



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter May 2005

◆ 2005 NASA Occupational Health (OH)

Conference Update: The annual OH Conference in South Lake Tahoe on June 27- July 1, is almost here. Over 90 personnel have registered representing all 14 of NASA Centers and Facilities. For all the details such as [ground transportation](#) to and from the Reno airport, or information about [pre and post conference hotel](#) availability go to the [OH website](#). An important component of the annual conference is the continuing education credit received for many of the OH disciplines. For all professional certification continuing education information go to the online [accreditation page](#). If you have any questions or concerns please contact [Sandy Kreer](#), 321-867-3164.



◆ Employee Assistance Program Officers Win

Group Achievement Award: On April 27, at NASA HQ, three of NASA's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Officers representing the Space Flight Mission Employee Assistance Support Group were awarded the *Group Achievement Award*. Following the Columbia accident, the NASA community and the nation were confronted with a national tragedy. The Centers most impacted were Johnson Space Center (Jackie Reese & Gail Howell), home of the astronauts, mission control, and near the impact site of the accident, Michoud Assembly Facility (Kathy Eaton) which built the external tank, and Kennedy Space Center (Patty Bell), the launch and designated landing site. The EAP Officers were immediately faced with providing emotional support to facility employees directly involved in the accident investigation or site recovery. The Agency's Critical Incident Stress Management procedure was implemented to provide emotional support to the NASA community. The long hours, harsh conditions and potentially dangerous working conditions at the recovery sites, and the difficult task of recovering flight articles were physically and emotional draining for the NASA personnel there. Additionally, Center personnel had to continue to support the concurrent accident investigation and Return-to-Flight efforts. Following the tragedy the EAP officers recorded utilization which doubled their routine workload. Alan Gettleman is pictured accepting the award on behalf of the EAP officers.



◆ Institute of Medicine (IOM)

Close to Finalizing NASA Report: On May 4, a representative group of the IOM [committee](#) presented to Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer (OCHMO) information regarding their study; [Assessing Worksite Preventive Health Program Needs for NASA Employees](#). In 2003, the OCHMO requested the IOM form a committee to review NASA's 1) OH

programs, 2) employees awareness of and attitudes toward those programs, and 3) recommend specific options for future worksite preventive health programs. As part of the study six of the NASA Centers were visited in the summer of 2004. The forthcoming report is titled [Integrating Employee Health: A Model Program for NASA](#). The final report is due to be released sometime in June 2005. As part of the OH conference on Thursday June 30, there will be an overview presentation of the IOM study and a panel discussion with a Q&A session.

◆ Director of NASA Occupational Health presented NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal:

On April 27, Cathy Angotti was awarded the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal. Below is an excerpt from the award documentation submission. "...Under her direction, the NASA Occupational Health Program (OHP) has expanded and excelled. Ms. Angotti has intensively lobbied and gained approval for development of an Electronic Health Records System, which will tie in all OH records and allow retrieval of information to do trends analysis. She has been instrumental in working with the Institute of Medicine for an independent review of NASA preventive programs to help in establishing future goals and initiatives. In addition to the International Continuing Education Series, professional development opportunities have been further expanded to include routine ViTS in the areas of Health Physics, Health Promotion, Industrial Hygiene, Fitness, EAP, and Workers' Compensation. In fiscal year 2003, NASA provided 79 individual Occupational Health courses and/or ViTS Agency wide. Through it all, Ms. Angotti has been and continues to be a role model for all who work on her team. She is devoted in her purpose to protect the health of the NASA workforce, the driving motivation behind all she does. Working on her team, one cannot help but be caught up in her passion for NASA and the OHP. She motivates us all with her energy, diplomacy, organizational skills and sense of humor."



◆ NASA Health Physics Conference Update:

Over 30 personnel have registered for the NASA [Health Physics Conference](#), being held June 6-10 in Cocoa Beach, FL. This gathering of NASA Center radiation protection staff will be an important step in the process of finalizing the new agency radiation policy.



◆ NASA OH Center Review Calendar:

- August 8 – 12 – Marshall Space Flight Center

◆ Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:

- Health Promotion ViTS – June 2, 1:30-3:00 PM EDT
- EH Monthly ViTS – June 15, 11:00-12:00 PM EDT

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