



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter November 2003

◆ **EHR Task Force Holds First Meeting:** On November 20-21, NASA Occupational Health conducted the inaugural meeting of the Agency Task Force for Electronic Health Records (EHR). The members of the task force, selected from each of NASA's fourteen centers and facilities, met near Kennedy Space Center to discuss the needs for health information management improvement, transforming the current culture into a **One NASA** environment, and the issues and potential solutions to implementing an EHR as the cornerstone for taking NASA's healthcare system into the 21st Century. The two-day meeting focused on three areas of discussion; commonalities among current work processes, obstacles to Agency-wide standardization, and requirements for commercial EHR application software. At the close, draft recommendations to address specific issues with standardization and clinic needs were proposed and several EHR requirements were identified. The task force concluded the meeting with a behind the scenes tour of the Kennedy Space Center. *A formal synopsis of the meeting highlights will be distributed to the Occupational Health community in the coming weeks.*

◆ **Occupational Health Support Office at KSC transitions from Bionetics to Dynamac:** On October 6, 2003, the Support Office transitioned from the Bionetics Corporation to the Dynamac Corporation. Bionetics and Dynamac are partners on the Life Sciences Services Contract at KSC that contains the Support Office. The change is anticipated to be transparent to all personnel at the NASA centers that the office supports; however, note the change of our mail code from BIO-5 to DYN-4.

◆ **Dr. Richard Williams Recognized:** On November 6th, Dr. Williams was honored with NASA's Exceptional Performance Award for his leadership during the recent events that have affected the Nation and Agency's health and well-being. The award was in recognition for the many ways which he has positively impacted the lives of HQ employees by championing their physical and mental well-being above all else.

◆ **Updates on Health Promotion Activities:**
*On a monthly basis, a greater number of copies of the **Mayo Clinic HealthQuest (HQ) newsletter** are sent to Wallop's Health Unit compared to the other center health facilities. A readership survey, attached to the newsletter, has been designed to obtain data on the effectiveness of HQ as an employee outreach/education tool when distributed to a larger number of readers. Duration of the pilot study is from November '03- June '04.

***Mayo Clinic's** telephone based **tobacco cessation program, Quitline**, will be piloted at Stennis Space Center and Michoud Assembly Facility. The project was introduced to employees on the Great American Smoke-Out Day with an implementation date of Jan 1, 2004.

***Women's Heart Advantage (WHA)** is a community outreach program from the VHA, which is made up of the affiliation of 2200 not-for-profit healthcare systems. WHA focuses on educating the Health Care Provider as well as the lay people, especially women, regarding cardiovascular disease risk factors. To date, Headquarters and Kennedy Space Center clinics have begun to work with their local VHA affiliates to bring the message to their employees and clinic staff.

***Influenza High Risk Surveys** - Infectious disease experts say approximately 65 percent of U.S. adults who should get the flu vaccine actually do. To date, we have received about 7000 surveys. Once tallied, we hope the information will provide you with a picture of the health of the population you vaccinated. More so, the report will help you extrapolate knowledge about the health of your Center. Please continue to forward the completed risk surveys to our office at DYN-4, KSC, FL 32899. If you have completed your Influenza Immunization Campaign, please send us your final Immunization Count at: hafizh@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov

◆ **Occupational Health Support Office adds two new staff:** *Dr. Alec Navinkov* has joined the Occupational Health Support Office staff as International Space Medicine Physician Liaison. He has 25 years of experience in aviation and space medicine operations. Dr. Navinkov received his M.D. from the State Medical Institute in Moscow, Russia and his Ph.D. in Aviation, Aerospace and Naval Medicine from the Institute for Biomedical Problems in Saratov, Russia. He will provide medical consultation on international space medicine issues. The second addition is *Kurt Geber*, MS, CHP. Kurt is a graduate of the University of Florida and most recently worked for DOE's Argonne National Laboratory as the Radiation Safety Officer for NASA's Plum Brook Reactor Decommissioning Project. Kurt will serve as the Team's Health Physicist.

◆ **Worker's Compensation ViTS for 2004:** 4/26/04 2-3:30PM, 8/26/04 2-3:30 PM, 12/13/04 2-3:30 PM. Kevin Finn (OWCP) will present on 4/26/03.

◆ **Health Promotion and Wellness ViTS for 2004:** 3/1/01 1:30-3 PM, 6/7/04 12-1:30 PM, 9/13/04 12-1:30 PM, 12/13/04 12-1:30 PM

◆ **Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:**
-Health Physics ViTS – Dec. 3rd, 12:00-1:00 PM EST
-Health Promotion ViTS – Dec. 15th, 3:30-4:30 PM EST
-EH ViTS – Dec. 19th, 2:00-3:00 PM EST

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