



# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter June 2004



## ◆ 2004 NASA Occupational Health Conference

**Report:** Thanks to all of you who helped make this year's Annual OH Conference such a success! Over 100 personnel attended the annual OH conference last week in Williamsburg, VA, and the initial feedback from attendees has been very positive. The Conference Theme **Embracing Change in Occupational Health - Moving Towards One NASA** was interwoven in all the presentations of the week. With the 1) One NASA effort, 2) CAIB report, 3) Return to Flight, the 4) recently released Aldridge Report and 5) ongoing internal organizational changes to match the new Space Vision, there is much in our NASA work landscape that is rapidly changing. In addition to updates in all these areas of change Dr. Gary Bradt gave attendees seven useful techniques to better manage the change we are facing. Even as NASA changes Occupational Health must change to better address the needs of a transformed NASA. Electronic copies of all of the presentations will be available soon on the OH website.

## ◆ Institute of Medicine (IOM) Visiting NASA

**Centers:** The ongoing IOM consultation to assess existing NASA work-site preventive health programs, and assess NASA employee awareness and attitudes concerning these existing programs is moving forward. An IOM team is traveling to six NASA Centers to learn first hand about the programs in place. The visitations have already begun and will continue over the next couple of months. The IOM has visited KSC and will be traveling soon to GRC, GSFC, JSC, JPL, and ARC.

## ◆ New Hearing Conservation Training Resource:

The NASA GRC Acoustical Testing Laboratory (ATL) in conjunction with the NASA JSC Audiology and Hearing Conservation Clinic has produced *JeopEARdy*, an interactive multimedia training resource that has been developed to support effective employee education in occupational hearing conservation programs. *JeopEARdy* consists of a Microsoft® PowerPoint® file that can be used as a unique interactive "game" by hearing conservationists. This resource may be used either in its basic ("ready-to-use") form, or it can be customized to meet specific needs of the audience and instructor (with periodic updates to remain current with policy and program changes). To request a single free copy of the disc, visit the [ATL web site](#).

## ◆ Recognizing Two New Certified Industrial

**Hygienists (CIHs):** In the past month two NASA Center IHs have successfully passed the CIH exam. Both Angie

Windau at Glenn Research Center and Monica Melkonian at Dryden Flight Research Center successfully completed the exam. **Congratulations** to both Monica and Angie on a great professional achievement!

## ◆ Recognizing a New Certified Occupational Health Nurse (COHN):

Recently Sue Smith, RN, an Occupational Health nurse at Stennis Space Center successfully completed the COHN exam. **Congratulations** to Sue on a very significant professional achievement!

◆ **Steps to a Healthier U.S. Workforce:** The National Institute for Safety and Health's (NIOSH) new national initiative "Steps to a Healthier U.S. Workforce," aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles for workers, and protecting and improving working conditions and work environments, will kick off with a three-day symposium on the campus of the George Washington University in Washington D.C., Oct. 26-28, 2004. The initiative recognizes that workers, families and employers share the goal of wishing to protect, preserve and improve the health of people at work. By bringing together the health promotion and occupational safety and health communities NIOSH is seeking to highlight common interests and develop mutually supportive strategies for research and practice to improve worker health, safety and well-being.

## ◆ Electronic Health Records System (EHRS)

**Update:** The EHRS task force, representing all 14 NASA sites, met during this year's Occupational Health Conference to document processes describing how clinic services are performed. The 2-hour meeting was productive and identified several issues related to current clinic practices that will have to be resolved prior to adopting Agency-wide standard processes. In parallel to EHRS preparatory work, the NASA procurement team released an [official solicitation](#) in advance of an RFP. The RFP release date is currently scheduled for mid-July.

## ◆ Special Joint Health Promotion and IH ViTS:

Integrating health *protection* and health *promotion* programs at the worksite is a complex and challenging undertaking. The benefits, however, can be substantial. Each initiative potentially decreases the loss frequency rate of both occupational and non-occupational injuries and illnesses, a leveraged effect resulting in decreased costs and increased productivity for the organization. On July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2:00- 3:00 PM EST we will have a special ViTS on this subject.

## ◆ NASA OH Center Evaluation Calendar:

- August 24-27 – Ames Research Center
- August 30-September 2 – Dryden Flight Research Center

## ◆ Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:

- EHRS Task Force ViTS – July 6, 1:30-3:00 PM EST
- Health Promotion and IH ViTS – July 12, 2-3:00 PM EST
- Fitness ViTS – July 12, 3:30-4:30 PM EST
- EH Monthly ViTS – July 16, 2:00-3:00 PM EST

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