



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter December 2006

[newsletter archives](#)

◆ **Seasons Greetings:** The staff in the Agency Occupational Health office wishes all of the 400+ personnel across NASA a blessed holiday time with family and friends. Keeping the NASA workforce healthy is a critical job as NASA goes forward with plans to travel to the Moon and Mars.



◆ **2007 NASA Safety Directors / Occupational Health Managers Meeting (Feb 27-Mar 1):** Mark



your calendar and make your hotel reservations at the [Cocoa Beach Doubletree](#) to attend the

annual Safety Directors / Occupational Health Managers Meeting. Each attendee must make their own hotel reservation (1-800-552-3224) and ask for the NSD Group Rate no later than Friday, January 13, 2007 to get the discounted conference rate of \$119. Check out the meeting [registration](#) page on the NASA Occupational Health website to sign up as an attendee. Our luncheon speaker is Mr. William Whitmer of the [Health Enhancement Research Organization](#) (HERO). He will be discussing return on investment as it relates to both safety and occupational health disciplines. We will be providing additional details (as they are finalized), including a meeting agenda, to the OH website registration page. Please send any questions about the meeting to janine.scoville-1@ksc.nasa.gov.

◆ **EHR Update:** The Agency's EHR Project Team wishes to thank everyone for their generous support of the EHR Project. Although there are many divergent peripheral tasks being worked, a year-end "highlight" of the EHR Project's major achievements include: accomplishing approval of the system architecture design; finalizing details to host the EHR in the NASA Data Center; and, adding a Clinical Application Coordinator to the Team. This is considerable progress and 2007 is promising to be an exciting year for the EHR. The EHR Project is advancing with "proof of concept" activity and is finalizing details with multiple stakeholders. This test phase of the EHR Project will benefit the project's operational reality as well as provide substantial training opportunity. Stay tuned, as developments are occurring rapidly. Finally, please visit the [EHR webpage](#) to learn more about the EHR Project as it goes forward.



◆ **HealthierFeds 2007 Challenge:** We received posters from OPM to distribute to Center POCs for advertising the [HealthierFeds Challenge](#). Each Center will receive 8 posters. The Challenge kick-off will take place at the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, DC on January 22, and NASA is trying to arrange for an astronaut to speak at the meeting. As with 2004, the Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer will be providing to each Center a "prize" to be awarded at the end of the Challenge. A random drawing

featuring the names of participants who have successfully completed the Challenge will be held at each Center on or around March 18. A random prize drawing will also be conducted at each Center, featuring the names of participants who have made it *half-way* through the program. Continue to watch the [NASA Occupational Health website](#) for more details. **The Challenge. It starts with you**

◆ **NASA Drastically Reduces Accident Numbers:**

In September, President Bush extended for another three years from 2007-2009 the [Safety, Health, and Return to Employment](#) (SHARE) initiative which is aimed at reducing the number of injuries and illnesses and their severity. The extension of the SHARE initiative will continue with use of FY03 agency case rate data for goal setting purposes. Though vigorous safety and occupational health efforts the number and severity of on the job accidents was one of the best in the federal workforce. During the first three year SHARE, NASA reduced total accidents from 121 in 2003 to 90 in 2006, and the lost time injuries from 42 to 36. A new metric of measuring the lost production days, which measured the amount of time away from work *was reduced in half*, from 9.9 days per 100 employees to 4.7 days per 100. Most importantly, this means during the SHARE initiative, 123 NASA employees avoided being injured, and of that number 15 avoided a serious injury. The lost production days injuries and illnesses that did occur were took less than half the number of days off work as an injury in 2003. The work done by all of you in occupational health substantially contributed in decreasing the number and severity of employees' injuries.

◆ **JPL Health Physicist Spends Time at KSC:**

JPL and KSC arranged for JPL EH staff member Gloria Mar to travel to KSC and learn first hand about the KSC Health Physics Program. During the two week visit Gloria Mar spent time learning about all aspects of the ionizing and non ionizing radiation program at KSC. She was even fortunate enough to be out with the HP staff while they performed Radiofrequency (RF) surveys prior to the STS 116 night launch on December 9.

Traveling to another NASA Center is a great way to learn more about the NASA EH program while also providing real time training. It is terrific to see Centers working together to improve the EH program. The picture is of Jamie Gurney, Gloria, and Ennis Shelton.



◆ **NASA OH Center Review Calendar:**

- January 22 - 25 – Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- February 5 - 9 – Johnson Space Center

◆ **Upcoming Occupational Health VITS:**

- Environmental Health – January 10, 11:30 -12:30 PM EDT
- EAP – January 17, 11:30-1:00 PM EDT
- Fitness Coordinators – February 1, 12:00-1:30 PM EDT

NASA OH Newsletter is published by the NASA OH Support Office

Send information, comments or questions to:

◆ E-mail – Bart.D.Geyer@nasa.gov ◆ Telephone – 321-867-3473

Find OH Monthly on the Internet at www.ohp.nasa.gov/newsletter/current.pdf