



# Bulletin

Occasional information for members

**Institute of Safety in Technology and Research**

**NUMBER 45**  
**November 2007**

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General enquiries about the Institute should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary:

[istr-secretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:istr-secretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

Enquiries about membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary:

[istr-membershipsecretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:istr-membershipsecretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

## Annual General Meeting, Exeter 2007

### Biosafety Accreditation Scheme Approved



Dr Paul Jackett updated the meeting on the work of the Biosafety Accreditation Scheme working groups (details were circulated in advance to members with the AGM Agenda).

The meeting approved a proposal for ISTR to become an accrediting body for courses and for certifying individuals who have achieved the level 1 standard set by ISTR in the field of biosafety. Approval was also given for the level 2 working group to complete its work.

A new "Biosafety Section" [<http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/biosaf.htm>] has been created within the ISTR website and this will be kept up to date with details of the scheme and other relevant information.

**Dr Arthur Mitchell and Rob Wood** were re-elected, unopposed to the honorary posts of Secretary and Treasurer. **David Heath, Jayne Thomas and Mark Cheshire** were re-elected to the Executive Committee. We welcome back Mark who stood down two years ago on his retirement from the University of Bristol. Mark also resumes the role of Membership Secretary.

After the AGM Members and guests visited the new headquarters of the Met Office and after an introduction to weather forecasting and the work of the weather centre were given a guided tour of the facilities.

Many thanks to Paul Adams and his colleagues at the University of Exeter for hosting our annual meeting and all their help in ensuring its success.

# A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to another issue of the *Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* is a service to and for members. In this issue you will find news of members, details of forthcoming *ISTR* activities, reports of recent meetings a summary of Executive Committee business. If you have any item that may be of interest to other members please let me know.

**From time to time, as a further service to members, advertising material may be enclosed with the *Bulletin* but this does not necessarily mean that the *ISTR* endorses the particular products.**

**The *ISTR* is not responsible for individual views expressed in the *Bulletin*.**

The *Bulletin* is edited by: Dr FJ Young, Health and Safety Unit, The University of Birmingham EMail f.j.young@bham.ac.uk

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### ***The Institute has admitted the following into membership***

Further details may be found in the updated, on-line version of *ISTR Members' Handbook* in the members' only section of the *ISTR* website.

#### **Full Members:**

Dr MR Ariyanayagam, Ms JC Ball, Mrs C Beament,  
Mr RL Chamberlain, Mr S Church, Mr M Griffin, Mr WJ  
Hudson, Mr PA Johnson, Mr BPC Jones, Ms VL  
Kieran, Dr J Marshall, Mr K Ryan, Mr MN Smith, Dr IG  
Scragg, Dr L Smith, Mr MP Turner, Dr IA van Piljen  
and Dr H Williams.

## Associate Members:

Mrs JG Adams, Miss N Ashby-Wade, Mr CD Hews,  
Mrs K Lawrence and Dr K Stockwell

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Enquiries about membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary: [istr-membershipsecretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:istr-membershipsecretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

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## ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2007/2008

### Officers

HS (**Heather**) **Sheeley, (Chair)** (2005-2008)  
Manager of Safety,  
Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response,  
Health Protection Agency

Mr MRH (**Mark**) **Hoare, (Vice-Chair)**(2006-2008)  
Health and Safety Adviser,  
The University of Birmingham

### Members

Mr M (Mark) Cheshire (*Membership Secretary*)(2006-2009)

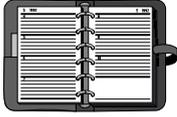
Mr D (**David**) **Heath, (Events Secretary)**(2006-2009)  
Safety Adviser,  
Syngenta,  
Jealott's Hill International Research Centre.

Dr AR (**Arthur**) **Mitchell, (Secretary)**(2007-2008)  
MRC Regional Health and Safety Co-ordinator,  
University Medical School, Edinburgh

Mr RM (**Rob**) **Wood, (Treasurer)**(2007-2008),  
Health and Safety Manager  
University of Lincoln

Mrs J (**Jayne**) **Thomas** (2006-2009)  
ConvaTec UK  
Uxbridge

Dr FJ (**Fred**) **Young, (Bulletin Editor)(Website)(Co-opted)**(2007-2008)  
Health and Safety Adviser,  
The University of Birmingham



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **Skills Development Workshop 2008**

A workshop on Advanced Investigative Interviewing is being arranged for 12 March 2008 at the University of Birmingham Conference Centre. The aim is to develop to a high level the skills for conducting interviews with witness to accidents and incidents.

### **2008 AGM and Symposium**

These will be hosted by the University of Manchester, 1 and 2 July 2008. The theme for the symposium is "difficult situations".

For more information contact the Events Secretary: [istr-eventssecretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:istr-eventssecretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

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## ISTR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007

The Institute's Annual General Meeting took place at the University of Exeter on 4 July 2007, and followed the Agenda sent to all members in advance of the meeting. The Officers' reports are reproduced below and the draft minutes can be downloaded from the members' section of the ISTR website [<http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/members/cmем.htm>]



## HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

First my apologies for being unable to attend the AGM. Family commitments prevent me from coming.

### **Executive Committee Meetings**

Following the AGM in Dublin in June 2006, the Executive Committee have met 5 times. We met in Edinburgh on October 11th, in Lincoln at the University on December 20th-21st, at MRC Harwell on March 9<sup>th</sup>, in Birmingham at Birmingham University on May 11<sup>th</sup> and finally here in Exeter. The task of the Executive Committee is to ensure that ISTR as a professional body continues to meet the demands and expectations of its members. The Executive Committee held a strategy meeting on December 20th to review where, as an organisation, we were and how improvements could be actioned. This proved to be a productive meeting allowing discussion to explore areas that normally, because of time restraints, are not aired at the normal Executive Committee meetings. Recruitment was one area that was debated and an active recruitment campaign is now underway. A questionnaire is also being prepared that will be sent to each member to seek their views and opinions on how ISTR should be structured in the coming years.

### **Membership**

Vincent Theobald has felt unable to continue in his role as Membership Secretary. Vincent has over the past 2 years put a great deal of work into streamlining the application process and the membership database. I and the rest of the Executive Committee express our thanks to Vincent for his valuable input and wish him well for the future.

### **Bulletin and the ISTR Web Site**

Fred Young does a great deal of work compiling the Bulletin and maintaining the Web site. Many of you will have noticed that the ISTR Home page has a "new look appearance thanks to the work of Fred. We are hopeful that members and visitors to our Home page will find the changes to be positive and encourage further visits. An attractive Home page is often the first introduction to an organisation. Our hope is that this first encounter will encourage the visitor to find out more about ISTR. It is my pleasure to thank Fred on behalf of the Executive Committee for his work, much of it behind the scenes. Mark Hoare continues to maintain our mail base and to provide advice. It is a pleasure to record our thanks to Mark.



## Symposia and Development Workshops

David Heath continues to organise ISTR events in a professional manner. We should not underestimate the amount of work that David puts into these events and we all owe David a great deal of thanks for his efforts. We are in the process of looking for alternatives to the motor-cycle museum in Birmingham as a venue. Suggestions from members would be welcome bearing in mind that we attempt to go for a venue that has easy access by car and public transport. Jayne Thomas has the portfolio of looking for sponsorship for our main meetings.

The November 2006 meetings were in fact held at the motor-cycle museum. Day 1 looked at the subject "Enabling disabled persons in Science and Technology". Although attendance was less than expected, nevertheless this turned out to be an extremely interesting event. Day 2, the biosafety day, looked at "Back to basics". Feedback from delegates to both days was extremely favourable. The March workshop looked at the DSEAR regulations and the

application to Universities and other research organisations.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my other colleagues on the Executive Committee both for their continuing support and the work they all put into ISTR. Rob Wood, our Honorary Treasurer continues to ensure that our finances remain healthy, Heather Sheeley chairs the committee meetings in a firm manner that allows good discussions to take place before she summarises effectively. We in ISTR are fortunate to have such able persons on the Executive Committee.

We welcome Mark Cheshire as a committee member for the coming 2 years. This year a number of members expressed an interest in helping the committee in various ways. I find this extremely encouraging and their help will be sought over the coming year.

*Dr Arthur R Mitchell  
Hon. Secretary*



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## HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

### ISTR Annual Finance Report 2006/7

The financial report for this year is very healthy indeed, providing all the outstanding payments are collected.

An additional joint symposium in October has provided a welcome boost to a relatively quiet year for the Institutes regular events.

A tight rein has been maintained on the executive committee's expenses, even with the support to the working group, so that the only reason there is an increase in administration costs this year is because of the introduction of the ISTR Award at the last AGM.



Subscriptions were late being processed this year, which means that the accounts record a high number of payments outstanding. As of today (28th June 2007) the outstanding payments have reduced, but

there are still 61 subscriptions outstanding – you know who you are!

In order that the subscriptions are processed as they should be, before the year end, I intend to pull the subscription date forward for year 2007/8 to September 2007, and fix all future subscription invoice requests to September of each year.

In line with the agreement at last year's AGM the subscriptions will increase to £20 per member from September 2007.

To simplify the administration of retired members' subscriptions, it is intended to provide a £10 one-off "retired members' subscription", again to be effective from September 2007.

In summary, a reasonable year with small gains largely due to the additional October Symposium and the following measures to be confirmed at the AGM:

1. The subscription year will be standardised to September of each calendar year, beginning September 2007 for subscription year 2007/8.
2. The subscription fee for members and associates will be increased to £20 effective from September 2007.
3. Retired members will be offered a 'one-off' retired members subscription of £10 effective from September 2007.
4. The institute's accountant/auditor for 2007/8 will again be Ann Robinson.

*Rob Wood  
Hon Treasurer*

# CHAIR'S REPORT



## ISTR Chair's Report 2006/07

Firstly I want to congratulate you all; as members of ISTR by retaining your membership and by participating in the Institutes activities you have demonstrated a high commitment to your profession and thus benefited not only yourselves but your employer.

It has been another busy and productive year. With the autumn Symposia; "Enabling disabled persons in Science & Technology", "Biosafety - back to basics", a specialist one on Special Waste Management, and the Biological Safety Meetings The shared Symposia meeting with two other organizations with overlap interests created an opportunity to cross network and was profitable. Only one of those had below optimal attendance but all were informative and enjoyable. In March there was the DSEAR workshop which again had fewer uptakes than hoped but again was well received.

Other activities have included promotional activities to ensure all that could benefit from the being a part of ISTR are aware of the Institute and its professional status. A display was at EBSA, USHA and representation at certain EU funded projects. A new poster was purchased and this will assist in giving prominence to our "brand". The award was another platform to inform others of the nature of the Institute. The bio groups continue with their activities both through meeting and online lively exchange.

The Handbook was revised after considerable effort. Thanks to Vincent for that.

The Bulletin issued. The web site refreshed thanks to Fred and I think you'll agree it is very attractive. More work will continue with this.

The Hasnet exchange is not so active and could benefit from more postings and participants. However

the bio network is very active and instructive. I commend the work done by Paul Jackett's groups which will take ISTR into a new and profitable phase as the Institute cautiously moves to an accreditation role.

The Executive Committee has worked very hard again this year to ensure proper and prudent management of funds, ensuring a high profile and reputation and ever striving to give good services to members. While costs have been kept down it is inevitable that these would rise to ensure continued good services but still excellent value. The rise to 20 pound will assist in providing a sensible buffer. Our Symposia are finely balanced for costs and there is a need to have good uptake to ensure costs of meetings are held low and good speakers provided. Membership stands at 222 paid up members and several outstanding so again prompt settlement of membership of symposia payments is helpful in managing the balance sheet.

More members are particularly welcome so encourage your colleagues and acquaintances to join up and reap the benefits. And where topics would appeal to colleagues in other disciplines encourage them to take up the training opportunity. Ideas for topics and activities are always welcome. Also the award is an excellent opportunity to have your and others efforts recognized so think hard about nominating good work.

Finally I shall thank on your behalf the Executive committee for their hard work and for the coming year's challenge.

Enjoy this evening and the Met Office and tomorrow's programme on Occupational Health for the 21st century.

*Heather Sheeley  
ISTR Chair*



# ELECTIONS

## Elections for the honorary officers' posts of Treasurer and Secretary

are held annually. As there was only one nomination for each of the posts Robert Wood, Honorary Treasurer, and Dr Arthur Mitchell, Honorary Secretary, were declared elected.

There were three **Executive Committee** vacancies this time and three nominations. Jayne Thomas, David Heath and Mark Cheshire were declared elected.

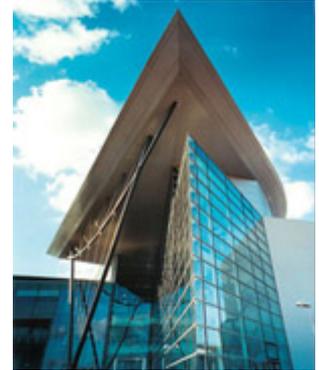
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## ..and after the AGM

After the AGM, 34 Members and guests visited the new Met Office Headquarters in Exeter.



The Met Office was founded 1854 to provide information on the weather and marine currents to the marine community and was a small department of the Board of Trade located in London. The re-location from Bracknell to Exeter in 2004 follows an earlier re-location in 1962. The Met Office is now an Executive Agency of the Ministry of Defence. Accredited as a World Area Forecasting Centre, the Met Office is one of only two world centres for civil aviation.



After an introduction to weather forecasting and the work of the weather centre delegates had a guided tour of the facilities.

The Exeter Headquarters is also home to the National Meteorological Library and Archive. The Library is open to anyone and its catalogue can be searched on-line



That night, back at the University.....





# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## ISTR SYMPOSIUM AT the University of Exeter 2007

*David Heath, ISTR Events Secretary, has produced the following account of the symposium proceedings (members may download presentations from the ISTR Members' web page)*

45 delegates were welcomed to Exeter by David Alan, the University Registrar and Secretary, who described the expansion of the university, now with 305 of academics from overseas. He acknowledged the prominence of ISTR in the education sector and the contribution we have made to the improvements in

health and safety in recent years and wished us a successful symposium.

### **Scanning the horizon – likely issues**

Roger Brentnall, HSL

Roger Brentnall, gave an overview of the work of the Horizon Scanning Section at HSL. He then focussed on several areas of interest which are of concern in the research environment, in particular :

- **Globilisation as a driver**, the UK will have to rely on high tech sectors to survive, notably

knowledge based industry and commerce, IT and banking.

- **New and emerging pests and diseases** – Roger actually mentioned blue tongue virus as a potential threat.
- **Demographic trends** – the growth of small and medium sized enterprises, with the associated difficulties in Health and safety, compared to large manufacturing industry in former times.
- **Changing work patterns** is another challenge for us all. There will be more part time and shared work and home based work. Managing and training remote workers will be a greater issue.
- **Human performance enhancement** is also seen as a new area, where machines can be used to increase worker output together with drugs or genetic modification to increase output. In some ways though this goes against historical ergonomic thinking of adapting the task to fit the person.

### **Pre-employment screening problems - drugs, allergies, disabilities, strategies.**

Janice Craggs, Occupational Health Practitioner, University of Newcastle

Janice Craggs outlined what OH staff can and can't screen for, the need for confidentiality and how to screen. She explained that the aim of screening is to:

- Identify the work related health risks of the proposed employment
- Advise managers on the prospective employees' fitness for the job requirements
- Advise on the requirement for health surveillance or screening in relation to a particular job role
- Advise, where necessary, on any reasonable adjustments to the work content or environment that may be required in the light of a medical condition or a disability as defined under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

### **Mutagens update – what are they ?**

Kevin Ledgerwood, toxicologist, Syngenta

Kevin talked about mutagens, what they are, what effects they have on animals and humans, how they are identified by toxicology tests and the precautions taken to minimise exposure. He explained the EU system of classification around risk phrases and the control philosophy of containment and engineering controls, coupled with risk assessment .

### **Case Study 1: Issues employing an aging workforce**

Konstanty Budkiewicz, Eli Lilly

The number of citizens over 50 will rise from 20m to 27m by 2020 but is 50 'old'? There are increasing legislative pressures on HR such as equal pay, sex discrimination, race relations, disability discrimination and now employment equality, together with Human Rights Act and Employment equality ( age ) regulations. Many members of an aging workforce are quite capable of working in later life with suitable adjustments, which HR need to have in their 'toolbox'. These can include flexible shift work, part time work, job sharing, down shifting, sabbaticals, secondments and volunteering, as well as casual work and consultancy

### **Case Study 2: Well being and wellness programmes**

Dr Les Smith, Health and Wellbeing UK Ltd

Dr Les Smith talked about the wellbeing model, which consists of 5 inter-related facets, namely:

- Psychological wellbeing
- Physical wellbeing
- Social wellbeing
- Environmental wellbeing
- Economic wellbeing

Each has to be in balance with the others or the persons' wellbeing suffers.

### **Case Study 2: A strategy for handling a micro-organism of unknown pathogenicity**

Tim Brooks, HPA

The day concluded with an excellent interactive session led by Dr Tim Brooks of HPA. Each delegate was given a electronic voting handset.



Tim then presented a scenario, such as a laboratory worker who dropped a flask of biological agent of unknown toxicity and we all voted on what we thought the correct action to take.

# ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee has met at Exeter University in July 2007 and MRC Edinburgh in October 2007. The following is a summary of the matters considered.

## Skills Development Workshop 2007

Accident: Advanced investigative interviewing' run by Bond Solon.

## AGM and Summer Symposium Venues

2008, Manchester – "Difficult Situations"

2009 Nottingham – "Green but Safe"

2010 Bristol.

## Membership

It was agreed that a formalisation of the membership resignation process was required.

A membership questionnaire to seek members views on the services to members would be developed and the it would available on-line via surveymonkey.com.

The ad hoc rules for members temporary suspension in case of non-payment of fees were discussed the re-institution of membership could be made by the individual making a back payment of 2 years fees. It was agreed that after 3 years of non payment, membership would cease.

## EU Funding

The search for EU funding continues

## Joint Ventures

A letter from IOSH had sought ISTR support for the IOSH March 2008 Conference. It was agreed, subject to acceptable conditions, that use of the ISTR logo by IOSH and publicity at the event was potentially beneficial in attracting new members to ISTR.

ISTR will be proactive in seeking joint ventures with other health and safety professionals such as the Universities' Chemical Safety Forum (UCSF).

## Payment of subs by credit card

The bank advised the expense of members' payment of subscriptions by credit card was not justified. The recommended method of payment was by internet banking or BACS.

## ISTR Biosafety Sub-group

This will in future be known as the ISTR Biosafety Section. A new page will be created for it within the ISTR website and this will be kept up to date with details of the Biosafety Accreditation Scheme and other relevant information.

## November 2008 Symposium

This will be a chemical update including REACH and GHS (which is to replace CHIP).

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## CURRENT CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENTS

The Executive Committee organises formal responses from the ISTR to Consultative Documents (CD's) put out by the Health and Safety Commission, etc. Each such response is intended to be based on the views of the membership co-ordinated by identified individuals. These co-ordinators need to have expertise in a particular area of interest to the *Institute* because the timescales for responses to CD's is sometimes very short and there may be little opportunity for further consultation with the membership.

If you are willing to act in this capacity of "CD" co-ordinator for ISTR please contact Arthur Mitchell, Hon. Sec., and indicate the topic area you have the expertise to cover.

### Volunteers are needed NOW for the following.

The documents may be downloaded from the web addresses provided.

### Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

## CONSULTATION ON SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS - IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF ENERGY USING PRODUCTS

This consultation implements an Energy White Paper commitment to publish a series of papers analysing how the performance of a range of energy-using products will need to improve over the next 10 – 20

years. It forms part of a wider annual review and policy development process, supporting delivery of the Government's objectives for energy and for sustainable consumption and production.

- Domestic lighting products
- Domestic cold appliances
- Domestic wet products
- Domestic cooking products
- Information and communication technology (ICT) products
- Air conditioning products
- Motor driven systems

- Commercial refrigeration
  - Commercial lighting products
  - Street lighting and traffic signals
- Domestic heating and hot water systems

**Closing date for comments 27 February 2008**  
[\[http://www.mtprog.com/whitepaper.aspx\]](http://www.mtprog.com/whitepaper.aspx)

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**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

## **CONSULTATION ON ARTICLE 5 OF THE ENERGY END USE EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY SERVICES DIRECTIVE 2006/32/EC**

Article 5 requires the public sector to fulfil an exemplary role in the context of energy end use efficiency. As part of performing this exemplary role the public sector must communicate its energy saving actions to the wider public. The Directive requires the public sector to take up cost effective energy efficiency improvements that generate the largest savings in the shortest space of time.

The consultation outlines the UK Governments preliminary views on implementing Article 5.

**Closing date for comments 6 March 2008**  
[\[http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/energyservices-article5/index.htm\]](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/energyservices-article5/index.htm)

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**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

## **CONSULTATION ON OPTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE BATTERIES DIRECTIVE**

Views are sought on the proposed options for the implementation of the Batteries Directive which covers portable, industrial and automotive batteries and accumulators.

Defra is consulting on a number of issues, most significantly:

- The most effective and efficient way for producers to discharge their obligations under the Directive.

- The most efficient method for collection of portable batteries through the setting up of an accessible and cost effective structure.
- How to ensure that obligations on producers are proportionate to the size of the business and their share of the market.
- Interim collection targets.

**Closing date for comments 13 March 2008**  
[\[http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/topics/batteries/batteries-implement.htm\]](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/topics/batteries/batteries-implement.htm)

# ISTR'S ELECTRONIC INTERFACE



## HASNET-ISTR Email Discussion List



This is a closed email discussion list. That is, only ISTR members are given access to it. Members need do nothing; members are automatically added to the list by the Membership Secretary using the email address supplied by the member. Queries about HASNET-ISTR should be addressed to the Membership Secretary (see page 2 for contact details).

The Executive Committee would like to see members make a lot more use of HASNET-ISTR



# Bulletin

Occasional information for members

**Institute of Safety in Technology and Research**

Whilst this copy of the ISTR Bulletin has been posted to you, an electronic version in Adobe Acrobat pdf format can be downloaded from the member's only section of the ISTR web site:  
<http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/members/cmем.htm>

**ISTR on the World Wide Web: <http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/>**