

The logo for the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) features the letters 'BOHS' in a stylized, bold, blue font. The 'O' is replaced by a blue circle with a white dot in the center.

British Occupational
Hygiene Society



IOHA



OCCUPATIONAL
HYGIENE SOCIETY
OF IRELAND

13th IOHA International Scientific Conference

Dublin, Ireland
June 2024

The Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI) and the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) are privileged to jointly host this conference and to contribute to its successful outcome.

The conference theme has been confirmed as - 'Protecting workers from health hazards: Advancing in this changing world'.

The conference aims to promote occupational hygiene and worker health protection by the minimisation of worker exposure to hazardous agents globally through plenary sessions, keynote lectures, parallel talks, workshops, poster presentations and

professional development as well as networking opportunities and social functions.

A strong Global media campaign will publicise the main causes of occupational disease throughout the conference.

More information including venue, dates and abstract submission arrangements will be announced very soon. Please mark your diaries for June 2024 in Dublin, Ireland!

Edited by **Dr Thomas P Fuller**: IOHA Past President
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American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) organisational update (March 2022)

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It's hard to believe that I am coming up to my third anniversary at ACGIH – time flies when you're having fun. When first hired into my current position, there was a leadership change within the organisation and the Executive Director, Frank Mortl III, emphasised particular themes moving forward, which included transparency and a customer focus. I am proud to say that those ideas sincerely ring true in accomplishments from the Board of Directors, volunteer leaders, and staff over the last three years. As an example, to engage with our stakeholders at much higher levels, ACGIH has invested in a complete overhaul of all electronic systems and digital platforms that were in place when I began leading the organisation's science, education, and publication divisions.

As we all know, understanding of chemicals in the workplace is vital to making robust decisions. Whether building a qualitative risk assessment for your industrial hygiene (IH) programme or looking at adjustment of a threshold limit value (TLV) for hours worked, the information within TLV documentation is vital to the occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) professional. To allow for greater access to TLV and biological exposure index (BEI) scientific documentation, a crown jewel of our rebuilt website will be the ACGIH Data Hub. Located in the members' centre of the ACGIH website, access to all current documentation will be available anytime and anywhere in any quantity, as long as the user has access to the internet. The documentation will be scalable to phones and can be opened in any browser.

Complimentary access to the world-renowned *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene* has always been a member benefit of ACGIH. However, with our new learning technology, we are excited to make The Action Level a complimentary member benefit as well. The Action Level utilises short knowledge assessments to enable members to stay up to date with the latest journal articles. Our organisation has, with the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) and the Board for Global EHS Credentialing (BGC), agreed that certification holders who are ACGIH members can receive no-cost credits (up to 3.6 BCSP re-certification points, and 12 contact hours per year for BGC).

ACGIH's virtual education has led to the development of our Learning Pass, a new offering of bi-weekly webinars on various industrial hygiene topics, at very affordable rates. Another recent feature is a Basics of Industrial Ventilation professional development course (PDC) – a total asynchronous on-demand course covering the tenets of industrial ventilation to aid in ventilation system decision making. Throughout 2022, in-depth courses on noise programmes, hazard mitigation, and computational fluid dynamics in relation to ventilation systems will be offered, as well as a suite on multiple physical agents – serving as an introduction to an area often overlooked in many industrial hygiene programmes.



Additionally, ACGIH recently published the *Air Sampling Technologies* manual. Organisational leadership is working diligently on many other new resources to help keep industrial hygiene in the forefront of OEHS success. Later this year, we plan to release an updated version of the *Bioaerosols Assessment and Control* book that has been a pillar of the IH community for decades. Upcoming ACGIH publications include a *Guide for the Control of Laser Hazards*, the 31st Edition of our *Industrial Ventilation - A Manual of Recommended Practice for Design*, an updated *Modern Industrial Hygiene Series*, an *Atlas of Fungal Spores*, and an educational narrative called "Don't Forget the Workers" – chronicling the stories behind interesting National Institute of Safety and Health (NIOSH) health hazard assessments, spanning decades.

Looking back on three years of professional achievements with ACGIH, I am thankful for a forward-thinking Board of Directors with true passion to drive OEHS excellence globally, along with volunteers who are extremely giving of their time, knowledge and effort to push the leading edge of science. However, without members and supporters from around the world, we are playing to an empty house. Big thanks go to the global OEHS community for years of support and dedication – we look forward to continued support of your careers and the field as a whole. ACGIH sincerely appreciates any feedback or collaboration opportunities that can further support our mission and the daily work of those in the OEHS field.

As a courtesy to those who are engaged internationally, we want to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support, and give you an update about changes in the TLVs and BEIs that occurred this past year. We sincerely appreciate serving and engaging with supporters. All of the newest scientific documentation for 2022 is available for purchase/download on www.acgih.org and as a complimentary online member benefit through the ACGIH Data Hub. We look forward to feedback on our organisation's Notice of Intended Changes throughout the current comment period, which ends on 31 May 2022.

Newly adopted TLVs for chemical substances

Antimony hydride
Benzoic acid and alkali benzoates
Clothianidin
Cyclopentane
Cyromazine
Dipropylene glycol methyl ether
Ethyl benzene
Imazosulfuron
Iodoform
Isoflurane
2-Methyl-2-butene
Phosgene
Prometon
Prometryn
Titanium dioxide
Trimethyl benzene, isomers
Xylene

Chemicals for which there are notices of intended changes

2-Ethylhexanol
Acetamiprid
Benzene
Benzoquinone
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate
Divinylbenzene-ethyl styrene mixture
Ethylene glycol dinitrate
Glycidyl methacrylate

Glyphosate
Iodine and iodides
Methylnaphthalene, all isomers
Nitric acid
n-Propyl nitrate
Phenothiazine
Propylene glycol dinitrate
Silicon carbide
Tetrachlorvinphos
Trimetacresyl phosphate
Triparacresyl phosphate
Vinyltoluene, all isomers

Newly adopted BEIs

Cyclohexane

Proposed notice of intended changes for BEIs

2-Ethoxyethanol and 2-ethoxyethyl styrene
Acetate
Acrylamide
Furfural

Adopted updates to the TLVs for physical agents

Ultraviolet radiation
Upper limb localised fatigue

Proposed notice of intended changes to the physical agents section

Heat stress and strain

ACGIH professional development course: Fundamentals in Industrial Ventilation – organised by the Belgian Society of Occupational Hygiene (BSOH)

Michel Vangeel

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A very successful Fundamentals of Industrial Ventilation professional development course (PDC), developed by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygiene (ACGIH), took place for the first time in Europe on 11–15 October 2021, in Ghent, Belgium. The training was organised by the Belgian Society for Occupational Hygiene (BSOH), with the support of Mensura and the Belgian Center for Occupational Hygiene (BeCOH). Nederman partly sponsored the ventilation system used for the practical training.

The idea to launch a more in-depth training course related to ventilation was raised about three years ago at a BSOH Board meeting. In Belgium, occupational hygienists often identify poorly designed ventilation systems that are not properly used and maintained. This initiated the idea to organise a professional training course on ventilation in workplaces. Several training programmes in the European Union were evaluated, and it was clear that no current training could meet all our expectations. It was Steven Verpaele, a BSOH Board member who, after attending the Fundamentals in Industrial Ventilation course in the United States, made us excited about bringing this ACGIH course to Belgium.

In January 2021, we connected for the first time with Frank Mortl, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ACGIH, and provided him with a formal letter for the ACGIH Board of Directors with a request to schedule this course in Belgium. Frank immediately responded and considered this as a dynamic opportunity. In February 2021, the ACGIH Board of Directors enthusiastically responded and supported this request. Frank brought us into contact with Philip Rauscher, ACGIH Senior Director of Science & Education, and we began to organise frequent meetings. We were thrilled to see that Gregg Grubb and Jonathan Hale were selected and available as instructors supporting the PDC.



They did a first-class job, knowing how to teach, having a high level of expertise and making it a fun experience. We received very positive responses from all attendees after completing the course.

We thank ACGIH for their significant commitment, spreading industrial hygiene knowledge across the globe. We were also impressed to see Frank and Philip supporting this PDC in Belgium, in person. This showed their level of engagement, and provided us with confidence for future collaborations with BSOH and other European occupational hygiene societies.

The BSOH Board has already received confirmation from the ACGIH to organise the course again in Belgium in November 2022, and plans are to provide it in 2023 as well. All course attendee evaluation forms will be reviewed and comments will be noted for future course deliveries.

The BeCOH stores all the equipment in its warehouse, before and after each training session. Having a ventilation system available will make it easier to organise more of these PDCs in Europe. When other European occupational hygiene associations show interest in organising this PDC, BSOH will provide its support. Steven Verpaele has been approved as an official member candidate to the ACGIH Industrial Ventilation Committee. As agreed with ACGIH, Steven will be the liaison and contact person between European occupational hygiene societies interested in organising this PDC with the ACGIH in the future.



Participants at the Fundamentals of Industrial Ventilation professional development course Photograph: Michel Vangeel

IOHA Board meeting and SOFHYT Conference on Ergonomics in Paris

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The French Society of Occupational Hygienists (SOFHYT) is proud to have hosted the spring IOHA Board meeting on 3 April 2022. Given the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases and new restrictions, only a few members were able to join in person. Nevertheless, it was a success. This was a hybrid meeting, so those who were not able to travel participated via MS Teams.

On 4 and 5 April, the 2022 edition of the SOFHYT Conference took place in Paris with the theme, *The place of ergonomics in occupational hygiene*. Despite the small assembly, the outcome was very positive. In addition to the exchanges around the theme, the Conference provided the first opportunity for a fruitful collaboration with the SELF (French-speaking Ergonomics Society). This enabled us to envisage real possibilities for collaboration between the two organisations, e.g. joint actions in schools around workplace hygiene. The Conference



also benefited from the presence of members of the IOHA who gave two presentations: one on their activities and another on disability. Finally, there were discussions about the contribution of exoskeletons, and their relevance and effectiveness in the fight against musculo-skeletal disorders (MSDs). Most importantly, the Conference provided an opportunity to increase our network, to meet other occupational hygienists, to share ideas and opinions, and to eat together. After more than two years without any opportunities to meet, this was highly appreciated by all.



L-R: Pascal Kerneis, Andres Winkes, Steven Verpaele, Samantha Connell, Thomas Fuller, Hugo Perez, Ruth Jimenez, Maharshi Mehta, and Nathalie Argentin Photograph: courtesy of Nathalie Argentin