



◆ **NASA Annual Occupational Health Conference Williamsburg, VA in 2004:** The conference is less than 2 months away and the agenda for the 2004 NASA OH Conference is now posted on the website. The 2004 conference will be held at the Hospitality House, located within walking distance of Colonial Williamsburg. For more details about the conference and to register for the conference please visit the NASA OH website [conference and meeting page](#). **Each individual guest should make their own hotel reservations** by calling the hotel's toll-free number 1-800-932-9192, no later than **May 14, 2004**. In order to receive the government per diem rate, you must identify yourself as a participant attending the 2004 NASA Occupational Health Conference.

◆ **National Occupational Health Nurses Week:** The American Association of Occupational Health Nurses ([AAOHN](#)) declared the first National Occupational Health Nurses Week April 19 to 23.

◆ **EHRs Project Update:** A comprehensive market analysis and review of NASA clinic services and processes led to the development of a detailed set of requirements for an Agency-wide Electronic Health Records System (EHRs). These requirements were submitted to KSC procurement earlier this month to begin the process of seeking the best commercial vendor to provide an Occupational Health-based application for NASA. Over the next few months, the EHRs project team will initiate the tasks of identifying clinic hardware needs to support the EHRs and generate the work flow processes that will manage clinic services. For the upcoming NASA OH Conference, the EHRs Task Force will support these efforts and meet during a breakout session to finalize these tasks.

◆ **Focus on Colorectal Cancer:** The health promotion campaign for July- Sept. is Colorectal Cancer Awareness. Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the US, accounting for nearly 60,000 deaths/year. Colorectal cancer screenings are generally uncomfortable, invasive procedures. But soon doctors may be able to check stool samples for evidence of cancer. SFRP2 gene is more likely to undergo a chemical process (methylation) in the stool of cancer sufferers than in those of healthy individuals. More research is necessary to confirm the sensitivity of SFRP2's

chemical transformation as a marker for colorectal cancer detection. Another fairly new screening technique is the Virtual Colonoscopy. The accuracy of this exam greatly depends on the training and methods of the doctor performing it. Recently published data points to this fact and makes the procedure less reliable than previously thought. With better software and more training Virtual Colonoscopy will be far more useful. Per ACS, the "gold standard" of colon cancer screening is conventional colonoscopy, every 10 years, for those greater than age 50. Assess your knowledge by taking the Colorectal Quiz on NASA OH Website. The quiz will be posted in early May.

◆ **Congratulations to JSC's Kelsey-Seybold on Obtaining the OSHA VPP STAR Designation:**

JSC's Medical and EH support contractor, Kelsey Seybold and contract partner CHS, were recently recommended for the OSHA VPP STAR designation. This is a significant milestone for any organization and we congratulate them on their commitment to workplace health and safety.

◆ **Meeting Summary for the 2003 NASA Occupational Health Conference:** The Conference Summary, formerly known as the *Conference Proceedings*, from the 2003 NASA Occupational Health Conference in San Diego, CA are complete and have been mailed out to all conference attendees and speakers.

◆ **NASA IH Meeting at the American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition (AIHCE) in Atlanta:** NASA IHs will be [gathering](#) on Monday, May 10, 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the downtown Atlanta *Embassy Suites*. Please plan on attending this event with your fellow NASA Center IH colleagues.

◆ **A Photo from a Recent Agency Evaluation:** A warm welcome for the Agency Evaluation Team from the Stennis Space Center Occupational Health Program.



◆ **NASA OH Center Evaluation Calendar:**

- May 24-28 – Glenn Research Center
- June 15-18 – Langley Research Center

◆ **Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:**

- EH Monthly ViTS – May 21, 3:30-4:30 PM EST
- Health Promotion ViTS – June 7, 12:00-1:30 PM EST
- Health Physics ViTS – June 7, 3:00-4:00 PM EST

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