



OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE MATTERS

Welcome to the July 2019 edition of Occupational Hygiene Matters



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Julia Norris - AIOH President 2019

Well the year continues to fly by and there is some exciting action taking place behind the scenes.

In keeping with my April OH Matters update your Council continues to work towards achieving the objectives set out in the AIOH Strategic Plan.

Professionalism:

In April this year the AIOH put out a call for volunteers for our **RPE fit testing training and accreditation program**. The interest from AIOH members was overwhelming, with over 30 AIOH members putting their hands up to be involved! We have divided the overall working group into three technical working groups in order to divide the work load and keep as many people engaged in the process as possible. We are looking forward to harnessing the enthusiasm of our team and seeing this project progress.

Enhanced Profile:

Representing and promoting the Occupational Hygiene professional continues to be a strong focus of Council. Maintaining our strong international relationships and responding to opportunities to increase the profile of the AIOH on the domestic front continues with great enthusiasm.

Through our MOU with **BOHS** and **NZOHS**, I was invited to give presentations at both of their conferences. In New Zealand, I presented on the emergence of **accelerated silicosis in the engineered stone bench top industry in Australia**. As a direct result of this and ongoing discussions with our NZ Worksafe colleagues, NZ Worksafe have released a safety alert raising the awareness of silicosis risk in the engineered stone industry and are planning a strategy to identify and manage silica risks in this industry. We are continuing to share information and resources around this issue, contributing article for their Safety magazine and providing information for a TVNZ article on the issues.

Myself and Andrew Orfanos were also lucky enough to be invited by the **AIHA** to the AIHce in Minneapolis where we were able to continue to strengthen our international relations, collaborating on issues such as ethics and online training opportunities.

In May this year the AIOH was approached by **The Australian Mining Review Magazine** (<http://australianminingreview.com.au/>) to contribute to their feature on Dust Control. The article will focus on occupational hygiene and the importance of controls in the workplace.

Another invitation was received to participate in the **Safety of Science podcast** discussing the importance of occupational hygiene and the AIOH. We look forward to the podcast being released in September.

The **AIOH Basic principles course** continues to be in high demand, with courses held in so far this year in Sydney, Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. Additional courses are planned for Sydney in August and Perth in November.

The AIOH Exposure Standards Committee with the support of members who have responded to the call for comment, have worked hard to provide submissions to **Safe work Australia on the proposed Silica and Coal dust WES**. We will continue to call for members comment on the updated WES's as they are released for comment by SWA.

The **AIOH Silica seminar series**, presented by two of our very experienced members, **Linda Apthorpe and Ian Firth**, has been very successful. Seminars have been run in Brisbane, Townsville and Sydney, with seminars to be run in Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide throughout July.

Improved AIOH organisational efficiencies:

Behind the scenes, council and staff are also working hard to ensure the interests of the organisation and our members are maintained and developed. The council are also working hard to ensure the **sustainability, relevance and growth of our institute**. We have been reviewing the way we do business and our operating efficiencies. Projects include identification of opportunities to integrate business management systems (e.g. Document management, Web platform, Event platform and Self-service portal), ongoing website improvements, review of AIOH Committee documentation where appropriate and establishment and Implementation of a HR manual.

We are continuing with the review of the **rules and statement of purpose** to ensure adherence with the Victorian Incorporated Association Reform Act. However, we are also taking this opportunity to look at potential improvements for our membership that reflect the **inclusivity** we have sought for many years. Proposed changes will be put out for member comment in the near future. Keep an eye out for future correspondence later this year.



Breathe Freely Australia (BFA)

And last, but by no means least, Breathe Freely Australia is continuing to progress. As you will see further into the newsletter, the Breathe Freely Australia website is now live! You can access the resources at www.breathefreelyaustralia.org.au (<http://www.breathefreelyaustralia.org.au>). This is in no small way, **thanks to the huge effort of Sharann Johnson** who has committed countless volunteer hours to reviewing and updating the breathe freely web based resources provided by the BOHS, for our Australian Occupational Environment. You will see that in addition to the construction and manufacturing themes established by the BOHS, the intent is to have resources specifically themed around Silica/Engineered Stone and Mining on the BFA website. This content is still in development but will be uploaded as it is completed.

Planning is also progressing for delivery of the AIOH Breathe Freely Australia Roadshows. In Queensland, the AIOH will contribute the Breathe Freely presentation to the Silica Code of Practice information sessions to be run by the Queensland Office of Industrial relations (Workplace Health and Safety Queensland). In addition, we are planning to run **three mining specific roadshows in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Queensland**. These are tentatively planned for September, with details to follow when confirmed. We are also starting conversation in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and WA to establish a roadshow series in each state and there will be opportunities for members to get so, watch this space.

Thank you!

In closing, a **HUGE THANKS to all of those who volunteer their time** tirelessly on our committees and working groups to keep these projects running and for the support of the AIOH council and staff who facilitate this...

"Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together" - James Cash Penney

Kind Regards

Your President
Dr Julia Norris

president@aioh.org.au (<mailto:president@aioh.org.au?subject=OH%20Matters%20July%202019%20>)



partner
program
2019

Interested in partnering with the AIOH?

[Click here to start the conversation \(mailto:kerrie@aioh.org.au?subject=I'd%20like%20to%20know%20more%20about%20the%20partner%20program%202019\)](mailto:kerrie@aioh.org.au?subject=I'd%20like%20to%20know%20more%20about%20the%20partner%20program%202019)

NATIONAL UPDATE

Breathe Freely Australia



This is an exciting new initiative for the AIOH in collaboration with the BOHS.

"This was a team effort and congratulations to Barry Chesson, Ross Di Corleto, Fritz Djukic, Kerrie Doherty, Martin Jennings, Sharann Johnson, Mark Lewis, Carolyn Topping, Michael Weller and Sandra Wray for a job well done in starting a new journey for the Institute", says AIOH President Julia Norris.

Breathe Freely Australia (BFA) is aimed at reducing occupational lung diseases and protecting worker health. It will promote greater awareness and improved work practices using seminars and an information website: www.breathefreelyaustralia.org.au

To improve our impact, we are developing new partnerships with key organisations around Australia to build a sustainable new program for the AIOH.

Contact us for more information:
www.breathefreelyaustralia.org.au

bfa@aioh.org.au

(03) 9338 1635



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ICRP 2019



AIOH Events - register now to avoid disappointment



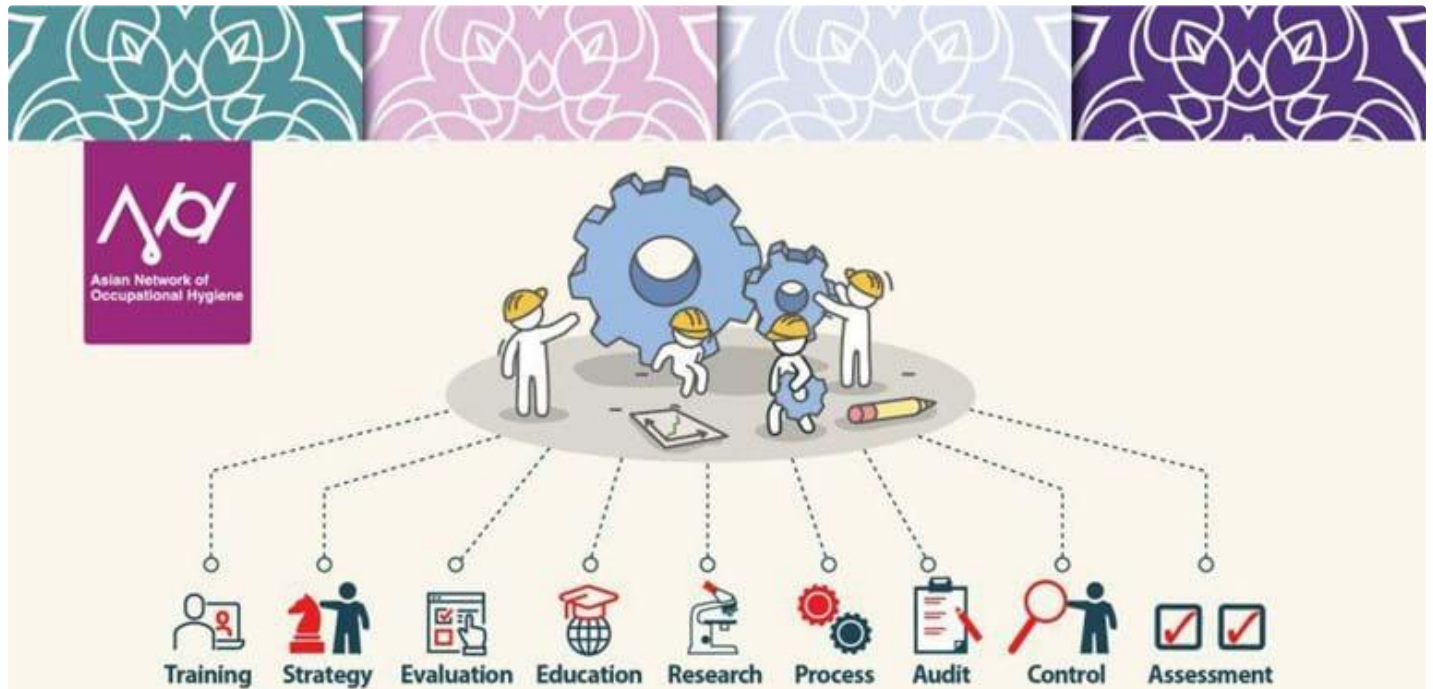


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INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

Join ANOH



Ensuring professionalism by joining ANOH

The **A**sian **N**etwork of **O**ccupational **H**ygienists (ANOHI) links occupational hygienists from all across the continent. It was established in 2014 as part of the ongoing effort to identify and resolve the crucial occupational safety and health issues faced in Asia.

For decades now developing countries, including those in Asia, have served as the factory for the globe. According to WHO, nearly eight out of ten factory workers today are found in the developing world. In most Asian countries, proper industrial health and safety regulations, appropriate legislation, and a sufficient body of OH professionals are lacking. Diverse challenges have emerged, ranging from traditional OH concerns such as noise, dust, and chemical poisoning to rising issues such as nanoparticles and electromagnetic fields in cutting-edge industries. With the deterioration of these circumstances, ANOH activities must be expanded to more countries and include more OH experts. ANOH has been continuously developing through a variety of activities, including an annual conference, education, symposia, and board meetings, all of which are contributing to the recognition of the occupational health issues being faced in Asia. Above all, ANOH requires the participation of more OH professionals in order to address health and safety problems in Asia by sharing various types of professional experiences, including education, auditing, and research.

Sixteen countries from across Asia have joined ANOH, but additional OH organizations, professionals, and students are more than welcome to participate. ANOH members may benefit from a discount on industrial hygiene conferences in member countries (including Korea, Australia, Taiwan, Malaysia, and more). Furthermore, various OH issues in Asia can be explored through the member network. We would like to invite you to join us in establishing safe workplaces across Asia. Please visit the ANOH homepage (www.anoh.net) and take part.

If you wish to be part of this network and contribute towards our goal of making a difference to the health of workers throughout Asia then join us. By doing so you will be contributing to help close the gaps in the exposure of workers and the general public to occupational hazards, help improve access to occupational health services, including education and the exchange of knowledge through networking and collaboration.

We look forward to working with all of you as we support the sustainable growth of our profession through ANOH so that we can better contribute to improving workplace health and promotion throughout our region.

4th IIHA Connect 2019

The 4th IIHA CONNECT 2019
Indonesian Industrial Hygiene Association – Conference Exhibition and Training
in conjunction with
IOHA Board Meeting
International Occupational Hygiene Association

Bali – Indonesia **9–11 September 2019**

8 Sept 2019 **9 Sept 2019** **10 Sept 2019** **11 Sept 2019**
IOHA Board Meeting PDC Day 1 PDC Day 2 Conference

PDC DAY 1 **PDC DAY 2**

PDC 1 Risk Communication & Risk Perception	PDC 5 Industrial and Office Ventilation
PDC 2 Noise Control	PDC 6 Limitation and Advantages of Direct Reading Occupational Hygiene Instruments
PDC 3 Fatigue Assessment & Management	PDC 7 Heat Stress Management
PDC 4 Chemical Risk Assessment	PDC 8 Size-Selective Aerosol Sampling

PDC (Professional Development Course) will be delivered by international speakers from **Australia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Taiwan, Qatar and Indonesia**

CONFERENCE : STRENGTHENING THE PROFESSIONALISM OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST

Plenary 1 : IH Professionalism and Contribution in HSE # **Plenary 2** : Leadership
Parallel Session* : Oral & Poster Presentation Abstract Topics for Parallel Session:

1. Exposure Measurement	4. Emerging Issues	7. Management of Chemicals
2. Health Risk Assessment	5. Fatigue Assessment	8. Respiratory Protection
3. HSE Leadership & Management	6. Noise Control	9. HSE-Related Topics

(*) selected papers will be published in Scopus-indexed journal

PRE-EVENT COMPETITION # OHS Photo Competition # OHS Video Competition
Industrial Hygiene Poster Competition

IMPORTANT DATES:

Call for abstract!

Abstract Submission Deadline: May 18th 2019
Abstract Acceptance Notifications: May 31st 2019
Full Paper Submission: June 30th 2019
Early Bird Registration: June 15th 2019

Register Now! Visit our website on www.iiha.id

International Uranium Conference

For those that may not be aware, the AusIMM's International Uranium Conference is returning to Adelaide for its 14th consecutive year in 2019. The conference will provide delegates with unparalleled opportunities to network with some of the world's top uranium experts and will give delegates opportunity to learn about the current state of the global uranium industry with experts presenting on the turnaround in the uranium and nuclear market. Presentations will discuss the growing global demand for more new uranium production and the opportunities to re-commence standby projects and explore new projects.

Also note, that for the radiation health/biology people, that day 2 will have Prof Gerry Thomas (Chernobyl tissue bank), as well as a panel discussion on Radiation: Science, Protection and Communication which may interest you.

Further information can be obtained from the link: <http://uranium.ausimm.com/>
(<http://uranium.ausimm.com/>)

Brad Cassels

President

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/radiation/index.htm>
(<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/radiation/index.htm>)

World Day for Safety & Health at Work 2019



The International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva, Switzerland, is commemorating "World Day for Safety & Health at Work 2019" beginning April 28, 2019. This is the first day of worldwide events and activities throughout the rest of the year.

World Day takes stock of a 100 years of work in improving occupational health & safety and looks to the future for continuing these efforts through major changes such as technology, demographics, sustainable development including climate change, and changes in work organizations.

Ms Chris Laszcz-Davis contributed a “think piece” in celebration and sent us this information. The link he sent below presents all 33 “think pieces” and accompanying video clips (at the end of each “think piece”).
Open up link: <http://www.ilo.org/safeday> (<http://www.ilo.org/safeday>).
Please share this information with your organisations.

Retha van Niekerk
IOHA Executive Secretary

www.ioha.net (<http://www.ioha.net>)

Upcoming Training August 2019



Greetings from Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association,
MIHA will be conducting a 4-days course, COMPREHENSIVE INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE from the 5th - 8th August 2019 at Tamu Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

This 4 days course will covers intensive & high level review of a wide range of Industrial Hygiene topics which helps those who plan for certification exams and enhancing IH professional skills.

Hence, IH practitioners and Safety professionals, are highly encourage to join this course.

So grab your chance to meet & learn from our expertise; Dr. Park Doo Yong, Professor of Occupational Hygiene at Hansung University, Seoul, South Korea.

Attendees will be provided with comprehensive notes and practical case studies.

Do reserve your seat now, kindly fill up registration form & email your details to suhaini.miha@gmail.com.
(<mailto:suhaini.miha@gmail.com>.)

The Occupational and Environmental Health Society of Singapore (OEHS)



invites you to share your scientific research, technical expertise and professional experience in applying occupational health & hygiene principles at your workplace and within the industry.

The theme for the conference is “Strengthening Foundation; Breaking New Frontiers” – a focus on the fundamentals of our profession as well as an opportunity to discuss emerging trends in the practice.

Welcome to the Workplace Exposure Standard (WES) and Biological Exposure Index (BEI) Stakeholder Consultation for 2019

WORKSAFE

Mahi Haumaru Aotearoa

Getting you home healthy and safe.
That's what we're working for.

Any comment can be sent to Ian Firth for a consolidated response to WorkSafe New Zealand.

Ian Firth (MSc, COH, FAIOH)

MOBILE: 0467 711 027

EMAIL: ian.firth55@gmail.com (mailto:ian.firth55@gmail.com)

Welcome to the Workplace Exposure Standard (WES) and Biological Exposure Index (BEI) Stakeholder Consultation for 2019

This year WorkSafe New Zealand is proposing changes to the WES of 34 substances and the BEI of one substance.

The substances for which we are proposing changes are as follows:

WES		
Acetaldehyde	Acrylamide	Acrylonitrile
Antimony trioxide	1,3-Butadiene	Butyl acrylate
n-Butyl glycidyl ether	Carbon disulphide	1,2-Dibromoethane
p-Dichlorobenzene	Dichlorvos	Dimethyl sulphate
Ethyl chloride	Ethylene oxide	Epichlorohydrin
Furfural	Glutaraldehyde	Glycidol
Hydrazine	Malathion	Maleic anhydride
2-Methoxyethanol	2-Methoxyethylacetate	4,4-Methylene dianiline
Naphthalene	Phenyl glycidyl ether	Phthalic anhydride
Propylene dichloride	Pyridine	Silica - crystalline
Sulphur dioxide	Thiram	Vinyl cyclohexene dioxide
Wood dust		
BEI		
Styrene		

There are separate proposal documents for each of the substances.

WorkSafe welcomes submissions from all interested parties, including individuals, businesses, industry and professional associations and other groups. Please feel free to forward this email to other parties that you believe may be interested in making a submission. If you were sent the email as a representative of an association or other group, WorkSafe encourages you to share the email with your members.

LINK TO WES & BEI PROPOSALS AND CONSULTATION PROCESS (<https://worksafe.govt.nz/laws-and-regulations/consultations/workplace-exposure-standards-changes-2019/>)

Alternatively, paste the following link into your browser: <https://worksafe.govt.nz/laws-and-regulations/consultations/workplace-exposure-standards-changes-2019/> (<https://worksafe.govt.nz/laws-and-regulations/consultations/workplace-exposure-standards-changes-2019/>)

If you wish to make a submission to WorkSafe on the proposed changes, please use the following link to our WES Consultation page and follow the instructions on that page.

Please note that submissions close at 5:00 pm on 7 August 2019. We will not be accepting submissions in any format other than through the online form.

WorkSafe encourages stakeholders to take special note of the comments on the “**WES, PES and BEI explained**” section that follows the Privacy statement in the above link. These comments provide background information about WES, BEI and also prescribed exposure standards (PES), including what they mean and how they should be used.

Further information on WES, including the meaning of WES-TWA and WES-STEL, and BEI is provided in the Glossary sections of each of the proposal documents.

Workplace Exposure Standards and Biological Exposure Indices

The 10th edition of the Workplace Exposure Standards and Biological Exposure Indices (<https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/work-related-health/monitoring/exposure-standards-and-biological-exposure-indices/>) publication, published in November 2018, is the most recent edition. Changes made to WES and BEI following the 2018 WES Consultation process were published in the 10th edition and are highlighted in the Preface, on page 2 of that publication.

Official Information Act:

We are subject to the Official Information Act 1982, which means that your submission may be made available to those seeking information under that Act.

www.worksafe.govt.nz (www.worksafe.govt.nz)

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AIHCexp 2019 – Minneapolis

Once again, a huge conference and exhibition that continues to grow in its breadth of topics and range of speakers.

Brian was fortunate to attend “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly – EHS at the Worst Plant” PDC on Day 1.

This was a series of scenarios covering the day in the life of a hygienist across occupational and environmental hygiene and associated safety issues that may be encountered by many of us as we pursue our role as a site Hygienist. As the title suggests, it was a warts and all presentation with some good and not so good pictures and videos gathered by the presenters over 20+ years of practice! Interactive workshop that was quite entertaining!

Brian was even more fortunate to grab a spot on the “3M Innovation Centre” Tour. Brian’s comment: “This was one of the best 4 hours I have spent at any facility – in fact I could have spent several days there!”.

From novel adhesives, dental and medical applications, the external Post-It note through to Michael Johnson’s gold-plated Nike runners especially prepared for the Sydney Olympics in 2000, the interactive Innovation Centre display was captivating.

Other highlights of the conference included an update on glyphosate, PFAS/PFOS legacy issues, asbestos contamination in talc, crystalline silica, surface sampling and total worker health. One topic that kept re-emerging across the conference was the prevalence of untrained persons collecting occupational hygiene samples and the invalidation of data. This is of particular concern in the crystalline silica area. This is of relevance in Australia for the collection of samples for occupational hygiene risk assessments and asbestos fibre air monitoring. Increasingly we are seeing untrained personnel, often using inappropriate sampling procedures and equipment, to collect samples on which health risk assessments are to be based. The data generated from these assessments is at best questionable. From discussions with our international colleagues, it would appear that this deterioration of standards is a global trend.

Over 4000 delegates and hundreds of exhibitors, Technical Tours and Social Events made this year’s conference a memorable one. Thanks to our friends Larry Sloan and Bethany Chirico for making the Australian contingent welcome yet again.

News from the ACGIH

We attended the Annual General Meeting of the ACGIH. The ACGIH has appointed Frank Mortl III as its new Executive Director. We met with Mr Mortl and he is keen to develop a closer working relationship with the AIOH. We have also connected Mr Mortl with the Chair of the AIOH Exposure Standards Committee and the Director of Occupational Hygiene Policy at Safe Work Australia.

The ACGIH announced the imminent release of its new Threshold Limit Value – Surface Limit (TLV-SL) in late 2019. These will be introduced through a webinar. A new Ototoxicant notation has also been introduced and there are 20 new or revised substances on the Notice of Intended Change for 2019.

Edition 30 of the Industrial Ventilation: A manual of Recommended Practice for Design has been released in 2019. The second edition of the Industrial Ventilation: A Manual of Recommended Practice for Operation and Maintenance is expected to be published in 2020. The Industrial Ventilation Committee will be hosting a webinar for local exhaust ventilation controls for crystalline silica in late 2019.

News from the AIHA

Some actions against the AIHA strategic Plan

Community

- A reduction in membership classes has been very successful, with overall membership numbers increasing over the past year
- In 2019-2020, a focus will be on membership retention and recruitment campaigns.
- New virtual section
- A new International Affairs Advisory Group has been established
- Product Stewardship Society with MOU established with ABIH to develop credential; first exam Spring 2020

Awareness

- Brand refresh initiative – 88 Brand partners developing brand strategy and subsequent marketing campaigns
- Targeted audiences
- Continue media marketing campaigns

Advancement & Dissemination of Knowledge

- 1st ever virtual conference – Exposure Assessment
- e-learning; new course developed around OHTA W201 basic Principles OH
- New Technology Initiatives Group

Integrity of IH Practice

- Laboratory Assessment Program (LAP) – 40% of laboratories have moved to ISO 17025:2017 standard
- Proficiency and testing (PAT) – two pilot studies for gravimetric dust and cannabis tests
- Registry programs: new OHMS auditor registry, working with NRCC to develop IH chemist /analyst certification program
- New exposure Decision Analysis registry for early career professionals

Advocacy

- Public Policy Agenda: a framework for addressing critical health & safety issues

The 2018-2019 AIHA funding model was: 48% through proficiency programs, 33% through meetings and education, 8% through publications, 9% through membership fees with other at 2%.

Museum, Historical Site and Collection Care Risk Management Working Group

We accidentally wandered into a meeting of the 'Museum, Historical Site and Collection Care Risk Management Working Group' and were immediately asked to join as the Australian representatives. The Group is currently preparing the following actions plans:

- Risk Assessment & Best Practices – Academic & General Museums
- Risk Assessment & Best Practices – Art Museums, Libraries, Archives
- Cultural Heritage Emergency Response Training
- Raise Awareness & Promote Allied Networking

We have been in contact with the curatorial staff at several museums in Sydney to establish networking opportunities between Australian curators and the AIHA working group.

The SKC Hat Party

One of the social highlights of the conference was the SKC Hat Party hosted by Debbie Dietrich. It was a fun evening with plenty of dancing and frivolity, and of course the crazy hats.

American Industrial Hygiene Foundation

Philanthropic support for charitable organisations and the arts is ingrained in US culture. The American Industrial Hygiene Foundation is a prime example of philanthropic giving. We never cease to be amazed at the incredibly generous support given to the AIHF by AIHA members and others.

The AIOH Foundation was established in 2016 to promote the principles of occupational hygiene in the prevention and control of occupational diseases in Australian workplaces. It is charitable foundation and donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible. AIOH members are encouraged to support the Foundation. A \$100 gift to the AIOH Foundation from each AIOH member when paying their membership fees, would make an enormous difference to the Foundation's ability to achieve its objectives.

AIOH Foundation "Donate Here (<https://www.aioh.org.au/static/uploads/files/aioh-foundation-pledge-form-2018-wfzntlievgmu.pdf>)"

Minneapolis Mill City Museum

During our stay, we were fortunate to visit the Mill City Museum run by the Minnesota Historical Society. It was opened in 2003 in the ruins of the Washburn Crosby Mill, opposite Mill Ruins Park on the banks of the Mississippi River. In February 1991, fire swept through the abandoned mill buildings, destroying large sections of the mill. The ruins have been incorporated into the Mill City Museum, making it a unique architectural creation.

The Mississippi River is some 2,300 miles long and the St. Anthony Falls, opposite the Mill City Museum, is the only natural waterfall along its entire length. The mill and surrounding industries were powered by the water from the St Anthony's Falls. Water was diverted through a canal that ran inside the lower level of the seven-storey mill to power the turbines.

Minnesota became the global powerhouse for flour milling in the 19th century and the Washburn Mill was the biggest mill in the world at that time. At this time, little consideration was given to OHS issues. Furthermore, there was scant understanding of the combustible properties of flour dust and there were no

dust controls at the mill. As a consequence, the mill and surrounding buildings were totally destroyed by a massive flour dust explosion in 1878. A plaque on the front of the mill reads:

This mill was erected in the year 1879 on the site of the Washburn Mill "A" which was totally destroyed on the second day of May 1878, by fire, and a terrific explosion occasioned by the rapid combustion of flour dust. Not one stone was left upon another, and every person engaged in the mill instantly lost his life. The following are the names of the faithful and well tried employees who feel victims of the awful calamity.

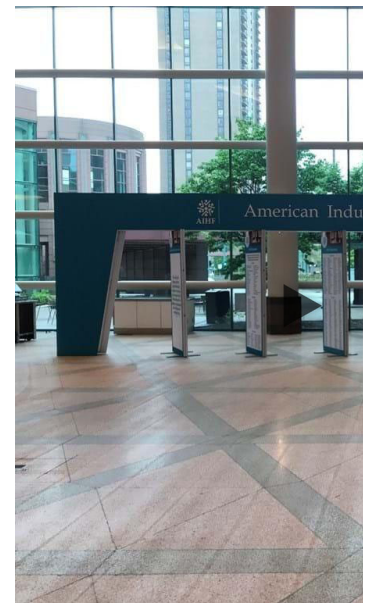
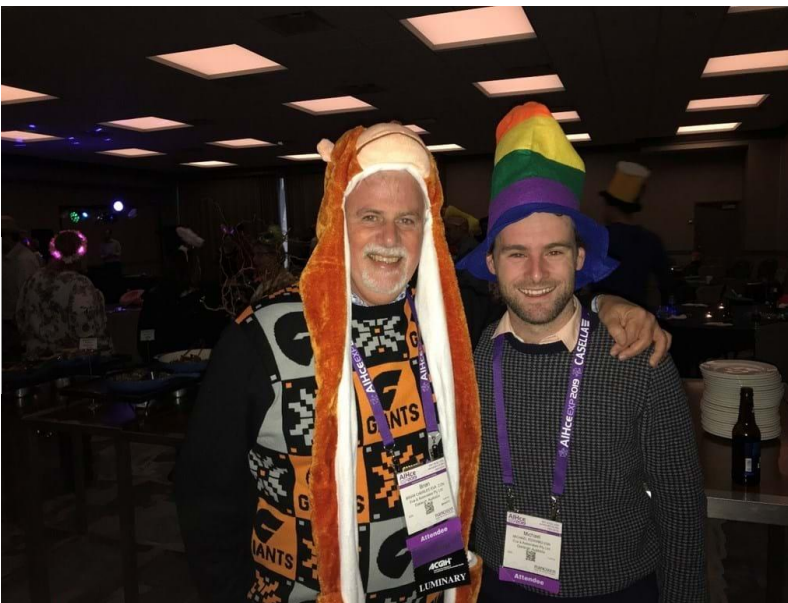
This was followed by 14 names.

The tragedy occurred on the nightshift after the mill's large day crew completed its shift to be replaced by the 14-man nightshift. The adjacent Diamond and Humboldt mills also exploded, killing four more workers.

When the mill was rebuilt in 1880, it was more technologically advanced than its predecessor, had greater production capacity, and incorporated dust control. The mill continued in operation even as the local milling industry went into decline. But age eventually caught up with the riverfront landmark, and the mill was finally closed in 1965. It remained abandoned, until destroyed by fire in 1991.

We look forward to the 2020 AIHA Conference to be held in Atlanta.

Brian Eva, Michael Eva, and Philip Hibbs



Michael Eva trying to keep his father in check, a lost cause.

American Industrial Hyg



The Aussie contingent enjoying a night out at Brit's Pub, a local iconic watering hole.

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

AIOH Members invitation to comment - NSW
Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Law &
Justice - 2019 Review of the Dust Diseases Scheme

AIOH Members (specifically NSW AIOH Members) are invited to comment on the 2019 review of the NSW Dust Diseases Scheme.

The Standing Committee on Law and Justice in the NSW Legislative Council has commenced its 2019 review of the Dust Diseases scheme, focusing on the response to silicosis in the manufactured stone industry.

As per the email sent out to AIOH Members on the 9th of July, if you are interested in providing your comments to the AIOH, please click here (</website-forms/copy-of-aioh-swa-member-comment-form-swa-rcs-rcd-wes-form>). You will need to complete a form in order for your comments to be considered. You also need to be an AIOH Member to provide comment.

AIOH Acoustics SEG is up and running!

The new AIOH Acoustics SEG (Special Expertise Group) is up and running. Lead by Ian Marshall the AIOH Acoustics SEG will provide a forum allowing AIOH Members and non-members a platform for discussion. If you are keen to be a part of it and want to share your views and experience with other like-minded professionals then click below to join the group.

[click here to join the AIOH Acoustics SEG \(mailto:aiohacousticsseg+subscribe@groups.io\)](mailto:aiohacousticsseg+subscribe@groups.io)

The University of Wollongong

By Occupational Hygiene Course Co-ordinator: Jane Whitelaw, CIH, COH® FAIOH



The University of Wollongong: Stands for Innovation

UOW has delivered robust, nationally and internationally accredited and innovative Occupational Hygiene courses for *over 10 years*; producing award-winning professional Occupational Hygienists, many leaders in their field.

We are pleased to announce that in 2020 we are launching a dedicated **Master of Occupational Hygiene degree** and reintroducing a **Graduate Certificate in Occupational Hygiene** as a stand-alone qualification; or as an alternate entry pathway to the Masters.

These courses will allow students even more practical hands-on time with practising COH's to concentrate on Occupational Hygiene techniques and apply skills and knowledge to a broader range of workplace issues.

So, why study at UOW? Here's what our alumni say:

"The UOW course was great because it was less about just memorising technical information, rather it taught us to apply critical thought to complex challenges that we face in our careers as occupational hygienists" *Kate Cole, Occ. Health & Hygiene Manager Sydney Metro*

"The UOW course connected me with a huge number of professionals working in and around the Occ. Hygiene field in Australia. The program has instilled in me valuable skills and knowledge, which I apply every day at my workplace" *Chris Aebi, Occupational Hygienist, Boral*

Apply now for 2020. Contact Jane Whitelaw for more information jane_whitelaw@uow.edu.au (mailto:jane_whitelaw@uow.edu.au) Commonwealth Supported Places are available for domestic students.

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A report on the AIOH-Dräger Australia 2018/19 Young Hygienist Award

BOHS Conference, Brighton; Dräger, Lübeck; HSL, Buxton and FIOH, Helsinki.

Ritesh Patel, MAIOH, CIH, Certified Occupational Hygienist (COH)® – June 2019

Introduction

I was fortunate enough to receive the 2018-19 AIOH Dräger Australia Young Hygienist award which allowed me to travel to the United Kingdom / European Union (UK/EU). My personal professional development was facilitated by allowing me to network with experts in specific areas of my interest.

I used this opportunity to attend the

- British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) conference at Brighton, UK
- Health & Safety Laboratory (HSL) in Buxton, UK, and
- Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH) in Helsinki, Finland.

As part of my travel, Dräger also provided me with an opportunity to visit the Dräger product development and manufacturing facilities and exhibition in Lübeck, Germany.

During my professional career, I have had many opportunities to work on a vast variety of occupational hygiene hazards and issues. One of the most important, challenging, and evolving areas for managing health risk from workplace exposures to chemicals, is multi-route and multiple hazards exposures. The primary purpose of my travel and professional site visits was to understand how such complex issues are addressed, learn best practices, technologies, practical solutions and engage in problem-solving discussions with the experts. In the long term, I have an interest and desire to contribute in developing the integrated and holistic approach to the assessment and management of the occupational exposure risks. The objective being to successfully apply the developed model to address the real-life, multi-route and multiple hazards exposures resulting in the adequate protection of the workers.

The attendance at the BOHS conference as well as the professional site visits to HSL, FIOH and Dräger proved to be immensely beneficial to me. Following are some of the cameo glimpses and important learnings with associated pertinent information collected from my trip.

Acknowledgements

I wish to acknowledge and thank the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists Inc (AIOH) and Dräger Australia for providing me with this excellent professional development opportunity and their assistance with organising my trip. I would like to acknowledge and thank the AIOH Awards and Sponsorship Committee members, especially Mr Alan Rogers - Chair of the Committee for his guidance and assistance in organising my award trip. I would also like to thank Kalpesh Trivedi from Dräger Australia and Oliver Bornholdt and Heiko Schaffrath from Dräger Lubeck for their assistance with organising my visit to Dräger Lubeck facilities.

I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Kate Jones, Team Leader – Biological Monitoring at HSL, Buxton and Tiina Santonen – Chief Specialist at FIOH, Helsinki with organising and hosting my professional site visits.

Finally, a special thanks to my family and my employer Hibbs & Associates Pty Ltd for the 2 weeks abroad allowing me to participate in this award trip.

BOHS Conference, Brighton UK

My trip began with the amazing experience of attending a BOHS annual conference held at Brighton UK between 1-4 April 2019. I arrived in Brighton, on 31st March which is 76 km south of London, after a long flight from Sydney to London. The BOHS conference format is similar to the AIOH conference and included the professional development courses (PDC), key note lectures, concurrent sessions and exhibition and poster viewing. I attended a 1-day PDC on Approaches for Optimising Occupational Hygiene Business Value Delivery by Dr Bob Rajan. Dr Rajan focused on effective communication principles, out of the box thinking for developing new ideas and controls, how occupational hygienists can work productively in engineering design with some examples, presenting effective business reports. He also introduced us to the "Learning Occupational Health by Experiencing the Risk" (LOcHER) project and the current activities expended on this project including development of the LOcHER training tool kit. He demonstrated some of these tool kit ideas which can be used in training and tool box talks to effectively communicate message to the workers and make training sessions more interactive. Please refer <http://www.locher.org.uk/> for more information on the LOcHER project.

The conference started with an interesting warner lecture on Treatment of Occupational Respiratory Cancers: Is There Progress at Last? By Dr John Moore-Gillon Consultant Physician Emeritus St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. He explained the occupational lung cancers followed by traditional cancer treatments and new treatment alternatives such as immunotherapy. He presented the interesting information in such a simplified way that it was easy to follow. He discussed "the one fibre can kill" myth and mentioned that overwhelming majority of people never acquire 5 to 6 mutations in a mesothelial cell that are probably necessary for it to begin behaving in a malignant fashion i.e. to develop mesothelioma. The asbestos presence increases the rate at which the mutations occur however most people in their course of life will still not develop a cell which has both acquired the full house of mutations and escaped bodily defence systems. He then provided an overview of various cancer treatments and explained about evolving cancer treatment using immune checkpoint therapy.

The highlight of this BOHS conference was its technical sessions which were focussed on the practical issues and solutions with real life examples as well as the latest research and development in the field of worker health protection and prevention of occupational ill-health and diseases. There were several interesting and educational presentations on the topics of my specific interests such as dermal exposure risk assessments, biological monitoring and chemical risk assessments and management with industry specific tracks on petrochemicals and energy institute.

These sessions discussed the real-life issues / problems and challenges and the approaches used to control them. The physical hazards track also had very interesting technical sessions on technical challenges in accurately measuring occupational exposure to electromagnetic radiation and hand arm vibration.

The conference also provided several opportunities during the breaks to network with the experts and fellow occupational hygiene professionals from around the world at exhibition and social functions. I met several occupational hygienists and experts from around the world to add to my professional network.



BOHS Conference



Pre-Dinner Drinks at i360 & Gala Din

Health & Safety Laboratory, Buxton, UK

I began the second part of my trip with a one day visit to HSL Buxton after a weekend long break in London. At HSL I met Kate Jones who is a Team Leader of the Biological Monitoring unit at HSL. Based on my interest and availability of the personnel on the day, Kate had organised my visit to various sections of the HSL and meeting with the professionals and experts there. At HSL, I visited variety of laboratories and areas such as ultraviolet (UV) fluorescent surface contamination visualisation lab, Exposure control & ventilation lab, aerosol and fibres lab, biological agents lab, personal protective equipment (PPE) lab and biological monitoring / analytical lab.

Ms Catherine Makison-Booth, Microbiologist at HSL showed me the UV fluorescent contamination visualisation lab and explained to me how this technique works and its use in some important projects.



UV Fluorescent Contamination Visualisation Laboratory (HSL, Buxton)

UV Fluoresce



Exposure Control / Ventilation Laboratories (HSL, Buxton)

HSL has used this facility and technique to evaluate the extent of chemical and biological agent contamination within specific workplaces, the effectiveness of the decontamination, the personal protective equipment (PPE) and their safe removal etc. This has proved to be a powerful evaluation, training and communication tool for these purposes. For example, this technique has been successfully used in the pharmaceutical industry for training and improving work practices to minimise surface contamination and cross contamination of potent Active Pharmaceuticals Ingredients (API) as well as effective use of PPE. HSL also used this technique for a National Health Services (NHS), UK project to evaluate protective effectiveness of the PPE ensembles and the safe removal of contaminated PPE during the Ebola outbreak. They used a scenario-based exercise with the use of simulant body fluids tagged with fluorescent markers. Visualisation of cross-contamination provided a powerful training and evaluation tool.

John Saunders – Principal Ventilation Scientist at HSL showed me the exposure control and ventilation laboratory. I observed several realistic working models of different ventilation type systems and electroplating process. HSL use this facility for various research, development and training purposes.

John informed me about their recent project on reducing nickel exposure during electroplating process with alternative methods of agitation using pumped flow educators and mechanical cathode rod movement. This new technique considerably reduces the mist generation in manual nickel-plating processes.

During my meeting with Matt Coldwell - Occupational Hygienist at HSL, we discussed the HSL project regarding the use of biomonitoring to assess nickel and hexavalent chromium exposure in the electroplating industry. This was a large study over a period of 3 years involving 53 electroplating

companies in the UK. In this study they measured surface and dermal contamination and urinary nickel and chromium levels in addition to air monitoring. They found exposure to nickel and chromium in electroplating industry occur via a combination of inhalation, dermal and ingestion routes. Inhalation exposures only accounted for part of the total exposure whereas biological monitoring was very useful in demonstrating sustainable improvement in controls over a period of time the project was running. I briefly visited the fibres and aerosol laboratories with Laurie Davies, Fibres and Mineral Technical Team Leader. Laurie showed me various facilities and provided an overview of the rotating drum dustiness tester, preparation of proficiency testing samples for asbestos and analysis of fibres in human lung tissue.

I also briefly visited Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) testing laboratory. Nick Bailey – Diving Safety Scientist showed me various facilities within the PPE testing laboratory. I observed an interesting new piece of equipment called Face Fit Respiratory Equipment Demonstrator (FFRED). Nick demonstrated use of this equipment during my visit. FFRED is quite an interesting way of visually demonstrating the importance of correct face-fit for the respirator, please refer attached YouTube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eub0nWMF-vM>) to view how FFRED works. Nick also explained to me about the development of LOCHER training tool kit in conjunction with Dr Bob Rajan from HSE.

I also briefly visited other areas at HSL such as biological agents, train collision test area and their analytical laboratories. Dr Alan Beswick – Principal Scientist Microbiology gave me a quick guided tour of the biological agents laboratory where they conduct testing of samples for Bacillus anthracis (which causes anthrax) in a Containment Level 3 laboratory. Matt Coldwell, Occupational Hygienist at HSL gave me a quick tour of the explosion testing and collision testing areas. Kate Jones accompanied me to visit the biological monitoring and analytical laboratories. During the breaks, I had many interesting discussions with Kate Jones regarding works conducted at HSL, the organisation and biological monitoring.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to HSL and I truly appreciated meeting with and learning from the various peers and subject matter experts at HSL. I would like to thank all personnel at HSL for their time taking me through various facilities and the fruitful discussions with me regarding interesting projects and work they do.

Dräger Lübeck, Germany

I received a warm welcome at Lübeck where the hotel receptionist handed me a personalised welcome card from Dräger with an agenda for my visit, thank you Dräger!

Next day I arrived at the Dräger manufacturing facility where Oliver Bornholdt, Dräger Safety Marketing Manager met with me at the gate. Oliver provided me an overview of the Dräger Lübeck facilities and products. Following my initial meeting with Oliver, I met with Helge Trabert, Product Manager, Safety for a guided tour of the manufacturing facility.

What an amazing experience seeing innovative products in the making and learning about the processes! Obviously, I wanted to spend more time learning about these processes and take many photographs however the time was limited and photographs were not allowed.

We began the guided manufacturing tour at the soda lime and activated carbon manufacturing units. Dräger receives soda lime pallets and activated charcoal from suppliers and processes them through a unique proprietary processes to make the products for highly specialised applications. Dräger Soda lime products are used for absorption of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other acidic gases in highly specialised

applications such as breathing apparatus, rescue chambers, submarine, anaesthesia machines etc. These products are sold under different trade names for various applications. Dräger activated charcoal products are used in respirator filter cartridges, anaesthesia machines, air sampling tubes etc.

I then visited the particulates filter production unit where I observed manufacturing of various types of particulate filters including HEPA and ULPA from micro glass fibres. Although I have had an opportunity to see hundreds of different manufacturing processes in my career, this was innovative, quite fascinating and a new addition to my list.

I also briefly visited the gas detectors and medical equipment manufacturing areas including their new manufacturing facilities. The new medical equipment manufacturing facility was designed such that it can be easily adapted to change their product lines or manufacturing processes.

Following the guided tour of the manufacturing areas, Oilver gave me a short presentation about Dräger organisation, innovative products and its impacts on the life of people throughout the world.

After having lunch with Oilver, I was then transferred to Dräger Headquarters at Moislinger Allee 53, Lübeck. Again, I had a very warm welcome by Heiko Schaffrath, Visitor Service Manager at Dräger Headquarters.



Welcome to Lübeck



At Dräger Exhibition - Lübeck At I

Dräger Exhibition was my favourite location amongst the Dräger Lübeck facilities that I visited. As we walked through the exhibition, Heiko Schaffrath gave me an interesting talk about the Dräger History which started 120 years ago with the invention of the first reliable carbon dioxide pressure regulator in 1889: the Lubeca valve. Indeed, very interesting history and even more fascinating to know that such a large business is a still family owned and has always been managed by entrepreneurial members of the Dräger family. Currently, the fifth generation of the Dräger family manages the company.

After visiting the Dräger Exhibition, I met with Dr. Stefanie Kloth, Hygiene Specialist and visited Dräger Test Laboratories. In these laboratories relevant Dräger equipment are subjected to various real-life like environmental and operational conditions of rain, vibration, heat, cold, electromagnetic radiation, noise etc and tested for effective and accurate functioning of the equipment under extreme climatic conditions.

I truly appreciate the opportunity and amazing experience of my visit to Dräger Lübeck. I felt very inspired after the visit. I would like to thank Dräger for this wonderful opportunity and all personnel at Dräger Lübeck for such a warm welcome and organising the guided tours on my behalf.

Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, Finland

After a truly amazing experience at Dräger Lübeck, I travelled to Helsinki Finland to visit the Finish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH) locally known as Työterveyslaitos. FIOH is an Institute more than 70 years old with more than 500 employees which conduct research and provides occupational health and hygiene services. My key contact at FIOH was Dr Tiina Sentonen who is a Chief Specialist and FIOH expert in occupational toxicology, biomonitoring and risk assessment of chemicals.

FIOH is a partner member in a larger European Union (EU) initiative on human biomonitoring called Human Biomonitoring for European Union (HBM4EU). This is a joint effort of EU countries to generate evidence of actual exposure to support chemical risk assessments and policy making <https://www.hbm4eu.eu/> (<https://www.hbm4eu.eu/>). Under this large project, FIOH coordinates the tasks related to targeted occupational studies.

During my visit I had discussions with Tiina regarding their very interesting current HBM4EU project on hexavalent chromium (CrVI) exposure in chrome surface treatment and welding sectors across several EU countries. As part of this study, they are investigating new methods for the biomonitoring of CrVI exposure, including CrVI in exhaled breath condensates (EBC) and Cr in red blood cells. The total chromium in urine, which is the currently used biomarker is not specific and cannot differentiate between trivalent chromium (CrIII) and CrVI exposure, often resulting in overestimation of exposure risk. Cr(VI) in EBC is an important new biomarker since it can give specific information on the Cr(VI) levels in the lungs. Cr in red blood cells represents CrVI exposure as CrIII cannot pass through red blood cell membrane. Part of this study also includes monitoring of effect biomarker (genotoxicity and epigenetic endpoints) and establishing relationship between exposure and effect biomarker. At FIOH, I also met Dr Hannu Norppa, Research Professor specialising in genotoxicity and nanotoxicity. He facilitated my tour to genotoxicity and nanotoxicity research laboratories at the FIOH. Hannu Norppa is also contributor to the HBM4EU project on CrVI.

Another interesting area which I visited at FIOH was their occupational skin and allergic respiratory disease investigation clinic. Katri Suuronen, Chemist and Toxicologist (Adjunct Professor) explained to me how they use inhalation challenge testing for investigation and diagnosis of allergic respiratory diseases. The patient occupies the test chamber and is exposed to controlled low airborne concentrations of the specific chemicals under investigation. Following the challenge, specific tests or samples are collected to facilitate diagnosis. Ms Katri informed me that they have successfully used this technique on hundreds of patients. I asked whether any patient had any adverse effects following inhalation challenge tests. I was informed that they have not seen any such cases as they challenge the patient to very low concentrations for short periods only and the test is conducted under the observation of a doctor.

Dr Jevgeni Parshintsev, Senior Specialist and Adjunct Professor gave me an overview of the sampling and analytical method development and validation work they conduct at FIOH and provided me a brief guided tour of the laboratories. FIOH has more than 100 validated methods for more than 500 chemicals and provide analytical services.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the FIOH and I truly appreciated meeting with and learning from the subject matter experts there. I would like to thank all personnel at FIOH for their time taking me through various facilities and the fruitful discussions with me regarding interesting projects and work they do.



Ritesh Patel (left) with Dr Tiina Sentonen & Dr Hannu Norppa (FIOH)



Inhalation challenge



Air sampling method development / validation test facilities (FIOH)

Conclusions

Both attendance at the BOHS Conference in Brighton as well as the visits to HSL Buxton, Dräger Lübeck and FIOH Helsinki were amazing learning and professional development experiences that I couldn't have obtained or experienced anywhere else in the world. I learned of new solutions and best practice strategies that I can implement in my work. This Award provided me with the opportunity to meet and speak with several industry subject matter experts who provided tips and useful information relevant to my work. I strongly believe that my enhanced knowledge and professional network from this trip will be very beneficial to me for my continued professional development. I will continue to apply what I have learned to my work as well as training and mentoring other professionals for better protection of the workers' health and prevention of occupational diseases in Australia. Finally, this Award was of significant importance in my career development and I encourage other AIOH members to apply for this prestigious award.

[Click here to see all the AIOH Professional Development Awards on offer \(https://www.aioh.org.au/aiohwards/professional-devel](https://www.aioh.org.au/aiohwards/professional-devel)

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REGIONAL UPDATE

NSW SLO update – April

LIAISON OFFICER/S: Kerry McDougall, John Tiong, Carmen Naylor

Thursday 11 April 2019 at University of Wollongong.

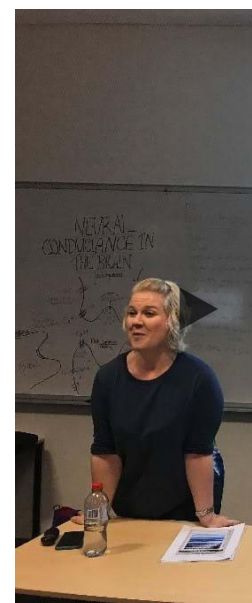
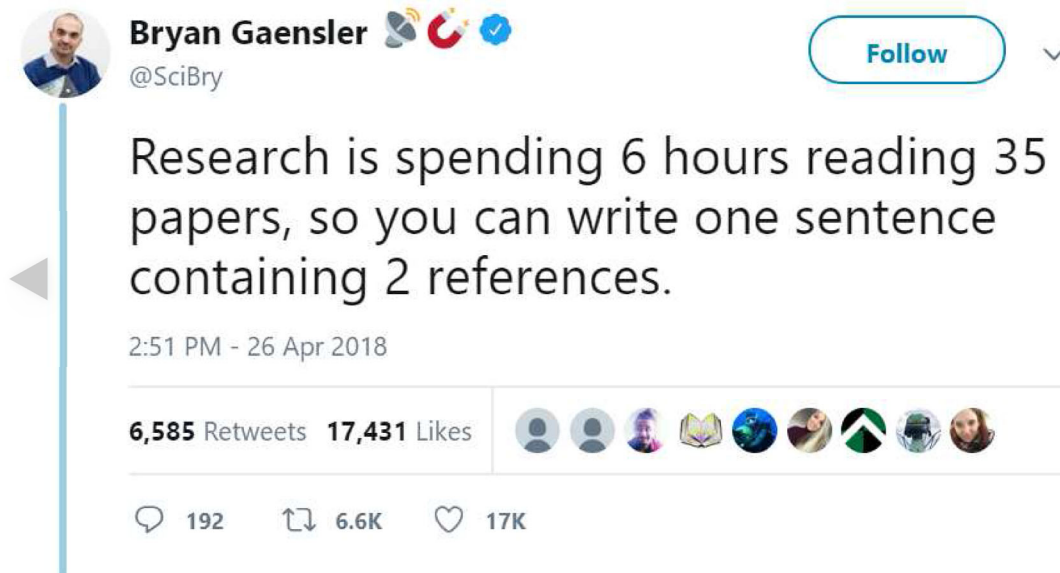
Holly Fletcher (Presenter): How to conduct a systematic literature review?

What a great way to commence the first NSW SLO Sundowner Series for 2019!

The meeting commenced with a bit of a networking session and a bite to eat. Holly Fletcher, PhD candidate (MAIOH, COH) than presented 10 simple steps that form a framework for conducting a systematic literature review, including the application of current technology and tools. Holly provided participants an entertaining presentation as well as handouts that included some very useful tricks and tips to completing a systematic literature review. It was emphasized that the “writing” component of any literature review is the last step and fundamentally relies on a series of tasks performed in a sequential and systematic manner before any such writing can take place. The writing of a systematic literature review was summed up in the following quote “research is spending 6 hours reading 35 papers, so you can write one sentence containing 2 references!”.

A short slide presentation from the Council was also provided. Members were reminded to check the AIOH website for the latest dates and events for the NSW Seminar Series and 2019 Conference.

Thank you for your generous time Holly Fletcher and to the University of Wollongong for hosting us!



NSW SLO update – May

Monday 6 May 2019 at AI North Sydney

Hugo Perez (Presenter): Asbestos – a different perspective.

Next up in May this year Hugo Perez from the ITGA Group provided a Sundowner Session on Asbestos risk management. Hugo has been with ITGA Group (a major French Occupational Hygiene consulting company) since 1994 specialising in the area of asbestos consulting. Hugo is now ITGA Group's business development manager based in Australia. Hugo's presentation provided a 'French overview' on asbestos, risks identification and management, and TEM analysis. Thank you Hugo for overcoming the language barrier and providing an insight into France Asbestos Regulations and of course to the AI Group in North Sydney for hosting us!



Victoria SLO update

As many of you may be aware ABC radio presented a 'Background Briefing' episode in March entitled 'The meth we're in' <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-16/unregulated-meth-testing-industry-scamming-australian-public/10904806> (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-16/unregulated-meth-testing-industry-scamming-australian-public/10904806>). This story highlighting the challenges faced by Occupation Hygienists in the unregulated 'meth testing' industry. COHs Brian Murphy and Brad Prezant (both of whom provided technical expertise to the ABC story) presented 'A Hygienists guide to Meth Testing' last week in Melbourne.

Topics covered included: Events that triggered the investigations; Sampling Strategies for Methamphetamine and other ATS (amphetamine-type stimulants) - decisions regarding type of surfaces, vertical location within the structure, and whether to sample known "reservoirs" likely to indicate maximum values, such as charged surfaces or exhaust pathways. Does one sample for worst-case or typical exposure?; Sample Compositing Rationale and Use - When is it appropriate to composite, should the composites be field composites or laboratory composites, and how does one interpret composite sample results in a meaningful manner?; Choice of PPE for conducting ATS assessments - When conducting an ATS assessment within a structure, what is an appropriate level of PPE for the assessor? What are the criteria for upgrading or downgrading PPE?

We had a great turn out on a cold Melbourne morning with a Breaking Bad style breakfast session. Educational and fun presentations, covering pros & cons of sampling strategies, industry challenges and the need for competent persons to interpret results and associated health risks.

Thanks to our fabulous presenters, VA Sciences, EHS Assess and all attendees!

If you have any questions, ideas or would like to host/present at a Victorian Chapter event please contact Theresa Walsh | AIOH State Liaison Officer | Phone: +61 0488 302 161 | Theresa.walsh@rmit.edu.au (mailto:Theresa.walsh@rmit.edu.au)



WA update

By Janine McClements

At our most recent Sundowner event in May, WA Chapter members and guests were taken on a historical journey by AIOH Fellow, Dr Laurie Glossop, that began with a particular set of geological conditions and ultimately became the tragedy of Wittenoom that put WA on the world's asbestos map. His presentation was titled "50 Shades of Blue - The Prelude" to reflect that one could only touch the surface of the topic and the legacy it has left in the time available. However, with his well-researched and logically presented content, Laurie expertly delivered plenty of interesting detail that kept the entire audience of over eighty people engaged throughout.

In particular, it was good to understand the scope of mining in the immediate area which began around the time of World War II and went on until December 1966 when the CSR mine and mill was finally closed due to unprofitability. Also, of interest were the descriptions of mining and processing techniques and detail about the town built to support the mine, which had become significant by the early 1950's, was degazetted in 2007, and will now be formally closed through the Government's recently announced compulsory acquisition process.

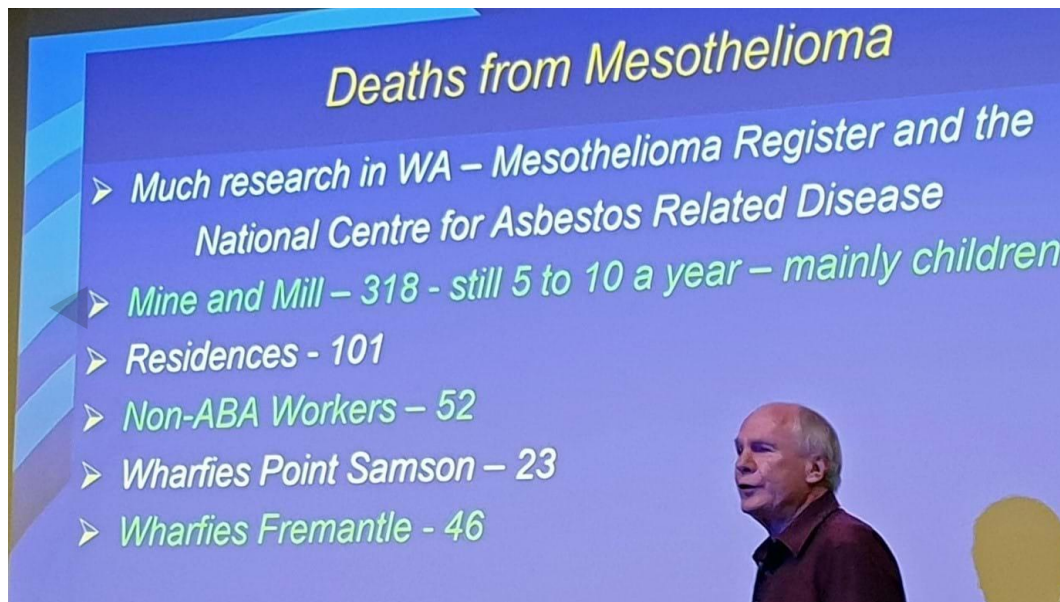
Laurie also explained how trying the work conditions were and what exposures were like. That, and the generally harsh environment meant there was a high turnover of workers and residents. So, while there were 800 to 1000 people in the town at any one time, there were many thousands of workers and family

members exposed due to the mine's operations including through the use of tailings in and around the town. On top of that, others such as wharf workers at Point Samson and Fremantle were exposed during transport of the bagged material.

But the true tragedy of the story is that the potential for asbestos related disease in this situation was highlighted well before the mine closed and definitely well ahead of the first case of mesothelioma diagnosed in a mine employee by Dr Jim McNulty in 1962. And the legacy remains with between 5 and 10 people still being diagnosed each year with mesothelioma (known for its long latency) due to related exposures, mainly from those who were in Wittenoom as children.

The Chapter extends its sincere thanks to Laurie for sharing his knowledge and sources with the group – the lessons of the past serve as sober reminders of why we do what we do, and why the protection of worker health is so vital. Thanks also to our WA SLO Kelly Hey, for arranging the event and also Barry Chesson, Sue Reed, Tanja Koeberle-Troy, Greg Payne and Daniel Cronje for their work assisting with registrations and recording.

Lastly, we gratefully acknowledge the significant support of the ChemCentre in hosting these events and ongoing contributions to make them so successful. And for WA Chapter members, add a placeholder to your diaries for August 26th and November 18th when we hope you and you interested colleagues and guests can join us again.



Dr Laurie Glossop, presenting at the recent sundowner

UWA researchers, N

Queensland update



Ian Firth during the Brisbane Seminar

Provided by Kerrin Alamango

The AIOH recently ran the Management and Control of Respirable Crystalline Silica seminar in Brisbane, Townsville and Sydney.

This interesting and relevant full day Seminar was presented by the knowledgeable Linda Apthorpe and Ian Firth, who both bring a breadth of experience in the area of silica.

Attended by both Occupational Hygienists and Health and Safety professionals, it was a fantastic opportunity to learn Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) basics such as health effects and methods of control. It was also an excellent forum for more experienced hygienists to network and discuss current silica issues.

The Townsville attendees were very grateful to the AIOH for running the seminar in far North Queensland, with a representative from Mt Isa Mines travelling to Townsville just for the seminar! A big thankyou to the AIOH for supporting regional hygiene professionals!

This RCS Seminar series has now been extended to the following locations:-

Hobart - 22 July

Melbourne - 23 July

Perth - 29 July

Adelaide - 30 July

See when the AIOH Silica Seminar is near you (<https://www.aioh.org.au/events-public/silica-seminar>)

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AIOH COMMITTEE UPDATES

2019 AIOH Perth Conference Update

The 2019 Perth Conference Organising Committee is delighted to announce The S.E.A. Group keynote speaker: Max Lum.

Dr. Lum was responsible for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's initiatives in health communication, media relations as well as the Institute's international program portfolio for over fifteen years, until his retirement in 2011. He currently serves as senior advisor to the Office of the Director, on communication and research translation issues.

Dr. Lum began his career as a White House Fellow serving as a technical writer and community involvement specialist. Before moving to NIOSH, he served with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, in Atlanta Georgia, as the Director of the Division of Health Education and Promotion, responsible for the Agency's activities in community and health profession education.



We're delighted to announce The S.E.A. Group keynote speaker

MAX LUM

- Digital Communication Specialist
- Senior Advisor to NIOSH
- International experience in Health Education and Promotion
- Highly-regarded presenter at Harvard School of Public Health

Crown Perth
30 Nov – 4 Dec 2019

You won't believe the value we've packed into 3 days!

The S.E.A. Group – Proud Keynote Speaker Sponsor

Key AIOH19 Conference updates are:

- Conference and Continuing Education Session (CES) registrations opened this month.
- The preliminary conference registration brochure can be found on the AIOH website.
- Potential sponsors and exhibitors please check out the 2019 AIOH Conference Sponsorship and Exhibition Prospectus (<https://www.aioh.org.au/static/uploads/files/aioh-2019-conference-sponsorship-and-exhibitor-prospectus-wfeqqskiowaw.pdf>) available on the website.
- View the up-to-date exhibition floorplan and register your booth on-line.

Any questions? Email Conference@aioh.org.au (mailto:Conference@aioh.org.au)

Exposure Standards Committee Update

The Committee has finalised the following AIOH Technical Paper:

'Size-Selective Samplers for Respirable Dust Sampling – Guidance Information'.

This Paper was prepared to provide guidance on choosing sampling equipment for respirable dust sampling. The need for this Paper became apparent due to questions raised by occupational hygienists and uncertainty of the validity of a number of size-selective cyclones in common use that may not meet the required size-selective criteria required by various Standards.

This situation presents problems for government and industry because the respirable dust results obtained may be underestimated (not acceptable for governments) or overestimated (not acceptable for industry), with either alternative unacceptable for occupational hygienists.

It is envisaged this Technical Paper will be updated when more information regarding cyclones becomes available.

Ian Firth (MSc, COH, FAIOH)

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Certification Board - It's a Wrap!

This June the COH Board facilitated the first ever mid-year exams in Brisbane with 24 applicants sitting over two days. A team of 11 COH volunteers came together along with our recently hired Membership Coordinator to complete the exams.

The results from these exams are consistent with previous years, with success rates remaining just below 50%. While we continue to better prepare candidates via coaching, mentoring and virtual-led e-Learning sessions, here are some recurring issues we continue to observe during the exams:

- Not specifically addressing the question asked by the examination panel which leads to overrun of time.
- Freezing when confronted with a scenario which they have had no experience. This is deliberate for the examiners to test critical thinking.
- Not sticking to a defined process of breaking down the questions and addressing the situation pragmatically.
- Bringing too many notes to the table and getting lost in the information.
- Being specialized in one industry only (e.g. mining), without learning about other types of industries.
- Using a consultant to fix the situation across all questions.
- Not knowing the basic technical knowledge expected of an experienced hygienist including different industries, monitoring strategies, physical & biological hazards.

Are you ready to apply to become a COH?

Since 2018, newer members who have been granted MAIOH are eligible to apply for COH. If you read the COH Policy and Procedures documents, a COH differs from a Full member by their ability to demonstrate the following:

- Recognize a complex array of potential agents, hazards and risks.
- Design and execute exposure assessment & monitoring strategies.
- Recommend and prioritise practical control solutions.
- Make sound business judgements based on the situation at hand.

- Be able to communicate their message concisely and clearly.
- Behave ethically under pressure.

So before you apply for the COH exam please prepare yourself with the following suggestions:

- Read the AIOH COH Policy and conduct a self-check on the above assessment criteria.
- Speak with peers and mentors to get an understanding of the examination process.
- Seek help from mentors and supervisors to address knowledge and skill gaps.
- Arm yourself with a list of key references and get familiar with the content.
- Develop a learning and development plan to address any weaknesses.

If you do not know anyone, please reach out to the AIOH office on 03 9338 1635 or membership@aioh.org.au (<mailto:membership@aioh.org.au>)

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EDITOR IN CHIEF - OH MATTERS



The AIOH is looking for a new Editor in Chief for OH Matters.

Do you have time to volunteer 5 hours every three months?

If you are interested please send an email to admin@aioh.org.au

(<mailto:admin@aioh.org.au>?

[subject=I'm%20interested%20in%20finding%20out%20more%20about%20being%20the%20editor%20in%20chief%20for%20OH%20Matters](mailto:admin@aioh.org.au?subject=I'm%20interested%20in%20finding%20out%20more%20about%20being%20the%20editor%20in%20chief%20for%20OH%20Matters)
to find out more.

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