

The AIHA Connection

Alberta Local Section Newsletter March 2007 | Volume 11, Issue II

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2007 - 2008**

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President's Message from the desk of.....Shivi Thusoo

Wow! Kudos to the executive team, in particular to Luisa Su for putting together a great symposium and Tiffany Clayton for our PDC on bio-safety. We are in discussions with all of our presenters to post PDF versions of their presentations on our website. I also need to thank our sponsors, including Concept Controls as our gold sponsor and Hydroqual Laboratories and CanTEST Laboratories as our respective silver sponsors. Finally, thanks to those of you made the time to come out and support the local section.

As this is my final column as President, I want to take this opportunity to thank the current executive for all of their hard work and dedicated service to the local section during a period of extremely intense work activity in North America's hottest economy! Despite everyone's busy schedule we were able to accomplish a number of initiatives, including:

1. Bridge gaps with other associations and cross market our activities, including the CSSE and AOHNA,
2. Ongoing preparation of an executive administration manual to ease transition between executive and lower general expenses,
3. Roll-out a mentorship program that connects existing learners with established mentors,
4. Participation in local and national section committees from the OEL Working Committee to the national Canadian Council of Occupational Hygiene (CCOH), and AIHA – National Local Section Committee, and
5. Representation of AIHA members interests on local conference developments and issues that present themselves.

Of course, all of this does not happen without extensive support and involvement from people outside of the executive. We have received a tremendous amount of support from our membership in volunteer capacities in all of these ventures. So, thank-you! Please continue to stay involved and encourage others to get involved. There are committees and activities that we can use your expertise in from policy and planning to engaging students to think about industrial hygiene as a profession, to reminding industry about our profession. You may also consider becoming a formal mentor and assist a learner in pursuing advanced education and/or certification in industrial hygiene.

As I move into the role of Past-President, I hope to maintain the level of leadership and assistance that Ina Hildebrand provided to both Luisa and I. This brings me to the pleasure of announcing our new executive for 2007 – 2008, including:

President:	Luisa Su
President-Elect:	Roy Clough
Treasurer:	Rick Adams
Secretary:	Nasrin Dhanani
Certification Maintenance Points Director:	Tracy Carr
Education Director:	Tiffany Clayton
Membership Director:	Rhonda Lee Curran
Newsletter Director:	Rhiannon Filip
Public Relations Director:	Mike Mills
Webmaster:	Brent Yaschuk
Past-President:	Shivi Thusoo

I will miss working directly with Ina, Joanna MacDonald and Chris Taylor, but I look forward to helping Luisa and the new executive achieve our goals!

Membership Director's Corner

By Rhonda Lee Curran



Josh Cavanagh
Dr. Hooman Golshahi
Robert Normore

Sarita Balderson
Corry Devos
Andrew Grant
Nina Novak

Angela Bianco
Cathy Dumschat
Lidia Maldonado
Edward Stuber

Len Braget
Restita Espiritu
Kristy Mauracher
Dorrie Wiwcharuk

Charles Campbell
Sherry Filliol
Greg Moore

As of March 24, 2007, we have approximately 239 members in total – the largest yet! Please join the executive in a grand welcome to our newest members from 2007! ... (drum roll please)...

If you move or change jobs, please ensure that you forward me your up-to-date contact information. It is used for our newsletters and is included in the Membership Directory. On that note, the following current members are “MIA” – please let you know if you or a colleague’s name is on this list!

Robert Bardal
Doug Linman

Molly Huiming Chen
Eric Reitsma

Patrick Devlin
David Usher

Carole Hunter

The Membership Director may be contacted at:

AIHA AB Section – Membership Director
c/o Rhonda Lee Curran
314 - 84 Street SW
Edmonton AB T6X 1H8
Phone: 780-960-8600 or 780-433-7741
Email: AIHA-ABmembership@hotmail.com

Please note that, unless you have already paid or became a new member since October 2006, your **2007 annual membership fee** is past due. Less than 25% of our members have paid their renewal dues so far. Please respond to the attached dues reminder. We don't want to lose you from the membership directory! Options for payment include: **cheque** for **\$35.00** payable to the **Alberta Section - AIHA** mailed to the address to the left and **on-line** payment at the AIHA local section website.

Thanks to those who have already paid their dues for this year. If you are unsure if you have paid, please contact me by e-mail.

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Calendar of Events 2007

May – PIASS in Banff
June – Noise Conference in Banff
June – CCOH Teleweb Seminar
June 4 to 8 – AIHce Conference in Philadelphia
September – Nanotechnology Conference in Edmonton
October – Edmonton & Calgary Social Events
November 5 to 7 – Fall PDC & H&S Conference in Calgary
March 27 & 28, 2008 – PDC and Symposium in Edmonton

A Message from the Education Director by Tiffany Clayton

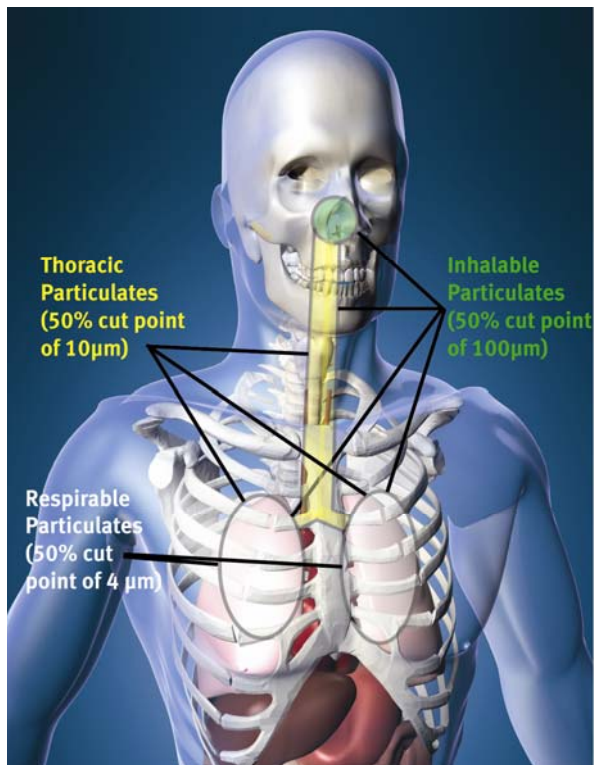


The professional development course - Biosafety, which was held on March 22, 2007, was well received by all participants. The course was attended by thirty-four health and safety professionals. Ms. Corrine Harris brought a great deal of enthusiasm and expertise to the subject. This course covered the recognition, assessment and control of biological materials, using a video exercise and classroom discussion.

Mark your calendar for our upcoming professional development course, which will be held in conjunction with the Alberta Health and Safety Conference the week of November 5, 2006 in Calgary. As we were very successful with our attendance last year, my goal is to continue to have the course held on the Monday. We are considering the following topics: welding and cutting fumes, industrial ergonomics, and occupational asthma. Be sure to read the next newsletter for details on the topic and presenter selected.

Laboratory Methods of Sizing Particulates

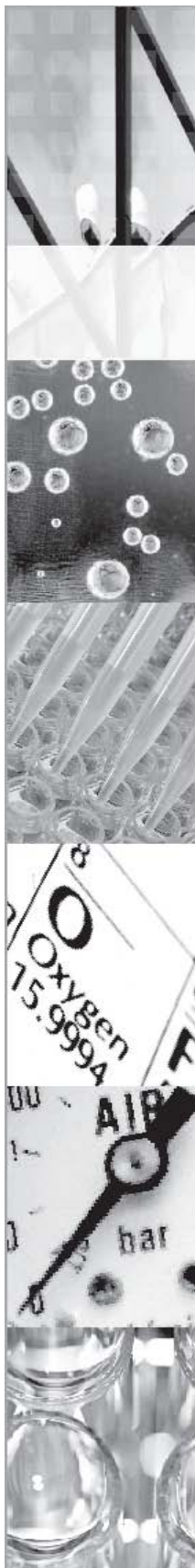






Written by: Chad Born, BSc, MBA, CIH
Manager, IH and Microbiology, CANTEST Ltd.



The oldest laboratory techniques of sizing particulates are known as “dust counting”, and involve a manual method of measuring and counting individual particles under a microscope. Now, laboratories determine particle size using much less labour intensive methods, generally called mechanical separation. With mechanical separation, the sizing is done during sampling. There are many size-selective sampling devices that allow reasonably specific size ranges to be determined. Cyclones, fine particulate matter samplers (PM samplers), and inhalable samplers are a few of the possibilities available to today’s hygienist.

Most size selective samplers involve a gravimetric weighing as part of their analysis. Laboratories generally pre-weigh specific filters for the required analysis. This involves removing all electrical charges and controlling humidity, temperature and air movement at each weighing session. The gravimetric work includes laboratory filter controls, lab blanks, field blanks, duplicates, and reference weights. After sampling, the filter is re-weighed following the same protocols.

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Industrial Hygienist

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(Term Employment) Calgary, Alberta

Under the supervision of highly experienced senior hygienists, you will experience hands-on field work with control program as you provide industrial hygiene support to petroleum production (upstream) operations in Western Canada. As a team player part of a global network of industrial hygienist, you will identify, evaluate and control health hazards within the workplace. As well, using appropriate measuring techniques for making and interpreting exposure measurements, you will conduct industrial hygiene surveys. Your strong communication skills will ensure accurate details, results and conclusions are reported to all personnel involved.

Learn about Canada's Oil & Gas industry in this excellent career opportunity rife with growth, mentorship and career development. Our company offers an attractive salary and benefits program as well as relevant training programs to further develop skills in key competency areas. The following prerequisites are required for this position:

- B.Sc. degree in chemistry, engineering or a related biological science
- M.Sc. degree in industrial or occupational hygiene
- Minimum 3 years of experience
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Valid Driver's License

Please forward your resume, stating the name of the position and job code IOL-E, by April 13, 2007 to Imperial Oil Ltd; Fifth Avenue Place, RM. 18045, 237 Fourth Ave S.W, Calgary, AB T2P 3M9; Fax: (403) 237-2138.

Imperial Oil Limited is committed to providing equitable treatment and equal opportunity to all individuals. Imperial Oil Limited may use your application to consider your suitability for other positions in Imperial Oil Limited, or any other Imperial company operating in Canada, or may disclose your application to any company that is partially owned by Imperial Oil Limited so that such company may consider your suitability for positions with it. We thank all those for applying, however only those candidates selected for interviews will be contacted via e-mail. Applicants must be permanently eligible to work in Canada. Proof of eligibility may come in the form of a certified copy of a Canadian birth certificate, Canadian citizenship certificate or a Canadian certificate of permanent residence. Pre-employment background screening will be required for applicants selected to be interviewed.

For more information about opportunities at Imperial Oil, visit our Web site at:

www.imperialoil.ca



Leadership Workshop

by Luisa Su

This year, the AIHA Leadership Workshop was held in Falls Church, Virginia, from March 2 to March 4, 2007. I found the weekend to be a great opportunity to meet and network with representatives from many local sections. There were 63 representatives from local sections, 60 from volunteer groups and 13 student members.

For me, a highlight of the event was a workshop held by Peggy Hoffman and Peter Houstle of Mariner Management and Marketing LLC. Mariner conducted an assessment of AIHA Local Sections (LS) that included a scan of all relevant documents, surveys and reports, conversations with LS Council Project team, LS leaders, members and staff, and a review of similar organizations. At issue is a declining membership in LS, increasing struggle to recruit volunteers, and an overall declining involvement of members in LS activities. The assessment included a report showing were LS are today (as a collective group), it identified issues and areas of concern (time and financial constraints being 2 of them), considered the change in demographics (i.e. change in job roles, responsibilities, commitments), and offered strategies to move forward.

I found the workshop extremely useful because it provided some indicators to work towards achieving a 'successful' 2007 Alberta local section.

Although the 2 ½ days were action-packed, there were also plenty of fun activities, such as a dinner and dessert mixer and a wonderful reception at the AIHA headquarters. I am absolutely certain that I have not done justice in explaining the work done by Mariner in these short lines, so if any of you would like to receive copies of the documents, please contact me at 780-497-4230 or at sul@macewan.ca

A Message from the President Elect

by Luisa Su

This year's Symposium & Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Friday March 23, 2007 at the Royal Executive Inn in Calgary, with approximately seventy people in attendance. In the morning, the event consisted of a Nanotechnology presentation by Greg Nilsson of the National Institute of Nanotechnology, an Emergency Response presentation by Jared Serviss of Calgary Disaster Services and the AGM.

During the AGM, elections for the positions of president-elect, secretary and webmaster were held. Running for: president-elect were Roy Clough and Jodi Howick; webmaster were Ina Hildebrand and Brent Yaschuk; secretary was Nasrin Dhanani.

After voting, ballots were submitted to the 'MacDonald, Carr and Mills Electoral Panel' for counting and the results were as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| ▪ President-Elect | Roy Clough |
| ▪ Secretary | Nasrin Dhanani |
| ▪ Webmaster | Brent Yaschuk |

Congratulations to the new executive members! And, kudos to everyone who came forward to run for the positions. It has been a while since we have had so many members interested in running for the executive.

After a wonderful Chinese food buffet, the afternoon's first presentation was by Gene Shematek of GMS & Associates Ltd., on the topic of 'Putting OH&S on the CEO's Radar'. The final presentation of the day was by Barb Bayer of ALS Labs, who covered the topic of 'Mould – Here, There and Everywhere'.

It was excellent that so many of you came to the meeting. Please remember to reserve the Thursday and Friday during the third week of March, for next year's AIHA PDC and symposium. Talk to you soon!

Presentation of Awards

At our last AGM (March 23, 2007), the AIHA Alberta Section had the honour of presenting awards to the following members in celebration of their achievements:



Past-President Recognition (Award presented by Shivi Thusoo)

In recognition and appreciation of her dedicated time, energy and service; we would like to thank Ina Hildebrand for her term as our Local Section President.

Thank you Ina and we look forward to you, someday, contributing to another vital role on our Local Section Executive.

Best of the future to you!

Long Service Recognition

We celebrated and expressed our appreciation of Chris Taylor on his 10th Anniversary on the AIHA Alberta Section Executive.

Thank you, Chris and Congratulations!

Symposium Feedback Form Draw

The winner of the Starbucks Certificate was...

Angela Bianco

Enjoy!

Award of Excellence

This year the Award of Excellence was presented by Mark Rice to Grace Bowditch.

Congratulations Grace – Recipient of the 2007 AIHA Local Section Award of Excellence!

Words used to describe Grace were:

- Contributor to advancement of Occupational Hygiene
- Having an inviting personality
- Selfless
- She has mentored many new professionals and assisted her peers in increasing their knowledge of industrial hygiene.
- And she's smart!



CROSS-ASSOCIATION MARKETING INITIATIVES

~ Rhonda Lee Curran ~ Membership Director ~

One of the AIHA AB Section's key initiatives for 2006/2007 is to approach other OH&S (occupational health and safety) related associations to develop formal partnerships for knowledge-based training and networking. So what does that mean?

Essentially, we're looking for opportunities such as information sharing on upcoming education sessions through emails between associations, inclusion in newsletters/mail-outs, etc. By advertising AIHA AB Section-hosted events to other associations, and vice versa, we could boost awareness and enrolment at more training sessions/events, with the benefit for all in the OH&S profession. Another example could be collaborating to offer a conference/training course with the same time frame and location (i.e. concurrent activities), such as something held during the same week as our annual 2-day conference in the spring.

So far, we have approached the CSSE (Canadian Society for Safety Engineering) Alberta chapters and the AOHNA (Alberta Occupational Health Nurses Association) with our proposal. I was successful in contacting Corey Papp of the CSSE Edmonton Chapter at a recent CSSE "Meet and Greet". He is the Director of Association Relationships, a position that was actually formed to investigate initiatives such as ours.

The outlook is positive but there is a long way to go yet. We'll keep you posted on our progress, and any other associations we approach. If you have any questions, you may contact either Mike Mills (our PR Director, at Mike.Mills@gov.ab.ca or phone 780-422-6237) or myself (at AIHA-ABmembership@hotmail.com or 780-960-8600), who are championing this initiative.

2007 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY ON ITS WAY!

The Membership Directory will be ready for distribution to all AIHA AB Section members in MAY.

Please ensure that the contact information you provided to us is the most up-to-date and is the preferred information (i.e. home vs. work) to be included in the Membership Directory. This information is also used for our newsletter mail-outs and e-mail reminders. Furthermore, any members who have not paid their 2007 annual dues by the end of April will unfortunately not be included in the 2007 published directory.

If you have any questions or updates, please email me at AIHA-ABmembership@hotmail.com. ~ Rhonda Lee Curran ~

Laboratory Methods of Sizing Particulates

...continued from page 3

Most size selective samplers involve a gravimetric weighing as part of their analysis. Laboratories generally pre-weigh specific filters for the required analysis. This involves removing all electrical charges and controlling humidity, temperature and air movement at each weighing session. The gravimetric work includes laboratory filter controls, lab blanks, field blanks, duplicates, and reference weights. After sampling, the filter is re-weighed following the same protocols.

Inhalable dust, new to many hygienists, is dust which has a 50% cut point at 100 μm . Inhalable dust is most closely related to total dust but don't confuse the two. They are not the same. Total dust is simply, described as dust which is collected by simply drawing air through a 37 mm pre-weighed filter at a flow rate between 1 and 2 L/min. With total dust, the assumption is that all dust sizes in the aerosol are collected (which may not actually be a good assumption due to significant losses often experienced during total particulate sampling). Inhalable dust is similar to total dust but considered to more accurately describe particle sizes of concern due to a set cut point and ability to collect and retain all particulates collected during sampling in normal work environments. Therefore, it is not acceptable to use a total dust sample as justification for meeting an inhalable dust limit. In fact, there is data to suggest that inhalable dust sampling, even though it limits the size of particulates collected, actually collects more than total particulate sampling.



Particulate cut points have allowed us to sample for specific sized particles and particulate aerodynamic equivalent size has allowed us to accurately predict to which areas of the body particulates will distribute themselves. From a laboratory's perspective, thankfully, now with particulate samples we no longer have to manually count and size millions of particles (note: fibre in air counts are still performed in a similar manner to the "dust counting" techniques of the 1920s)!

*Written by Chad Born, BSc, MBA, CIH and Director of Industrial Hygiene and Microbiology at CANTEST Ltd.
For over ten years, Mr. Born has managed and conducted many thousands of analyses for CANTEST.*



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