



# Bulletin

Occasional information for members

**Institute of Safety in Technology and Research**

**NUMBER 49  
November 2009**

## CONTENTS

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Membership News                    | 2  |
| ISTR Executive Committee 2009/2010 | 3  |
| Dates for your Diary               | 4  |
| ISTR Annual General Meeting 2009   | 4  |
| Elections                          | 6  |
| ISTR as an Accrediting Body        | 7  |
| – Final report                     | 7  |
| ...Before the AGM and later        | 9  |
| Summer Symposium 2009              |    |
| – Green but Safe                   | 11 |
| ISTR Executive Committee           | 12 |
| ISTR Sponsorship Scheme            | 12 |
| Current Consultative Documents     | 13 |

ISTR's Electronic interface

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)

**2010 ISTR AGM  
and Summer Symposium**



**6 and 7 July 2010**

## Annual General Meeting, Nottingham 2009



There was no risk of our coach breaking down this year – through an oversight there was no coach! Before the AGM, members enjoyed a tour of the caves beneath Nottingham Castle and later discovered a spell in the stocks had not improved the Chair's singing voice! Many thanks to Ann Hallam et. al. for all their efforts in helping to ensure the success of our meeting.

### AGM Elections



#### **We have a new Vice-Chair, Jayne Thomas.**

Jayne was first elected to the Executive Committee in 2005. A graduate chemist, with previous experience at the MRC Jayne is now at Convatec UK, a company that specialises in 'developing innovative medical technologies'.

Dr Arthur Mitchell and Rob Wood were re-elected, unopposed to the honorary posts of Secretary and Treasurer.

#### **Three new first-time committee members were elected:**

**Catherine Davidge**, Safety Coordinator, University of Manchester; **Pete Jewell**, Departmental Safety Co-ordinator and RPO, University of Bath; and **Eileen Tulley**, Health and Safety Officer, Dublin City University.

**The AGM also approved two new Fellows** in recognition of their outstanding service to the Institute.

#### **Dr Arthur Mitchell**



Arthur has been ISTR Honorary Secretary since 2001.

#### **Dr Fred Young**



Fred, ISTR Bulletin and web editor, was a founder member of IUSO (predecessor to ISTR)

# 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*.**

---

## 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:**

Ms H Koch, Mr A MacQuiban, Mr D Pate, Dr G Roberts and Mrs V Spackman,

#### **Upgrade to Fellow:**

Dr AR Mitchell and Dr FJ Young

#### **Associate Members:**

Dr S Clark, Ms D Collins, Dr J Jones and Mr D Smith

---

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



# ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009/2010

## Officers

### Chair (2008-2011)



Mr MRH (**Mark**) Hoare,  
Health and Safety  
Adviser, University of  
Birmingham

### Vice-Chair (2009-2011)



Mrs J (**Jayne**) Thomas  
EMEA EHS Manager  
ConvaTec UK

### Treasurer (2009-2010)



Mr RM (**Rob**) Wood,  
Germs Ltd

### Secretary 2009-2010



Dr AR (**Arthur**) Mitchell)  
MRC Regional Health and  
Safety Co-ordinator,  
Edinburgh

## Members

### Member 2009-2011



Miss CG (**Catherine**)  
**Davidge**  
Safety Coordinator,  
University of  
Manchester

### Member 2009-2011



Mr PJ (**Pete**) J Jewell  
Departmental Safety Co-  
ordinator and RPO,  
University of Bath

### Member 2009-2011



Ms E (**Eileen**) Tully  
Health & Safety Officer,  
Dublin City University

## Co-opted

### Co-opted 2009-2010



HS (**Heather**) Sheeley,  
(*European Liaison*)  
Manager of Safety, Centre  
for Emergency  
Preparedness and  
Response, HPA

## Co-opted

### Co-opted 2009-2010



Dr FJ (**Fred**) Young,  
(*Bulletin Editor*)(*Website*)  
Health and Safety  
Adviser,  
University of Birmingham

### Co-opted 2009-2010



Mr M (**Mark**) Cheshire  
(*Membership Secretary*)

### Co-opted 2009-2010

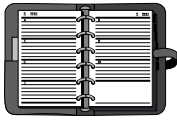


Mr D (**David**) Heath,  
(*Events Secretary*)

### Co-opted 2009-2010



Dr PJ (**Phil**) Baillie  
(*ISTR/UCSF Liaison*)  
Assistant Health and  
Safety Adviser,  
London Metropolitan  
University



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **ISTR Skills Workshop March 2010**

Venue is University of Birmingham, 16/17 March, starting on the evening of 16 March. The topic will be local exhaust ventilation based on the latest guidance from the HSE, HSG258

### **2010 AGM and Summer Symposium**

University of Bath 6 and 7 July 2010, theme 'New Technologies/Synthetic Biology.'

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

## ISTR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

The Institute's Annual General Meeting took place in the Hugh Stewart Hall at the University of Nottingham on 1 July 2009, attended by 25 members and followed the Agenda sent to all members in advance of the meeting.



## HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since last year's AGM, the Executive Committee has met 5 times. We met at Edinburgh on 23 September last year, the remaining dates, 16 December 08, 27 February 09 and 30 April of this year were held at the Safety Unit at Birmingham University. We had a meeting today in Nottingham.

We continue to attract new members to ISTR and it appears that we are succeeding in maintain our goal of heading towards the 300 membership level. This is, I believe, due in part to you, our members, who advertise ISTR as the professional body by word of mouth. Also we had a very successful autumn symposium last year at Coventry and this was followed by an excellent workshop held at the Safety Unit at Birmingham University. On the back of the successful autumn symposium, we have been able to subsidise the present symposium, thus thanking our members for their support over the past years.

The working party under the chairmanship of Dr Paul Jackett has now completed its task and Paul will present an update to the AGM. I do not wish to pre-



empt what Paul will be saying but I would like on your behalf to thank Paul and all those involved in the working party for the tremendous amount of work that has been put into creating the ISTR accredited level course 1 and level course 2 for bio-safety practitioners.

## Future Challenges

I said in my report last year that one challenge is to maintain our membership and to broaden our membership base. In the present economic crisis, then this continues to challenge us and it is important that we select relevant topics for our symposia. We need your help in so far as letting your committee know what you wish to have as symposia topics. I shall consider that our membership base has to be much broader than it is presently.

## Executive Committee

We as an organisation are fortunate in having high calibre individuals on the committee. This year we have decided to expand the committee by co-opting Mark Cheshire and David Heath onto the committee, thus maintaining their expertise but at the same time allowing fresh faces to join the Executive Committee.

David, Mark and Fred Young do a huge amount of work on your behalf. A lot of this goes on behind the scenes but without these individuals the organisation would be much the poorer. I take this opportunity to thank them for their sterling work.

Rob Wood continues to be an efficient Honorary Treasurer wisely investing on behalf of ISTR and also ensuring that we live within our means. Finally, I would like to thank Mark Hoare for chairing our meetings in a style that allows discussion to take place without losing sight of points raised. Our agendas are very full but the Chair's effectiveness means that all business is completed within the allotted time.

*Dr Arthur R Mitchell  
Hon. Secretary*



---

## HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Over the past couple of years there has been the opportunity, with our reserve to play the game a little on certain high interest/low risk investments, but we will have lost this ability for probably the next three years due to the mess that the banks got themselves into and the way they are managing their customers and offerings to help themselves pull out of it. What this means for us is that interest income is going to be only 15-20% of what we might have expected otherwise - in cash terms this is a reduction of around £1,200 - £1,400 per year; for example last year we obtained over £1,600 in interest and this year I expect less than £250. With our contingency funds this should not be a problem, but it will most likely mean calling on those reserves as the alternatives to replace that income (such as higher subscriptions or increased receipts from events) are likely to be unpalatable.

So last financial year we have seen our total cash balance go up to over £38,500 and I would expect to see that fall by £3,000 to £4,000 over the next three years unless we have significantly higher recruitment or we make more money than planned off the regular events each year. Of course if we make less money than planned off the events this fall could be greater.

We must also remember that it is necessary for the Institute to make real gains at the Summer Conference and the Autumn Symposium as these two

events provide the subsidy to support both the Spring Workshop and the low membership subscriptions.

Other issues that I, as Treasurer will be monitoring include the BSO Accreditation Scheme. This is bringing in money with each accreditation and so far the administration costs have been minimal, with income at £1,500 and outgoings at £82. However, I have just received a claim from one of the team of assessors and apparently we have agreed an honorarium for the assessors of £250 per course assessment. I am not too sure how often this payment will be required or how it is going to balance with the BSO scheme income, so it is something that I will be keeping an eye on.

Currently committee costs are low (less than 15% of turnover for 2008/9) and whilst the committee remains purely a group of volunteers I think committee and administration costs will remain low, but the question will be whether the ISTR will be able to remain as an institution run purely by volunteers if we continue developing as we have over recent years. So, overheads are not an immediate concern for the future, but there is a medium term risk that the committee may need to begin looking at part-time or full-time staff to manage the growing organisation.

*Rob Wood  
Hon Treasurer*



---

## CHAIR'S REPORT

I am always amazed at the expertise, the depth and breadth of knowledge that ISTR members have. The

risks that we deal with are far more complicated and challenging than those that are continually being

highlighted and made fun of in the media. We must be proud of our profession and in particular of ISTR.

This past year has been another successful year for ISTR:

- membership has held up (see separate report);
- we have held three successful events;
- the Biosafety Accreditation Scheme has started (a report will be given at the AGM); and
- the finances are in good health (see separate report).

Last year's Annual Conference was held at Manchester University and was entitled '*Difficult Situations*'. Quite an apt title as we as delegates found ourselves in a 'difficult situation' - on a broken down coach on a country road about six miles from Jodrell Bank which we were en route to visit! However we did make it and we had a very interesting visit around the telescope. Many thanks to those at Manchester for organising the conference.

In November we held a two day meeting at the Windmill Hotel near Coventry. The first day we looked at various aspects of chemical safety but included a session on biological safety for chemists. The second day was on biological safety and included presentations by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office as part of their liaison programme.

We had the opportunity to be film stars in March. A skills workshop was held at Birmingham University to learn how to make film clips to be used for training. This was an excellent 'hands on' event. Unfortunately the television lights used picked out all our wrinkles - no make up provided!

I am just completing my first year (of three) as Chair of ISTR. Except for me as Chair, all the places on the Executive are up for re-election - so I could have quite a lonely year next year if no one stands!

It is important that we have good continuity planning on the Executive. This is why we wish to amend the ISTR Constitution to make the immediate Past Chair an automatic member of the Executive for the year

after their term in office as Chair has finished. They will officially deputise for the Chair. Their place will then be 'taken' for the next two years by the Chair Elect (i.e. Vice Chair) as set out currently in the Constitution. (The exact wording is set out on the 2009 AGM agenda.)

For any organisation to move forward it needs to encourage 'new blood' to come forward and help run its affairs. ISTR is no exception. The membership of the current Executive Committee has not changed for some while and whilst we consider (modestly) that we are doing a good job, we recognise we need new people to bring fresh ideas and to ensure we have good succession planning.



In order to encourage 'new blood' to stand for election to the Executive those who currently hold the Membership Secretary and Events Organiser portfolios have agreed not stand for election. However, they are prepared to be co-opted back onto the Executive and continue in their roles. (The Secretary and Treasurer have to be elected members of the Executive.) This will mean that of the six Executive posts up for election three will be 'without portfolio'. This will allow new Executive members to come on board with fresh ideas, 'learn the ropes' and help to ensure we have robust succession planning.

To close I would like to thank Heather Sheeley who was the previous Chair for all her hard work during her time of office. Also thanks to the Executive Committee members for all their involvement and effort over the past year - there are certainly no passengers on the Executive! Finally, thanks to everyone who has supported ISTR over the past year.

Mark Hoare  
*Chair*

---

## ELECTIONS

**Election for the post of Vice-Chair** is held at the end of the first year of the current Chair's term of office. As there was only one nomination Jayne Thomas was declared elected.

**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. Eileen Tully, Catherine Davidge and Pete Jewell were declared elected.

**Election of Fellows** Dr Arthur Mitchell and Dr Fred Young were elected for their outstanding service to the Institute.



**The ISTR Award for Outstanding Contribution to Safety in Technology and Research**



The Award, which had been approved by the 2008 AGM, was presented to Ms Sharon Wood for her work on how to carry out GM assessments in hospitals and NHS trusts.

Sharon’s work for the award had started in 2001 at Imperial College London - she was at that time advising the Trust on GM proposals. Guidance had to be formulated which she developed and the set of standards developed were now being used by many organisations.

---

## ISTR AS AN ACCREDITING BODY - FINAL REPORT

*The following report was presented to the AGM*

**1. ISTR support**

The working group has enjoyed consistent support from the Executive Committee since the first meeting at the end of 2005. We are grateful to the Committee and the membership for entrusting us with the task and we are pleased to be able to confirm completion of the scheme for biosafety accreditation and registration.

**2. The working group**

As chair, I would like to express my personal thanks to all those that took part in the group. Our first task was to establish that it was feasible for ISTR to be an accrediting body. This we were able to do within the first period, and this early decision enabled the group to set criteria for a scheme that could work within ISTR’s resources.

**3. Scheme outline**

As a reminder, the main features of the scheme are:

- Two levels of attainment: Biosafety Practitioner (Level 1) and Biosafety Professional (Level 2)

- Level 1 attainment through course study and experience
- Level 2 attainment through assessed portfolio
- Accreditation of training course providers at level 1
- Certification of individuals at levels 1 and 2.

**4. Progress at Level 1**

The Biosafety Practitioner scheme has been operational since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008. ISTR has approved the appointment of 4 assessors and to date 2 courses have been run and assessed. A third provider will provide accredited training for selected Units and Elements later this year. Thus a number of people will have completed the Practitioner course and be eligible (subject to having 2 years relevant experience) to become the first ISTR-registered Biosafety Practitioners. The group recommends that those granted Practitioner status be listed on the ISTR website, together with the name of their employer. There are however some important issues:

- More providers are required, especially in Northern England and Scotland

- More assessors would be welcome (although the need is dependent upon the number of providers and frequency of applications)
- A major challenge is to ensure consistency between providers through the assessment process

## 5. The Biosafety Professional (Level 2)

During 2008-9, the group has progressed with its task of developing the scheme for the Biosafety Professional. We are pleased to report that the scheme is now essentially complete.

The role of ISTR at this level is to assess submitted portfolios and determine if the individual has met the criteria for BSP.

The key features are:

- Personal BSP certification
- Portfolio-based modular scheme
  - 6 mandatory Units
  - 2 optional Units, selected from a list (Note: the candidate would be free to propose a subject area not on the prescribed list. In that case it would be for the candidate to agree with ISTR (the assessor) that the content of the module was of the required standard)
  - Evidence gathered over the 5 years immediately prior to submission
  - Continued certification dependent upon CPD
  - Commencement of the scheme on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009

It is intended that ISTR places details of the scheme on the website. ISTR should determine how much information is in the public domain at this stage. In addition a page of FAQs will be added to give further information to interested parties. There will be a further appeal for assessors. Training providers are eligible to be assessors at level 2.

The group also recommends that the list of names on the BSP register together with the names of their employers be included on the ISTR website.

### 'Grandparent' rights

There is a group of professional biosafety experts who have worked in the field for many years, acquiring great knowledge and experience. The BSP scheme requires the submission of a portfolio where the evidence has been developed over the 5 years (or 3 years plus Level 1) prior to submission. However these experienced professionals would have acquired their own 'evidence' over a period much greater than 5 years and it would be unreasonable to confine it to that length of time. We therefore propose the following:

- That those with more than 5 years experience be given one year from 1 September 2009 to register with ISTR their

intention to submit their portfolio before 31 August 2011.

- That the restriction on evidence being acquired over the 5 year period immediately prior to submission be waived

## Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The group recognised the importance of including a CPD component in the BSP scheme. It also recognised the importance of not re-inventing the wheel. The ISTR BSP scheme should match and complement the existing IOSH CPD scheme. We therefore make as our first recommendation that members of IOSH who are registered for CPD should be able to submit those areas of their plan that relate to biosafety as evidence for their BSP CPD. At the time of writing the details of scheme have not been finalised but an outline is in place. It is envisaged that a £100 fee be payable for each 3-year cycle.

## Scheme management

The working group has finished its task, apart from finalising the CPD scheme, which can be done via emails. There is a need however to establish an expert advisory group to support the administration (Anton De Paiva as coordinator and Sarah Joomun as administrator). The advisory group would exist primarily to ensure the scheme remained up to date and to actively liaise with the enforcement authorities to ensure the scheme meets national requirements. This should be at minimal cost to ISTR since any dialogue can be predominantly via emails. A workflow process has been developed to enable individuals who aspire to BSP status to register an interest for a small fee (£25), followed by the appointment of a mentor who can be available to guide the delegate through the process. Each stage has been defined that leads from the initial indication of interest, through submission of the portfolio (£100 fee) right to the final approval by ISTR EC to grant the individual BSP status and addition of the names of successful candidates to the public register.

## Further recommendations

The working group strongly recommends that BSPs be allowed to use the letters BSP. We request the ISTR Executive Committee to decide what can be used on the rare occasions that the person is not a member of ISTR. Normally 'A N Other BSc MISTR BSP', for example, would be appropriate, but to promote ISTR should non-members use 'A N Other BSc BSP(ISTR)? The majority of the group would also be in favour of allowing Level 1 Practitioners to use BPract, with the same caveats as for BSP.

## Further developments

There is now much activity throughout the world of biosafety focused on developing standards of competence. The ISTR scheme is a pioneer in the field and has been developed first to meet the need of the profession and second to be consistent with national philosophy and the goal-setting approach of the UK. Both objectives have received the active support of HSE.

A Task Group has been active within EBSA (European Biosafety Association) in drafting a document that defines the tasks, skills and a curriculum to train the BSP and sets a framework for establishing training programmes as well as certifying biosafety professionals. EBSA is seeking funding to establish a CEN Workshop Agreement process that would use the draft document as a starting point for discussion and agreement from the biosafety community.

Two members of the ISTR working group, Gary Burns

and Heather Sheeley, have been members of the Task Force. If funding is granted for this venture applications for membership will be invited and our group recommends strongly that ISTR be represented on the CEN Workshop. With its own scheme in operation, ISTR will have a unique opportunity to work alongside EBSA, contribute a voice to the debate and influence the outcome.

Paul Jackett  
*Chair of Working Group*  
 June 2009

## Before the AGM

A visit to Nottingham Castle and tour of the caves beneath it – however.....



Where's the coach!



Queue here for the taxis



### CASTLE MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

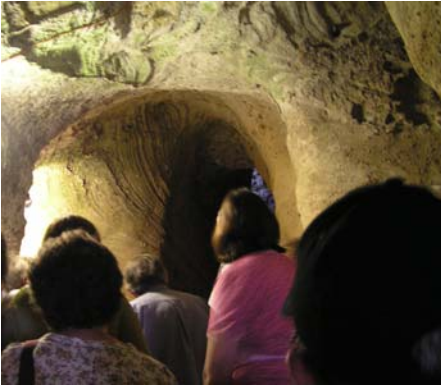
The 'castle' is actually a 17th century ducal mansion, built on the site of the original medieval castle, which now houses a museum and art gallery. The 'castle'



stands on a sandstone hill riddled with a series of manmade caves and tunnels containing King David's (of Scotland) legendary

dungeon and the Duke of Newcastle's Wine Cellar.....





## ..and later...

Dinner in the Council Chamber and an after dinner speaker from the Robin Hood Society.



# GREEN BUT SAFE

ISTR SYMPOSIUM AT the University of Nottingham, 2 July 2009

*Heather Sheeley has produced the following account of the symposium proceedings (members may download presentations from the Members' Section of the ISTR website)*

Professor Bob Webb - Dean of the Faculty of Science, University of Nottingham welcomed the sixty participants to Nottingham and the University and highlighted the activities the University does to be sustainable and encourage the student body to address this in their courses.

## Green issues in Technology & Research

Prof Peter James of the University of Bradford and HEEPI

Prof. James explained that the sustainable lab encompasses the management, engineering and technical aspects, health and safety and philosophy which include ethical research.

It was reported that the Russell group have benchmarked the usage of 20-40 laboratories. A carbon reduction of 80% is expected by 2050. The fume cupboard standard EN14175 was risk based. Examples of modelling were explained such as the Gothenburg and computational modelling of bench robotics. Professor James challenged the wisdom that historically it has been thought that airflows, and the application of a 'rule of thumb' over evidence are the best methods.

Scientists and academics tend to want it now, and the best available. The operation by parties, in silos such as maintenance, mechanical and electrical, estates and users. Demands for high levels of purification (such as gas and water), single use (water and air), heat discharge to cooled space, conditioning large areas verses local to problem, fume cupboard management including sash height and standby. Issues of funding/opportunity of long term provision for short term needs i.e. over designing.

Labs 21 a movement originating in the US promotes right size, total cost assignment, flexibility, integrated user involvement, low pressure drop ventilation and smooth load following. BREEAM in higher education has BS EN1475 is a pre-requisite for credits. Credits are also available for maintenance and user guides. The S-Lab stands for sustainable, safe and successful.

## 'Walkthrough' of Green Labs

Mike Dochery

Mike Dockery introduced ideas on flexible labs that could be disassembled and components reused or recycled.

## Variable volume extracts from fume cupboards

Phil Milne-Smith, Critical Airflow

Phil Milne introduced the low flow fume cupboard (EN14175, ASHRAE 110) and the comparisons with standard constant volume, variable and those with user presence controls developed by Phoenix Controls. Most fume cupboards are used between 1-2 hours a day with a constant volume to the lab, Behaviours and discipline of sash closure were highlighted.

## Green Chemistry

John Wissinger, CUH2A

John Wissinger introduced the 12 principles of green chemistry:

1. **Prevent waste:** Design chemical syntheses to prevent waste, leaving no waste to treat or clean up.
2. **Design safer chemicals and products:** Design chemical products to be fully effective, yet have little or no toxicity.
3. **Design less hazardous chemical syntheses:** Design syntheses to use and generate substances with little or no toxicity to humans and the environment.
4. **Use renewable feedstocks:** Use raw materials and feedstocks that are renewable rather than depleting. Renewable feedstocks are often made from agricultural products or are the wastes of other processes; depleting feedstocks are made from fossil fuels (petroleum, natural gas, or coal) or are mined.
5. **Use catalysts, not stoichiometric reagents:** Minimize waste by using catalytic reactions. Catalysts are used in small amounts and can carry out a single reaction many times. They are preferable to stoichiometric reagents, which are used in excess and work only once.
6. **Avoid chemical derivatives:** Avoid using blocking or protecting groups or any temporary modifications if possible. Derivatives use additional reagents and generate waste.
7. **Maximize atom economy:** Design syntheses so that the final product contains the maximum proportion of the starting materials. There should be few, if any, wasted atoms.
8. **Use safer solvents and reaction conditions:** Avoid using solvents, separation agents, or other auxiliary chemicals. If these chemicals are necessary, use innocuous chemicals.
9. **Increase energy efficiency:** Run chemical reactions at ambient temperature and pressure whenever possible.
10. **Design chemicals and products to degrade after use:** Design chemical products to break

down to innocuous substances after use so that they do not accumulate in the environment.

11. **Analyze in real time to prevent pollution:** Include in-process real-time monitoring and control during syntheses to minimize or eliminate the formation of byproducts.
12. **Minimize the potential for accidents:** Design chemicals and their forms (solid, liquid, or gas) to minimize the potential for chemical accidents including explosions, fires, and releases to the environment.

(Originally published by Paul Anastas and John Warner in *Green Chemistry: Theory and Practice* (Oxford University Press: New York, 1998)).

Changes in the science may radically change the space usage and location and used for wet chemistry.

### **Greening old buildings**

Tim Yates, Building Research establishment

Tim Yates talked about greening buildings and introduced the concept of building heritage and the realities of needing to retain existing buildings while addressing functionality and targets for zero carbon homes. Requirements of building regulations exist on repair and material change and role of building inspector. BREEAM joint are available for improving health and safety. He also highlighted the challenges with ecohomes with issues of condensation, radon and air quality. Also fire risk associated with thermal gain and back draft.

### **Green waste management**

Toby Clark, Safety Solutions Ltd

Toby Clark entertained us with non green practices with chemicals no longer needed especially grounds persons and paint stores.

### **Green Biology**

Ian Hackford, Imperial College

Ian Hackford introduced new products from clinical waste and use of 'hydroclave' to produce a 'flock' of shredded steamed material which can be used in building materials and as a fuel. He stressed the need to minimising packaging such as the pipette tip dispensers shown.

The audience was asked to consider total greenness such as glass reuseables on the grounds of heating, water, power, drying, better stock control and shipping costs. He also provided data on the costs of leaving lights on 24/7 and running MSCs constantly. One to get the attention of cash strapped researchers.

### **Key messages from the day**

- Greenness and sustainability is a wide concept with differed drivers and stakeholders which should be integrated and broad understanding is key
- Maintain safety by using risk based controls supported by evidence
- Look at usage and when protection is needed
- Huge saving in money is possible relatively easily without compromising safety.

---

## **ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The executive committee has met at Nottingham University in July 2009 and the University of Birmingham in October 2009. The following is a summary of the matters considered.

### **Future events**

HSE unable to provide a speaker on new GHS labelling so day 1 of the November 2009 symposia will be devoted to transport of dangerous goods. University of Bath confirmed for 2010 AGM.

### **European Standard on Accreditation**

Agreed that ISTR should express an interest in participating in an EBSA working party on a European standard for biosafety accreditation – Paul Jackett will

be nominated and funded by ISTR.

### **Biosafety Accreditation Scheme**

It was noted that course providers for level 1 had been accredited and that the website was being updated accordingly.

### **ISTR Sponsorship Scheme**

Scheme finalised and will be publicised.

---

## **ISTR SPONSORSHIP SCHEME**

The sponsorship scheme is aimed to assist ISTR members and associates attend conferences, symposia or workshops that would benefit their careers. The Executive Committee has agreed a fund of £500 per annum will be made available from 1 September 2009 up to 31 August 2012 and the

maximum award over the three year period will be the sum of £250 to any one individual.

### **Eligibility**

The sponsorship scheme is for ISTR members and associates, primarily, but not

exclusively, in relatively junior health and safety roles.

### **Applications**

Applicants should submit a short abstract detailing their position, place of work and reason for applying for sponsorship. Each application should contain two supporting nominees who must be full ISTR members.

Applications should be submitted to the Honorary Secretary, [istr-secretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk]. The

decision of the ISTR Executive Committee on any sponsorship application will be final.

### **Report from Successful Applicant**

Successful applicants are expected to produce a short report to the Executive Committee on the conference, symposia or workshop they attended. This report will be published in the ISTR Bulletin.

---

## **CURRENT CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENTS**

The Executive Committee organises formal responses from the ISTR to Consultative Documents (CD's) put out by the Health and Safety Executive, 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.

---

### **Health and Safety Executive CD227 - Control of Artificial Optical Radiation at Work Regulations**

This consultation seeks comments on the proposed Control of Artificial Optical Radiation at Work Regulations which will bring into law in Great Britain the European Physical Agents (Artificial Optical Radiation) Directive.

The Regulations are supported by guidance that outlines the simple measures that should be taken to

manage the risks. Employers not already doing this will also need to read the more detailed guidance produced by the European Commission – there is a link to this in the consultation document.

**Closing date for comments 5 February 2010**  
[<http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd227.htm>]

---

### **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs A consultation on draft environmental permitting guidance – exempt waste operations**

This joint Defra and Welsh Assembly Government consultation invites views on the structure and content of draft environmental permitting guidance for exempt waste operations.

This guidance has been drafted as part of the review of waste exemptions from environmental permitting being undertaken by Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Environment Agency. The aim of

the review is to provide a more risk based and proportionate approach to the regulation of waste recovery and disposal operations, complementing the new environmental permitting regime.

**Closing date for comments 5 January 2010**  
[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waste-exemption-review-guidance/index.htm>]

---

### **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Consultation on Update to the 2005 Detergents Regulations**

Defra is consulting on updating the provisions for charging for applications for derogation in the Detergents Regulations 2005 and the implementation of a ban on inorganic phosphates in domestic laundry cleaning products (DLCPs). This follows previous consultations on these issues and as such is limited to

the detail of changes to legislation which have been proposed in the light of these previous consultations.

Defra is now consulting on derogation application handling and the mechanism for a ban on inorganic phosphates in DLCPs.

---

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**Consultation on the transposition of Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe**

This consultation is seeking views on Defra's proposed approach for transposing into English legislation the provisions of the Council Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (2008/50/EC). The Directive came into force on 11 June 2008 and must be transposed by member states into national legislation by 10 June 2010.

The devolved administrations in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales will be carrying out similar consultation in their countries.

**Closing date for comments 29 January 2010**

[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/airquality-transposition/index.htm>]

---

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**Consultation on amendments to legislation to allow lay vaccination of badgers against bovine tuberculosis**

This consultation is on a proposed amendment to legislation to allow the vaccination of badgers against tuberculosis to be carried out by persons other than veterinary surgeons. It is planned as part of the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project that vaccination would be carried out by persons other than veterinary surgeons. Such persons would be trained by the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) and licensed by Natural England, or by the appropriate licensing authority. Currently, the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 prohibits any act of veterinary surgery, which includes the vaccination of badgers by injection, from being carried out by non-veterinary surgeons.

veterinary organisations, an Order to allow persons other than veterinary surgeons to carry out this task is not seen to be controversial, provided that such people have been deemed competent to carry out vaccination and have been adequately trained and licensed to do so.

Defra is seeking views solely on the administration of the vaccine by persons other than veterinary surgeons; the conditions specified in the exemption order to ensure competence of such persons; and the training course that has been designed with veterinary input.

Having had informal discussions with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and other

**Closing date for comments 8 January 2010**

[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/tb-badger/index.htm>]

---

## ISTR'S ELECTRONIC INTERFACE



### HASNET-ISTR Email Discussion List



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



### Bulletin

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).

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

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