

DIPLOMATE

Summer 2007

A Message From the Editor

By Michel Crépeau, CIH, ROH

In this issue, John Mulhausen, Academy president, provides an update on the Academy's role within the AIHA. For those of you unfamiliar with the inner workings of the Academy and AIHA, you will find the article informative about how your association continues to improve its practices in support of more effective support of the profession.

Jas Singh, Academy president elect, provides a global perspective on the practice of industrial hygiene and the impact of AIHA and the Academy internationally.

Lastly, as the end of summer approaches it is time, if you have not already done so, to plan for the upcoming PCIH in Louisville, Kentucky. AIHA staff has developed a great "buzz" sheet about the conference which is included in this issue. Those of you who have never attended a PCIH will find the theme and format somewhat different than the larger scale AIHce held in the spring. However, this difference provides a more focused networking opportunity and increased interactive discussion with the speakers. As a member of the Academy Conference Team, I can also share with you that participants at each PCIH include many IH professionals in leadership roles and the conference program provides a forum to discuss both technical and strategic issues impacting the profession. I look forward to seeing many of you in Louisville!

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PCIH 2007 Includes Exciting Programming for Its Louisville-Bound Conference

Occupational and environmental health and safety professionals will gather in Louisville, Kentucky, home of the famous Kentucky Derby, for the Professional Conference on Industrial Hygiene, October 20–23. PCIH will bring together more than 350 colleagues looking to stay current with trends, find solutions to everyday issues, and network with peers.

Professional development courses, general sessions, workshops, and small group discussions will equip attendees with the information needed to excel and stay at the top of the field, plus, earn up to six CM points. PCIH is sponsored by the Academy of Industrial Hygiene.

"PCIH brings together professionals from various specialties to provide a unique opportunity to meet with and learn from some of the best minds in the industrial hygiene field," said Academy President John R. Mulhausen, PhD, CIH. "PCIH provides a forum to discuss current trends, to learn from experts, and to develop practical applications to tackle the issues OEHS professionals face daily."

Attendees will also take full advantage of the opportunity to view the latest products and services and meet with industry representatives at PCIH's exposition. Expo hours are 8 a.m.–1 p.m. and 5:30–6:30 p.m. on October 22 and 8 a.m.–noon on October 23.

Highlights planned for the 2007 conference include:

- Pre-conference symposia addresses bringing toxicology to global issues in occupational and environmental public health.
- Weekend PDCs discussing topics such as life safety engineering; industrial hygienists as experts in trial and depositions; noise control engineering; applied industrial ergonomics; leadership and communication skills; Bayesian statistics; auditing health and safety management systems; mold, moisture, and the science within the building envelope; and particles and health.
- Cutting-edge general session speakers, including Kirsty Duncan, PhD, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, on "Hunting the 1918 Flu: One Scientist's Search for a Killer Virus," and Dennis S. Palalay, MHS, Industrial Hygiene Field Services, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM), Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland, on "OHS Challenges in the Midst of War and Disaster." John Mulhausen, PhD, CIH, AIH president, St. Paul, Minnesota; Daniel Agopsowicz, CIH, AIH past president, Supply, North Carolina; and Lindsay Booher, CIH, CSP, AIHA president-elect, Fairfax, Virginia, will speak at the Tuesday general session on "The Academy's Role in AIHA: Maximizing Our Potential."
- Breakfast and luncheon discussions offering attendees opportunities for small-group discussions on topics such as the 1918 influenza pandemic, industrial hygiene in the courtroom, asbestos, and environmental health and safety credentialing.
- Solutions workshops on global harmonization, exposure reconstruction, new perspectives on long standing industrial hygiene issues, clandestine methamphetamine laboratories from initial investigation to remediation, business continuity management, technology and media-based industrial hygiene training, ethical fitness, and improving professional judgment.
- Two tracks of concurrent sessions: "Technical" and "Strategic."
- A technical tour of the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory.

Aside from the education program and experiencing the expo, past registrants say the primary reason they attend PCIH is the ease of networking with leaders in their profession. This year's PCIH offers more networking opportunities – "Meet 'n Greet" lounges on the expo floor for impromptu and planned meetings and a fun-filled excursion aboard the Spirit of Jefferson Riverboat. After a day full of energizing sessions and thought-provoking meetings, participants may enjoy Louisville attractions, including the Louisville Slugger Museum, Churchill Downs, home to the famous Kentucky Derby, the Muhammad Ali Center, or just winding down while listening to legendary bluegrass music.

The deadline to register in advance, purchase tickets, and make hotel reservations is September 21, 2007. After September 21, participants may register at the Louisville Marriott Downtown. Badges, tickets, and final programs will be available at the conference. On-site registration opens Friday, October 19, 2007, 4–6 p.m.

For detailed conference information and registration, including a schedule of planned PDCs and education sessions, visit www.pcih2007.org. For more information contact Kim Bacon, AIHA's assistant manager of Academy relations, at (703) 846-0780 or kbacon@aiha.org. Come to PCIH 2007 and find your track to worldwide solutions!

Academy Council Will Focus on Advancing the Field of Professional Industrial Hygiene in 2007–2008

The results of the 2007 election for the Academy of Industrial Hygiene Council are in.

The new council members will assume office on October 24, at the Academy Council meeting after the annual PCIH in Louisville, Kentucky, October 20–23. This meeting will also mark the beginning of the term of Brad T. Garber, PhD, CIH, DABT, CSP, as president; Jaswant Singh, PhD, CIH, as president-elect; and

John R. Mulhausen, PhD, CIH, as past president.

New council members include:

- Donna Doganiero, CIH, Vice-President
- Steven P. Levine, PhD, CIH, Secretary-Treasurer
- Nicole M. H. Greeson, CIH, Councilor

The Academy's remaining councilors for 2007–2008 are Mario J.H. Vasquez, CIH, Lawrence W. Whitehead, PhD, CIH, and Thomas C. Ouimet, MPH, MBA, CIH, CSP.

Through the elected council and its members, the Academy focuses on recruitment and training of certified industrial hygienists; promotion of the value of certified industrial hygienists to government, industry, and labor; advancement of the American Board of Industrial Hygiene certification process; and education and accountability in the Code of Ethics for the Professional Practice of Industrial Hygiene. All AIHA members who are certified industrial hygienists are members of the Academy.

"The Academy works to provide leadership in advancing the professional field of industrial hygiene to ensure healthful and safe working conditions in various occupations and industries," said Academy President John R. Mulhausen, PhD, CIH.

For further information regarding the 2007 Academy elections, please contact Kim Bacon, AIHA's assistant manager of membership and Academy relations, at (703) 846-0780 or kbacon@aiha.org.

The Academy's Role in AIHA: Maximizing Our Potential

By John Mulhausen, PhD, CIH

As I mentioned in the last issue of the *eDiplomate*, Academy members make up a disproportionately high percentage of the volunteer leadership positions within AIHA. This is not surprising, as the Academy is comprised of all certified industrial hygienists (CIHs) in AIHA, and CIHs represent the highest professional level of industrial hygiene practitioner. What is perhaps more surprising, given the number of CIHs and their demonstrated commitment to excellence, leadership, and dedication to the professional practice of industrial hygiene, is the fact that so many CIHs are not fully engaged in the activities of AIHA and the Academy. One cannot help but wonder about the great things that could be achieved in the profession if the potential of the group were fully realized.

It is just such "what-if" thinking that drove the Academy to review its structure and role within AIHA during the past year. This culminated in early 2007 when a task team of Academy and AIHA leadership, senior AIHA staff and invited guests met to determine whether changes in structure and/or function could be made that would better leverage the huge potential of the Academy membership for the mutual benefit of the two organizations and for the profession. Goals for the team were to explore options and find mutual ground for action. There were significant points of agreement:

1. The AIHA and the entire IH community can benefit from a more vital, defined and aligned Academy;
2. The structure and integration of the Academy can be reshaped within AIHA to optimize the missions of both the Academy and AIHA; and
3. Changes are best phased in carefully, but initial steps can be taken immediately.

Those initial steps began at the AIHce in June with the instatement of the Academy president as an ex-officio member of the AIHA Board of Directors. In that role the Academy president will advise the AIHA Board on matters of importance to CIHs and work with the board to identify opportunities to further energize and engage the CIH community.

The steps continued in July when the leadership of the Academy and AIHA met during the AIHA strategic planning meeting to discuss opportunities and barriers, and to outline additional steps for moving forward. Those next steps include:

1. A review of Academy activities to determine opportunities for more effective championing of certified industrial hygienists in AIHA.
2. More active engagement by the Academy in relevant aspects of AIHA's strategic plan.
3. Participation by AIHA senior staff in Academy Council meetings to identify opportunities for improved coordination and new synergistic activities.
4. Ongoing meetings between the leadership of the AIHA Board and Academy Council to review progress and determine future opportunities for structural change that will better enhance relationships and improve engagement of CIHs.

I am extremely excited about these changes and the opportunities they represent for AIHA, the Academy, and industrial hygiene professionals (that's you!). Stay tuned for more information about an enhanced working relationship between the Academy and AIHA, and opportunities for you to become engaged in meaningful contributions – whether as an aspiring CIH or as a seasoned professional who has long ago achieved the CIH designation and has significant knowledge, expertise and leadership to share.

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Global Academy

By Jas Singh, PhD, CIH

Imagine a global organization of professional industrial hygienists dedicated to protecting worker health and wellbeing anywhere on the planet. Now stretch your imagination a little further and imagine PCIH 2020. Certified professional industrial hygienists from many corners of the world are gathered to discuss emerging industrial hygiene issues in the fast changing workplace in a flat world and figuring out how industrial hygiene resources can be made available to millions of workers in every corner of the world. Represented at this conference are academy chapters from around the world. Many others who could not be there in person are gathered in auditoriums linked to this great event via web links. Looking around you notice a cultural mosaic of nationalities, languages, and a myriad of colorful costumes instead of the standard drab gray business attire we are used to seeing.

Now come down to earth. While PCIH 2020 may be just a wild dream at this point, the idea of a professional organization representing the core of the industrial hygiene profession is not so wild. The Academy is unique in the sense that while there are now many IH associations, some of those well established and active, The Academy of Industrial Hygiene is the only organization (as far as I know) that is composed of certified industrial hygienists.

While we earnestly explore ideas for the Academy to play a more significant role than its current activities, one area where I am convinced that the Academy (its 5,000 members) can play a major role is in promoting the IH profession, in addition to fulfilling the interests of its Diplomates on a global level.

While practicing industrial hygiene in various parts of the world, I have always felt that the AIHA has much to offer to the global occupational health and safety community. More recently, I have observed that even if the overall sentiment in a particular country is not very pro-American these days, they all admire what the United States has done to the development of the Industrial Hygiene profession. This includes the contribution of AIHA to enhance the IH profession through various programs such as the ABIH certification, the Laboratory Accreditation program, and two excellent conferences—AIHce and PCIH among others.

Of the various programs, products, and concepts that AIHA has given to the worldwide health and safety community, three of its institutions/concepts are particularly notable in my opinion. These include preparation materials for ABIH certification exams, lab accreditation, and the concept of the Academy of Industrial Hygiene which is composed of certified, core professional hygienists. It amazes me (and pleases me) how sought after the CIH examinations are becoming especially in the developing Asian countries. Although the number of CIHs and CIH applicants in the developing Asian economies at this time is

increasing, this number is likely to grow rapidly as more and more candidates acquire IH work experience and become eligible to sit for the exam.

While we have begun to export the ABIH certification and the lab certification programs (not actively enough in my opinion), we have not given much thought to globalize the Academy concept to forge partnerships and foster the creation of a global organization. Developing this will certainly put AIHA in a solid lead as the premier organization in the IH profession.

I know questions will be raised as to how long we can sustain our leadership role in granting IH certifications or accrediting industrial hygiene labs before others come up with their own certification/accreditation programs and what about IOHA? Does the global academy concept bump against what the IOHA is doing? Well, I am not sure to what extent we will encounter those "bumps" and to what extent, if any, the Academy concept conflicts with IOHA's mission but we haven't even explored this issue at a basic level.

I believe the time is now to do this before the opportunity slips away.

Singh is the president-elect of the Acedemy of Industrial Hygiene. He can be reached at JSingh@golder.com.