



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter March 2006

◆ Registration Continues for the NASA 2006 OH Conference:

The OH conference is less than four months away and personnel from across the agency have started to register for our annual meeting. The theme this year is "Occupational Health Response to Catastrophic Events: Disaster Preparedness for a Healthier NASA".



The current [agenda](#) is posted to assist you in making your choices during the registration process. The [Francis Marion Hotel](#) will be the site of the conference and rooms can be reserved there for the government rate of \$89. We are excited to have speakers from NASA, other government agencies, academia, and the corporate world, all to provide both insight, information, and resources regarding disaster preparedness. One such presentation will feature two Coast Guard OH Agency staff sharing about the Coast Guard's experiences following Katrina. The coast guard not only was involved with the air and water rescues, but also had numerous facilities and clinics impacted by the storm.



◆ Electronic Health Record System (EHRS) Update:

Indian Health Services' (IHS) enthusiasm for our OH EHRS continues to flourish as evidenced by their commitment to participate at this year's NASA OH Conference. Also, this collaborative project continues to rely on IHS to support the project's Steering Committee activities. The EHRS Task Force will have an opportunity to hear project updates at an [EHRS ViTS](#) scheduled for March 29, ViTS participants will learn more about the project's work breakdown structure and the ongoing clinical workflow analysis. Several important meetings were experienced this past month to benefit the EHRS Project. Two meetings were held mid-March, at NASA HQ; one with OCIO and one with OCHMO to discuss and detail the project for these two key project stakeholders. Similarly, an on-site meeting at MSFC is planned for members of the EHRS Project Team to visit the NASA Data Center later this month.

◆ Healthier NASA changes to HealthierYou:

Did you notice the new HealthierYou computer icon on the OH website? Due to the newly published NASA Communication and Management Review (CMR) regulations, individual offices, such as OCHMO, can no longer use promotional titles or logos. As a result, we are slowly transitioning from the HealthierNASA name and logo to the HealthierYou name and computer icon. The icon will serve as quick access to health promotion materials



◆ New Avian Flu Guidelines:



Interim infection control [guidelines](#) for health care facilities in the event of an

avian influenza outbreak have been issued by The World Health Organization (WHO). The purpose of this document is to provide infection control guidance for health care workers (HCWs)* in health care facilities evaluating or providing care for patients with suspected or confirmed avian influenza (AI) infection, including AI A (H5N1).

◆ Senate Confirms Edwin G. Foulke Jr. to Lead OSHA:

On March 15, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao [announced](#) that the United States Senate has confirmed Edwin G. Foulke Jr. of South Carolina as assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health. President George W. Bush nominated Foulke Sept. 15, 2005, to head OSHA. There has been no head of OSHA since John Henshaw left in early 2005.



◆ NASA IHS Attend Leadership Weekend:



NASA IHS Sherri Nickell with USA at KSC, Carter Ficklen with Mainthea at LRC, and Angel Plaza with NASA at JSC all participated in the 2006 [American Industrial Hygiene Association \(AIHA\)](#) Leadership Workshop held on March 3-5, 2006 in Falls

Church, Virginia. This annual workshop is designed to help guide incoming AIHA Local Section officers taking over as President, as well as members who are on AIHA committees. This workshop focused on the resources available to attendees as an AIHA volunteer leader, and also provided attendees with the most up-to-date information on subjects that are of importance to leadership. Attendees had the opportunity to develop goals and strategies to meet this challenge. Attendees learned how local sections activities fit into the [AIHA strategic plan](#) and what direction AIHA is headed. Sherri stated "This workshop was a very rewarding experience filled with opportunities to learn about proven strategies and approaches to help run a volunteer group. I would highly recommend this workshop to any incoming AIHA officer who wants to improve his/her leadership skills."

◆ Health Physics Annual Meeting:



The [annual HP meeting](#) will be held June 25-29 in Providence, Rhode Island. The New England Chapter of the Health Physics Society will be hosting the meeting. We encourage all HPs across the agency to consider attendance at this annual meeting.

◆ NASA OH Center Review Calendar:

- April 2-4 – Michoud Assembly Facility
- ◆ **Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:**
- EH ViTS – April 12, 11:00-12:00 PM EDT
- Workers' Compensation ViTS – April 20, 1:30-2:30 PM EDT
- EAP ViTS – April 26, 11:00-12:00 PM EDT

NASA OH Newsletter is published by the NASA OH Support Office

Send information, comments or questions to:

◆ E-mail – Bart.Geyer-1@ksc.nasa.gov ◆ Telephone – 321-867-3473

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