

AOEC PEHSU

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLINICS

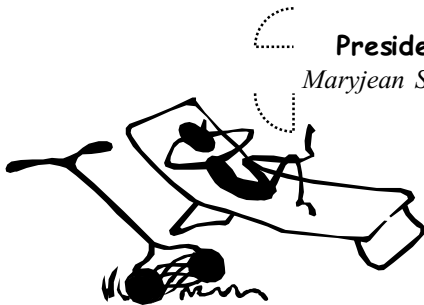
SUMMER 1999

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It is summertime and the living is...well...hectic! Kathy Kirkland and the AOEC staff have been extremely busy over the past few months. Three grant submissions due in the same week--and they still answered the phone with a smile!

Presidential Column

Maryjean Schenk, MD, MPH



The regional meeting in Boston in May was well attended and a great success. Many thanks to Dr. Rose Goldman for hosting the meeting and to all who attended for their participation in the conference. Rose presented and stimulated discussion around a draft educational unit entitled, *Pediatric Environmental Health History*. The discussion provided important feedback that will enhance the final version of the module. This module was developed within Dr. Goldman's scope of work at the Cambridge Hospital/Children's Hospital Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU).

I am pleased to announce a third AOEC/ATSDR funded PEHSU.

Congratulations to Dr. Daniel Hryhorczuk and Cook County Hospital. They have already begun their activities as the Region V PEHSU. This is the beginning of a partnership between ATSDR and EPA to fund PEHSUs in every EPA region. AOEC is prepared to provide assistance to this effort and welcomes expansion of their program.

Kudos to Kathy and AOEC staff for successfully submitting for the new cooperative agreement with ATSDR which provides continued ATSDR funding for many of our core programs including expansion of the PEHSUs, site-specific environmental health promotion and education, the AOEC-ERL and some support for the AOEC Database. This cooperative agreement award was for \$1.2 million. We are still waiting word on another, much smaller, application to ATSDR for \$75,000 for health education activities.

In addition to the ATSDR submissions, staff submitted a proposal to NIOSH which requested funding to support outreach to medical and nursing students, support for the AOEC Database, the OEM-List, and recruitment of potential applicants to OEM residency programs and EIS. We are optimistic that we will receive the requested \$200,000 to support those efforts, however, technical review for that agreement won't take place until August 18.

All of the AOEC programs would not be possible without the dedication and expertise of the AOEC members. We lost a great friend of AOEC, Jim Keogh. I am reminded, unfortunately through his death, of all the great things accomplished by AOEC members. Jim was a mentor to me and taught me much about educational programs for medical students. His spirit lives on through our work and dedication to providing high quality educational programs and clinical cases.

The board meeting in Boston in May involved lots of lively discussion. This resulted in a few recommended changes which will require the vote of membership. In addition, there is one clinic member position and two individual member positions requiring an election soon. Please step up to these leadership roles for the continued success of AOEC and its members. Requests for candidates and examples of candidate statements were included in the recent mailing of the AOEC Individual/Clinic Staff Membership Professional Subdirectory. Call Kathy or myself if you want additional information about the board and its activities.

I look forward to hearing from you!

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1998-1999

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Internet: <http://occ-ew-med.mc.duke.edu/oem/aoec.htm>.*

SPRING REGIONAL AND BOARD MEETINGS

AOEC sponsored a regional meeting in Boston on May 21. This meeting was attended by 24 occupational health professionals in the Northeast region, including several non-members interested in joining AOEC and two visiting occupational physicians from Tanzania. Rose Goldman, MD, MPH gave a presentation on the Pediatric Environmental Health Educational Module developed at the Cambridge PEHSU. This module presents a case of carbon monoxide poisoning involving a small boy and his pregnant mother. We will have this module in the AOEC Library by October 1.

The meeting was so successful that we plan to hold two next year; one in the southeast and one in the southwest. The meetings are subject to our receiving approval of a proposal submitted to NIOSH. Official notice of funding is expected by mid-September.

BOARD ELECTIONS

AOEC will hold elections in September for one clinic and two individual member board positions. Board members serve a three year term. The AOEC Board is very active. There is a fair amount of contact between the staff and the Board via e-mail and phone conversations. There are usually two Board meetings per year, one piggy-backed on the annual APHA meeting in the late fall and one in the spring. Travel expenses to meetings not piggy-backed with APHA will be paid by AOEC.

Based on prior experience, we estimate that the average Board member spends about 1% of their working time on AOEC matters. This increases slightly for members of the Executive Committee. Please speak to current or past Board members about serving on the Board yourself. It is rewarding and interesting. No one has fallen asleep at one of our Board meetings yet.

To run for the Board, you need only submit a biographical sketch with a brief summary of what you or your clinic believes you would like to see AOEC do in the future. For clinics, a designated clinic representative to the Board should be identified. However, should that designated representative not be able to attend any meeting due to scheduling conflicts, someone else from the clinic may attend in his/her place.

Please call the office if you or your clinic are interested in running for a place on the board. We'll provide you with a copy of the biosketch of a previous Board member to use as an example. Applications for Board elections must be received in the AOEC office no later than August 27, 1999.

For more information about any of the items listed below, please call the AOEC office (202/347-4976) and refer to the item number.

1	EPA: Lead and Lead Compounds; Lowering of Reporting Thresholds: Proposed Rule
2	CDC/HHS: Grants for Education Programs in Occupational Safety and Health to Prepare Health Service Researchers - Notice of Availability of Funds
3	HUD: HUD Healthy Homes Initiative - Notice of Availability of Funds
4	NASA: Risk Management - Proposed Rule
5	FDA: Surgeon s and Patient Examination Gloves: Reclassification and Medical Glove Guidance Manual Availability - Proposed Rule and Notice
6	OSHA: Safety Standards for Fall Protection in the Construction Industry - Proposed Rule



PEDIATRIC ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALTY UNITS (PEHSU)

Cook County Hospital, Chicago, IL has been begun work as the **fifth** AOEC clinic-based PEHSU. Current contact information for all five PEHSU are listed below. We plan to expand this very successful program to other EPA regions during the next fiscal year. One factor helping ATSDR fund additional units is the cooperation and financial support of various EPA regional offices. For example, a formal interagency agreement between ATSDR and EPA Region V will ensure that half of the funding for the Region V PEHSU will come from EPA and half from ATSDR. Other EPA regional offices are exploring the idea. While EPA financial support is not the sole criteria for determining where the next PEHSU will be located, it is a significant influence.

The PEHSUs may be consulted with directly at the following telephone numbers:

**PEDIATRIC ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER AT CHILDREN S HOSPITAL
OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER AT CAMBRIDGE HOSPITAL**
Boston, MA
1-888-CHILD14 (1-888-244-5314)

CHILDREN S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE PROGRAM
Seattle, WA
1-877-KID-CHEM (1-877-543-2436)

**MT. SINAI PEDIATRIC ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UNIT
MT. SINAI -IRVING J. SELIKOFF CENTER FOR OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE**
New York, NY
212-241-6173

**CENTER FOR CHILDREN S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL**
Chicago, IL
312-633-5310

**PEDIATRIC ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CLINIC
MISERICORDIA CHILD HEALTH CENTRE**
Edmonton, AB CD
780-930-5794

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE AOEC-ERL



Doc, I m Exposed to Chemicals , Linda Frazier, MD, MPH, University of Kansas-Wichita, 1999, 15 slide script. Presentation developed to assist clinicians in counseling individuals concerned about chemical exposures. Donated by Linda Frazier, MD, MPH.

Ergonomics - An Overview , Sandra Mohr, MD,MPH. NIOSH-sponsored slide module available October 1.

James P. Keogh (1949 - 1999)

Our dear friend and colleague James P. Keogh (Jim) passed away on June 14th, after a brief battle with liver cancer. Jim died the way that he lived; he fought hard, remained positive, took care to leave work projects in good order, and anticipated and tried to provide for the needs of his family and friends. He died at home with his family and friends on hand, and with the laughter and voices of friends and family gathered downstairs in the background. Jim's close family includes his wife Debra Wertheimer, children Sarah, Joshua and Molly, in-laws, and many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

Jim devoted his immense intellect and heart to social change. As a high school student he began challenging authority and crusading for civil rights and peace. His activism continued at the Johns Hopkins University where he received his bachelors degree in 1970. Jim knew then that he wanted to be a doctor and received his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1974.

He did his internship and residency at City Hospitals, in Baltimore. During this time he did an internship with the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW). His passion for occupational medicine grew as he traveled with union representatives meeting and talking with workers. Jim always said that he got his occupational medicine training at the University of Mazzochi.

After residency Jim joined the City Hospitals staff and began doing primary care in the surrounding working class neighborhood. He established the Occupational Health Project and began active outreach to workers, local unions and community physicians. Jim always saw himself as a primary care doctor but also as a worker advocate and tried hard to help his peers recognize the links between work and health.

In partnership with the Building Trades Unions and the Steelworkers in the 70s and 80s Jim educated workers about asbestos hazards, screened workers and pushed for workplace protections. He was part of a coalition which established state regulations on asbestos well before federal standards were in place. Lead poisoning became another problem that Jim attacked with zeal; again joining with the labor movement to bring the plight of lead poisoned construction workers to light and to create a state standard on lead in construction more than a decade before federal protections were in place.

The Occupational Health Project moved to the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1987. Through the years Jim recruited an interdisciplinary team, including Section members Janie Gordon, Pat Gucer, Melissa McDiarmid, Kate McPhaul and Marc Oliver. At his death, Jim was engaged in research on adult lead poisoning, outcomes of cumulative trauma disorders, and chemoprevention of asbestos-related cancers.

Jim was a pioneer in occupational and environmental medical education. He developed an innovative program at the University of Maryland which emphasized worksite visits and small group case exercises. The course became a labor of love for the Baltimore/Washington health and safety community, bringing together primary care physicians, and safety and health professionals from labor, industry and public agencies.

Jim was a ferocious patient advocate. He cared for his patients with great compassion and armed them with the tools to return to work and become active in job safety. He was warm, generous, sweet, funny and really enjoyed a good meal, meeting with friends, a good story, and music. We will miss him enormously, but will always carry a part of him with us.

The Keogh/Wertheimer family is establishing a memorial fund to support prevention-oriented occupational health and safety education and activities. Contributions can be sent to: James P. Keogh Memorial Fund, c/o Gunther Wertheimer, 5720 Ridgedale Road, Baltimore MD 21209.

-special to AOEC News, staff of Occupational Health Project, University of Maryland

August in DC is always a relatively quiet time but this year it feels like the quiet before the storm. There are some good things in the offing.

Henry Falk, MD, MPH has been appointed the new Assistant Administrator of ATSDR. AOEC has just been awarded a record \$1.2 million dollar cooperative agreement with ATSDR and we are awaiting word on the other two proposals including one to NIOSH. Even the Department of Energy is finally acknowledging worker health concerns. (My personal theory is that Tara O Toole softened them up for David Michaels to smooth talk them into action.)

Budgets and all the attendant gossip about which agencies are getting how much are the big news in DC this month. The HHS budget which includes CDC and NIOSH hasn't been released from either House or Senate. At the moment, it does look as though NIOSH will get at least a 6% increase. EPA and ATSDR are funded through the committee on Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies. HR 2684 has passed out of the House appropriations committee with no action as yet from the Senate.

The only bright spot in the House bill for ATSDR is that it provides for \$70 million which is \$6 million more than the President's budget proposal. The bad news is this is \$6 million less than last year's funding. EPA is in a very similar situation. While the Senate appropriations bill hasn't been released yet, Sen. John Chafee had introduced S1090 from the Environment and Public Works Committee. S1090 is intended to restructure Superfund. If passed as written, it would progressively reduce funding for ATSDR from \$64 million this coming fiscal year to \$50 million by 2003 when the agency would cease to exist.

The AOEC Board wrote a letter of support to Secretary Richardson regarding the proposed DOE initiative to provide an occupational illness compensation system for former beryllium workers. The Board also wrote a letter about the issue of an ergonomics standard to OSHA's Charles Jeffress indicating the Board's belief that there was sufficient, validated research completed to move ahead with guidelines so that all employers and workers understand what can and should be done to alleviate this costly medical problem. Anyone interested in seeing copies of the letters should contact the AOEC office. Because there was only time to submit these letters to the Board for approval but not to

the clinic membership, I signed the letters on behalf of the AOEC Board, not the entire membership.

If the OSHA draft guidelines on ergonomics are released, we will make them available so the membership can express their own individual opinions. However, there is a distinct possibility that

the draft guidelines will never be released. The House has already passed HR 987 and the Senate will be considering S 1070 when it returns to work on September 8. Both these bills require OSHA to wait until a second National Academy of Science study is completed.

EPA announced August 2 that it had reviewed 3,000 pesticides as required under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) and was eliminating a number of specific uses for methyl parathion and lowering the allowable residues for azinphos methyl on a wide variety of produce. EPA is now being sued by both environmental and industry groups. In addition, there have been two bills introduced, HR 1592 and S1464. Both these bills would require EPA to conduct more studies before eliminating or limiting any currently licensed pesticide.

All of the bills discussed above are still subject to change, amendment, defeat or passage as written. As usual, if any of the activities on the Hill would affect your patients, your community or just plain aren't in keeping with where you want to see the U.S. government heading, write or e-mail your Congressional representatives. Express your opinion. Offer to talk with staffers working on these issues. Offer to testify. If you don't know how to reach your representatives, contact the AOEC office. Many (but not all) members of Congress are accessible by e-mail and we have that information as well.



**VIEW FROM VERMONT
AVE.**

*-Katherine Kirkland, MPH
Executive Director*

Opportunities

*The Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at National Jewish Medical and Research Center and the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver, CO are seeking an **occupational/environmental medicine faculty member** (MD, MD/PhD or PhD) at the associate or full professor level for July, 2000. Candidates must have established epidemiologic or translational/bench research experience. Pulmonary interests preferred but not required. This position will provide an opportunity to conduct research, teaching, and clinical practice as part of a multidisciplinary group interested in occupational and environmental disease prevention and pathogenesis. Competitive candidates will have a commitment to independent research. Rank and salary are competitive. Send letter of interest and curriculum vitae to: Lee S. Newman, MD, MA, Director, Div. of Environmental and Occ. Health Sciences, Chair, Search Committee, National Jewish Medical and Research Center, 1400 Jackson St. Rm. G010, Denver, CO 80206; newmanl@njc.org.*

*The Public Health Institute is seeking an **Executive Director** for the Children's Environmental Health Network, a growing dynamic \$700K national project dedicated to protecting children from environmental hazards. The Executive Director will direct major programmatic efforts including fundraising and development; guide the maturation of this 7 year old project; provide leadership to staff, the national Board, and volunteer national committees and task forces; continue to work with and expand the number of national organizations addressing this issue; and coordinate with the individuals and organizations active on children's environmental health. The Executive Director will continue to be a champion for the issue of children's environmental health at local, regional, and national levels. Candidates need to possess strong experience in organizational management, growth and development; fundraising; leadership of staff and volunteers; board development; and working with diverse organizations and disciplines including researchers and health care professionals. Salary commensurate with experience plus an excellent benefits package. Position is open until filled. Send resume and cover letter to: Public Health Institute, 2001 Addison St., 2nd Flr., Dept. 85, Berkeley, CA 94704; website at <http://www.cehn.org>.*

*The Mount Sinai - Irving J. Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine is seeking a **physician** for their labor/public health-oriented occupational health clinical program. The Center is part of the New York State Occupational Health Clinic Network. The position combines active clinical practice with opportunities for teaching, research, and prevention-oriented policy development. Board certification or board eligibility in a primary care specialty and occupational medicine are strongly preferred. Salary will be commensurate with post-graduate experience. Fax or mail CV to Dr. Stephen Levin, Box 1057, One Gustave L. Levy Place, New York, NY, 10029. Fax: 212-987-6407; e-mail: stephen.levin@mountsinai.org.*

*The Dept. of Occ. and Env. Health at The Univ. of Iowa invites applications for a tenure track **faculty position in Industrial Hygiene (IH)** at the level of Asst. or Assoc. Professor. The Univ. of Iowa, and the Dept. of Occ. and Env. Health offer a rich env. for collaborative teaching and research including the NIOSH-funded Great Plains Ctr. for Agri. Health, the CDC-funded Univ. of Iowa Injury Prevention Ctr., and the NIEHS-funded Env. Health Sci. Research Ctr. The IH prog. provides training for both masters and doctoral level students, is supported by a NIOSH training grant, and is fully accredited by ABET. The IH faculty members have established research in exposure assessment and control, ergonomics, aerosol physics and toxicology. Areas of res. emphasis include agricultural and rural health; work environments such as construction, metals machining, energy production, and indoor environments; and environments contaminated with bioaerosols and aeroallergens. Applicants must hold a PhD or other doctorate in IH or a relevant sci. or engineering field and should also be ABIH certified or in the process of obtaining certification. Exp. in the practice of IH is highly desirable. Applicants should have an academic res. focus compatible with the res. and prog. interests of the Dept. of Occ. and Env. Health. The successful applicant will be expected to teach grad. courses in IH, direct grad. thesis res., and develop an extramurally-funded res. program. Send a CV, a statement of res. interest, and names of 3 ref. to: Dr. Peter S. Thorne, Chair IH Search Comm. (#F1779), Dept. of Occ. and Env. Health, The Univ. of Iowa, 100 Oakdale Campus, #176 IREH, Iowa City, IA 52242-5000. The Dept. of Occ. and Env. Health is committed to increasing the diversity of our faculty. The Univ. of Iowa is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer. We strongly encourage women and minorities to apply.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 15-17, 1999 - *Annual International Telemedicine Conference*, Albuquerque, NM. Sponsored by the Association of Telemedicine Service Providers. ph: (800) 852-3591, website: www.atasp.org/conference.

SEPTEMBER 17-19, 1999 - *Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference on Occupational Medicine*, Philadelphia, PA. Sponsored by the Virginia Occupational Medical Association, Maryland College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Metropolitan Washington College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. **Contact:** Office of Continuing Medical Education, Virginia Commonwealth University/ Medical College of Virginia Campus, ph. (800) 413-2872 or (804) 828-3640, e-mail: nmervis@hsc.vcu.edu.

SEPTEMBER 24-25, 1999 - *Children & The Environment: Parental Concerns*, Seattle, WA. Sponsored by the Pediatric Health Specialty Unit, Northwest Center for Occupational Health & Safety, UW Occ. & Env. Health Center, Center for Ecogenetics & Env. Health. **Contact:** Northwest Center for OHS, 206-543-1069, e-mail: ce@u.washington.edu.

SEPTEMBER 25 - 28, 1999, *North American Agromedicine Consortium (NAAC) 12th Annual Meeting*, Raleigh, North Carolina. Sponsored by the North American Agromedicine Consortium, affiliated with the International Association of Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health. Contact: W. Gregory Cope, Department of Toxicology North Carolina State University, (919) 515-5296 e-mail: greg_cope@ncsu.edu. AHEC web site at <http://www.wakeahec.org/> click on Continuing Education for information and on-line registration.

SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 1, 1999 - *The 4th ICOH International Conference on Occupational Health for Health Care Workers*, Montreal, Canada. www.santepub-mtl.qc.ca/icoh1999/icoh1999.html.

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 4, 1999 - *1999 North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology*, La Jolla, CA. Sponsored by the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology. Contact: Contemporary Forums Conference Management, (925) 828-7100, ext 0; e-mail nacet@cfforums.com; website: www.clintox.org.

OCTOBER 3-6, 1999 - *Reproductive Hazards and Outcomes/ A Worker s Health Concern for the new Millennium*, Toronto, Ontario. Sponsored by Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers. Contact: Workers Health and Safety Centre, ph. (416) 441-1939, e-mail: reproconf@whsc.on.ca.

OCTOBER 4-8, 1999 - *10th Annual Occupational Health Nursing Symposium*, St. Paul, MN. Sponsored by the Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety., ph: (651) 221-3992; www.umn.edu.mcohs.

OCTOBER 24-26, 1999 - *National Conference on Workplace Safety & Health Training*, St. Louis, Mo. Sponsored by NIOSH, co-sponsored by OSHA, and NIEHS. Registration form on NIOSH web page www.cdc.gov/niosh/loosconf.html. e-mail: mctownsend@aol.com; internet: <http://members.aol.com/mctownsend>

OCTOBER 29-30, 1999, *Ethical Issues in Occupational Health Research*, Houston, TX. The University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center is sponsoring a conference addressing the ethical issues in occupational health research such as intellectual freedom vs. sponsor rights, worker privacy vs. worker protection, industry IRBs, research ownership and solutions to ethical dilemmas. Designed especially for IRBs, industries, occupational health physicians and regulators. The conference will feature internationally recognized speakers and CME credits given. Contact: Paula Knudson at (713)500-5827, e-mail:pknudson@oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu.

AOEC on the Road

In addition to the PEHSU activities, AOEC continues to work with ATSDR on site-specific Community Environmental Health Intervention Projects (CEHIP). CEHIPs include a large educational component not just for the patients but also for the local health care providers and others. An example involves Cynthia Lewis-Younger, MD, MPH of the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, University of Utah. Not only does Dr. Lewis-Younger plan to provide health evaluations in August for Alberton, MT residents exposed to chlorine gas from a train derailment but she will involve nursing students from Montana State University in Missoula. The nursing students will assist residents with health questionnaires before Dr. Lewis-Younger evaluates them.

James Becker, MD and his team from Marshall University, Huntington, WV, continue their work in Louisiana. They have attended Community Advisory Group (CAG) and community meetings to discuss the assessment questionnaire and the proposed clinical evaluation program. The team returned to the community in June to answer questions and will begin evaluations in August.

Calcasieu Parish, LA - While not an official CEHIP site, there is a great deal of activity in Calcasieu Parish. Ms. Kirkland and ATSDR representatives attended a community meeting in April. Peter Orris, MD, MPH of Cook County Hospital and the University of Illinois-Chicago, has reviewed the dioxin test results of the twenty-eight community members tested by ATSDR. Dr. Orris and Ms. Kirkland met with community members in July on an information gathering visit and Dr. Orris returned the following week to meet with most of the twenty-eight community members tested. Further AOEC involvement in the community is under consideration.

Mississippi - The program of environmental education for Mississippi nurses planned by AOEC and the Mississippi Regional Poison Control Center (MRPCC) has been approved by the Continuing Health Professional Educational Division of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. This program, which will focus on methyl parathion and other regional environmental issues, is scheduled to take place Dec. 10, 1999 in Jackson, MS with interactive broadcast to other sites in the state. Clinical personnel associated with the ATSDR-sponsored methyl parathion evaluation program at the AOEC clinic at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, IL will present the workshop in cooperation with MRPCC personnel.

AOEC

ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLINICS

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