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April 7 is World Health Day "Make Every Mother and Child Count"

## **NIOSH Division of Applied Research and Technology Engineers Receive Prestigious Awards**

Awardees will be honored by the U.S Public Health Service and the Society of American Military Engineers

## **NIOSH Studies Nominated for 2005 Charles C. Shepard Science Award**

Award recognizes excellence in science by CDC agencies.

## **Teachers' National Occupational Safety and Health Paper Competition**

Annual award goes to Massachusetts administrator

## **Health Effects of Welding**

Upcoming conference will focus on latest research regarding potential effects of fumes

## **Joint NIOSH/OSHA Publication Focuses on Avian Influenza**

Protective measures for poultry workers outlined in guidance document

## **ICOH Work Environment and Cardiovascular Disease Conference Update**

Experts gather to exchange ideas and develop strategies for decreasing potential cardiovascular disease risk due to workplace exposures

## **Health Literacy Fellowship Opportunity**

Opportunity to work with national leaders to advance the field of health literacy

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Made key contributions to analytical methods, services

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## **From the Director's Desk**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated April 7, 2005, as World Health Day with the theme "Make Every Mother and Child Count." This topic resonates with our ongoing initiatives at NIOSH to address job-related risks for working women and for working youth, who comprise significant proportions of the U.S. working population. For example, 46.5 percent of the 139 million workers in the U.S. are women, and surveys suggest that 70 percent to 80 percent of teenagers in this country work for pay at some time in their high school years.

As women enter industries and occupations that once were predominantly male, and as more teenagers take on their first job responsibilities, many unique and complex issues arise in regard to the prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses. NIOSH is working with diverse partners to answer those questions.

Regarding working women's issues, initiatives include:

- Assessing exposures and potential health outcomes for airline flight crews. More information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/flightcrew>.
- Examining potential chemical exposures in drycleaning, where 60 percent of the work force is female. For more information, see <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/dryclean>.
- Studying and making recommendations on issues of concern for employers and employees in health care. For example, are nurses and other health care workers potentially exposed to antineoplastic

drugs used in cancer treatment? <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-165> Are nurses' long or rotating work schedules linked with various self-reported health outcomes? <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/workschedules>.

- Investigating ways to reduce the risk of work-related homicide and assault, including risks associated with the spillover of domestic disputes into the workplace. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/injury/traumaviolence.html>.
- As part of a larger strategic research program on work organization, stress, and health, collecting data for a study to examine job stressors that might predict depression in women. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/stress>.
- Using new 3-D scanning technologies to help design respirators and other personal protective equipment that will fit women comfortably and effectively.
- Partnering with fellow agencies on a national birth defects prevention study, to include data that will help scientists to determine if associations exist between working mothers' occupational exposures and various birth defects in children.

Our studies and partnerships for preventing job-related injuries in working teenagers are equally robust. For example, NIOSH:

- Collects and disseminates previously unavailable national and regional data on childhood agricultural injuries and supports extramural research to advance knowledge about the causes and prevention of childhood agricultural injuries.
- Funds the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Safety and Health to translate scientific findings into lay terms and facilitate injury and fatality prevention across the U.S.
- Issued a cornerstone document on young worker safety, *Preventing Deaths, Injuries and Illnesses of Young Workers*. More than 26,500 copies have been distributed, mostly in response to requests from stakeholders.
- Published a community guide, *Promoting Safe Work for Young Workers*. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has extended this work by funding the Young Worker Safety Resource Center to help state agencies incorporate occupational safety training into their existing youth-serving programs.
- Works with state educational agencies to pilot-test core occupational safety and health curriculum adapted from the community guide. The goal is to institutionalize within all U.S. high schools a core foundation curriculum in basic occupational safety and health awareness and skills that all students would master before entering the workplace.
- Played a key role in working with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) in efforts that led to revised child labor regulations that went into effect Feb. 14, 2005 – the first substantial revisions to these rules in decades. NIOSH provided comments and recommendations based on epidemiologic data, statistics, and findings from fatality investigations. These new regulations have the potential to reduce young worker injuries and deaths associated with cooking, working on roofs, compactors/balers, driving, and the manufacture of explosives. DOL is considering additional recommendations made by NIOSH.
- Is working with its partners in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reach a

goal under CDC's Healthy People 2010 initiative for reducing injury rates among young people, continuing progress achieved since 2000.

- Internationally, NIOSH has provided technical assistance to the International Labour Organization and World Health Organization in their efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and is contributing several research projects to the five-year workplan of the WHO Global Network of Collaborating Centers in occupational health. More information can be found at <http://www.who.int/oeh>.

I invite you to find more information on the safety and health issues of working women at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/women>, and additional information on keeping youth safe at work at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/youth>.

### NIOSH Division of Applied Research and Technology Engineers Receive Prestigious Awards

Engineers from the NIOSH Division of Applied Research and Technology (DART) engineers will be honored for their hard work and service to their profession. Larry Reed, formerly of DART and the current Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations, and Field Studies (DSHEFS) Deputy Director, will be awarded the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Villforth Leadership award at the Commissioned Officers Association ceremony, June 6-9, 2005 in Philadelphia, Pa. This award recognizes engineers and architects whose service in public trust meets high ethical standards. DART engineer Tony Zimmer will receive the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Hollis Medal. This medal recognizes excellence for achievements in military engineering and outstanding contributions in design, research, development, planning, education, scholastic achievement, public works, or leadership. He will receive this award at the SAME conference in Louisville, Ky., on May 18-20, 2005. Four DART publications and their authors will be recognized with USPHS Engineering Literary Awards. The awards will also be presented at the USPHS Commissioned Officers Association ceremony, June 6-9, 2005 in Philadelphia, Pa. The award categories are:

- **Research.** Mead KR, Johnson DL [2004]. An Evaluation of Portable HEPA Filtration for Expedient Patient Isolation in Epidemic and Emergency Response. U.S. DHHS, CDC, NIOSH/University of Oklahoma. *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. 44(6), 635-645.
- **Engineering Applications.** Beamer BR, Topmiller JL, Crouch KG [2004]. Development of Evaluation Procedures for Local Exhaust Ventilation for United States Postal Service Mail Processing Equipment. *J Occ Env Hyg* 1(7):423-429, 2004.
- **Regulations.** Mead KR, Hammond DR, Connor T, Reed LD, Burroughs GE, Power L, Coyle B, Leone M, McDiarmid M, Polovich M, and the NIOSH Hazardous Drug Safe Handling Working Group [2004]. *NIOSH Alert: Preventing Occupational Exposures to Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Health Care Settings*. U.S. DHHS, CDC, NIOSH. DHHS (NIOSH) Pub. No. 2004 – 165.
- **Management.** Earnest SG, Gressel MG, Mickelsen RL, Moyer ES, Reed LD, Karwacki CJ, Morrison RW, Tevault DE, Delp W, Persily AK [2003]. *Guidance for Filtration and Air-Cleaning Systems to Protect Building Environments from Airborne Chemical, Biological, or Radiological Attacks*. U.S. DHHS, CDC, NIOSH. DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2003-136.

## **NIOSH Studies Nominated for 2005 Charles C. Shepard Science Award**

Six published studies by NIOSH scientists and engineers in partnership with outside collaborators are nominated for the 2005 Charles C. Shepard Science Awards. The awards are sponsored by the U.S. Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) and recognize excellence in science in 2004 at CDC, of which NIOSH is a part. The NIOSH nominations appear on the NIOSH Web page at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/shepard2004.html>. Scientific publications from throughout CDC are eligible for nomination. CDC will announce the winners on June 22, 2005.

## **Teachers' National Occupational Safety and Health Paper Competition**

NIOSH and the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) co-sponsored the 2005 Teachers National Occupational Safety and Health Competition among teachers and instructors at vocational and technical schools and community colleges. The competition was established by NIOSH in 1998 as part of our efforts to team with educators, employers, and others in advancing safety in vocational education programs. Roger Bourgeois, an administrator at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School in Billerica, Mass., won the competition. Mr. Bourgeois submitted the school's Health and Safety Plan, which includes checklists based on the *NIOSH Safety Checklist Program for Schools*, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-101/default.html>. His proactive safety and health program established an alliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to train vocational-technical educators. Through this alliance more than 100 teachers and 1,000 students have been trained. The award to Mr. Bourgeois was presented at the ACTE National Policy Seminar held March 7-8 in Washington, D.C.

## **Health Effects of Welding**

NIOSH and the West Virginia University (WVU) Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health (IOEH) are teaming up to sponsor an international seminar, "Health Effects of Welding," on July 23-24, 2005 in Morgantown, W.Va. Leading experts from around the world will gather to share the latest information in key research areas regarding potential respiratory, neurological, and reproductive effects associated with welding fumes or inhaled welding particles. More information about the symposium can be found at <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/IOEH>.

## **Joint NIOSH/OSHA Publication Focuses on Avian Influenza**

NIOSH and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) developed the *Avian Influenza Protecting Poultry Workers at Risk Safety and Health Information Bulletin*. The bulletin can be accessed at <http://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib121304.html>. This 8-page guidance document describes measures for protecting poultry workers when an avian influenza outbreak occurs. This document complements avian population disease control and eradication strategies of state governments, industry, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and will aid in the development of biosecurity guidelines and standard operating procedures for the various sectors of the poultry industry. Links to the bulletin have been added to the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association Web page, <http://www.poultryegg.org>, and to the CDC Avian Influenza Web page, <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian>.

## ICOH Work Environment and Cardiovascular Disease Conference Update

The International Commission of Occupational Health (ICOH), NIOSH and numerous partners cosponsored the *Fourth International Conference on Work Environment and Cardiovascular Disease* on March 9-11, 2005 in Newport Beach, Calif. Representatives from over 30 countries gathered to exchange ideas and research findings and to develop strategies for decreasing potential cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk due to workplace exposures. Particular interest was given to exposure to workplace stress, low job control and high job demand. In his welcoming address to attendees, NIOSH Director John Howard said work stress is “one of our most fertile areas of research.”

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), heart disease and stroke will become the leading cause of death and disability by 2020. Highlights from the conference included a comparison of the changing nature of work occurring in industrialized and developing nations; the effects of globalization and the social movement; working conditions, social class and social inequality as determinants of CVD risk; and a closing forum on international comparative research, including the variation in culture and organizational behaviors. Preparations are underway for the Fifth International Conference to be held June 2008 in Poland.

## Health Literacy Fellowship Opportunity

The Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine (ATPM) with support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, is seeking candidates for the position of Health Literacy Fellow. The Fellow will assist with the reporting and communication activities related to the release of the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy data and will provide support to the HHS Health Literacy Workgroup. The Fellow should have training in health communication or health education with an emphasis in health literacy. Interested applicants should visit the ATPM Web site, <http://www.atpm.org> and click on “career development/training.” The application deadline is April 15, 2005.

## Don Dollberg Retires with 30 years of service at NIOSH

Donald D. Dollberg, a 30-year NIOSH employee and Public Health Service officer, retired from federal service on March 31 as chief of the Analytical Chemistry Section, Chemical Exposure Monitoring Branch, Division of Applied Research and Technology (DART). Don contributed greatly to NIOSH's prominence in the development of new sampling and analytical methods, state-of-the-art data handling services, delivery of high-quality analytical chemistry services, and the creation of new partnerships. One such partnership that he headed, an informal program with Xavier University in Cincinnati, has nurtured a new generation of chemists with an interest in occupational health. Don's research in silica analysis helped to improve the measurement of work-related silica dust exposures; notably, in 1980, his work was instrumental in identifying silica dust exposures from the Mt. St. Helens volcanic eruption. For more than 18 years, as section chief, he headed a team that contributed several hundred new or revised methods to the *NIOSH Manual of Analytical Methods*. Best wishes to Don on his retirement.

## Upcoming NIOSH Events

Next month's eNews will feature articles on Workers' Memorial Day April 28 and winners of the Alice Hamilton Awards also to be held on April 28.

## Look for Us

Stop by and chat with NIOSH staff at the NIOSH Exhibit Booth at these upcoming conferences.

- The Association of PeriOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) 52nd Congress, April 3-7, 2005 in New Orleans, La. <http://www.aorn.org/Congress/Attendees/default.htm>.
- The 2005 International Society of Mine Safety Professionals Critical Issues/Train-the-Trainer Conference, May 15-29, 2005 in Reno, Nev. <http://www.ismsp.com>.
- The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Elko Mining Expo, June 5-10, 2005 in Elko, Nev. <http://www.exploreelko.com/miningexpo.shtml>.
- The Longwall USA 2005 National Coal Show, June 7-9, 2005 in Pittsburgh. <http://www.mining-media.com/ncs/index.html>.

## r2p Corner

Four research, monitoring, and analytical products developed and owned by NIOSH are available for licensing. The four inventions include:



- A prototype exposure monitoring system which uses real-time sensors and local positioning system linkages. This system can identify potential hazardous exposures for employees in outdoor occupations who move frequently during the work day.
- A cough recording machine to detect work-related pulmonary disorders.
- An auscultatory computerized system for recognizing and analyzing sounds in the body.
- An automated “nail press test” which takes a look at how long blood-flow returns in the fingers. This new automated test can better help determine impairments such as hand-arm vibration disorder.

For further information about licensing, contacts and technical information please visit: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/05-3891.pdf>

## NORA

On March 23, 2005 NORA leadership met with the NIOSH Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC) in Washington, D.C., to discuss plans for the next decade of NORA. Participants discussed using a sector based approach to broaden stakeholder involvement among academia, industry, and labor groups. Under this proposed structure for the next decade of NORA, tentatively called NORA-2, NIOSH and its partners would form sector research councils representing eight groupings of sectors in order to focus research goals, objectives, and results. The proposed sector research councils are for agriculture, forestry, and fishing; mining; construction; manufacturing; trade; transportation, warehousing, and utilities; services; and health care and social assistance. Each sector and some sub-sectors would identify the top safety and health concerns in their sectors and develop a strategic research agenda based on those priorities. In addition, a cross-cutting group would be formed, comprising coordinators for the eight research sectors, to identify opportunities for common research across sectors. NORA leadership also outlined plans for including global health and research to practice as themes in the next decade of NORA.



On April 26, NORA will mark its ninth year. NIOSH plans a year of activities to recognize past NORA achievements and to plan for the next ten years of NORA research. NIOSH will be requesting feedback and suggestions from stakeholders, including our eNews readership. The May 2005 edition of eNews will present more information about the new NORA structure and offer opportunities for eNews readers to share their comments and suggestions.

## News From Our Partners

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) has launched a new Web page to provide businesses of all sizes with key workplace safety standards information. The site features timely information on ASSE's standards development activities, standard hot topics and issues, and key technical insights, and provides an opportunity for ASSE members and non-members alike to share expertise on occupational safety, health and environmental efforts in all industries. The Web page is <http://www.asse.org/safety.html>.

## Communication Products

### 2003 Mining Fact Sheets

NIOSH has released a series of one-page mining fact sheets covering a variety of topics of general interest relating to mining operations, workers, fatalities, nonfatal lost-time injuries, and occupational illness. Ten fact sheets are currently available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/topics/data/facts.html>.



### ***IC 9473 Drill Rig Incident: A noise training exercise for drillers, helpers, and anyone exposed to loud noise from a drill rig***

This training tool for safety and health professionals can be used to teach workers about noise, hearing loss, and hearing protection. During the exercise, workers answer questions concerning their actions when faced with a potential workplace hazard resulting from a coworker's prolonged exposure to loud noise. This training tool is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/pubs/pdfs/2005-108.pdf> and is a companion piece to the IC 9472: Wearing Hearing Protection Properly: A 3-D Training Aid for Drillers (NIOSH Pub. No 2005-107).



### ***Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE): Evaluation of ergonomic stressors and musculoskeletal disorders at an ice cream products manufacturing plant***

**HHE**

NIOSH scientific investigators found increasing musculoskeletal injury rates at an ice cream products manufacturing plant in recent years. The evaluation linked the risk of such injuries with highly repetitive physical work activities, and tools that were poorly designed for their intended functions. They offered recommendations to the company to improve working conditions and prevent the development of tendonitis; strains to the shoulders, elbows, wrists, and fingers; and upper and lower back disorders. The full report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2004-0001-2937.pdf>. More information on HHEs can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe>.

## Upcoming Events

### ***2005 International Workshop on Environmental Monitoring and Silica Dust Exposure Assessment***

NIOSH and the Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, will cosponsor the *2005 International Workshop on Environmental Monitoring and Silica Dust Exposure Assessment*, April 15-18, 2005 in Wuhan and Yichang, Republic of China. The conference will provide a forum for discussion of research needs, strategies, and opportunities for effective international collaboration on environmental dust monitoring methods and comparison, physical and chemical characteristics of silica dust, epidemiological perspectives on silica dust hazards, and biomarkers of silica dust-induced lung cancer and silicosis. More information on the conference can be found at [http://www.who.int/occupational\\_health/mediacentre/en/Announcement.pdf](http://www.who.int/occupational_health/mediacentre/en/Announcement.pdf) or by contacting Bill Wallace at [WWallace@cdc.gov](mailto:WWallace@cdc.gov).

### ***Symposium on Beryllium: Sampling and Analysis***

The *Symposium on Beryllium: Sampling and Analysis*, sponsored by ASTM Committee D22 on Air Quality and its Subcommittee D22.04 on Workplace Atmospheres, will be held April 21-22, 2005, at the Hilton Reno Resort, Reno, Nev. The symposium will provide a forum for technical exchanges on current research and status regarding beryllium sampling and analysis issues. While the primary emphasis will be on current research in the area of beryllium sampling and analysis, it is intended that participants will be able to identify areas where pertinent standards can be developed concerning beryllium sample collection and analytical procedures. For information about the symposium, including registration information and the technical program, access the ASTM web site at <http://www.astm.org/SYMPOSIA>, click on 'Next 12 Months', scroll down to 'D22 Symposium on Beryllium' and click – or contact Kevin Ashley at [KAshley@cdc.gov](mailto:KAshley@cdc.gov).

### **2005 Annual Toxicology and Risk Assessment Conference**

NIOSH, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Defense and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry are cosponsoring the 2005 Annual Toxicology and Risk Assessment Conference. The conference will be held April 25 - 28, 2005 in Fairborn, Ohio. The conference theme is "Predictive Toxicology" and sessions include biomarker research, conducting exposure and risk assessments, and toxicology of nanomaterials. More information is available at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=117724>

### ***Call for Papers: Work, Stress and Health 2006: Making a Difference in the Workplace***

NIOSH, the American Psychological Association, the National Institute of Justice of the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Labor, will convene the sixth international conference on occupational stress and health, *Work, Stress, and Health 2006: Making a Difference in the Workplace* in Miami, Fla., March 2-4, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Miami Hotel. The conference is designed to address the constantly changing nature of work, and the implications of these changes for the health, safety, and well-being of workers. In keeping with the conference theme of "making a difference in the workplace," there will be a particular focus on the translation of research to practice and workplace programs, policies, practices, case experiences, and other efforts to prevent stress in today's workplace. The deadline to submit proposals is May 1, 2005. More information about the conference and the call for papers can be found at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/work/callforpapers.html>.

### ***Occupational and Environmental Exposures of Skin to Chemicals-2005***

NIOSH, the Karolinska Institutet and the Stockholm County Council in Sweden are cosponsoring *Occupational and Environmental Exposures of Skin to Chemicals-2005* in Stockholm, Sweden, June 12-15, 2005. The conference will focus on practical ways to better prevent local and systemic injury and disease caused by exposing skin to chemicals. More information on the conference is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/skin/OEESC2> or by contacting Sid Soderholm at [SSoderholm@cdc.gov](mailto:SSoderholm@cdc.gov).

### ***Fifth International Symposium on Modern Principles of Air Monitoring***

NIOSH, the National Institute for Working Life, Sweden, and the National Institute of Occupational Health, Norway will cosponsor the *Fifth International Symposium on Modern Principles of Air Monitoring*, June 12-16, 2005 in Loen, Norway. The scientific program will feature the latest developments in exposure assessment and strategies as well as analytical air sampling and measurement/monitoring methodologies. New for the Fifth International Symposium, the topic of biomonitoring will be addressed. More information on the symposium can be found at <http://www.airmon.org> or by contacting Martin Harper at [MHarper@cdc.gov](mailto:MHarper@cdc.gov).

### **North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NAACT) 2005**

The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology and the American Association of Poison Control Centers will host the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology 2005, September 9-14, 2005 in Orlando, Fla. The agenda features three NIOSH-related sessions: Developing an Occupational and Environmental Toxicology Research Agenda, Occupational/NIOSH Case Files, and an EPA/NIOSH/OSHA workshop on risk assessment and n-propyl bromide. More information on the conference can be found at <http://www.clintox.org>.

### **Call for Papers: *Advanced Personal Protective Equipment - Challenges in Protecting First Responders***

The NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University are sponsoring *Advanced Personal Protective Equipment - Challenges in Protecting First Responders*. The conference will be held October 16-18, 2005 at the Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center in Blacksburg, Va.

Attendees will learn about the hazards posed by emerging threats, the application of personal protective equipment (PPE) technology to these threats, and associated challenges with selecting and interfacing different PPE items. The emphasis of the conference will be on practical issues of threat accommodation, standards, regulations, applications of best practices, manufacturing and distribution issues, PPE decision-making and purchasing, and multi-PPE integration. More information on the conference can be found at <http://www.conted.vt.edu/appe> or by contacting Tom Fisher at [TFisher@cdc.gov](mailto:TFisher@cdc.gov).

### **Word of the Month**

**Auscultatory:** listening to physiological sounds arising within body organs, such as the lungs, bowel or heart, which aid in diagnosis and treatment.

### **[NIOSH eNews on the Web: www.cdc.gov/niosh/enews/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/enews/)**

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