



## Pittsburgh Local Section

551 Center Church Road-McMurray, PA 15317  
<http://www.ahha.org/pittsburgh.htm>



### Message from the President— Julie Panko, CIH

End of Summer Greetings Local Section Members!

I hope that you all had a restful and relaxing summer, but its time to take off those flip-flops and get back to work!! John Holleran, President-Elect of the Pittsburgh Section and the Program Committee have been busy putting together what I believe is an excellent program schedule for our group this year. As always, the Program Committee is open to new ideas for speakers or presentations, so if you have an idea for a topic or become aware of a speaker you'd like to hear in Pittsburgh, just drop John a note.

As you may have also noticed, we have a new look to our local section website. Thanks to Christy Kirsch's talent and creativity we have an awesome looking website that is also highly functional AND current! One of the new features that has gotten a bit of use lately is the job postings link. This link is available to members whose firm or company has a job opening – just send your info to Christy and she will get it posted. Christy is always open to new ideas for the site. I would also like to use our site to promote the accomplishments and technical expertise of the members of our local section and those in the local OEHS community by listing new papers and presentations. So if you have received acceptance for a paper or presentation at a technical conference, we'd like to know about it! We have many experts on a variety of topics right here in our own backyard and I think this is one of the best ways to continue to promote IHs and our diverse skill sets. Don't be bashful; consider it career and professional development!

Lastly, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the 28 members who have agreed to volunteer their time and energy this year on various committees. Your participation is critical to the success of the local section and is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you all at the September meeting.

*Julie Panko*

### Meeting Announcement - Sept. 15: AIHA TeleWeb Virtual Seminar - Fundamentals of Biosafety for OEHS Professionals

Our next local section meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 15. We will host an AIHA TeleWeb Virtual Seminar entitled "Fundamentals of Biosafety for OEHS Professionals" presented by Janice Flescher, M.S. CBSP.

**Course Description:** Occupational biohazards exist in many workplace settings. This course will teach the basic principles of biological safety. Although specific biohazards will be discussed, emphasis will be directed toward the development of risk assessment skills whereby the student develops the ability to recognize, evaluate, and control occu-

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**Cathy Padolewski—440-836-7454**

## September Meeting Announcement *(Continued from page 1)*

pational biohazards. Relevant regulatory requirements are addressed to the extent that the student is introduced to new and existing mandates. A discussion of methods used to control biohazard exposure will be presented, including work practices and engineering controls.

The details are as follows:

- Date:** Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2004
- Time:** 12:30 p.m. to ~4:30 p.m.  
Lunch - 12:30 - 1:15  
Meeting - 1:15 to 2:00  
TeleWeb Seminar - 2:00 to 4:30
- Location:** **Holiday Inn Greentree**  
401 Holiday Drive  
Pittsburgh PA 15220
- Cost:** Buffet Lunch \$17.50, TeleWeb Seminar \$50
- To Register:** Please register using our [online registration form](#). However, if you wish to register by phone, contact John Holleran at 412-261-2910 or email at [jholleran@ensr.com](mailto:jholleran@ensr.com). Note: You may choose to register for the lunch, meeting or seminar individually. Just make a note in the “comments” section of the online registration form.

### Local Section Website

#### Improvements

Have you had a chance to check out our updated website? We've been busy this summer creating a more user-friendly site with updated information including web pages for Job Postings and a useful Resources/Links page. We will be regularly updating our website, so if you haven't already—add the site to your “favorites” and keep up-to-date on the happenings of our Local Section! Contact our [Website Coordinator](#) Christy Kirsch with any questions or comments or if you have information / announcements you'd like posted.

## Corporate Sponsorship 2004-2005

Our Local Section Corporate Sponsorship Drive is underway! So far we've had commitments from several member organizations who are recognized at the end of this article and on our website. Corporate Sponsors who contribute \$150 are listed on our “Corporate Sponsors” webpage with a link to their corporate website. We are also accepting Newsletter sponsors who would like to advertise in our monthly newsletter. Your organization can place an advertisement in one or more issues of our monthly newsletter. Advertising rates vary depending on ad size / no. of issues. All sponsors are recognized at our meetings and in at least 2 issues of our newsletter. Your generous contributions help defray the costs associated with our monthly meetings, seminars and facility tours, as well as the general operating expenses of our local section. Please contact [Frank Pokrywka](#), Chairman—Corporate Sponsorship Committee for more information.

Thank you to the following member organizations who have already submitted their Corporate Sponsorship contribution for 2004-2005:

AM Health & Safety, Inc.  
Draeger Safety, Inc.  
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.  
Pro-Am Safety, Inc.  
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ChemRisk, Inc.  
Galson Laboratories, Inc.  
Premier Safety & Service, Inc.  
Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.

## IARC Classifies Formaldehyde as Carcinogenic to Humans (submitted by Dan Hagerty)

On June 14th the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Working Group recommended reclassification of formaldehyde from a "probable" to a "known" carcinogen. IARC is part of the World Health Organization and one of its responsibilities is to organize reviews of scientific data to determine whether, using its own rating system, a material is a human carcinogen.

In 1987 IARC classified formaldehyde as a 2A "probable human carcinogen". IARC considered new studies of formaldehyde again in 1995 and maintained the rating at 2A. These previous classifications were based on a finding of "sufficient" evidence of carcinogenicity in animals, but only "limited" evidence in humans. The current reclassification appears to be based on studies in which individuals occupationally exposed over thirty to sixty years ago to high doses of formaldehyde developed a rare cancer of the nasopharyngeal cavity. IARC determined that the same studies were not considered sufficient to establish a causal association with other forms of cancer.

IARC convened a "Working Group" of scientists to review newly available scientific data. IARC scheduled this evaluation because external advisory committee recommendation that formaldehyde be reevaluated with

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### **NEW MEMBER**

Please welcome **Paul Hewett Ph.D., CIH**,  
President of Exposure Assessment Solutions, Inc. in Morgantown, West Virginia to our local section.

# CMS Chip Measurement System



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## Conference and Seminar Announcements

### Indoor Air Quality Association Annual Meeting MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada—Sept. 27-30, 2004

The Indoor Air Quality Association (IAQA) and the National Air Filtration Association will hold combined annual meetings this year for the first time ever! In a move designed to create a more dynamic meeting with expanded educational and exhibit opportunities, both associations will conduct their conventions side-by-side, sharing a common exposition hall and running several joint sessions. *Fellow member, John Rindy, CIE—Quality Assurance Manager for U.S. Micro-Solutions will present "Fungal Assessments: Fungal Ecology and Count Comparisons" at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 28, 2004.* His presentation will focus on correlations between the condition ratings under IICRC-S520 and measured bioaerosol levels. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the IAQA website (www.iaqa.com).

### PCIH 2004 Conference

#### Le Centre Sheraton in Montréal, Québec—Sept. 30 to Oct. 5, 2004

PCIH will hold its 19th Annual Professional Conference on Industrial Hygiene. This premier conference for industrial hygienists will begin with a *Global Risk Assessment Symposium* to be held Sept. 30 to Oct. 1 with

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### **Don't Miss Out!**

Don't miss out on local section newsletters, meeting announcements and other important notices! Contact [Christy Kirsch](#) via email or phone at 724-941-5084 if you have a **change of address** (mailing or email). You can also go to the "Contact Us" page on our website to submit address changes or general comments.



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## Conference and Seminar Announcements *(Continued from page 4)*

the *Passport to New Horizons* conference running October 2-5. This conference provides a great opportunity for you to increase your skills and knowledge quickly and easily, enhance your credentials and learn from your colleagues. This conference includes over 30 different education sessions on cutting-edge topics including State of the IH Profession, Beryllium, Manganese, and much more. You can also choose from 9 professional development courses (PDCs) offered before the official conference begins. Earn up to 6.5 CM points or CEU credits to maintain your professional certifications. In addition, you can visit with representatives from more than 25 exhibitor companies in the Exhibit Hall. For more information, [click here](#) to go to the PCIH 2004 Conference website ([www.aiha.org/pcih.htm](http://www.aiha.org/pcih.htm)).

### Newsletter Submittals

Do you have a submittal for our monthly newsletter? Your input on industrial hygiene topics is encouraged and should be sent to Dan Hagerty, [Newsletter Coordinator](#). Calendar events, member activities, job postings or items that may be of general interest to our members may also be submitted. Credit will be given to writers. All submittals are approved by the Newsletter Committee prior to publication.

## IARC Classifies Formaldehyde as Carcinogenic to Humans

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high priority, because new epidemiological studies had become available. These studies (which were conducted by the National Cancer Institute) represented the most comprehensive studies to date and involved 26,000 workers and exposure assessments. Follow-ups were conducted from 1980 to 1998 and the studies were finished in 2003.

The Working Group spent approximately one week reviewing the data and numerous peer reviewed studies regarding the potential health effects of formaldehyde. At the end of the meeting, the Working Group voted to recommend reclassification of formaldehyde as a "known carcinogen." In doing so, the panel concluded that both the human and animal data were now sufficient to conclude that formaldehyde, at the high doses seen in those studies, caused a rare nasopharyngeal cancer in humans.

The "Monograph", or official review of formaldehyde, has not been published yet. The IARC Monograph series is a series of published authoritative independent assessments by international experts of the carcinogenic risks posed to humans by a variety of agents, mixtures and exposures.

An IARC classification is a 'hazard identification,' the first of several steps in the risk assessment process. IARC has only tried to answer the question of whether, under any circumstances, formaldehyde could produce cancer in humans. An IARC reclassification is not a finding of actual risk.

Changes in carcinogenic classification may impact:

- Workplace Standards and Practices
- Transportation, storage and disposal requirements
- Indoor Air Quality Standards

For more information please visit the IARC website at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/htdocs/announcements/vol88.htm>.

**AM Health & Safety**  
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