



# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter May 2004



◆ **The 2004 NASA Annual Occupational Health Conference, June 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>:** The conference is less than one month away and all preparations are right on schedule. At this time there are approximately 100 attendees registered. **Below you will find information about the various components of the conference.** If you have not yet registered for the conference or indicated whether you are going on any of the tours, please go to the [registration website](#). Full [agenda](#).

◆ **Professional Development Courses (PDC's):**

There will be 4 different PDC's offered this year:

**Monday June 21<sup>st</sup> 8 AM –12 Noon**

Monitoring Component Of a Hearing Conservation Program (HCP). Course Objectives:

- 1) Identify roles and responsibilities of Professional Supervisors of an HCP,
- 2) Understand requirements of recordkeeping regulations,
- 3) Identify best practices of an HCP as recommended by NIOSH.

**Monday June 21<sup>st</sup> 1 PM – 5 PM two Parallel Sessions**

Pulmonary Function Testing, PFT. Course Objective:

Understand issues of variability and applicability of PF testing

EH Performance Metrics. Course Objective:

Understand development of EH metrics to effectively communicate EH programmatic goals and objectives to management.

**Thursday June 24<sup>th</sup> 8 AM – 4 PM and Friday June 25<sup>th</sup> 8 AM – 12 Noon**

Medical Review Officer(MRO) Training and Certification

The MRO Exam will be on Friday from 1PM-3PM

◆ **General Session Information:** This year's conference theme "Embracing Change in Occupational Health - Moving Towards ONE NASA" will be highlighted during the general sessions. Speakers both internal to NASA and from organizations such as the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), OSHA, and the Mayo Clinic will present on timely OH issues. Keynote speaker Gary Bradt (leading interpreter of "Who Moved My Cheese") will speak on Change Management. Former astronaut Story Musgrave will be speaking to attendees, as well as Thomas Jefferson, the luncheon speaker on Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

◆ **OH Discipline Breakout Sessions:** As in the past, OH disciplines will host Breakout Sessions. These sessions are designed to generate discussions on current issues, new initiatives, and best practices. This year's sessions include: 1) COTRs, 2) EHRS Task Force, 3) Health Physics, 4) Physician/Nurse, 5) Employee Assistance Program, and 6) Industrial Hygiene. Take this opportunity to meet and interact with your counterparts at the other NASA Centers.

◆ **OH Conference Tours:** On Monday evening June 21<sup>st</sup> immediately following the welcome reception there will be a candlelight walking tour of Colonial Williamsburg. On the afternoon of Thursday June 24<sup>th</sup> there will be a tour of the [Jamestown Settlement](#). This attraction commemorates the Jamestown settlement started in 1607.



◆ **Electronic Health Records System (EHRS)**

**Update:** While the EHRS project team focused on workflow process development this month, an official [sources sought notice](#) was issued by the NASA procurement office to gauge interest from commercial vendors in providing the software application. The project team has a Task Force working group planned for this year's conference and an update of the project's status will be delivered during both the MD/RN and COTR breakout session.

◆ **CDC Announces New Goals and Organizational Design:**

On May 13, 2004, CDC announced the results of the Futures Initiative activities which began in 2003. One aspect of the announcement concerns the clustering of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry/National Center for Environmental Health (ATSDR/NCEH), the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) into *one of four* coordinating centers at CDC. The new organization provides a framework for the CDC to meet its overarching health protection goals of preparedness, health promotion and prevention of disease, injury and disability through more effective coordination of the programs of its centers, institutes and offices. For more details, go to this [CDC site](#).

◆ **NASA OH Center Evaluation Calendar:**

- June 15-18 – Langley Research Center

◆ **Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:**

- Health Promotion ViTS – June 7, 12:00-1:30 PM EST
- Health Physics ViTS – June 7, 3:00-4:00 PM EST
- EH Monthly ViTS – June 18, 2:00-3:00 PM EST

NASA OH Newsletter is published by the NASA OH Support Office

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