



# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter March 2003

◆ **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS):** For Guidelines and Recommendations for Clinicians and the latest information for International Travelers visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/index.htm>.

◆ **Upcoming National Occupational Health Professional Meetings:** The American Occupational Health Conference (ACOEM), the Aerospace Medical Association (ASMA), and the American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition (AIHCE) all are taking place in May. NASA center personnel will be attending all of these upcoming meetings. At the IH meeting their will be a formal gathering at Hyatt Regency Dallas on May 12, 6:00-8:00 PM. *These are wonderful opportunities to network with your NASA center colleagues.* At the recent Applied Ergonomics Conference in Dallas over 10 NASA center personnel gathered to discuss their ergonomic programs.

◆ **American College Of Occupational And Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) Aligns With OSHA:** The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) added its name to the list of 21 other organizations that have formalized Alliances with OSHA. ACOEM also becomes the 12th group to focus specifically on ergonomic-related injuries. This Alliance will give OSHA and ACOEM the opportunity to develop training modules and educational programs for health care providers on ergonomics issues, and facilitate the training of occupational medicine residents in recognizing and treating injuries that may be ergonomic-related. OSHA continues to follow their plan on forming alliances with professional groups and manufacturing organizations to help achieve its goals.

◆ **NASA Health Promotion and Wellness Team:** The NASA Health Promotion and Wellness Team ViTS was held on March 17. The upcoming quarterly health topic *The Presidential Challenge for a Health Lifestyle* will run from April 1 to June 30. KSC Fitness Center Coordinator Starley Gensman shared the KSC implementation and results to date of their program.

◆ **Professional Association and Certification Spotlight:** The **Board Of Laser Safety (BLS)** was created to provide a means for improvement in the practice of laser safety by providing opportunities for the education, assessment and recognition of laser safety professionals. The BLS offers a Certified Laser Safety Officer (CLSO) certification. The certification can enhance the credibility of a designated Laser Safety Officer and demonstrate that individuals serving in the field of laser safety are dedicated to high standards of safety and professional practice. The exam is made up of 100 multiple-choice questions. Rich Green, Director of the BLS, spoke at the HP ViTS on 3/24. The BLS's website is [www.certified-lso.org](http://www.certified-lso.org).

◆ **OH Preventative Health Data:** The quarterly Preventative Health data for the quarter ending March 31<sup>st</sup> is due to the NASA OH Support Office by Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Your existing Excel spreadsheets with the updated information should be e-mailed to [Helen.Shoemaker-1@ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:Helen.Shoemaker-1@ksc.nasa.gov).

◆ **Update on Mold Legislation:** On March 13, in the US House of Representatives, Mr. John Conyers reintroduced the Toxic Mold Protection Act. The bill states "*To amend the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Public Building Act of 1959 to protect human health from the toxic mold, and for other purposes.*" In addition to national legislation over 12 states introduced mold legislation last year and this year looks to be the same, if not more activity. To monitor these legislative efforts on the national level and in your state go to the government affairs area of the AIHA website. <http://www.aiha.org/> AIHA is also reviewing draft guidelines from OSHA on mold remediation activities.

◆ **2003 NASA Occupational Health Conference:** The 2003 Conference is scheduled for August 4th to 8th at the Loews Coronado Bay Resort, San Diego, CA. Information on the conference and on-line registration forms can be found at [OH Conference Information page](#)



◆ **OH NASA Center Evaluation Calendar:**

- JPL – April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup>
- JSC – April 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>

◆ **Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:**

- EAP ViTS – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:00 EST
- Fitness ViTS – April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-2:30 EST
- EH ViTS – April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-3:00 EST
- Health Promotion ViTS-June 16<sup>th</sup> 3:30-4:30 EST

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