

AOECnews

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLINICS

October, 1999

Vol 4, No. 8



I want to thank the AOEC members, Kathy, Ingrid, Sheila, and Bruce for making my term as president very informative and enjoyable. With the fall season upon us with its beauty and grandeur, I am reminded that the APHA annual meeting is just around the corner. At this time, *Tee Guidotti* assumes the Presidency effective November 6 at the annual board meeting. Tee has provided effective leadership to the organization over the years, which will further be enhanced in his new role. I look forward to serving both Tee and the membership as past-president. At the annual meeting we will also introduce our new Board members.

AOEC had excellent clinics and individual members up for election this fall and it was a very close election. A hearty thank you to all of those who ran for positions. We look forward to working closely with all of those who put forth their interests and dedication to the organization through the nomination process. I am happy to announce that new clinic members joining the Board for the first time are *Amy Alfriend, RN, MPH*, COHN-S representing the Johns Hopkins University clinic and *Timothy Key, MD, MPH* representing the University of Alabama at Birmingham. I am personally delighted and proud to welcome *Cathy Simpson, MD, MPH*. While she serves as an individual member, she hails from the Wayne State University Department of Family Medicine. Finally, I am pleased to welcome back *Gary Greenberg, MD, MPH* who has been re-elected to a second term. We will be sorry to say goodbye to board members *Grace Paranzino, MPH, RN* of MCP-Hahnemann, *Stephen Mooser, MPH* of Mt. Sinai and my predecessor as President, *Sandra Mohr, MD, MPH*.

While they will no longer serve on the Board, all three will fortunately continue to be active on committees for AOEC. Grace will continue as Chair of the Quality Assurance (QA) Committee. With the passage of the revised criteria (see page 3), the committee is currently working on new QA guidelines. Steve will continue in his dual committee assignments for Internal Communication/Activism and Education. Sandra continues her activities with the Membership Committee. And I can't let this opportunity pass without encouraging all of you to check with the staff about volunteering for one of the AOEC committees. We are currently recruiting for Membership, QA, Database, Internal Communication/Activism, Grants and Contracts and Education.

I invite every member to attend the annual Board meeting on November 6. The hotel and room information can be found on page 2. The General Membership meeting will include speakers from three of the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit's, *William Robertson, MD* from the University of Washington, *Carl Baum, MD* from the University of Illinois-Chicago, and *Ilena Burka, MD* from the University of Alberta.

Sadly, our social hour will begin again this year with a remembrance of friends now gone. Both Judy Cook and Jim Keogh were a vital part of AOEC and APHA. Please join us at 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 7 in the Columbus G Room of the Chicago Hyatt.

There are also some staff changes in progress. Long time staff generalist, Ingrid Denis has left AOEC for a job with the American Association of Museums. Fortunately, she has agreed to continue on as our freelance newsletter graphics artist so that you won't notice a decline in the appearance of the AOEC News. We hope to have a new person on staff soon.

AOEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1998-1999

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Internet: <http://oec-env-med.mc.duke.edu/oem/aoec.htm>.

AOEC AT APHA

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Convention ** Chicago, IL ** November 6-11, 1999

Saturday, Nov 6	AOEC Board of Director's Meeting, 9am-5 pm Hyatt Chicago. Room: San Francisco
Sunday, Nov 7	AOEC General Membership Meeting, 2-4pm Hyatt Chicago. Room: Gold Coast AOEC Social Hour, Memorial Service for Judy Cook and Jim Keogh 4:00-5:00pm Hyatt Chicago. Room: Columbus G
Monday, Nov 8	Ethical Choices in Occupational & Environmental Medicine, Session 1055 12:15-1:45pm, (See program for location) Occupational Health and Safety Social Hour, 6:00pm, (See program for location)
Wed, Nov 10	Pediatric Environmental Health Forum, Session 3147, 12:15-1:45pm (See program for location)
Visit the AOEC Exhibit Booth #522	

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE AOEC-ERL

Ergonomics - A Basic Overview,

Sandra Mohr, MD, MPH, National Jewish Medical Research Center, Denver, 57 slides, script, 1999. Education module designed for physicians and other health care providers to give them an introduction to the topic of ergonomics. Sponsored by NIOSH.

Pediatric Environmental Health History,

Rose Goldman, MD, MPH, Michael Shannon, MD, Alan Woolf, MD, Pediatric Environmental Health Unit at Cambridge Hospital and Children's Hospital, Boston, 1999. Case Presentation with Environmental History. Now available in MS Power Point 4. The presentation will soon be available as module with slides and text. Sponsored by ATSDR.

ORIENTATION Clinics should provide a multidisciplinary, patient-centered, prevention oriented, public health approach to care including adherence to the AOEC Patient Bill of Rights.

1. Physicians must tell patients when their conditions are work or environmentally related and, routinely, must provide all patients with information about the health hazards of their work and environment as well as the appropriate ways to limit exposure to such hazards.
2. The clinic must be willing to provide patients with the results of their evaluations unless medically contraindicated. Furthermore, clinics must routinely inform patients of their right to request and receive copies of all medical test results and other information in the medical record. Clinics must routinely inform their patients of their right to receive copies of all clinic-generated correspondence regarding said patient, unless medically contraindicated.
3. The clinic should be able to cite at least one clinic initiated environmental or workplace intervention that had as its goal the prevention of occupational and/or environmental illness or injury.
4. The clinic must be willing to visit workplace and/or environmental sites and should cite past examples.
5. After obtaining patient consent, clinics should take action to inform employers, manufacturers, government agencies and other relevant parties of measures needed to reduce hazardous exposures. Occasionally, the public health will require informing such parties irrespective of the individual patient's expressed wish.
6. The clinic should be able to cite at least one worker-focused or community-focused educational effort dealing with occupational and/or environmental hazards and risks.

EXPERTISE Every clinic should have on site a staff physician with either board-certification, or demonstrated expertise in occupational medicine. AOEC pediatric clinics must have a board certified pediatrician on staff. In addition, pediatric clinics must have either on staff or in a formal part time consulting position, a physician with either board-certification or demonstrated expertise in medical toxicology. Expertise may be demonstrated through publication in the peer-reviewed literature, a regional or national reputation, or recommendations of AOEC member clinic physicians.

To permit the required multi-disciplinary approach, clinics must have an industrial hygienist and other professionals with expertise in occupational and/or environmental health such as nurses, social workers, and health educators either on staff or available through a pre-arranged referral network.

AVAILABILITY The clinic accepts referrals from any source including patient self-referral. The clinic provides initial evaluation of occupational and/or environmental disease or injury. If limited expertise or resources preclude a clinic from evaluating certain types of occupational or environmental conditions, an appropriate referral network must be established.

Members of clinic staff must adhere to the International Commission on Occupational Health's International Code of Ethics (ICOH, 1992). Clinics must also agree to abide by and distribute the AOEC Patient Bill of Rights to all individuals being evaluated. The applicant should describe an experience in which a potential conflict of interest was resolved in a patient-centered manner.

The clinic must be prepared to collaborate fully in the development of a patient database to be shared among AOEC members with appropriate confidentiality safeguards. Participation will be voluntary until such time as AOEC can reimburse the clinics for the time required to implement this activity.

QUALITY ASSURANCE The clinic will submit a quality assurance report on biennial basis to the AOEC office. Ideally, such a plan would include items specifically related to occupational and/or environmental health. The clinic agrees to consider quality assurance guidelines developed by AOEC in the future.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION In recognition of the need for trained personnel, the clinic must be willing to assist the AOEC in its efforts to provide continuing education activities.

PEER REVIEW New member clinics must share existing members' readiness to accept peer review to aid them in continuing to meet AOEC membership criteria.

Revision of Criteria Adopted 9/28/99

OPPORTUNITIES

Wayne State University, Department of Family Medicine, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine seeks a **board-certified physician**. Send your CV and career objectives to Mark Upfal, M.D., Wayne State University, Department of Family Medicine, 4201 St. Antoine, 4J-UHC, Detroit, MI 48201.

The Occupational & Environmental Health Division at the Cambridge Health Alliance is seeking an **occupational medicine physician** to serve as Medical Director of the Employee Health Service and The Somerville Hospital Occ. Health Program at the Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge MA. Fax resume and contact Suzanne Gill, Director of Physician Services. FAX: 617 498-1976; Telephone 617 503-2534.

The Department of Occupational and Environmental Health (DOEH) at The University of Iowa (UI) College of Public Health invites applications for the following positions.

Tenure track **faculty position in Industrial Hygiene (IH)** at the level of Assist. or Assoc. Prof. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or other doctorate in IH or a relevant science or engineering field and should also be ABIH certified or in the process of obtaining certification. Experience in the practice of IH is highly desirable. Please send a CV, statement of research interest, and 3 references to Dr. Peter S. Thorne, Chair IH Search Committee (#F1779), DOEH, The University of Iowa, 100 Oakdale Campus, #176 IREH, Iowa City, IA 52242-5000

Tenure track **faculty position in Injury Prevention** at the level of Assist. or Assoc. Professor. Applications may also be considered at the level of faculty associate. Applicants should have a MD, PhD or other advanced professional degree with research experience related to the epidemiology of injury prevention. Please send a CV, statement of research interest, and 3 references to Dr. Craig Zwierling, Chair, Search Committee, (#F1850) Attn: Wendy Jackson, DOEH, College of Public Health, The University of Iowa, 100 Oakdale Campus, 124 IREH, Iowa City, IA 52242-5000.

Tenure track **faculty position in Occupational Medicine** at the level of assist. or assoc. professor. Send a CV, statement of research interest, and 3 references to Dr. Nancy L. Sprince, Chair, Search Committee, (#F1852), Attn: Wendy Jackson, DOEH, College of Public Health, The University of Iowa, 100 Oakdale Campus, 124 IREH, Iowa City, IA 52242-5000.

Due to space limitations, the ads above were edited from the originals. Please contact the AOEC for the full ad.

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