



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer (OCHMO) – Occupational Health
Monthly Newsletter January 2013

◆ **Helen Shoemaker Retires:** Helen Shoemaker, one of OCHMO's most valuable and longest serving support contractors is retiring this month. Helen's service, dedication and leadership on ground-breaking NASA OH activities have been without equal. Although she will be greatly missed, we wish her only the best of everything the future holds. Congratulations Helen on your retirement!



◆ **Ergonomics and Travel:** As members of the Occupational Health (OH) community, much focus is given to ergonomic issues among the NASA workforce, but rarely is focus given on the difficulties that work-related travel can present to the NASA OH professionals. The following link provides some brief tips on working smarter outside of the office: <http://www.humantech.com/blog/ten-ways-to-work-ergonomically-when-traveling/>. Feel free to pass on to others in your organization or Center since the tips can benefit all NASA business travelers.

◆ **Medgate Electronic Health Record System (EHRS) Update:** In early December, the new OH Clinic staff at the Glenn Research Center (GRC) was trained on the Medgate EHRS during a week-long series of WebEx sessions. This was the first time training was conducted this way. Lessons learned from this experience will be used to develop future distance training. The ongoing, ten-part webinar training series in the industrial Hygiene (IH) discipline continues with seven sessions completed as of the end of the year (See the Calendar below for next two session dates). Weekly webinars are also scheduled to support unique Center requests as IH users seek to further incorporate the use of the Medgate software into their data collection and reporting routines. If you have questions or need assistance with any of the Medgate software, please contact us at the EHRS Helpdesk e-mail available from Outlook addresses - KSC-AgencyEHRSHelpdesk.

◆ **ABHP Certification Deadline:**



The application deadline for the 2013 American Board of Health Physics certification exam is January 15, 2013. The Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer recognizes the value of board certification and encourages it as one avenue for NASA Environmental Health Professionals to continually strive to excel in the execution of their duties. Click the following links for [forms](#) and [study](#) links.

◆ **Walter Roybal Joins OSPO Team at JPL:** OCHMO and the entire OH community extend a wholehearted welcome to Walter Roybal who recently joined the Office of Safety Program Operations (OSPO) at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Prior to joining NASA, Walter worked as a Safety Engineer at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) for 10 years. His primary functional duty areas at LANL were explosive safety and pressure safety. He also served as an explosive analyst at the Office of Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) for about two years. He has a B.S. in Biology from the University of New Mexico and a M.S. in Engineering Mechanics (Special Explosives Engineering) from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. Walter's primary responsibilities at JPL will be Explosives Safety, Heat Stress, Hearing Conservation, Hydrogen Safety, and Drinking Water.

◆ **JSC Industrial Hygienist Awarded Doctorate Degree:** Angel Plaza, an industrial hygienist at JSC, was recently awarded a Doctorate in Public Health from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. OCHMO commends Angel on this achievement and recognizes the level of work, time commitment and perseverance it took to complete all the requirements to attain this prestigious degree. The expertise he brings to the Occupational Health Department at JSC is significant. Congratulations Dr. Plaza!

◆ **Interactive Online Tool for Assessing Cadmium Exposure:** On December 11, 2012, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released the [Cadmium Biological Monitoring Advisor](#) to help protect workers exposed to cadmium and assist employers with complying with the OSHA Cadmium Standard (29 CFR 1910.1027). The Advisor analyzes answers to a series of questions and biological monitoring results provided by the user to determine the biological monitoring and medical surveillance requirements that must be met under the general industry cadmium standard. While the Advisor is primarily intended for use by OH medical professionals, it may also be useful as an educational tool for workers.



◆ **KSC Donates Radiation Counter:** The NASA KSC Radiation Protection Program has donated a low level Alpha/Beta Radiation Counter to the Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, Florida as authorized under the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980. This instrument will be brought back to an operational state by the manufacturer for use by the College in their newly formed Radiation Technology Program. Special thanks go to Rod Nickell, IHA Health Physics Supervisor, for his concerted efforts in making this transfer possible. Rodney is shown on the far left in the picture along with Blake Myers, Gamma Products Service Technologist; Randy Scott, KSC Radiation Protection Officer; Giovanni Barbieri, Indian River State College Representative and Nathlia Chekhovskaya, Indian River State College Representative.



◆ **New Industrial Hygienist at LaRC:** Langley Research Center (LaRC) has a new industrial hygienist, Angela Bounds. Prior to joining NASA, Ms. Bounds worked for 17 years at Mitsubishi Chemical as a Senior Safety and Health Manager. She served as the Product Stewardship officer and implemented KAITEKI principles in the United States. KAITEKI is Mitsubishi Chemical's initiative of "do no harm". Her mission at Langley is to help create a safe work environment. Angela is also an artist that paints landscapes on location. OCHMO extends a warm welcome to Angela and looks forward to getting to know her and working with her in the coming year.

◆ **NASA OH Center Review Calendar:**

Michoud Assembly Facility (**NEW DATE**) – February 19-22, 2013



◆ **Upcoming OH ViTS & Webinars:**

- Medical Community Quarterly ViTS – January 8, 2013, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EST
- Environmental Health ViTS – January 9, 2013, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EST
- Medgate IH Module Training Webinar Series – Session #8 – January 9, 2013, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. EST
- Quarterly Health Physics ViTS – January 16, 2013, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. EST
- Medgate IH Module Training Webinar Series – Session #9 - January 16, 2013, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EST
- JSC Fitness/Nutrition/EAP ViTS, **New Year, New You – Nutrition Habits that Work** – January 17, 2013, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. EST
- Buy Quiet Roadmap Tutorial – January 23, 2013, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. EST (Option 1) or January 24, 2013, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. EST (Option 2)
- Fitness/Wellness Quarterly ViTS – January 30, 2013, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EST
- Environmental Health ViTS – February 5, 2013, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST
- Federal Workers' Compensation Quarterly ViTS - February 5, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EST

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