

MIHS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Isocyanates and Work-Related Asthma

Almost 9% of adults in Michigan indicate they currently have asthma. In 1988, the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services (formerly the Michigan Department of Public Health) instituted a surveillance program for work-related asthma with financial assistance from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The goal of the surveillance program is to prevent work-related asthma through the reporting of index patients. The reporting of the index patient is regarded as a sentinel health event that may lead to the identification of other employees from the same facility who are at risk of developing asthma or who have developed similar breathing problems.

According to the 2001 Annual Report on Work-Related

Asthma in Michigan, a joint report of the Michigan State University Department of Medicine and the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services (MIOSHA), statistical estimates suggest that 10 to 15 percent of reported asthma's are work related. For 2001, statistical estimates indicate approximately 650,000 adults suffer from asthma in Michigan. That corresponds to 65,000 to 97,000 adults that may suffer from Work-Related Asthma (WRA) in Michigan alone. From 1988 to 2001, a total of 1,782 people with WRA had been identified through the Michigan Surveillance System (SENSOR) that tracks occupational illness. It is obvious that a significant under reporting of the incidence of these cases occurs annually.

Figure 5. Major Industry Type for Confirmed Work-Related Asthma Patients: 1988-2001*

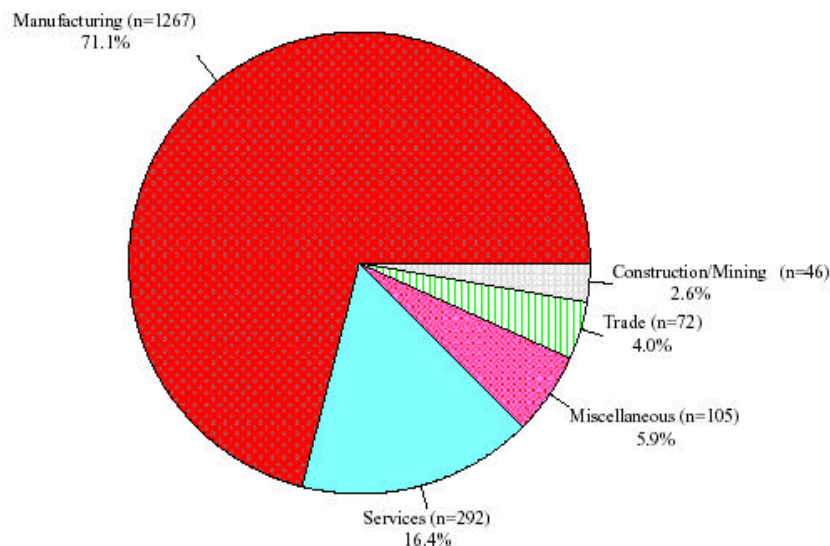


Table 6. Occupational Agents Associated with 1782 Confirmed Work-Related Asthma Patients: 1988-2001

| Allergen | Number | Percent |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|
| Isocyanates | 304 | 17.1 |
| Metal-Working Fluids | 216 | 12.1 |
| Unknown (Mfg.) | 129 | 7.2 |
| Unknown (Office) | 111 | 6.2 |
| Cleaning Solutions | 104 | 5.8 |
| Exhaust, Smoke, Fumes | 101 | 5.7 |
| Welding Fumes | 90 | 5.1 |
| Solvents | 54 | 3.0 |
| Latex/Rubber | 51 | 2.9 |
| Formaldehyde | 42 | 2.4 |

As evident from the list of occupational agents associated with confirmed work-related asthma cases, Isocyanates has been one of the major contributing factors to the ongoing incidence of confirmed work-related asthma's. Many manufacturing related industries find use for isocyanates based products. Recognizing these common applications for isocyanates based products is the first step in proactive efforts to control exposures and reduce further incidence of work-related asthma.

The Michigan Industrial Hygiene Society (MIHS) is excited to host a Professional Development Conference (PDC) at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, Michigan on September 17, 2002. Member companies of the International Isocyanate Institute are presenting this PDC. These organizations are engaged in the manufacture of toluene diisocyanate (TDI) and/or diphenylmethane diisocyanate (MDI) materials and products. The principal aim of the Institute is to promote the safe handling of MDI and TDI, with respect to the workplace, the community and the environment.

This half-day PDC is an abbreviated version of one of the Top Ten PDC's presented at the 2002 American Industrial Hygiene Associations conference (AIHCE) in San Diego, California. Normally costing over \$150 dollars, this half-day course is being offered to MIHS members for a mere \$40 dollars (\$50 dollars for non-members). Course fees include handout materials, a resource material CD provided by the International Isocyanate Institute, and a world-famous "Frankenmuth Chicken" lunch. Certified professionals will earn a half-point continuing maintenance towards their certification from the American Board of Industrial Hygienists. Please visit the MIHS website today (http://www.mihsweb.org/mihs_events.htm) and register to participate in this important learning and networking experience. Space is filling up rapidly, so don't delay.

Introducing the Newest MIHS Officers and Board Members

Scott Hoag, MIHS Board

My name is Scott Hoag, and I was elected to the MIHS board earlier this year. I work for Dow Corning Corporation as the Industrial Hygiene Team Leader. Prior to joining Dow Corning, I worked as a staff industrial hygienist at The Dow Chemical Company. My wife, Carol, also works for Dow Corning in sales, and I have two sons, Ben (8) and Jack (5).

I stumbled onto the profession of industrial hygiene while working for several years as a drill rig operator on soil/groundwater contamination sites. Occasionally, information on health hazards and protective measures was delivered to me at the job site. More often, there was little information available and only nagging questions about potential risks. This is where my passion for worker health was born, and it eventually led me to studies within the IH program at the University of Michigan.

My focus on the MIHS board is somewhat unique. While I am involved in direction, planning, and the types activities that are typical for board members, my attention is aimed at the outstanding pool of IH professionals in the Midland, Bay City and Saginaw areas. I want to work with MIHS to provide the kinds of opportunities that will help mobilize the hygienists in my part of Michigan to a higher level of

involvement, enhancing their skills along the way, and making our MIHS stronger through their participation.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve on the board.

John Rioux - MIHS Secretary

I received my undergraduate degree from Hillsdale College in 1990, majoring in Biology and minoring in Chemistry. In 1993, I received a Master of Science degree from Wayne State University in Occupational and Environmental Health. I was the first research and teaching assistant under Dr. David Bassett. From 1992 to 1994, I worked for Midwest Environmental Consultants, and in 1994 I joined James, Anderson & Associates. I currently manage our North American sound exposure monitoring operations. We work primarily with the automotive industry, but also perform work in other large manufacturing facilities.

I have been a member of AIHA and MIHS since 1995, and am currently acting as secretary for the board.

I am an avid fly fisherman and hiker. I enjoy golf when I can't get on vacation.



Chair of Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences

The Department of Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences at Wayne State University is seeking a dynamic individual to serve as department chair. Wayne State is a doctoral extensive research university dedicated to urban teaching and service located in Detroit's Cultural Center. The OEHS Department is housed in the recently completed Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, a building with research and teaching technology poised for the future. The department has active graduate and professional programs for industrial hygiene, toxicology, and occupational medicine. The successful candidate is expected to join the department in the summer of 2003. Applicants should have a M.D. or a Ph.D. in Industrial Hygiene, Toxicology, Medicine or a related discipline. Applicants are expected to have a distinguished record of scholarly activity, a proven record of leadership with administrative capabilities, and an established record of extramural funding for basic and/or applied research appropriate to an appointment at the full professor level with tenure. An application letter and a curriculum vitae should be sent to: Dr. Patricia A. Brogan, CIH, Chair, Selection Advisory Committee, Department of Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences, Wayne State University, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, 259 Mack, Detroit, MI 48201

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Information on the department may be found at <http://wizard.pharm.wayne.edu/oe.html>.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE

by Tim Kearney, MIHS President

In August 2002 the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) formally responded to legislation recently introduced in Congress by Michigan Representative John Conyers. The house bill, H.R. 5040, titled the "United States Toxic Mold Safety and Protection Act of 2002", also known as the "Melina Bill" has drawn significant interest from both EHS professionals, the media and the general public. This bill targets several concerns similar to those which resulted in the introduction in June, 2002 of several bills in the Michigan State Legislature. [Click here](#) to view document. This legislation would require the Centers for Disease and Control (CDC), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to jointly undertake a comprehensive study of the health effects of indoor mold growth and toxic mold. The AIHA response to this proposed legislation focused on four key issues:

1. AIHA does not believe it is possible to define or set permissible exposure levels for "toxic mold".
2. AIHA is primarily concerned about standards for individuals involved with inspection and remediation of mold.

3. AIHA stresses the need for accredited laboratories to analyze mold samples.
4. AIHA feels the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) should be among the agencies designated to implement this legislation.

For a full text of the Letter, with recommendations, to Rep. Conyers on HR 5040, the Toxic Mold Safety and Protection Act AIHA Response HR 5040 Toxic Mold Safety. A more detailed analysis of this bill, along with AIHA's comments and suggestions is available - [Click here](#) to view document. For additional information regarding mold, [Click here](#) to visit the AIHA Mold Panel Press Conference.

Don't forget to check the MIHS Event Calendar on the website for upcoming meetings. Go to www.MIHSweb.org and click on the sidebar link "Event Calendar"

MIHS BALANCE SHEET

August 30, 2002

ASSETS

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Cash and Bank Accounts | |
| MIHS | 10,123.64 |
| SAVINGS | 23,932.90 |
| PETTY CASH | 60.32 |
| | ----- |
| TOTAL Cash and Bank Accts | 34,116.86 |

TOTAL ASSETS

34,116.86

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES0

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| EQUITY | 34,116.86 |
| | ----- |

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

34,116.86

Professional Conference on Industrial Hygiene

September 26 - October 1, 2002

The 17th Annual Professional Conference on Industrial Hygiene (PCIH), is occurring from Sept. 26 - Oct. 1, 2002, at the Hyatt Regency, in Cincinnati, Ohio. The annual event is sponsored by AIHA's Academy of Industrial Hygiene.

Save travel expenses - you don't have to buy a ticket; you can drive! [Click here](#) for program details and to register.

3 Educational Opportunities!

- ~ September 26-28: Risk Assessment Symposium
- ~ September 28-29: 9 Professional Development Courses & Management Certificate Course
- ~ September 30-October 1: PCIH: Thriving in Unpredictable Times

PCIH issues CEUs in accordance with the criteria of the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET). For general sessions and luncheon discussions, 0.1 CEU equals one hour of instructional contact time. For PDCs and Workshops, 1 day = 0.8 CEUs; ½ day = 0.4 CEUs.

CSPs receive one COC point for every one CEU awarded; CEUs are acceptable for COC points.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the 2002 PCIH.



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MIHS EVENTS

Gerald Plattenberg, President-Elect
Program Committee Chair

Register Now!

Thus far we have received an outstanding response to the September 17, 2002 PDC being offered in Frankenmuth at the Bavarian Inn Restaurant. This is our first session of the event calendar year and we already have 45 individuals registered for the half-day PDC. This year the PDC is titled "Isocyanates: Current Issues in Toxicology, Occupational Medicine, and Industrial Hygiene". Individuals from BASF Corporation, Dow Chemical Company, Bayer Corporation, and Huntsman Corporation will present this half-day course developed by the International Isocyanate Institute. ABIH will award 0.5 CM Points for participation in this PDC. There is still plenty of room for you to join your colleagues in Frankenmuth for an excellent session which includes a course CD and manual, continental breakfast, and networking luncheon. Go to the MIHS website event calendar at http://www.mihsweb.org/mihs_events.htm and register now. I hope you join us in Frankenmuth.

Annual MIHS Mini-Conference

The Annual MIHS Mini-Conference will be held October 29, 2002 at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy. The agenda for the conference provides the industrial hygienist with some of the "old" and some of the "new". This year's topics and speakers include:

Ultrafine Particulates

Dr. James Vincent, Chair and Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Michigan.

Lead: An Update

Mr. Harry Dryer, Michigan Department of Community Health, Lead Hazard Remediation Program.

Mercury: An Update

Mr. Brandon Boyle, Michigan Department of Community Health, Mercury Program Manager.

AIHA Update

Mr. Donald Hart, AIHA Board of Directors

Bioaerosols: Current Clinical Perspectives

Dr. Mark Upfall, Director of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Detroit Medical Center

Silica: National and International Update

Dr. Kenneth Rosenman, Director of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at Michigan State University.

The Insurance Industry and the "Mold Issue"

Speaker to be determined.

The full-day conference will include a continental breakfast and luncheon. MIHS is applying for 1.0 CM Point to be awarded by ABIH for participation in the conference. Go to the MIHS website at http://www.mihsweb.org/mihs_events.htm and register now.

Carey Pratt McCord Lecture

The annual Carey Pratt McCord Lecture and dinner, presented by MIHS in conjunction with the Michigan Occupational and Environmental Medical Association (MOEMA), will be held on November 7, 2002 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Somerset Inn in Troy. This year's lecture presented by Dr. Sandrok Cinti of the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) Biodefense Team is titled, "Bioterrorism: Ramifications in the Workplace".

Prior to the lecture MOEMA will be presenting a half-day scientific session with the topic of Radiation Health. The session will address ionizing radiation, biophysics, health effects and hazards in our society, medical treatment, and emergency power acts under consideration by our legislators. MIHS is in the process of applying for 0.5 ABIH CM Points for participation in this half-day session.

The Remaining Event Calendar

The remainder of the event calendar includes:

October 30, 2002

Eleventh Annual Safety Conference for Southeast Michigan - Northfield Hilton, Troy, Michigan.

January

PDC: Heat Stress/ Cold Stress

Speaker and Location to be determined

ABIH CM Points: 0.5 (requesting from ABIH)

February 11, 2002 (tentative)

Annual MIHS Student Night

March 17, 2002 (tentative)

Annual Past Presidents Breakfast / Management PDC

Speaker and Location will to be determined.

ABIH CM Points: 0.5 to 1.0 (requesting from ABIH)

The program committee is always looking for volunteers to help plan MIHS events throughout the year. Suggestions are also welcome. If you are interested or have a suggestion for an MIHS sponsored event, please contact me, or any other MIHS board member by visiting the MIHS website at www.mihsweb.org and dropping us a note. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming programs this year.

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Each year the activities of the MIHS have been supported by our Organizational Members. The MIHS appreciates the support and generosity of our Organizational Members.

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