



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter October 2004



Healthier NASA Update:

The 15-month Healthier NASA Calendar and the Healthier by Choice recipes are now on the [NASA OH Website](#). The Mayo Clinic Family Health books have been mailed to each NASA OH clinic. They are intended as

a waiting room reading material. A greater number of Mayo Clinic HealthQuest Newsletters have been purchased for each Center. Beginning with the December 2004 issue, the newsletters will carry the healthier NASA logo on the masthead.

◆ NASA Response to Influenza Vaccine Shortage:

NASA's Chief Health and Medical Officer (CHMO) advises OH clinics to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [interim guidance](#) for influenza vaccine. A strategy to share available vaccine among Centers to help reach high risk populations has been formulated.

◆ New Health Promotion and Wellness Page:

As consumers of health care services, we are expected to be well informed and responsible. NASA understands the complexities of today's healthcare related decisions. To help the NASA workforce meet this challenge, an agency wide Health Promotion and Wellness Team (HPW) was established in 2001 with a goal to standardize the delivery of current and relevant health information. Visit the new HPW website on www.ohp.nasa.gov under "Discipline." The new webpage contains detailed information about the quarterly campaigns going back to 2001.

◆ **Draft Pandemic Influenza Response:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently presented a DRAFT Pandemic Influenza Response and Preparedness Plan. The plan provides guidance to national, state, and local policy makers and health departments for public health preparation and response. NASA shall continue to offer health screenings to employees before and after traveling to high risk areas as advisories and precautions, and screening persons arriving from high risk areas as important strategies for infection control and prevention of potential wide spread transmission. The HHS draft plan can be found [online](#) and is available for public comment for 60 days

◆ NASA OH 2005 Safety Managers and Medical and Environmental Health COTR's Meeting:



This year's meeting will be held in Cocoa Beach, Florida, from February 28 through March 4, 2005. Due to hurricane damages sustained by hotels in Cocoa Beach the location of the conference is undetermined at this time.

However, registration for the conference should be available on our website in early November.

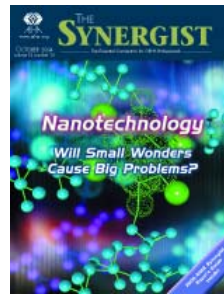
◆ Electronic Health Records System (EHRS)

Update: The EHRS Task Force will meet November 2 to review and comment on the latest draft of an Agency-wide workflow process that identifies a standard mechanism of healthcare delivery for all clinics. Consensus by the Task Force on the final draft will be sought in anticipation of final approval. As reported last month, work on the rules-based algorithm for applying the physical exam matrix to the EHRS concept was completed in parallel with final efforts by Dr. Barry's working group to update the NPR. As completion of EHRS requirements draws near, the EHRS project staff will be looking for a final selection of EHRS provider.

◆ **Dr. Wing Chan Receives NASA Award:** Dr. Wing Chan, Senior Public Health Officer, Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer, will receive the NASA Headquarters Special Service Award in recognition of his superior efforts for assessing, planning and providing premiere continuing education programs to NASA's occupational health professionals, Russian partners and academia.

◆ Nanotechnology and Occupational Health:

Recently there has been a great amount of professional activity and publicity about nanotechnology and how this technology will change the way we work, communicate and care for ourselves. Because of this promise, the amount of personnel potentially exposed to nano particles continues to rise. But along with many benefits that nanotechnology presents, there also are potential health concerns. The cover article on the October issue of the AIHA's Synergist publication presents some of these concerns. There is limited research on the toxic effects of these very small particles. A number of the NASA Centers work with nano particles and have even been involved with NIOSH research on this subject. On January 16, Vince Castranova with NIOSH will be speaking on this emerging issue at the EH ViTS.



◆ Chemwatch Conference Call/Online Tutorial:

The second of two conference calls designed to help us better understand the capabilities of Chemwatch is scheduled for November 2, at 1:30-3:00 PM EST. If you are interested, and have not received the call information please contact [Bart Geyer](#).

◆ NASA OH Center Review Calendar:

- November 15 – 18 – White Sands Test Facility

◆ Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:

- EHRS ViTS – November 2, 1:30-3:00 PM EST
- Fitness ViTS – November 2, 3:30-4:30 PM EST
- EH Monthly ViTS – November 17, 2:00-3:00 PM EST
- Health Physics ViTS – December 1, 12:30-1:30 PM EST
- Health Promotion ViTS – December 13, 1:00-2:30 PM EST

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