



The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual GCC

# Occupational Health Conference

27 – 31 May 2006 • JW Marriott Hotel, Dubai, UAE



## Featuring Expert Contributions From:

**Ahed Najjar**, Head of Ambulance Training Unit, DOHMS Ambulance Service, UAE

**Charles van Schalkwyk**, Ergonomist and Exercise Physiologist, Pro Ergonomics, UAE

**Dan Wurster**, Principal Consultant, Occupational Health, Det Norske Veritas (Middle East), UAE

**Dr Alexandra Duguay**, Head of Projects, HSE, Ipedex, UAE

**Dr Graham Bates**, School of Public Health, Curtin University, Australia

**Dr Ian Hosegood**, Vice President Clinical Medical Services, Emirates Airlines, UAE

**Dr John Schneider**, Specialist in Occupational Medicine, United Arab Emirates University, UAE

**Dr Joseph LaDou**, Director, International Centre for Occupational Medicine, University of California, USA

**Dr Mark Newson-Smith**, Chief Medical Officer, ENOC, UAE

**Dr P Mohamed Rafique**, Specialist Pulmonologist, New Medical Centre Specialty Hospital, UAE

**Dr Pathma Naidu**, Head of Life Support Division, CEDARS - Jebel Ali International Hospital, UAE

**Dr Richard Gross**, Clinical Director, Oasis Occupational Rehabilitation, USA

**Dr Omar Hasan**, Chief Medical Officer, Dubai Dry Docks, UAE

**Dr Tawfik Khoja**, Director General, The Executive Board of the Health Minister's Council for Gulf Cooperation Council States, KSA

**Massoud Eshraghi**, Occupational Hygienist, Qatargas, Qatar

**Omer Sakaf**, Head of Training, Dubai Police Ambulance Service, UAE

**Prof Dr Abdulbari Bener**, Consultant and Head of the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar

**Professor Kerry Gardiner**, Managing Director, International Occupational Health Ltd, UK

**Professor Mohammad Reza Sadeghi**, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Science,

United Arab Emirates University, UAE

**Professor Norbert Nowotny**, Department of Medical Microbiology, UAE University, UAE

**Tee L Guidotti**, Professor Chair, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Director, Division of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology (Department of Medicine),

The George Washington University Medical Center, USA

**Seifeddin Gaafar Ballal**, Professor and Consultant Occupational Physician, Department of Family and Community Medicine, College of Medicine, King Faisal University, KSA

**Dr Saleh A.H. Al Masabi**, Chief Medical Officer, ADCO, UAE

## PLUS! 3 Highly Interactive Workshops:

1. Extending The Chain Of Survival – Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) In The Workplace – Training Requirements And Practical Considerations
2. Designing And Implementing An Effective Occupational Health Scheme For Your Organisation
3. Assessing The Impact Of Individual, Environmental And Behavioral Risk Factors On Workplace Injuries And Disability

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Dear Occupational Health Professional,

Once again IIR is pleased to present the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual GCC Occupational Health Conference**. Now in its fourth year, the conference is well established as the major networking and learning event for occupational health professionals and practitioners in the Middle East.

Building on the success of the previous three conferences, this year's event will feature a distinguished speaker faculty of researchers and practitioners that has been specifically designed to bring you the latest updates and new insights into the challenges ahead for GCC occupational health professionals.

The conference proceedings will feature presentations from regional and international expert speakers, panel discussions, interactive workshops and knowledge sharing round table sessions. You are encouraged to bring your own experiences and questions to the conference and share in this unique opportunity to further develop the occupational health agenda in the GCC and Middle East.

Your conference chairman and I look forward to welcoming you personally to the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual GCC Occupational Health Conference** in May 2006.

Yours Sincerely,



Jeremy Butcher  
Conference Manager

*P.S. AACME designates this continuing medical education activity for a preliminary maximum of 17 Hours of the category 1 credit of the AACME designation.*

### This Conference Is A Must Attend Event For:

- Occupational Health Physicians/Company Doctors
- Chief Medical Officers
- Medical Directors
- Chiefs Of Preventative Medicine
- Occupational and Industrial Hygienists
- Medical Coordinators
- Occupational Health Advisors/Nurses/Coordinators

- Occupational Therapists And Rehabilitation Specialists
- HSE Managers And Directors
- HR Managers And Directors

Everyone responsible for managing and improving the health of people at work will benefit greatly from the expert insights delivered at this conference.

### AACME Accreditation Statement

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the AACMEs Accreditation Standards & Policies and the Essential Areas and their Elements.

**IIR Middle East** is accredited by the **American Academy of Continuing Medical Education (AACME)** to sponsor continuing medical education activities for physicians.

**IIR Middle East** takes responsibility for the content, quality and scientific integrity of this CME activity.

**IIR Middle East** presents this activity for educational purposes only.

Participants are expected to utilise their own expertise and judgment while engaged in the practice of medicine. The content of the presentations is provided solely by presenters who have been selected because of their recognised expertise.

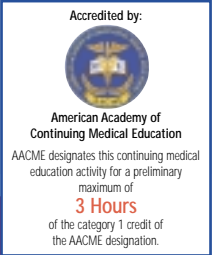
### Conflict of Interest Disclosure

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# Pre-Conference Workshop A

## Saturday, 27 May 2006



# Extending The Chain Of Survival Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) In The Workplace – Training Requirements And Practical Considerations

**Workshop Timings:** Registration will be at 08.00. The workshop will commence at 08.30 and conclude at 14.30 with appropriate breaks for refreshments. Lunch will be served at the end of the day.

- Extending the American Heart Association Chain Of Survival
- Duty Of Care for First Aiders and bystanders in an emergency
- Automated External Defibrillators and the growing movement towards Public Access Defibrillation.

Along with the established concepts for Life Support Training, that are taught internationally, innovative thoughts and approaches will be presented by the workshop leaders.

The workshop will then develop into a highly interactive session, with great emphasis on training requirements and practical considerations. Participants will have ample opportunities to share their own knowledge and experiences, especially related to how the initial links of the Chain Of Survival can be strengthened.

This workshop will culminate with preparation of a document containing the recommendations and suggestions put forth, and this will then be forwarded to the relevant authorities for official consideration.



**Dr Pathma Naidu**, Head of Life Support Department, CEDARS – Jebel Ali International Hospital, UAE

*Dr Pathma Naidu was nominated by the Malaysian Government to do her medical studies and has thereafter*

*worked in general hospitals in Malaysia and India.*

*Having been a St. John Ambulance first aider while at school, she continued her interest in First Aid for the general public when she was at the United World Colleges in Italy and India. Dr Pathma has taken up Life Support Training as a passion. Currently, she is an American Heart Association Instructor and an American Safety & Health Institute Instructor and Instructor Trainer. She has been enthusiastically training lay-persons and healthcare professionals in a variety of life support courses.*

The Cedars Sante Training Center is the Life Support Training Department at CEDARS Jebel Ali International Hospital, and is an American Safety & Health Institute Training Center. Since its inception in May 2002, Cedars-Sante Training Center has trained 3500 persons.

Facilitated By:

**Dr Pathma Naidu**, Head of Life Support Department, CEDARS – Jebel Ali International Hospital, UAE

**Omer Sakaf**, Head of Training, Dubai Police Ambulance Department, UAE

**Ahed Najjar**, Head of Ambulance Training Unit, DOHMS Ambulance Service, UAE



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## Sponsorship And Exhibition Opportunities

As well as unique networking opportunities, sponsoring or exhibiting at the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual GCC Occupational Health Conference** provides a targeted approach to promoting your corporate image, products and services as well as creating greater market awareness. We have a strictly limited selection of sponsorship packages available, so avoid being disappointed and get in touch with us now. To find out how your company can benefit, contact:

Mihaela Dumitru on Tel: **+971-4-3365161** ext. 221 Fax: **+971-4-3352438** or Email: [mihaela.dumitru@iirme.com](mailto:mihaela.dumitru@iirme.com)

# Conference Day One

Sunday, 28 May 2006



08.00 Registration And Morning Refreshments

08.30 **Chairman's Welcome And Opening Address**  
**Dr Mark Newson-Smith**, Chief Medical Officer,  
**ENOC, UAE**

08.45 **Keynote Presentation**

**The Occupational Health Agenda In The GCC – Regional Update And Strategies For The Future**  
**Dr Tawfik Khoja**, Director General, **The Executive Board of the Health Minister's Council for Cooperation Council States, KSA**

09.30 **Managing Fatigue And The Effect Of Shift Work**

Numerous psychological and physiological variables have been found to have a 24-hour rhythm, e.g. body temperature, the sleep-wake cycle, cardiovascular parameters, alertness and cognitive performance, endocrine and metabolic factors, therapeutic responsiveness to certain medications as well as sensitivity to toxic agents. For the night shift worker, activity at night will be out of phase with the circadian body temperature and other coupled rhythms. In addition, because individual biological rhythms adjust to a time shift at different rates, each time the work schedule rotates, for a period of time after the time-shift, the circadian system will be in a desynchronised state. Night workers typically get less sleep than their day working counterparts, and regular night work is associated with chronic sleep deprivation. Shift work has an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Rotating shiftwork and working irregular hours has been associated with an increased risk of low birth weight. Shift work may slow fetal growth and increase the risk of preterm delivery.

**Dr Joseph LaDou**, Director, International Centre for Occupational Medicine, **University of California, USA**

*Dr Joseph LaDou is Director of the International Center for Occupational Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. He was in charge of the postgraduate Occupational and Environmental Medicine programme at UCSF for more than 25 years, during which more than 2,000 occupational physicians attended his courses. Dr LaDou has trained over 300 foreign physicians who have returned to developing countries. He is Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health. His textbook, Current Occupational and Environmental Medicine, is now in its Fourth Edition.*

10.15 Networking And Coffee Break

10.45 **Case Study: Occupational Risk Factors And Coronary Events In A Qatari Fertilizer Plant**

This case study will address the occupational and lifestyle factors that affected the incidence of CHD in the 2,562 staff employed at a fertiliser plant in Qatar, including

- Obesity
- Smoking



- Diabetes
- Shift work
- Occupational stress exposure

The presentation will also refer to the wider prevalence of obesity and related chronic health conditions and their effect on occupational health in the GCC.

**Prof Dr Abdulbari Bener**, Consultant and Head of the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, **Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar**

*Prof Dr Abdulbari Bener is a professor of Bio-statistics and Epidemiology and possess more than 25 years of richly varied executive experience in the field of Biostatistics and Epidemiology. He is an Advisor to World Health Organization, Head Dept. of Medical Statistics & Epidemiology, Hamad General Hospital, Hamad Medical Corporation, Doha, State of Qatar. From 2005 to 2006, he was adjunct professor in the Evidence for Population Health Unit at the School of Epidemiology and Health Sciences, University of Manchester. Prior to this he was adjunct professor in the Department of Public Health, Weill Cornell Medication College in Doha and New York. Since 1980, he has held senior academic positions in a range of medical fields at the University of Qatar, UAE University, Capa Faculty of Medicine in Istanbul, Faculty of Medicine in Kuwait, King Saud and King Abdul Aziz Universities in Saudi Arabia and Istanbul Technical University. In addition, Prof Dr Bener is a referee and Advisory Editor to many international scientific journals. He provides consultancy services in bio-statistics, epidemiology and public health medicine. He has over 300 refereed publications.*

11.30 **The Vital Role Of Pre-Employment Health Assessments In Maintaining A Healthy And Productive Workforce**

Early identification of potential health issues is important for any organisation's occupational health programme. Pre-employment screening is the first step in the ongoing relationship between an employer and the health and welfare of an employee. This case study will highlight the importance of pre-employment health assessments in maintaining a healthy and productive workforce at Dubai Dry Docks.

**Dr Omar Hasan**, Chief Medical Officer, **Dubai Dry Docks, UAE**

*Dr Omar completed his medical studies in Pakistan and England and has been Chief Medical Officer at Dubai Dry Docks for the last 9 years.*

12.15 **The Benefits And Management Of Workplace Rehabilitation**

Return to work following prolonged injury or illness needs to be carefully managed as there is often a loss of physical fitness and work hardening which needs to be considered, as well as limitations arising as a consequence of the effects and recovery from the original condition. Because of these factors and the general duty of care required by some legal jurisdictions requiring provision of a safe place of work, development of formal workplace rehabilitation programmes is often considered.

This presentation will discuss the benefits of these programmes and some of the issues involved in developing

and implementing this form of loss control and risk management.

**Dr John Schneider**, Specialist in Occupational Medicine, **United Arab Emirates University, UAE**

*After graduating in Medicine from Queensland University, John worked in hospitals and then for 10 years as a family physician in North Queensland before commencing a specialist training programme with the Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine.*

*He obtained a Graduate Diploma of Occupational Health and Safety from Curtin University in 1992 and was admitted as a Fellow of the Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1996. He is a Member of the Australian College of Tropical Medicine and a Chartered Professional Member of the Safety Institute of Australia.*

*He worked for approximately 10 years as a consultant in occupational medicine based in Mackay, North Queensland, and for most of that time was the only qualified specialist in occupational medicine residing and working in tropical Australia. During this period much of his work was in the mining and agricultural sector and their associated service industries.*

*He commenced work as an Assistant Professor of occupational medicine in the Department of Community Medicine at the UAE University in September 2005.*

*His main areas of interest are occupation rehabilitation, the organisation and planning of occupational health services in rural and remote worksites, work in hot environments and impairment assessment at the workplace.*

13.00 Lunch For Speakers And Delegates

14.00 **Using A Health Hazard Risk Assessment Process In The Offshore Oil Industry**

This presentation will discuss the use of a five step Health Hazard Risk Assessment (HHRA) process that allows a company to prioritise its health hazards and focus its occupational health resources where they are needed most. This will be illustrated by examples from the offshore oil industry in the UAE.

**Dan Wurster**, Principal Consultant, Occupational Health, **Det Norske Veritas (Middle East), UAE**

*Dan Wurster MSc CIH has spent the last five years as a senior H&S consultant in the oil and gas industry in the UAE. He is presently working as part of a team preparing HSE Impact Assessments (HSEIA) in both onshore and offshore oil and gas operations. He has over 30 years experience in petrochemical, manufacturing and chemical industries world-wide. He is an OHSAS 18001 accredited auditor.*

14.45 **The Ugly Face Of Presenteeism**

Presenteeism (going to work at a time one should be at home) is a new epidemic which is being recognised in some industrial countries as a plague that requires management and control. The causes and control of this will be discussed.

**Seifeddin Gaafar Ballal**, Professor and Consultant Occupational Physician, Department of Family and Community Medicine, **College of Medicine, King Faisal University, KSA**

*Seifeddin Gaafar Ballal MBBS, MSc, DIH, DTCD, PhD, MFOM (RCP, London), FFOM (RCP, Ireland), has published more than 40 articles in renowned local and international scientific journals and peer reviewed conference proceedings. He is a member of the editorial board of the International journal of occupational and environmental health. (USA, San Francisco) and has attended several local and international conferences as both an invited guest speaker and a participant.*

**Panel Discussion:**  
**Presenteeism – The Occupational Health And Organisational Performance Consequences Of Sickness At Work**

Including Contributions From:

**Dr Joseph LaDou**, Director, International Centre For Occupational Medicine, **University of California, USA**

**Professor Kerry Gardiner**, Managing Director, **International Occupational Health Ltd, UK**

**Dr Mark Newson Smith**, Chief Medical Officer, **ENOC, UAE**

15.30 Networking And Coffee Break

15.45 **Bird Flu: Is A Human Influenza Pandemic Inevitable?**

The H5N1 virus strain is a highly pathogenic avian Influenza virus (HPAI), and it is easily spreading within and between poultry flocks with mortality rates of up to 100%. The virus is now present in large parts of Asia, and it spread recently also to several countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. All together, approx. 170 human beings acquired the infection up to now, and more than 90 of them died, frequently children and young adults. No human-to-human transmission of the virus has been observed so far. Many people around the world are now very much concerned that this H5N1 poultry virus may acquire the ability to spread easily from human to human, and consequently may lead to a human Influenza pandemic, similar to the Spanish Flu pandemic in 1918, during which approx. 20 to 40 million people died. Many governments are discussing now the option to stockpile anti-Influenza virus drugs, such as Neuraminidase inhibitors. Recent data, however, indicate that some of the circulating H5N1 virus strains may have already gained resistance to such drugs. This session will review the entire current Bird Flu outbreak including a risk assessment for the emergence of a human Influenza virus pandemic originating from the currently circulating H5N1 strain and will discuss potential actions against the Bird Flu as well as against a potentially emerging human Influenza virus pandemic.

**Professor Norbert Nowotny**, Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, **United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, UAE** and Zoonoses and Emerging Infections Group, Clinical Virology, Clinical Department of Diagnostic Imaging, Infectious Diseases and Clinical Pathology, **University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria**

*Professor Norbert Nowotny received his Ph.D. 1982 sub auspiciis praesidentis rei publicae from the University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, and he completed his Habilitation for Virology in 1997 at the University of Veterinary Medicine,*

Vienna. 1996/97 he was Guest Researcher at Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA, USA. His research interests are in the field of viral zoonoses and emerging infections, molecular epidemiology/phylogeny, mosquito-borne flaviviruses such as West Nile virus and related viruses, Borna disease virus, and others. Professor Nowotny authored more than 120 journal articles and book chapters. He received grants from the European Union, and Austrian as well as UAE granting bodies. He is Member of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) for Bornaviridae and he is on the Editorial Board of Applied and Environmental Microbiology, a Journal of the American Society for Microbiology. Professor Nowotny is Member of National Committees for Emerging Infections such as Avian Influenza, SARS and Poxvirus Infections both in Austria and in the U.A.E.

### 16.30 **Monitoring The Occupational Exposure Of Aircrew To Cosmic Radiation**

Cosmic radiation is a natural phenomenon to which we are all subjected. There are markedly elevated dose rates found at the altitudes at which commercial aircraft fly and should be deemed occupational exposure for aircrew in accordance with ICRP Recommendations. Aircrew and frequent business flyers are the occupational groups most highly exposed to occupational radiation.

Doses increase with increasing altitude and latitudes. Under current flying conditions no Emirates aircrew receive doses approaching the 20 mSv per year limit recommended by the ICRP. The introduction of ultra-long haul aircraft capable of polar routes has the potential to increase annual doses significantly. Reduction of cosmic radiation dose rates in aircraft by shielding is not practical and the only option for limiting the cosmic ray doses received by aircrew would be to limit their flying hours or routes flown. Recent changes to the UAE legislation require monitoring of aircrew occupational exposure and this paper describes how this has been achieved through the use of dose estimation software.

**Dr Ian Hosegood**, Vice President - Clinical Medical Services, **Emirates Airlines**, UAE

*Dr Hosegood runs a busy Aviation/Occupational Medical Service for an Airline with 88 wide bodied aircraft and over 25,000 employees. Ian Has extensive experience and qualifications in Civil and Military Aviation Medicine, Human Factors and Aviation Safety and is currently a designated medical examiner for CASA, FAA, JAA/UK CAA, NZ CAA, Canadian CAA and the UAE regulator (GCAA). He is a member of AsMA and IAASM as well as a member of the International Air Transportation Association (IATA) Medical Advisory Group. His has a special interest in aviation occupational risk assessments including assessments of aircrew fatigue and Cosmic Radiation exposure.*

### 17.15 **Review Of Day's Proceedings And Chairman's Closing Remarks**

### 20.00 **Gala Dinner And Social Programme**

Conference delegates will join the speaker faculty and invited guests on a sunset dinner cruise along Dubai's famous creek.

## Conference Day Two

Monday, 29 May 2006



08.00 Morning Refreshments

### 08.30 **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

**Dr Saleh A H Al Masabi**, Chief Medical Officer, **ADCO**, UAE

### 08.45 **Identifying, Preventing And Managing Occupational Stress**

Increasingly, the burden of competition is being manifested in the health of staff. Although Middle East specific data is not available, international statistics reveal that up to 12.8 million working days were lost in the UK alone in 2004/5 to occupational stress. This session will examine the latest tools for identification, prevention and management of stress in the workplace.



**Professor Mohammad Reza Sadeghi**, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, **United Arab Emirates University**, UAE

*Prof Mohammad Reza Sadeghi is a Professor at Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the UAE University in Al Ain. He received his Philosophia Doctor in Clinical and Health Psychology (Ph.D.) from Université Laval, Québec, Canada and has undertaken Postdoctoral Studies in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy at Allan Memorial Institute of Psychiatry affiliated to McGill University, Montreal, Canada. He has over 20 years experience in occupational stress research and management.*

### 09.15 **Sustainability, Health And The Future Of The Oilpatch**

Is economic sustainability compatible with environmental sustainability? Without economic sustainability, measures to protect the environment will not be continued long enough to make a difference. A recent case study from Alberta will be used to examine these issues in depth and to highlight the pivotal role of human health.

**Tee L Guidotti**, MD, MPH, Professor Chair, Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Health Director, Division of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology (Dept. of Medicine), **The George Washington University Medical Center**, USA



*Dr Tee L Guidotti is Professor of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, Epidemiology and Health Policy at the George Washington University Medical Center in Washington DC. He is also Chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health in the School of Public Health and Health Services and the Director of the Division of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology in the Department of Medicine, School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr Guidotti also holds an adjunct appointment at the Centre for Applied Business Research on Energy and the Environment at the University of Alberta, School of Business. Dr Guidotti has spent over 20 years in environmental and occupational medicine practice related to the oil, gas and oil sands industry. Prior to joining George Washington University, he was Professor of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*

at the University of Alberta, where he started the Occupational Health Programme. He established Canada's oldest and largest fellowship training programme in occupational medicine. This training programme had a heavy emphasis on the energy sector and trained physicians who are now managing academic and industrial programmes of their own in Canada, the United States and Saudi Arabia. He is currently leading the scientific review of a major study on health outcomes downwind of oil and gas facilities in Alberta, Canada.

Dr Guidotti is recognised for expertise on occupational health problems in the upstream oil and gas industry, is an authority on the toxicology of hydrogen sulfide and sour gas and is a frequent consultant to the industry in Canada.

Although his experience in the energy sector has emphasised the upstream oil and gas industry, Dr Guidotti also has had experience in the downstream and petrochemical industry and in other energy sectors, including coal, oilsands and oil shale.



different types of industries, with specific triggering factors. The topics of discussion will include risk factors, clinical presentation and understanding the pathophysiology, with emphasis on methods of diagnosis and newer concepts that have revolutionised the management of asthma, thereby preventing exacerbations and physical work limitations which usually result in loss of work days and productivity. This session will also discuss ways to keep your workers' asthma under control rather than allowing it to control their lives.

**Dr P Mohamed Rafique**, Specialist Pulmonologist, **New Medical Centre Specialty Hospital, UAE**

Dr P Mohamed Rafique, MBBS, DTCD, DIPNB (Respiratory Medicine), FCCP, is a Specialist Pulmonologist, leading the Department of Pulmonology at New Medical Centre Specialty Hospital, (Dubai) UAE.

After finishing his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree from South India, he underwent his DTCD (Diploma in Chest Diseases) and subsequently underwent his National Board Training in Pulmonology from the prestigious Madras Medical College and Research Institute. He was awarded the Diplomate of National Board Degree, in the field of Respiratory Medicine, by the National Board of Examinations. He also received his fellowship in Tropical Pulmonology from the College of Chest Physicians.

Dr P Mohamed Rafique underwent his training in Bronchology at Madras Medical College and is a trained Bronchoscopist in the field of Flexible Fibreoptic Bronchoscopy and in interventional Pulmonology. He has experience of working as Consultant Pulmonologist in various institutions and has also set up specialist departments for Chest diseases.

He is a fellow member of the European Respiratory Society and active participant in the Annual Congress. He is also a Specialist Intensivist, as licensed by the Ministry Of Health, Abu Dhabi in view of his experience in the field of Pulmonary Critical Care. Dr P Mohamed Rafique regularly participates in scientific assemblies and is actively involved in conducting and performing as a speaker at international conferences and CME events.

He has recently participated in international studies in the field of asthma, including AIRSA (Asthma In Reality In South Asia) under the initiative of the American College of Chest Physicians and the Global Initiative Against Asthma. His areas of special interest include airway diseases like asthma and chronic obstructive airway diseases, respiratory allergies and occupational lung diseases.

#### 10.00 **Implementing A Hearing Conservation Programme In An Industrial Setting**

- What is noise induced hearing loss?
- Assessing noise exposure
- Reducing noise exposure
- Selecting hearing protection devices
- Audiometric testing
- Interpreting audiograms

**Dr Mark Newson-Smith**, Chief Medical Officer, **ENOC, UAE**

Dr Newson-Smith trained at the Welsh National School of Medicine winning a scholarship to study occupational health in the coal mining industry and winning the Cardiff Chest Federation prize for work on the possible effect of nitrous fumes on coal workers pneumoconiosis. In 1985, he joined the Royal Navy serving on surface ships, submarines and in dockyards, finally leaving as the Senior Medical Officer Submarines at the Institute of Naval Medicine in 1996. From 1996 to 2001, Dr Newson-Smith worked in the private sector in the UK providing occupational health advice to a wide range of businesses including banks, engineering works, and government agencies (including the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food and the Environment Agency). From 2001 to 2003, he was a member of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the United Arab Emirates University, where he remains Adjunct Assistant Professor.

Dr Newson-Smith was the Senior Medical Officer (Occupational Health) for Abu Dhabi Marine Operating Company from 2003 to January 2006 and he then joined the Emirates National Oil Company as the Chief Medical Officer. He is the Regional Specialty Advisor for the Middle East for the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal College of Physicians London, and is a Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, the Australian College of Legal Medicine and the American College of Legal Medicine. He has published a number of papers on occupational health and is currently undertaking a PhD on toxic torts.

10.45 Networking And Coffee Break

#### 11.15 **Insights Into Occupational Asthma With Recent Views In Diagnosis And Management**

Occupational Asthma is defined as variable airflow obstruction causally related to exposure in the working environment to dust, fumes, vapor or chemicals. It is increasingly recognised in



#### 12.00 **Case Study: Heat Stress Models For Extreme Climatic Environments**



This session will use data from a recent research project to examine and evaluate the effectiveness of traditional heat stress models with specific reference to Middle Eastern climates.

During the study physiological parameters for Heat Stress (body core temperature, heart rate, skin temperature) were recorded for 50 workers involved in firefighting, wireline logging and grit blasting operations which are physically very demanding.

Correlations with environmental heat stress indices such as Wet bulb globe temperature, were investigated in order to allow an accurate estimation of heat load on workers.

**Dr Alexandra Duguay**, Head of Projects, HSE, **Ipedex, UAE**

Alexandra Duguay graduated from the University of Montreal Canada. She has a BSc in Chemistry, MSc in Pharmacology-Toxicology and PhD in Pharmacology-Toxicology. Her thesis was on the mechanism of hepatotoxicity resulting from ketones inhalation.

She was awarded the Canadian Liver Foundation Scholarship during the 5 years of her PhD and a grant from the CNTC the Canadian Network of Toxicology Centre during her MSc. She made numerous publications on the field of hepatotoxicity with her mentor Dr Gabriel Plaa who was a pioneer in this field.

### Heat Stress Panel Discussion

Featuring Contributions from:

**Dr Graham Bates**, School of Public Health, Curtin University, Australia

**Massoud Eshraghi**, Occupational Hygienist, Qatargas, Qatar

**Dr Joseph LaDou**, Director, International Centre for Occupational Medicine, University of California, USA

**Professor Kerry Gardiner**, Managing Director, International Occupational Health Ltd, UK

13.00 Lunch For Speakers And Delegates

### 14.00 Ergonomics Update – Preventing Chronic Injury In Working Environments

The role of ergonomics in the identification and analyses of risk factors associated with causing Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs) within the Oil and Gas industry in the UAE. This session will explore the role that ergonomics plays within the oil and gas industry in the UAE.

It aims to emphasise the magnitude of ergonomics within this industry and its proactive role in the identification and analyses and resultant minimisation and/or elimination of the causal risk factors associated with the development Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs).

Furthermore, it aims to show the importance of an interactive holistic and interdisciplinary approach in the attempt to achieving the objective of the minimisation and/or elimination of the causal factors in the development of CTDs and thus the importance of taking cognisance of the associated psychosocial factors.

Finally, the presentation will highlight the fact that ergonomics/Human Factors Engineering is an integral part of the occupational Health and Safety industry within the oil and gas industry and thus it should not be overlooked in development of comprehensive Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE) policies and procedures.

**Charles van Schalkwyk**, Ergonomist and Exercise Physiologist, Pro Ergonomics, UAE



Charles van Schalkwyk is an Ergonomist/Human Factors Engineer (MSc Erg) and Work Physiologist (BSc Hons) registered with numerous institutes including; Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES), and the Department of Health and Medical Services (DOHMS) for Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

He has wide experience in the field of Ergonomics and Work Physiology, including; being a representative on the legislature team to establish ergonomic legislation within South Africa, biomechanical and physiological design teams, psychophysical

effects of simulator work within the SANDF, author of numerous ergonomic articles. Charles is the only registered Ergonomist/Human Factors Engineer and Work Physiologist working within the oil and gas industry in the UAE.

### 14.45 Industry Case Study: Occupational Health Challenges In The Semi-Conductor Industry

Many governments offer incentives to microelectronics companies to locate in their regions. Most semiconductor chip manufacture is taking place in Asia where occupational health research, protective standards and enforcement are at unacceptably low levels. Occupational illnesses occur at a high rate in electronics workers, particularly among semiconductor workers. Microelectronics manufacture is done in clean rooms where air is recirculated after dust is removed by particulate filters. Many different chemicals, metal dopants, and other materials are used in the semiconductor industry. The chemical fumes and vapors that are not removed by air filtration are recirculated with continuous worker exposure. The industry also presents problems of radiation exposure as well as a variety of occupational stressors, including ergonomic issues.

**Dr Joseph LaDou**, Director, International Centre for Occupational Medicine, University of California, USA

15.30 Networking And Coffee Break

### 16.00 Afternoon Round Table Sessions



These open and informal sessions are your opportunity to meet with your colleagues, network and exchange knowledge. Sessions will be facilitated but you will be encouraged to contribute your own experiences and insights to the groups. You are encouraged to move from group to group to build networks with your regional and international colleagues.

#### Musculoskeletal

- Lower back pain and rehabilitation
- Manual handling

#### Contact Dermatitis

- Chemical irritants
- Allergic irritants

#### Carcinogenesis Update

- Benzene and occupational leukemias
- Asbestos update

#### Professional Development

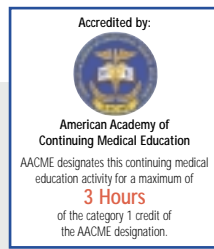
- Ongoing medical education options for regional occupational health professionals

17.15 Chairman's Final Remarks And Close Of Conference



## Post-Conference Workshop B

Tuesday, 30 May 2006



## Post-Conference Workshop C

Wednesday, 31 May 2006



### Designing And Implementing An Effective Occupational Health Scheme For Your Organisation

### Assessing The Impact Of Individual, Environmental And Behavioral Risk Factors On Workplace Injuries And Disability

#### Workshop Timings:

Registration will be at 08.00. The workshops will commence at 08.30 and conclude at 14.30 with appropriate breaks for refreshments.  
Lunch will be served at the end of each day.

This highly interactive workshop will introduce, discuss and try to reach a consensus on the various stages that organisations should consider whilst designing and implementing an Occupational Health scheme. Your expert workshop facilitator will guide you through the main criteria and the associated issues that will impact on the ability of your scheme to improve the health of the workforce and to stimulate organisational performance, including:

- Key design criteria hazards organisational (management) needs/structure
- Statutory requirements
- Corporate Social Responsibility and Organisational Resilience
- Lessons learned - Case studies of effective and ineffective occupational health schemes
- Winning Management buy-in and commitment
- Staffing and resourcing issues
- Managing the organisational impact of comprehensive occupational health schemes

You will leave this workshop with a comprehensive set of practical guidelines that you can take away and apply to your organisation. You will be encouraged to bring your own experiences and questions to the workshop and participate actively in a knowledge sharing environment.

Facilitated By:

**Professor Kerry Gardiner**, Managing Director,  
**International Occupational Health (IOH) Ltd**, UK

The goal of this interactive workshop is to improve clinical decision-making in managing workplace injuries. By the end of the workshop participants will understand:

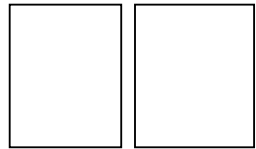
- The complex link between pain, disability and work capabilities including the interaction of physical and psychological dysfunction as obstacles to recovery
- How to recognise, assess and effectively intervene to address risk factors which contribute to delayed recovery

Facilitated By:

**James B Becker, MD**, Medical Director, **BrickStreet Mutual Insurance Company**, USA

**Dr Richard Gross**, Clinical Director, **Oasis Occupational Rehabilitation**, USA





WIN US\$ 250 Dubai Duty Free Vouchers.

Pre-Conference Workshop A	27 May 2006	US\$ 995 / AED 3,654	For further information and Group Discounts contact +971-4-3352483 or email: info@iirme.com
Two Day Conference	28 & 29 May 2006	US\$ 1,695 / AED 6,225	
Post-Conference Workshop B	30 May 2006	US\$ 995 / AED 3,654	
Post-Conference Workshop C	31 May 2006	US\$ 995 / AED 3,654	

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