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## From the Director's Desk

The prevention of work-related injuries, illnesses, and deaths is an imperative that transcends cultures, languages, and borders. Through the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international bodies, scientists and health professionals from different countries work together every day to achieve this common, globe-spanning goal.

We in NIOSH are pleased to be part of this network of research, education, and outreach. By leveraging our expertise in partnership with colleagues abroad, we help to support this critical aspect of U.S. leadership in the global economy.

At the same time, this investment of time and effort yields great dividends to our stakeholders domestically. In developing countries, where resources typically are scarce and local expertise is hard to come by, health and safety professionals have had to find new and ingenious ways to help fledgling industries build capacity. In the U.S., small businesses face a similar challenge in designing and using effective interventions when budgets are lean and expertise is not available in-house. Building on the lessons learned abroad, NIOSH and its partners are helping small employers to meet this challenge and, in the process, to improve their competitiveness and their profitability.

These observations are by way of noting an international milestone that NIOSH helped to nurture. On May 22, the World Health Assembly, the supreme decision-making body for WHO, endorsed a Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health. The Assembly's resolution is of the utmost importance in motivating WHO's member countries to action.

WHO's Global Network of Collaborating Centers in Occupational Health contributed to the development of the Global Plan, which builds on a long history of WHO leadership in international occupational safety and health. The Global Plan is significant because it positions WHO, the U.S., and our partners abroad to meet the challenges that we all face in the 21st Century.

As the Collaborating Centers stated in a 2006 declaration that formed the basis for the historic Global Plan, "new employment patterns and rapidly changing working conditions present a challenge to the protection and promotion of the health and safety of workers. New global health threats pose an increased risk of epidemic and pandemic diseases." In the words of the Collaborating Centers, the Global Plan provides a "way forward" to anticipate and meet the occupational health and safety needs associated with those enormous changes.

As the Chair of the Global Network of Collaborating Centers, I am gratified that NIOSH helped to develop the Global Plan. I am equally proud that the Centers have already taken the next step to move the Global Plan from a declaration of action to a blueprint for action. In anticipating that the Global Plan would be endorsed, we and our colleagues have developed a work plan to implement the Global Plan, containing about 200 collaborative projects that are under way in six areas of activity critical to the success of the Global Plan.

I look forward to updating you on future progress under the Global Plan. In the meantime, I invite you to read the Global Plan and the associated work plan at [http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA60/A60\\_20-en.pdf](http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA60/A60_20-en.pdf), and to become familiar with other aspects of the NIOSH Global Collaborations Program at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/global>. Please join me in congratulating WHO, NIOSH, and Collaborating Centers staff and their colleagues for their hard work in helping WHO to achieve this success.

## **Follow-up: NIOSH/OSHA Bulletin Available for Public Review and Comment**

In the last issue of NIOSH eNews, we announced the release of a joint NIOSH and Occupational Safety and Health Administration Safety and Health Information Bulletin. We now invite the public to review and provide technical comments on the Bulletin for the protection of surgical personnel from needle stick injuries while using suture needles. Comments on the bulletin or any new data, research, or information on the topic will be accepted until July 27, 2007. Refer to the NIOSH Web page, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/106> for details.

## **NIOSH to Host Prevention through Design Workshop in July**

NIOSH and partners will hold a workshop on July 9-11 in Washington, DC, to launch a national initiative to promote the widespread adoption of Prevention through Design (PtD) principles. PtD can be defined as addressing occupational safety and health needs in the design process to prevent or minimize the work-related hazards and risks associated with the construction, manufacture, use, maintenance, and disposal of facilities, materials, and equipment. Further details on PtD and the workshop can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ptd>.

## **New Director Named for NIOSH Spokane Research Laboratory**

NIOSH is pleased to announce that Jürgen Brune will head the NIOSH Spokane Research Laboratory beginning August 1, 2007. Dr. Brune has extensive experience in the mining industry and has been a member of the NIOSH Pittsburgh Research Laboratory since 2004. Dr. Brune has been responsible for research in mine ventilation, mine rescue and response and on the prevention of mine fires and mine explosions. During the past year, he led PRL's research effort in determining the design criteria for explosion resistant mine seals following the explosion disasters at the Sago and Darby mines.

## **Indoor Environmental Quality**

At the employer's request, NIOSH evaluated employee concerns about indoor environmental quality (IEQ) issues, including odors and dustiness, at the U.S. Department of the Interior's headquarters building in Washington, D.C. The building is undergoing extensive renovation and modernization. To help resolve the concerns, NIOSH recommended that demolition and construction areas be kept under negative pressure for the duration of the renovation project, and that other measures be taken to meet professional IEQ guidelines, maintain good housekeeping, and maintain good communication with employee about IEQ issues.

## **In Memoriam: Mitch Singal**

Mitch Singal, a long-time Medical Officer at NIOSH and a Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, died on May 2 from a fall near his home in Ann Arbor, MI. Mitch served in the NIOSH Hazard Evaluation and Technical Assistance Branch throughout his career and provided service to thousands of workers through the Health Hazard Evaluation Program. NIOSH extends deepest sympathy to Mitch's family on their loss.

## **Utah Occupational Safety and Health Education and Research Center Established by State Statute**

In March 2007, the State of Utah statutorily established the Rocky Mountain Center (RMC) at the University of Utah as a center for education and research in occupational safety and health (OSH). This represents the first time an education and research center for OSH has been established by state law. RMC currently receives funding from NIOSH where it is one of the 16 federally-supported Education and Research Centers (ERC) in the U.S. The NIOSH ERCs provide needed academic and continuing education for OSH professionals as well as perform scientific research related to worker safety and health. More information on the RMC can be found at <http://uuhsc.utah.edu/rmcoeh>.

## NIOSH 2007 CDC and ATSDR Honor Award Winners

NIOSH congratulates the following employees on receiving awards at the recent 2007 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Honor Awards Ceremony.

### Civil Service

*Steven Adams*, Information Services  
*Jan Basehart*, Customer Service Award  
*Daniel Browning*, Contributions to Health, Safety and Worksite Wellness  
*Chia-Chia Chang*, Award for Volunteer Service  
*David Mersch*, Facilities Planning and Management Services  
*New Orleans Post-Hurricane Impact Group*, Public Health Protection Research  
*Donna Pfirman*, Communication Services  
*Matthew Wheeler*, Public Health Statistical Research and Services

### Commissioned Corps

*CAPT Raymond Biagini*, Distinguished Service Medal  
*CAPT Gary Earnest*, Outstanding Service Medal  
*CAPT Frank Hearl (Ret.)*, Meritorious Service Medal  
*CDR William Murphy*, Outstanding Service Medal  
*CAPT Laurence Reed*, Distinguished Service Medal  
*CAPT John Sestito (Ret.)*, Meritorious Service Medal

## WorkLife 2007 Workshops

Special topic pre- and post-meeting workshops will be offered in addition to the "WorkLife 2007: Protecting and Promoting Worker Health Symposium," September 10-11. For more information or to register for workshops and the symposium, go to <http://www.worklife2007.com/agenda.asp>.

**WorkLife2007:**  
Protecting and Promoting Worker Health  
a national symposium

## Total Inward Leakage Public Meeting

NIOSH's National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory will hold a public meeting to discuss a proposed total inward leakage (TIL) program for half-mask air-purifying particulate filtering respirator certification with plans to later include similar requirements for all respirator certifications. The meeting will be held June 26 in Pittsburgh, PA. More information about the meeting can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/resources/certpgmspt/meetings/062607/ltr-062607.html>.

## r2p Corner

### "2007 National Institute for Farm Safety Conference"

The "2007 National Institute for Farm Safety conference" will be held in Penticton, British Columbia, Canada, from June 24-28. The theme for the conference is "Applying What We Know" and will be hosted by the Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association (FRSHA). Learn more about the conference at <http://www.farsha.bc.ca/event.php>.



### NORA Cross-Sector Council

The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Cross-Sector Council has named two individuals to co-chair the Council with NORA Coordinator, Sid Soderholm. The new co-chairs are Robin Baker of the University of California at Berkeley and Frank White of ORC Worldwide. The NORA Cross-Sector Council is comprised of the leaders of the NORA Sector Councils and is charged with coordinating the work of the eight Councils. In this role, the Cross-Sector Council assures that efficiencies are realized by encouraging efforts across sectors when similar issues arise as priorities in multiple sectors. As always, send a note to [NORACoordinator@cdc.gov](mailto:NORACoordinator@cdc.gov) to discuss any NORA-related issues.

### Around NIOSH

With funding from the National Toxicology Program, NIOSH scientists are investigating whether [tungsten-oxide fibers](#) are more persistent in the lung than non-fibrous tungsten-containing particles. Contact Aleksandr Stefaniak at [AStefaniak@cdc.gov](mailto:AStefaniak@cdc.gov) for details.

Mark your calendars for the "4<sup>th</sup> National Occupational Injury Research Symposium (NOIRS)," October 21-23, 2008 in Pittsburgh, PA. NOIRS is the only national [symposium](#) focusing solely on occupational traumatic injury research and prevention. Contact Nancy Stout at [NStout@cdc.gov](mailto:NStout@cdc.gov) for [more](#) information and look for updates on the NOIRS Web page, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/noirs/noirsmain.html>.

Congratulations to Martha Waters for being awarded the 2007 American Industrial Hygiene Association Alice Hamilton Award. The award is presented annually to an outstanding woman who has made a lasting achievement in the field of occupational and environmental hygiene.

NIOSH presented information on occupational silica exposure and avian and pandemic influenza to attendees of the "23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kentucky Governor's Safety and Health Conference and Expo" on May 8-11.

From Italy to Arizona, NIOSH scientists are spanning the globe as invited lecturers on the topic of nanotoxicology. Numerous presentations [were also given on the topic](#) at the recent "Society of Toxicology Conference". Contact Vince Castranova [VCastranova@cdc.gov](mailto:VCastranova@cdc.gov) for details.

NIOSH is leading national research to develop a new generation of self-contained self-rescuers (SCSR) that will provide longer durations of air for miners trapped underground in mine emergencies. The dockable/hybrid SCSR will simplify the process [of transferring from one breathing air device](#) to another during a mine emergency. Learn more at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/researchprojects>.

### News From Our Partners

#### NSC 2007 Research Poster Award Program

The National Safety Council's (NSC) College and University Initiative: Education and Research Advisory Committee is inviting safety students and professionals to submit posters for the NSC 2007 Research Poster Award Program. Selected winners will receive a \$400 stipend and the opportunity to display, present and discuss their papers at the NSC Expo in October. Details can be found at [http://www.congress.nsc.org/research\\_poster\\_program.cfm](http://www.congress.nsc.org/research_poster_program.cfm). The deadline is June 30, 2007.

## Communication Products

### NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Report: Evaluation of ergonomic risks for musculoskeletal disorders in the Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities Sector.

NIOSH investigators responded to a request from managers at an aircraft parts distribution warehouse because of concerns that workers were at risk of strained backs, pulled shoulders, and twisted knees from performing their jobs. HHE investigators observed and videotaped the work, surveyed employees about the quality of working life, and reviewed OSHA 300 logs. NIOSH recommended redesigning certain aspects of the work areas, providing portable lifting and moving equipment for handling heavy parts, and improving worker training. The full report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2006-0239-3040.pdf>.

## Mining DVDs

- “Arc Flash Awareness” – A DVD Video Module with Information and Discussion Topics for Electrical Workers, DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2007-116D. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/products/product152.htm>
- “Blast Area Security” - A DVD Video Module with Video Transcript and Discussion Topics for Surface Miners. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/products/product151.htm>



## Information Circulars

- IC9496: “A Technology Review of Smart Sensors with Wireless Networks for Applications in Hazardous Work Environments” <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/pubs/pubreference/outputid2307.htm>
- IC9494: “A User’s Guide for the Bplane, Bstepp, and Bwedge Computer Programs” <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/pubs/pubreference/outputid2429.htm>



## Workplace Solutions

- “Preventing Worker Deaths and Injuries When Handling Micotil 300®” DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2007-124 <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2007-124>
- “Medical Surveillance for Health Care Workers Exposed to Hazardous Drugs” DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2007-117 <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2007-117>

“Ergonomic Guidelines for Manual Material Handling” DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2007-131 <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-131>



“NIOSH Bibliography of Communication and Research Products 2006” DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2007-125 <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-125>



## Upcoming Events

### Call for Papers

- American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, April 25-May 2, 2008, Salt Lake City, UT. Deadline is June 8. <http://www.aaohn.org/education/symposium-expo/index.cfm>
- Fire Department Instructors Conference 2008, April 7-12, 2008, Indianapolis, IN. Deadline is June 29. <http://fdic08.events.pennnet.com/fl//index.cfm>
- 12<sup>th</sup> US/North American Mine Ventilation Symposium, June 11-18, 2008 Reno, NV. Deadline is August 1. <http://www.unr.edu/ventsymp2008>

### **“Occupational and Environmental Exposures of Skin to Chemicals”**

The conference will be held June 17-20 in Golden, CO, and is cosponsored by NIOSH and the Colorado School of Mines. [http://www.mines.edu/outreach/cont\\_ed/oeesc](http://www.mines.edu/outreach/cont_ed/oeesc).

### **"2007 Johnson Conference: Workplace Aerosol Sampling to Meet ISO Size-Selective Criteria"**

The conference will be held July 16-20 in Burlington, VT, and is sponsored by ASTM International. Information can be found at <http://www.astm.org> under Symposia and Workshops.

### **“3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Nanotechnology, Occupational and Environmental Health”**

The conference will take place in Taipei, Taiwan, on August 29-September 1. NIOSH is a cosponsor of the conference. <http://nano-taiwan.sinica.edu.tw/EHS2007/index.htm>.

### **“WorkLife 2007: Protecting and Promoting Worker Health Symposium”**

The Symposium will be held by NIOSH and partner agencies and organizations September 10-11, in Bethesda, MD. <http://www.worklife2007.com/home.asp>.

### **“International Roofing Expo 2008”**

The International Roofing Expo, 2008 will be held February 21-23, 2008 in Las Vegas, NV. <http://www.theroofingexpo.com/Roofing07/public/Content.aspx?ID=6980&left=0&Nav=0>.

## Word of the Month

**tungsten-oxide fibers** Unique physicochemical forms of tungsten that may be present in aerosols that are generated when tungsten metal powder is produced. Tungsten metal powder is used in wire filaments and as a feedstock for producing cemented tungsten carbides (a component of cutting tools and drills, and of armor plating, among other products). While no adverse health effects from exposures to tungsten-oxide fibers are currently known, caution and vigilance are recommended generally when working with respirable particulate materials.

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