

Some dates in South Africa with regard to the control of silicosis

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- 1886 Mining started on the Witwatersrand and a large number of small shallow mines soon developed, which were ventilated entirely by natural draught. Dry mining except in so far as the ground was naturally wet. All drilling by hand. Two shifts of ten hours, or more common, casual blasting during shifts, cut and round blasted on same shift, no blasting interval and continuous working in development ends. No realization of dust hazard.
- 1889 Machine drilling started, water used in down holes only.
- 1892 Long working shifts usual, living conditions poor, men walked in and out of the mines. Miners almost entirely from overseas. Sanitary conditions bad in the mines.
- 1898 Deep level shafts (3000 ft.) first sunk.
- 1900 African labourers first began to use machine drills.
- 1902 Government Mining Engineer (GME) of the Transvaal Mines Department reports on the silicosis problem in his 1902 report.
- 1902 Lord Milner, the newly installed Governor of the Transvaal Colony, appoints in November 1902 the Weldon Commission to investigate the causes and extent of silicosis. Determination of dust conditions in working places using a sugar tube sampler. First medical examination (voluntary) of miners.
- 1902 Chamber international competition for best anti-dust device (from November 1902 – April 1904). Advertisement inserted in papers of the UK, Europe, Australia, South Africa and America. First prize given for a water spray and second prize for an axial water-fed machine drill. Report of Judges published by Chamber April, 1904.
- 1903 Hoisting of men in and out of the mines begun.
- 1903 Transvaal Medical Society recommends wet mining.
- 1903 Report of the Weldon Commission. Cause of the disease identified as the inhalation of small silica particles. The Commission report contained many important and far-reaching recommendations, which included wet drilling as well as the need for planned and controlled ventilation. Warnings were also issued about the dangers of workers entering development ends until blasting fumes had been cleared.
- 1903 Act No. 54 of 1903, and the Mines and Works Regulations promulgated thereunder, is the first step of a long series of legislative measures to control the conduct of mines in the direction of the use of the best form of preventive measures, which continuous research in the cause and prevention of miners' phthisis showed to be desirable.
- 1904 A Medical Officers' Advisory Committee was brought into being by the Chamber about 1904 when it was called a Mine Doctors Committee. This later became the Group Medical Officers' Committee to which all the groups were invited to nominate representatives who, it was presumed, would be their senior medical officers.
- 1906 Dust Prevention Regulations gazetted December 1905 with effect 1 January 1906. Wet methods made compulsory in conjunction with rock drills, and re-entry after blasting restricted. Less than a year after promulgation, regulations withdrawn by H. Weldon on the grounds that the men objected to them!
- 1907 Mining Regulation Commission (1907–1910) appointed (Krause Commission). In a letter to the Minister of Mines dated 5th November 1908 the Krause Commission recommended that without delay the mine manager be made responsible in law for the provision of the necessary water and the miners for using it, with regular monitoring by inspectors of the Mines Department.
- 1907 Some deep level (3–4000 ft.) mines now producing. Large fans first installed.
- 1907 South African born nationals began to seek work in the mines in considerable numbers.
- 1908 New regulations for the prevention of dust gazetted 24 December 1908 with immediate effect. Promulgated by the new GME, RN Kotzé.
- 1908 Experiments made with dust traps connected to flexible collars over the drill hole, through which the dust was withdrawn by an air ejector. No device found satisfactory in service.
- 1910 Provision for hospital care and treatment of miners with phthisis provided by the Chamber at Springkell Sanitorium.
- 1910 The Krause Commission (1910) considered it very clear that efforts must be directed to: (1) the prevention of dust inhalation; (2) the prevention or removal of noxious fumes resulting from explosives; (3) the prevention of tuberculosis.
- 1910 Medical examination of African labourers prior to engagement begun – tubercular labourers rejected. Change houses and baths for white miners erected. Housing conditions for African labourers, miners and staff improved.
- 1911 Regulation requiring the use of water blasts in development ends.
- 1911–1912 Mines' Phthisis (Medical) Commission enquired chiefly into the prevalence of Miners' Phthisis and provisions for compensation.
- 1912–1919 Miners' Phthisis Prevention Committee established. This Committee conducted extensive investigations into improved methods of dust measurement and dust control. Interim reports – 1912 and 1913, General Report 1916, Final Report 1919.

- 1913 Research by J. McCrae, South African Institute for Medical Research, on the ash from silicotic lungs showed that particles larger than 12 microns were not present.
- 1914 Compressed air blown off in development ends to assist ventilation during the working shift.
- 1914 A.J. Orenstein appointed by the Rand Mines Group in 1914 as their Chief Medical Officer (Superintendent of Sanitation). Dr. Orenstein is considered by many to be the father of occupational health in South Africa.
- 1914 Chamber *Standing Committee on Dust Sampling* established to standardise methods for determining dust in mines by periodic surveys. Includes a laboratory for accurately determining dust samples and continued research.
- 1915 Booklet issued by Chamber for Mine Managers on *'Appliances & Methods for Laying Dust in and about Mines'*. Updates information on sprays and waterblasts for laying dust in mines published by Miners' Phthisis Prevention Committee in 1912. Also includes information on dust control for surface operations: main crusher stations, sample grinding and sample quartering rooms.
- 1916 The General Report of the Miners' Phthisis Prevention Committee published. Made a number of recommendations for the amendment of the Mining Regulations, and these were substantially incorporated in the amendments promulgated during the year 1917. A tentative air quality standard of 5 mg/m³ for a sugar tube sample was put forward.
- 1916 Auxiliary fans begin to be used for development ends, in conjunction with galvanized iron tubing or with bratticed haulages.
- 1916 Government appointed a dust inspector to assist in the control of dust.
- 1916 Chamber recommends appointment of 'Dust Samplers' on each mine.
- 1916 Booklet issued by the Chamber entitled *'Dust and Miners Phthisis'*. One object of this booklet, which contained details on dust prevention and measurement, was to ensure that samplers used a standard method when determining the dust content of air.
- 1916 Series of lectures presented to mine dust samplers in September 1916, at the South African School of Mines and Technology. The lectures were given by J.S. Cellier, Professor of Mining at the School, and ended in January 1917. The training of ventilation officials had commenced.
- 1916 Sir Robert Kotzé devised the Konimeter. Particles counted under light ground illumination, no treatment of slide. Konimeter adopted for routine work in 1919.
- 1916 Establishment of Miners' Phthisis Medical Bureau – initial and periodical examinations instituted.
- 1918 Regulations enforcing dust prevention in crusher stations and assay rooms.
- 1918 Booklet issued by the Chamber for dust officials which detailed their duties and included all the relevant regulations for dust control.
- 1919 Final Report of the Miners' Phthisis Prevention Committee. In the early part of 1911 there were eleven Mining Regulations dealing with precautions to prevent miners' phthisis and to ensure good ventilation, by 1918 there were sixty-three such regulations. Air quality standard recommended based on particle count using the Kotzé Konimeter. The report stated *"A standard based on the number of particles can, at this stage, be based only on what is readily attainable in practice. Our results have shown that to reduce the dust, as determined by the Kotzé Konimeter, breathed by persons below 300 particles is not difficult in any operation. Anything above this is to be classified as unsatisfactory. Between 200 and 300 may be considered as fair, between 100 and 200 as good, and below 100 as very good."*
- 1919 About half the mines now using fans for the main ventilation.
- 1919 Silicosis with or without disability made compensatable. Tuberculosis compensatable.
- 1920 Miners Phthisis Commission – dealt largely with legislation for compensation; also reviewed preventive measures.
- 1921 Regulation promulgated giving the GME control of the types and makes of machine drills which may be used on "phthisis mines".
- 1921 An educative cinema film, prepared at the instance of the Chamber, widely screened by the African Film Productions, Ltd. The film illustrates the various influences contributing to the incidence of miners' phthisis and the measures employed in counteracting them.
- 1921 Mine Medical Officers Association (MMA) formed.
- 1922– Joint Committee on the Ventilation of Dead Ends. Recommends in 1923 ventilation by auxiliary fans or blowers delivering air on to the face through large diameter pipes. Development and application of Venturi blowers for ventilation of dead-ends in 1924.
- 1925
- 1923 Chamber arranged for a course of lectures for mine dust inspectors to be held at the University of the Witwatersrand between August and November 1923. The subjects covered included underground hygiene, phthisis prevention and ventilation. The lecturers were Dr. Mavrogordato and Professor Watermeyer, and at the end of the course an examination was held.
- 1925 Filtration of dusty air from tips, by means of flannel, tobalco or other fabric experimentally tried. Use of fabric filters gradually extended into common use.
- 1926– Miners Phthisis Prevention Committee (second).
- 1937
- 1928 Increased attention to the ventilation of stopes and measures adopted to direct air along the working faces.
- 1928 The first series of lectures by J.P. Rees, Chamber to ventilation officials. Lectures presented by Rees until 1947. At the

- completion of each series an examination was held and Chamber certificates were issued to successful candidates.
- 1929 Ignition treatment of konimeter slides started. Technique of counting particles standardized by Chamber.
- 1930 Chamber *Standing Committee on Dust Sampling* role expanded to become *Committee on Mine Air*.
- 1930 Landmark International Labour Office (ILO) Conference on Silicosis held in Johannesburg in 1930. Sponsored by Chamber who also provided staff to support ILO Conference secretariat.
- This International ILO Conference has continued: 10th International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Disease (10th ICORD) held in Beijing, China in 2005.
- 1932 Investigation with Greenburg-Smith Impinger for dust measurements. Investigations with Thermal Precipitator started in 1934.
- 1932 More powerful and efficient fans installed. Regular survey of conditions in stopes started in some mines.
- 1932 Experiments on the electrical precipitation of dust. Electrical precipitation plant installed underground in 1935.
- 1935 Increased attention to the sinking of shafts; air taken to shaft bottom in canvas tubing.
- 1936 Combined blowing in and exhausting systems in development ends recommended by the Chamber.
- 1936 Booklet 'DUST' published by Chamber. 2nd and Extended Edition.
- 1937 Publication of book '*The Prevention of Silicosis on the Mines of the Witwatersrand being Report on the Investigations of the Miners' Phthisis Prevention Committee (Reconstituted 1926)*' by Government Printer, Pretoria.
- Appendix No. 2. Chronological Table. Listing of events and changes, which have had, or may have had, a bearing on the incidence of silicosis on the Witwatersrand mines. Grouped under:
- (1) Changes relative to blasting and exposure to fumes and dust caused by blasting.
 - (2) Progress in the application of water.
 - (3) Progress in ventilation.
 - (4) Design of rock drills and progress in their application.
 - (5) Dust traps and filters.
 - (6) Measurement of dust.
 - (7) Other aspects including general cleanliness and hygiene, above and below ground; medical aspects; labour etc.
- 1937 Publication of book '*Some Studies of Dust in Relation to Silicosis with Special Reference to the Gold Mines of the Witwatersrand*' by H.S. Patterson, Physico-chemical Investigation Department, Chamber. Reports on the experimental studies made by the physico-chemical investigation department of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines on the dust problems of the gold mines of the Witwatersrand.
- 1938 J. Lawrie of the Chamber's Dust and Ventilation Laboratory visited mines to advise mine staff on the treatment and counting of konimeter slides. This may have been the first instance of 'on the job training' in mine ventilation given by a Chamber official.
- 1939 Chamber *Committee on Mine Air* becomes the *Ventilation Problems Sub-Committee*.
- 1940 Publication of '*Silicosis: Proceedings of the International Conference held in Geneva from 29 August to 9 September 1938*' by ILO, Geneva.
- 1944 Mine Ventilation Society of South Africa (MVS) established. In 1948 the first issue of the Mine Ventilation Society Monthly Bulletin was distributed to members. An annual grant to assist with the publication of the Bulletin was made by the Chamber in 1956 and in 1957 the Monthly Bulletin changed its name to the Journal of the Mine Ventilation Society of South Africa. Numerous articles on ventilation and dust control.
- 1946 Extensive Chamber textbook *Gold Mining on the Witwatersrand* by Professor C. Biccard Jeppe. Chapter XIV on Ventilation in Volume II covers 335 pages. Updates earlier Chamber textbook titled *Witwatersrand Mining Practice* (1932).
- 1951 New Chamber research premises in Melville opened to accommodate the three research laboratories of the Chamber, namely: Applied Physiology, Dust and Ventilation and Timber Research.
- 1956 Pneumoconiosis Research Unit (PRU) established to investigate mineworkers' lung disease. The PRU (which was to eventually become the NCOH and now NIOH) was financed jointly by the Department of Mines and the Chamber. First Director – Dr. A.J. Orenstein.
- 1956 Start of the contract work by D.G. Beadle with PRU to determine the relationship between dust exposure and radiological signs of silicosis.
- 1956 Chamber Collieries Dust and Ventilation Laboratories at Witbank and Vereeniging established.
- 1957 ILO International collaboration on: The Prevention and Suppression of Dust in Mining, Tunnelling and Quarrying
First International Report 1952–1954 (1957) 18 countries contributed information.
Sixth International Report 1973–1977 (1982) 77 countries contributed.
South Africa contributed to 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reports 1957, 1961, 1965.
- 1958 MVS Presidential Address by D.G. Beadle '*Some Unanswered Questions Regarding Dust and Pneumoconiosis*'.
- 1959 Second International Conference on Pneumoconiosis held in Johannesburg. Following the formation of the PRU in 1956 scientists from many countries were invited to Johannesburg to advise the PRU research team on the best evolution of their research projects. Modern principles of dust sampling for hazard assessment are founded on three main

- recommendations adopted at the Conference which have remained largely unchanged to the present day:
- (i) measurement of the respirable dust fraction.
 - (ii) gravimetric assessment of the collected dust.
 - (iii) long period sampling to give average dust levels over a shift.
- 1961 MVS organised a major exhibition of mine ventilation equipment, instruments and accessories in Johannesburg and Welkom.
- 1964 Rand Mines introduce system of giving expert lectures on dust to all European underground workers and to a considerable proportion of African workers. The lectures stressed the dangers of dust, gave a simple explanation of how dust reacts in the lungs, listed the main sources of dust and described what each individual worker could himself do to improve conditions. Scheme later adopted and extended by Chamber.
- 1965 ILO published a *Guide to the Prevention and Suppression of Dust in Mining, Tunnelling and Quarrying*.
- 1965 Anti-dust campaign initiated through the Chamber Anti-Dust campaign Sub-Committee. The basis of the campaign is the instruction of all underground employees in the recognition of the sources of airborne dust and the best means for its prevention and suppression. The campaign also aimed to promote a sense of 'dust consciousness' in all concerned.
- 1966 Chamber anti-dust propaganda material includes: booklet 'Dust is Dangerous', an animated cartoon film with the same title; a coloured slide series with recorded commentary; posters featuring 'Stoffel Waterman' and illustrating good dust control methods; large notice boards for displaying these posters and for writing up slogans, or recent dust results, etc. (normally installed near the banks of the main shafts); gramophone record with a 'pop' tune regarding dust for playing in change houses or at suitable gatherings; coloured postcards featuring 'Stoffel' for use by senior mining staff to send congratulatory messages to miners achieving good dust control results; regular articles on dust control and allied matters in the mining industry's weekly newspaper and monthly safety journal *'The Reef'*.
A film was also made of an anti-dust lecture given in Fanakalo by an instructor team leader. Lecturers from various mine-training centres sent to Randfontein Estates for approximately one week to be trained on presenting lectures on dust control.
- 1968 Chamber Anti-Dust Campaign Poster Catalogue published containing examples of some 60 anti-dust posters.
- 1969 Third International Conference on Pneumoconiosis held in Johannesburg.
- 1970 The work of the Chamber Sub-Committee concerned with the education and publicity campaign aimed at reducing air-borne dust concentrations in mines was taken over by the *Prevention of Accidents Committee*.
- 1970s Chamber research work on respirable gravimetric dust sampling with cyclones.
- 1971 Textbook published by the MVS on *Mine Ventilation Notes for Beginners*.
Additional text books published include:
Ventilation of South African Gold Mines (1974),
Environmental Engineering in South African Gold Mines (the so-called Black Book first published in 1982) and the *Data Book* (1992).
- 1975 First International Conference on Mine Ventilation held in Johannesburg. Organised by the Mine Ventilation Society of South Africa and sponsored by the Chamber. Mr. J Burrows, Chamber, Chairman of the Organising Committee.
- 1976 Erasmus Commission of Inquiry into Occupational Health. Concluded that "it has regrettably to be stated categorically that, except in the mining industry, industrial health not only occupies a secondary position in industry in this country, but that industrialists have put very little time, money and organisation into the prevention of occupational diseases".
- 1980 Chamber *Collieries Dust and Ventilation Laboratories* becomes *Collieries Environmental Control Services (CECS)* under the Colliery Training College (Pty) Ltd.
Note: From its Evander laboratory, the CECS still provides services to the coal mines for the testing and analysis, of dust, gas and water samples.
- 1985 Chamber Research Organisation Applications Report No. 7 *Continuous Miners: Maintain Your Dust Control Systems*.
- 1986 American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) adopt TLV-TWA of 0,1 mg/m³ for Silica, Crystalline - Quartz respirable dust.
- 1987 Chamber Research Organisation User Guide No. 2 1987 *Guidelines for Environmental Protection at Continuous Miners*.
- 1987– Routine respirable gravimetric dust sampling introduced underground.
- 1990
- 1987 Chamber Mine Safety and Health Congress, November 1987. Proceedings published 1988.
- 1989 The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs (DMEA) incorporate ACGIH TLVs in the '*Supporting Document No 2 List of Threshold Limit Values (TLV) under the Guidelines for the Gravimetric Sampling of Airborne Particulates for Risk Assessment in Terms of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act No. 78 of 1973.*' Incorporated a TLV of 0.1 mg/m³ for Alpha Quartz based on the ACGIH TLV at that time.
- 1991 Safety In Mines Research Advisory Committee (SIMRAC) established.
- 1995 ILO/WHO Global Programme for the Elimination of Silicosis (GPES).
The immediate objective is to promote the development by countries of National Programmes on the Elimination of Silicosis to reduce significantly the incidence rate of silicosis by the year 2010.

The development objective of the GPES is to establish wide international co-operation on global elimination of silicosis to eliminate it as an occupational health problem by the year 2030.

- 1995 Leon Commission report into health and safety in the mining industry. The Commission was of the opinion that mine dust levels have remained roughly the same over a period of about fifty years.
- 1996 International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), France, reclassify inhaled crystalline silica as a Group 1 carcinogen from a Group 2 carcinogen. IARC considers substances in its Group 1 category to be carcinogenic to humans, while Group 2 refers to substances IARC considers probably carcinogenic to humans. IARC classified inhaled crystalline silica into its Group 2 category in 1987. In reaching its 1996 reclassification decision, the working group reviewed additional experimental animal studies and selected human epidemiological studies.
- 1996 SIMRAC COL 027 *Reduction of worker Exposure to Dust in Collieries*. Includes Handbook to reduce the exposure of workers to dust. Research steered by *Special Interest Group on Dust Suppression (SIGDS)*.
- 1996 Mine Health and Safety Act (MHSA) to ensure a healthy and safe environment in mines/quarries.
- 1997 SIMRAC Report SIMRISK 401 (1997) *'Despite the availability of a comprehensive airborne dust database, there is considerable uncertainty on the exposure of mineworkers to dust'*.
- 1997 Report of the Benjamin and Greef Committee of Inquiry into a National Occupational Health and Safety Council in South Africa presented to the Department of Labour. Report commented that the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act (ODMWA, 1973) compensation system contained no financial incentive for employers to tackle dust problems in the mines.
- 1999 The SIMRAC Subcommittee SIMHEALTH established to deal with occupational health matters. Replaced in 2002 by the Mining Occupational Health Research Advisory Committee (MOHRAC) under the Mining Occupational Health Advisory Committee (MOHAC) and in 2004 by the Occupational Health Technical Advisory Committee (OHTAC) under SIMRAC.
- 1999 SIMRAC COL 518 *Mechanical Miner Environmental control*. Research steered by *Industry Working Group on Mechanical Miner Ventilation and Dust Control*.
- 1999 WHO publish book *Hazard Prevention and Control in the Work Environment: Airborne Dust*.
- 2000 ACGIH adopt a TLV-TWA of 0.05 mg/m³ for Silica, Crystalline – Quartz respirable dust, A2 Designation *'Suspected Human Carcinogen'*.
- 2001 SIMRAC *Handbook of Occupational Health Practice in the South African Mining Industry*. Includes Chapter 5: Occupational Lung Disease by Prof. Neil White, Pulmonologist, Respiratory Clinic, UCT. Comments on the NCOH published data on underground dust exposure measurements in gold mines.
- 2002 DME occupational exposure limit for crystalline silica as low as reasonably practicable below 0,1 mg/m³.
- 2002 SIMRAC Project on the Elimination of Silicosis in the SA Mining Industry. Regional and National Workshops 2002–2004 to develop research programme on silicosis control.
- 2002 The detailed regulations on dust control in mines developed over a century repealed in the move to outcomes-based legislation.
- 2003 Courses on Dust Control and PIMEX (Picture Mix EXposure) organised by African Joint Effort on OHS in Cape Town and Johannesburg. Presented by staff from the National Institute for Working Life (NIWL), Sweden and Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH).
- 2003 At the Mine Health and Safety Summit on 24 October 2003 the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, stated that further improvements were needed in health and safety in the South African mining sector, with Silicosis a major concern.
- 2003 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), USA, issue Handbook for Dust Control in Mining.
- 2004 Agreed milestones from the MHS Summit:
- *By the year 2008, 95% of all exposure measurements results will be below the occupational exposure limit (OEL) for respirable crystalline silica of 0,1 mg/m³. These results are individual readings and not averaged results.*
 - *From the year 2013, using present diagnostic techniques, no new cases of silicosis will occur among previously unexposed individuals.*
- 2004 South African National Programme for the Elimination of Silicosis (NPES) launched on the 28th June 2004 by the Minister of Labour, MMS Mdladlana. National Working Group (NWG) chaired by DoL and Provincial Working Groups (PWGs). DoL Booklet on NPES.
- 2004 SIMRAC Silicosis Control Programme – Phase 2 approved by MHSC. Research Programme Budget: R26 Million over 5 Years. Project launched in 2005 (SIM 03-06-03).
- 2004 NIWL/FIOH (Sweden/Finland) issue Hazard Prevention and Control in the Work Environment: Airborne Dust – Training material on two CDs.
- 2005 10th International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases (10th ICORD), Beijing, China. Following on from the 1st ILO 1930 Silicosis Conference in Johannesburg, subsequent ILO conferences were held in Geneva (1938), Sydney (1950), Bucharest (1971), Caracas (1978), Bochum (1983), Pittsburgh (1988), Prague (1992) and Kyoto (1997).

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**PNEUMOCONIOSIS CONFERENCE,
Johannesburg, 9th to 24th February, 1959**



- Back Row:** Mr D.E. Munday, Dr H. Palmhert, Dr I. Prinsloo, Mr M. West, Mr J. de V. Lambrechts, Mr C. Hide, Mr Ribbink.
- Fifth Row:** Dr Whitcombe, Dr A.J.B. Wiid, Dr H.D. Jacobs, Mr M.D. Melamed, Mr G. Beveridge, Mr P.H. Kitto, Dr B. Goldstein.
- Fourth Row:** Dr B. van Lingen, Prof. B.J.P. Becker, Dr J.C. Wagner, Dr G.K. Sluis-Cremer, Mr R.E. Silverton, Mr R.S.J. Du Toit, Dr D.A. Sutton.
- Third Row:** Dr S. Zwi, Mr T.L. Gibbs, Dr L.G. Walters, Dr F.M. Engelbrecht, Mr F. Snyman, Dr M.A. Pringle, Dr D.R. Cooper, Dr J.S. Harington, Dr C.B. Chatgidakis.
- Second Row:** Dr R. Paul, Dr Robertson, Dr G. Nagelschmidt, Mr V. Balashov, Dr O.A. Sander, Dr I. Webster, Dr J.C. Gilson, Dr J. Paterson, Dr B. Pernis.
- First Row:** Dr A.J. Vorwald, Dr A. Meiklejohn, Prof. J. Gough, Dr G. Worth, Prof. P.H. Rossier, Dr E.P. Pendegrass, Prof. S. Oosthuizen, Dr A.J. Orenstein, Prof. F. Lavenne, Prof. E.C. Vigliani.

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- 2005 Chamber OHS Summit with the theme 'Achieving the Unachievable' held 15th June 2005. South Africa's major mining companies sign a commitment to achieve the sectors' agreed OHS targets including silicosis elimination.
- 2005 DoL led National Workshop on Silicosis with PWGs held at Montecasino on 20th July 2005.
- 2005 6th International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) Scientific Conference held in the Pilanesberg National Park, South Africa, 19–23 September 2005. Includes scientific sessions on silicosis and professional development courses on dust measurement and control.
- 2005 Silicosis Prevention Information Resource developed for the South African Mining Industry. Includes Best Practice Booklet with supporting CDs and DVDs with silicosis prevention information and videos. CD contains silicosis prevention information from around the world. After tripartite review to be issued in 2006 through Track C of SIM 03-06-03.