



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter May 2003

◆ **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS):** Did you know...

You can access the latest information about SARS from the [Occupational Health \(OH\) Website Home Page](#). We have newly created a "SARS button" which includes weekly updates by Dr. Barry. You can access this information through the web alert site as well.

The MMWR on May 16th published *Cluster of SARS Cases Among Protected Healthcare Workers*
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5219a1.htm>

On May 23rd Catherine Angotti, Director Occupational Health, facilitated a ViTS with the Medical Directors and Chief Nurses. The interim guidance on travel to affected areas and dealing with potential exposure to SARS for NASA Officials-in-Charge was discussed.

◆ **New Clinical Practice Guidelines released May 14th:**

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has released the new clinical practice guidelines for the prevention, detection, and treatment of high blood pressure. The guidelines feature altered and new blood pressure guidelines. Drug treatment is simplified, motivating patients is said to be crucial and utilizing DASH dietary approaches is recommended. [NASA OH Website](#).

◆ **NASA Medical Quality Assurance Program:** Two months ago the QA Program document was sent to the Medical Directors and Chief Nurses for review. Comments are due by June 2nd to the OCHMO.

◆ **NASA Nursing Spectrum:** For the quarter ending 3/31/03 a total of 13 online continuing education modules were completed. Topics included Biological Weapons & Emergency Preparedness, Stress Management and Nurse as Risk Manager.

◆ **Updated Breast Cancer Screening Guidelines:** The new guidelines put more emphasis on educating women – especially those at increased risk for breast cancer -- about the benefits and limits of mammography and other screening methods. The updated guidelines also have clarified the role of the clinical breast examination (a physical exam of the breasts by a health care professional) and [breast self-examination \(BSE\)](#) to focus on general breast health, as opposed to cancer detection. Mammography is still considered to be the gold standard for early detection of breast cancer. For this reason, the basic screening recommendation remains unchanged. Women are still advised

to get a mammogram every year, starting at age 40. The updated guidelines are published in the journal [CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians](#) (Vol. 53, No. 3: 141-169).

◆ **Infection Control Guidelines:** The Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. (ASGE) Standards of Infection Control in Reprocessing of Flexible Gastrointestinal Endoscopes have been posted on the NASA OH Website. The guidelines include information on education and training, quality assurance, reprocessing protocol and clinical practice competency. These guidelines are based on published data and current practice and are considered "Best Practices".

◆ **Advanced Topics on Medical Defense:** On May 21st the fourth session of the U.S. Army Medical Command sponsored series on Advanced Topics on Medical Defense Against Biological and Chemical Agents, *Chemical Threat Agents, The Community Provider's Perspective* was aired. Taped copies of the program can be obtained from the NASA OHP Support Office. Contact Stephanie Odom at 321-867-9185 or at Odomsm@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov.

◆ **EAP Update:** A Letter from the Chief Health and Medical Officer (CHMO) dated 5/9/03 regarding Critical Incident Stress Management and Guidelines for Implementing Critical Incident Stress Management Services has been posted on the [NASA OH Website](#).

◆ **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](#). The AGENDA for the Conference is now posted on the NASA OH Website. **GUARANTEED HOTEL RESERVATION AND GOVERNMENT RATE CUT OFF DATE IS JUNE 27, 2003.**



◆ **OH NASA Center Evaluation Calendar:**

- Headquarters-June 4-6.

◆ **Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:**

- Laser ViTS – June 2nd 3:30-4:30 EST
- EH ViTS – June 13th, 2:00-3:00 EST

NASA OH Newsletter is published by the NASA OH Support Office

Send information, comments or questions to:

◆ E-mail - Bart.Geyer-1@ksc.nasa.gov ◆ Telephone - 321-867-3473

Find OH Monthly on the Internet at <http://ohp.nasa.gov/>



Occupational Health Program

Monthly Newsletter November 2002

- Health Promotion ViTS-June 16th 3:30-4:30 EST

NASA OHP Monthly is published every Month by the NASA OHP Support Office

Send information, comments or questions to:

◆ E-mail - Bart.Geyer-1@ksc.nasa.gov ◆ Telephone - 867-3473

Find OHP Monthly on the Internet at <http://ohp.nasa.gov/>