals needing to broaden or refresh their industrial hygiene knowledge base and will assist individuals needing to focus their efforts to pursue professional certification. This program is co-sponsored by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) and the Michigan Industrial Hygiene Society and registration is handled through the AIHA. For more information, refer to the following link on the AIHA web page:

<http://www.aiha.org/MeetingsEducation/html/CIH.htm>

#### 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 Past-President**  
800-873-0456 x111 or  
[tkearney@argus-group.com](mailto:tkearney@argus-group.com)

## ABIH Has Spoken

by Nancy M. McClellan, MPH, CIH, MIHS Board

For the multitude that are considering taking the CIH exam, are struggling to pass the exam or have given up on ever taking the exam again, this article may answer some of your questions. The information indicates that ABIH is working at a strategy for understanding why the pass rates have continued at historic lows. Reviewing this information reminds me of the old, but slightly modified, saying "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try, try, try again". Taking the AIHA/University of Michigan Comprehensive Review course will improve your chances, too!

(This article was reprinted with permission from *The Diplomat*.)

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### The IH Certification in these Unpredictable Times

*Editor's note:*

*Like everything else in our profession, the IH certification process has undergone notable changes. For one thing, the pass percentage over the past few years has dipped to historical lows, prompting many to wonder whether the examination itself has become more difficult over the years or whether new applicants are poorly prepared and less qualified.*

*Other concerns have centered on the dropping number of applicants sitting for the examination. On the positive side, the number of applicants (and the diplomates) from foreign countries (outside the United States and Canada) has been steadily increasing as indicated by the statistics provided by the ABIH. With those issues in mind I recently asked the ABIH Executive Director Lynn O'Donnell to provide the recent statistics related to the CIH examinations*

### Applications

For the past four years, ABIH has averaged 280 new applicants and 595 re-applicants per year. An average of 559 people per year have taken the comprehensive practice examination in that time. The number of exams given per year may be expected to increase somewhat now that candidates are allowed to take the exam in both the spring and the fall of the same year.

### Candidates Outside the United States and Canada

Since the beginning of 1995, 81 candidates from outside the United States and Canada have taken the comprehensive practice examination. Of those, 40 (49.4 percent) have passed, and one for certification

maintenance. This is based on the current address on file with the Board and does not take into account non-U.S. and non-Canadian citizens living in the United States or Canada. The Board does not maintain information on nationality of certified IHS or candidates.

### Overall Passing Statistics

The pass rate for the comprehensive practice examination from 1995 on has ranged from a little under 30 percent to 46.5 percent. This is well below the figures that hovered between 50 and 60 percent in the 1980s, and the Board has examined the numbers looking for trends.

The first important observation comes from looking at repeat examinees. Looking at all of the examinees (individuals) that have taken the comprehensive practice examination from 1995 on, the overall or ultimate pass rate is 54.8 percent. This is for individuals-not for tests taken. If two candidates take the exam five times each and one eventually passes, that comes out as 50 percent here, even though only 10 percent of the attempts were successful. To illustrate the difference, in 1995, the pass rate was 39.4 percent, but 63.6 percent of the people who took the comprehensive practice examination in 1995 ultimately passed. Obviously that drops for more recent years where fewer unsuccessful candidates have retaken the exam so far.

The Board then looked at the educational backgrounds of 2001 and 2002 candidates and compared the exam results with the candidates' degrees. Not surprisingly, candidates with degrees in environmental health and safety and industrial hygiene in particular were more successful than were candidates with less formal training in the field. Among candidates with an IH/EHS master's degree (any program), 50.2 percent passed the exam. For candidates with master's degrees from an ABET-accredited program, the success rate was 56.8 percent. For candidates with any IH/EHS degree, the success rate was 49.5 percent, compared to 37.8 percent for candidates without an IH/EHS degree.

The Board also began surveying examinees in 2001 about their exam preparations in an attempt to understand why various candidates are either more or less successful on the examination. Questions include type of industry, work with experienced hygienists, focus of activities (management versus fieldwork), and study information. It's a little early yet, and the results are not yet clear. It is also important to remember that the results are based on

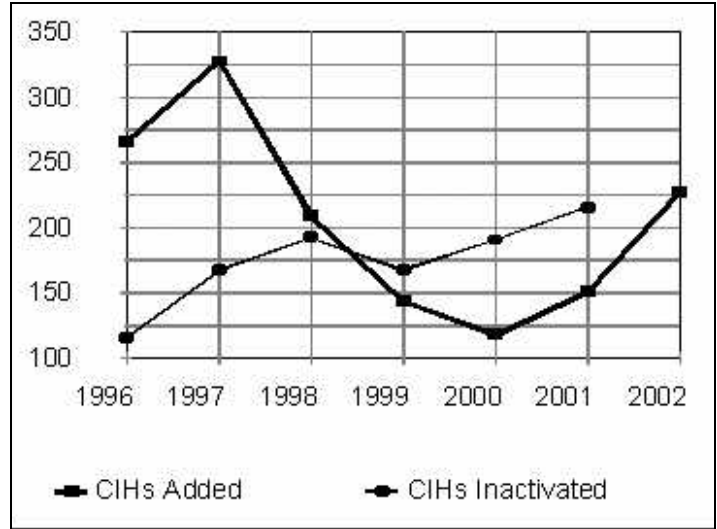
self-reporting, and that will make any conclusions drawn a little "soft."

The Board hopes to publish an article on the results of the surveys in the future.

**Re-certification Statistics**

Since 1995, the Board has certified 1,445 new CIHs and 23 CAIHs. In the years 1996 through 2001, there were 1,217 new CIHs added and, through retirement and individuals allowing their certifications to lapse, there are 1,052 CIHs who are no longer active. In addition, 299 of our CIHs have passed away in that time. As a result, there has been a net reduction of 134 CIHs in the past six years, an average of just over 22 per year.

For the past five years, the percentage of CIHs in each cycle that have either chosen not to maintain their certification or who have been unable to do so has averaged 17.4 percent. Since an average of one-fifth of all CIHs are in each CM cycle, this amounts to an annual loss of about 3.5 percent through non-renewal.



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## The MIHS Annual Mini-Conference

By Laura Randall, CIH, MIHS Board



Lisa Quiggle, MIHS President-Elect  
Douglas Kalinowski, Director Michigan Bureau of Safety and Regulation Presented on: "MIOSHA Update"

The MIHS Annual Mini-Conference was held on October 29, 2003 at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy. It was worth 1.0 ABIH CIH CM points. There were several fascinating topics.

**MIOSHA Update** Douglas J. Kalinowski, Director, Michigan Bureau of Safety and Regulation, gave us a MIOSHA update. He has recently been appointed director of MIOSHA and updated us on the current issues that MIOSHA faces and MIOSHA's future plans.

**West Nile Control** was presented by Edward D. Walker, PhD, Associate Professor MSU and President, Michigan Mosquito Control Association. West Nile Virus has become an issue of concern for workers who spend some of their day outside and even some inside workers who may enter areas where mosquitoes are hibernating. Dr. Walker presented on the life cycle of the mosquito, the spread of West Nile Virus and strategies for controlling West Nile. (Also, did you know that bats do not eat mosquitoes?)



Gerry Plattenberg, MIHS President  
Lisa Quiggle, MIHS President-Elect  
Dr. Edward D. Walker, Associate Professor,  
MSU and President, MI Mosquito Control Assn.  
Presented on: "West Nile Control"

**AIHA Update** - Donald Hart, PhD, AIHA Board of Directors, gave an AIHA Update. AIHA has joined with ACGIH to produce a combined journal, *The Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*, beginning in January 2004. Dr. Hart discussed the new journal and also updated us on the AIHA reorganization.



Lisa Quiggle, MIHS President-Elect  
Dr. Donald Hart, AIHA Board of Directors  
Presented on: "AIHA Update"

**Natural Rubber Latex - Proposed TLV** was presented by John Reiter, PhD, Kisco Incorporated. The 2003 TLV notice of intended changes contains a proposed TLV for natural rubber latex. This TLV will apply to those using latex gloves such as medical areas and laboratories and also manufacturing processes where latex rubber is used. Dr. Reiter gave us an overview of the TLV basis and described the collection techniques and analytical methods used to determine the TLV.



Gerry Plattenberg, MIHS President  
Lisa Quiggle, MIHS President-Elect  
John Reiter, PhD, Kisco Incorporated  
Presented on: "Natural Rubber Latex"

**IICRC S520 Standard and Reference Guide for Mold Remediation** was presented by Mike Davis, Microbiologist, Wonder Makers Environmental, Inc. IICRC S520 is the result of two years of collaborative efforts on the part of industry experts, microbiologists, public health experts, industrial hygienists and other scientists, remediation contractors and professionals. He gave us an overview of the standard.

**Formaldehyde Monitoring** was presented by Anthony Sloma of Perstorp Polyols, Inc. A few of our members requested a presentation on formaldehyde monitoring. Anthony Sloma is the Environment, Health and Safety Manager at Perstorp Polyols, Inc. in Toledo, Ohio. Perstorp Polyols is a division of Perstorp AB (based in Perstorp, Sweden), a global leader in Polyols and Formaldehyde technology. Mr. Sloma has been with Perstorp for 10 years and is responsible for all aspects of regulatory compliance in the environmental, health, safety, and transportation areas.



Gerry Plattenberg, MIHS President  
Lisa Quiggle, MIHS President-Elect  
Anthony Sloma, Perstorp Polyols, Inc.  
Presented on: "Formaldehyde Monitoring"



Gerry Plattenberg, MIHS President  
Lisa Quiggle, MIHS President-Elect  
Mike Davis, Microbiologist, Wonder Makers Environmental  
Presented on: "IICRC S520 Standard and Reference Guide for Mold Remediation"



Attendees



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