



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer – Occupational Health
Monthly Newsletter June 2012

◆ **Maintaining Occupational Health Focus in Changing Times:**

More information about the 2012 Occupational Health Meeting at the Kennedy Space Center is now available on the OH website. [On-line registration](#) is also available and three hotels are accepting [reservations](#) for the meeting at a daily rate of \$99 per night plus tax. Each attendee is responsible for making their reservations. The deadline to reserve rooms at the meeting rate is Friday, August 3, 2012. A preliminary agenda will be posted as soon as available.

◆ **OSHA Inspections Found to Reduce Worker Injuries While Saving Employers Money:**

A new study by business school economists at the University of California and Harvard University entitled "[Randomized Government Safety Inspections Reduce Worker Injuries with No Detectable Job Loss.](#)" validates that OSHA's inspections prevent workers from getting hurt on the job while saving billions of dollars for employers through reduced workers' compensation costs. The study reports that workplace injury claims dropped 9.4% at businesses in the four years following a randomized OSHA inspection, compared with employers who were not inspected. Those same employers also saved an average of 26% on workers' compensation costs, compared to similar companies who were not inspected. On May 21, Assistant Secretary for OSHA David Michaels responded to the new findings stating the findings were not a surprise to him. The Assistant Secretary's full statement can be read at <http://social.dol.gov/blog/osha-saves-lives-and-jobs/>.



◆ **Who's Who Recognition:**

Cathy Angotti, Director of Occupational Health was recently selected for inclusion into the WorldWide Who's Who Registry of Executives, Professionals, and Entrepreneurs for 2012-2013 as a VIP member. She was further recognized as an expert resource in the field of Occupational Health qualifying her for publication in the Who's Who of the top 101 Industry Experts in the field of Occupational Health. Cathy's recognition is a tribute to all the NASA occupational health professionals, agency-wide, who have made NASA's preventive programs so outstanding through their hard work and dedication over the past three decades. Congratulations to Cathy for a recognition that is well deserved!



◆ **OSHA Renews Alliance with the Laser Institute of America:**

OSHA recently renewed its Alliance with the Laser Institute of America (LIA) in an effort to help broaden outreach efforts to workers and employers and share important educational information to reduce preventable injuries from laser beam and non-beam hazards in industrial, medical and research workplaces. The Alliance will also share information on laser regulations and standards, effects lasers have on the eyes and skin, laser control measures and laser safety program administration. Click on [OSHA-LIA](#) for more information about the Alliance.



◆ **SAARIS POC Reminder:** If you have been designated as the Point of Contact (POC) or Alternate POC for SAARIS at your Center, please be sure to request an account from SAARIS. To do this, go to the SAARIS website and [click here](#) to request an account located under the fields for username and password. The 3rd WebEx training session for Center POCs on using SAARIS for Center Self Reviews is currently scheduled for July 23 at 1 p.m. You should have already received

the invitation via e-mail. If you did not receive the invitation or know of others who would like an invitation to attend, please let OCHMO know.

◆ **OSHA Variance Approval Process:** To make the process of applying for a variance more transparent and straightforward and reduce the burden of preparing a complete and appropriate variance application, OSHA has posted new application forms and checklists to its [Variances page](#). For more information and to access the new materials, visit OSHA's page on [How to apply for a variance](#).

◆ **EHR Update:** The Health Unit and Industrial Hygiene staffs at the Dryden Space Flight Center (DSFC) were trained on Medgate Medical and Industrial Hygiene modules in April. Both are now live and doing great. Preparations are underway for the Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) training in June. The Electronic Health Record System (EHR) will go live at MSFC the week of June 11, 2012. Both the Medical Health Unit and the IH staff will be receiving the Medgate GX training.

◆ **Tribute to Dr. Mike Duncan:** On Memorial Day, we were very saddened to learn that Dr. James (Mike) Duncan was involved in a fatal mid-air collision in Virginia while operating his personal aircraft on a training mission oriented towards flight safety. Dr. Duncan came to NASA as a flight surgeon, eventually assuming leadership of space medicine operations. A tribute from OCHMO has been uploaded to the [OH website](#). It is a testament to Dr. Duncan's skill as a physician and medical leader.



◆ **New CIH at Ames:** The NASA OH community is pleased to announce the hiring of a new industrial hygienist, Wai Kwong Kan, at the Ames Research Center (ARC). Prior to joining NASA, Wai Kwong worked as a Bioenvironmental Engineer with the United States Air Force for 14 years. He served as a base radiation safety officer for six years. He has a Master of Public Health and is board certified in industrial hygiene. Also a former Peace Corps Volunteer, Wai Kwong served as a water sanitation engineer in Mali, West Africa, for 2 years. The expertise Wai Kwong brings to the ARC occupational health team will certainly be an asset to ensuring the health and safety of the employees there. Welcome Wai Kwong!



◆ **NASA OH Center Review Calendar:**

- Wallops Flight Facility, June 4-8



◆ **Upcoming OH ViTs & Webinars:**

- Special ViTs – It's Not About Anger, Renee Davis of the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence: June 12, 1:00-2:00 EST
- Health Promotion & Wellness Quarterly ViTs – June 5, 1:30-2:30 EST – **CANCELLED**
- JSC Fitness & Nutrition ViTs – Resistance Training for an Aging Population - June 6, 2:30-3:30 EST
- JSC Fitness & Nutrition ViTs – Nutrition and Disease Prevention – June 12, 11:30-12:30 EST
- Federal Workers' Compensation ViTs – **RESCHEDULED** – New date, June 13, 11:30-12:30 EST

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