



Bulletin

Occasional information for members

Institute of Safety in Technology and Research

NUMBER 47
September 2008

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

istr-secretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Enquiries about membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary:

istr-membershipsecretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk

The Bulletin can be downloaded from the member's only section of the ISTR web site:
<http://www.istr.bham.ac.uk/members/cmemb.htm>

Annual General Meeting, Manchester 2008

Sunny, a surprise ramble, a fleeting trip to Mars!



Members enjoyed another memorable ISTR annual meeting. Before the AGM, Members and guests visited the Jodrell Bank Observatory and were given a guided tour of the facilities. Many thanks to Kath and Catherine et. al. at Manchester.

New Chair



During the AGM, the role of Chair of the Institute passed from Heather Sheeley to Mark Hoare

Dr Arthur Mitchell and Rob Wood were re-elected, unopposed to the honorary posts of Secretary and Treasurer. There were no committee vacancies this time.

Dr Paul Jackett was elected as a Fellow of ISTR and the ISTR Award was approved for Ms Sharon Wood – more details inside.

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

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:

Paul Dodson, Miss NJ Arnold, Mrs CL Craig, Mrs CA Camsell, Mrs M Richards, Ms CA Jones and Dr TS Smith

Associate Members:

Dr JM Gawn, Dr S Nelson, Barber Siddig, Mr D Pate

Resignations :

Sue Swetez and Tony Ireland

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



ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008/009

Officers

Chair (2008-20011)



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

Treasurer (2008-2009)



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

Secretary 2008-2009



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

Members

2007-2009



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

2007-2009



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

2007-2009



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

Co-opted

2008-2009

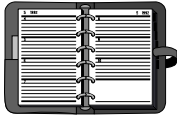


Dr FJ (**Fred**) **Young**, (*Bulletin Editor*)(*Website*)
Health and Safety Adviser,
The University of Birmingham

2008-2009



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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Skills Development Workshop 2009

A workshop entitled "Creating your own video clips for H&S training" is being arranged for 12/13 March 2009 at the University of Birmingham. Delegates will learn how using simple video and lighting equipment and how to get the message across.

2009 AGM and Summer Symposium

These will be hosted by the University of Nottingham on the 1 and 2 July 2009. The theme will be "Green but Safe".

For more information contact the Events Secretary: istr-eventssecretary@contacts.bham.ac.uk

ISTR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

The Institute's Annual General Meeting took place at Chancellors, the University of Manchester conference centre, on 1 July 2008, 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

Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee has met 4 times since the AGM in Exeter on 4 July last year. We met in Edinburgh on 25 October, in Lincoln on 11th and 12th of December and at Syngenta on the 18 March. A brief meeting was also held today in Chancellors.

Membership

This year has, in many ways, been a milestone in the history of the Institute. Our membership continues to increase and hold above the 200 mark. Although still relatively small in comparison to the goliaths such as IOSH, we are becoming more recognised as a professional institution with innovative ideas. Our accreditation scheme under the chair of my colleague Dr Paul Jackett has attracted interest from the wider scientific and political community. The report of the chair will, I am sure, present you with more details. The proposed accreditation scheme has been publicised at EBSA by our Chair and at the APBA conference in Thailand by myself. In both instances there was a great deal of interest in our venture. We should congratulate Paul and all those involved to date in the working party. It was in many ways a

brave decision by you, the members to support this initiative, so well done.

Symposia and Development Workshops

The symposium in Manchester in November on "Management of the invisible" and the following one day Biosafety symposium attracted fewer delegates than I and the EC had hoped. However, comments received on both days were favourable. Our March workshop this year revisited "Advanced Accident Investigation Interviewing Techniques" which proved an interesting day for those attending.



Future Challenges

ISTR faces a number of challenges in the coming year. The need to maintain our membership and to attract delegates to our organised events is one. As

an organisation we need to broaden our base into the industrial section. A task which we should not underestimate. The present financial climate does not assist us at the moment.

Executive Committee

As an Institute we are fortunate in having high calibre individuals serving on your executive. This AGM our present Chair, Heather Sheeley, steps down and we welcome Mark Hoare into the position. On your behalf I would like to express our appreciation for the work carried out by Heather on behalf of ISTR. She has promoted ISTR very effectively to the outside bodies that she attends. Heather is now President of EBSA for the coming year and we wish her well in that role. Hopefully, she will not desert us entirely and she will continue to serve for one year as past-Chair on the executive.

I would like on your behalf to thank all those on the

executive for their hard work. Dr Fred Young for managing our WEB site and Bulletin. Mark Cheshire as Membership Secretary and Rob Wood as our Hon. Treasurer, both do a huge amount of work for ISTR. Mark this year has also been in charge of the questionnaire. Both Rob and Mark will present their reports to this AGM. Jayne Thomas, David Heath and Mark Hoare each bring their individual expertise to the executive. Jayne has the challenging portfolio of looking for business sponsorship for our ventures. David has, until recently, organised our symposia and workshops. A portfolio he will hopefully be able to resume later this year.

We all experience ups and downs in our lives and this year some members of our executive have had some difficult times. Nevertheless they have continued to contribute positively to the executive during these unsettled periods and a special thanks go to them.

*Dr Arthur R Mitchell
Hon. Secretary*



CHAIR'S REPORT

It has been another busy year. Membership is up and finances secure and affairs well managed. The Summer symposium and visit to the Meteorology Centre in Exeter was well attended and covered the important topic of health and wellbeing of which we all took away useful information. My thanks to all those involved at Exeter University for being our hosts

This was followed by the Autumn symposia held at Manchester. The first day physical risks with a wide range of topics covered.

The second bio-day not so well attended covered "back to science" and we were challenged with the theoretical possibility

The Spring workshop addressed advance interview techniques to aid the investigation of incidents and was well received.

In addition to these regular activities ISTR responded to the House of Common Select committee on Universities Skills and Innovation and was invited to give oral presentation. The verbatim and general report is publically available.

Another major imitative the Biosafety Accreditations is steaming ahead with the launch of Level one the foundation level in September 2008. This imitative has received attention in high places. I was privileged to have opportunity to present ISTR to the Callaghan Review team and in several venues in Europe (Biosafety Europe, EBSA, CEN workshop preparative meeting). In each case there was high praise and

well wishes on its success. The Callaghan report fully accepted by Hillary Benn requires HSE to continue to support this. Presentations were made to ISTR members at different locations and the poster is doing the rounds.



The executive have undertaken the duties of the Institute with care and I can not stress the work the Executive and other volunteers do for the Institute because without them there are no activities. My personal thanks go to all them for their attention to the matters of the ISTR when we all have busy lives. We need the talents of members so if you think you can help on one offs or as a standing committee member make yourself known as interested.

The 2008 symposium in Manchester and those who visited the Jodrell Bank got more than they expected by way of exercise although we didn't walk to Mars I expect some will report it was nearly as far!

As I step down as the Chair I am proud to have represented this Institute and see it has a bright future and is growing and developing. I am not going away and will continue to support the ISTR activities when the occasion arises.

Heather Sheeley

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 no **Executive Committee** vacancies this time.

The **ISTR Award for Outstanding Contribution to Safety in Technology and Research** was approved to Ms Sharon Wood for her work on how to carry out GM assessments in hospitals and NHS trusts.

Dr Paul Jackett was elected as a **Fellow of ISTR** for his work as Chair of the working party looking at accreditation.



ISTR AS AN ACCREDITING BODY

PROGRESS REPORT

1. The working group

As chair of the working group, I have an additional reason above the usual to express my thanks to all of the group for the time and effort each member has put in this year. During this time I have had health problems and such is the nature of the group that progress was hardly hindered if at all.

We said goodbye to Dave Redwood from the VLA during the year and thanked him for his contribution to the group. In his place we have welcomed Patrick Seechurn, currently Biological Safety Officer at the University of Manchester.

The group continues to benefit from the active involvement of the HSE. Events of the past year, in particular the problems at Pirbright, have brought biosafety training and competence into prominence. Members have taken opportunities to inform HSE and others of the scheme and thus raise ISTR's profile. This included Anton De Paiva giving a short presentation to the HSE in Bootle, ISTR Chair and group member Heather Sheeley carrying and presenting a poster to the EBSA meeting in Florence and also providing information to Sir Bill Callaghan which led to a brief mention of the scheme in his review of the events at Pirbright.

2. Scheme outline

The Biosafety model

The main features of the scheme are:

- Two levels of attainment at level 1 (Foundation) and level 2 (Biosafety Professional)
- 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.

3. Progress at Level 1

Scheme content

The scheme for Level 1 is now completed and will be launched on 1 September 2008 via the ISTR website.

- Learning outcomes have been determined
- Guidance for course providers is complete
- Guidance for ISTR appointed assessors is complete
- ISTR will certify individuals as Level 1 practitioners on passing all modules, plus satisfying full membership criteria of ISTR where the relevant experience is in the field of biological sciences.
- Costings have been determined

Recruitment of assessors

The next step, in preparation for the launch, is to establish a pool of volunteer assessors. Honoraria will be paid, the costs of which plus administrative costs will be met through payment of fees by the prospective providers.

The request for volunteers will appear on the website in the very near future. The appointment of assessors is by the Executive Committee.

4. Progress at Level 2

The process of developing the criteria for the Biosafety Professional and determining the detail for

each of the modules, including supporting guidance, is time consuming. The focus of the group in 2008 has been correctly on Level 1 to ensure its launch this year, but some progress has been made. Further meetings of the group will concentrate on the module development and on the development of the CPD scheme.

The role of ISTR at this level is to assess the 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 modules
 - 2 optional modules, selected from 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).
- 5 years relevant experience
- Continued certification dependent upon CPD (to be developed)

It is anticipated that level 2 will be ready and operational during 2009.

Website development

More detailed information about the scheme will be added to the website in the coming weeks and months.

Paul Jackett
Chair of Working Group
June 2008

..and before the AGM

34 Delegates set out in a coach to travel the 15 miles to the Jodrell Bank Observatory - **but we only managed about 12 miles before the coach broke down!**



In pioneering spirit we decided to walk the final 2 miles (seemed like 5) in sweltering afternoon sunshine.



Fortunately we came across a shop so we were able to refresh ourselves.



The Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics [<http://www.jb.man.ac.uk/>] in Cheshire is the astronomical research centre of the University of Manchester.

It also operates MERLIN [<http://www.merlin.ac.uk/>], the UK's national radio astronomy facility. The **M**ulti-**E**lement **R**adio **L**inked **I**nterferometer **N**etwork is an array of radio telescopes distributed around Great Britain. The resolution of MERLIN is somewhat greater than that of the Hubble Space Telescope.



In the 3D Theatre we journeyed onboard the spacecraft "Elysium 7" en-route to Mars for an amazing flight over Martian volcanoes and canyons.



That night, back at Chancellors.....



DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

ISTR SYMPOSIUM AT the University of Manchester 2008

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

The following day 47 delegates attended the symposium, with the theme 'Difficult Situations' All the presentations are on the members section of the ISTR website.

Albert McMenemy, the University Registrar and Secretary, welcomed 47 delegates to Manchester, and he wished us a successful symposium. He

described the merger of Manchester University with UMIST and the new challenges they face, with risk management and compliance having a much higher profile. The new Chancellor has made it a priority to manage operational risk and strategic risk in the new working arrangements.

What is a Catastrophe?

Clive Parkinson, University of Sussex

Clive Parkinson talked about disasters which have happened recently in higher education. Most of the examples were fires but also some floods. The

important point is recognising the importance of the issue and planning to minimise the consequences.

The Benefits of Effective Incident Management

John Wilson, Sembcorp

John Wilson focussed on prevention i.e. being prepared for expected can mean it doesn't happen. The key to success is communication, coupled with good safety management of any processes, so that risks are engineered out, good systems and procedures and finally a well educated / trained workforce.

Difficult Situations - The Insurance implications and response

Rhydian Thomas, Henderson Insurance Brokers

Rhydian Thomas spoke about the need for insurance and what the insurers can do to help. In short he recommended you don't have disasters but if it happens your insurer can help mitigate the consequences.

Incident Assessment for Emergency Response - The Fire Service Perspective

Derek Luff, Fire Service College

The morning session was concluded with a presentation by Derek Luff. He explained that the Fire Brigade are likely to be involved in any disaster and the most important aspect for them is knowledge – knowledge of persons missing and hazards they may encounter. Risk assessment at the scene is made simpler if there has been forward planning and information available about specific hazards and facilities, such as water supplies and drainage. In short, there is a lot we can do to assist the Fire

Brigade by good communication about our sites.

Assessing and Managing the Response to Radiological Emergencies

Cliff Ellis, Aurora.

After lunch Cliff Ellis talked about radiological emergencies and how they deal with them as RPA's. He described the range of hazards that may be encountered, how radiological incidents may be managed and gave some real examples of emergency response to radiological incidents.

Outbreaks: Preventing, Recognising, Responding (and Recovering)

Dr Will Welfare, Greater Manchester Health Protection Unit

Dr Will Welfare talked about outbreaks of disease, in particular Meningococcal outbreaks. He described what constituted an outbreak and how they occur, how they investigate the source and the response. He explained the strategy: Prevention, Planning, Preparation, Responding, Recovering, and gave 2 examples of outbreaks in Universities, of meningitis and TB.

A Traumatic Incident - the post- impact response

Rosie Murray, Human Aspects Group, Emergency Planning Society

The concluding talk was by Rosie Murray on awareness raising for trauma. Disasters can happen to anyone at anytime, anywhere. Professional helpers can make the trauma worse if not handled properly. It is important to recognise the signs of trauma, not everyone develops symptoms and not all at the same period of time after the event, some take days, some weeks. It is vital to match the treatment with the level and depth of the trauma.



BACK TO SCIENCE

ISTR Biosafety Section symposium November 2007

Dr Patrick Seechurn has kindly produced the following account of the symposium proceedings (members may download presentations from the ISTR Members' web page)

Viral vectors development: safety feature limitations

Dr Patrick Seechurn, Manchester University.

Patrick Seechurn reminded us of what appears as relatively safe vectors with apparently innocuous inserts can be novel micro-organisms of a more hazardous nature than intended. He went on to explain the molecular basis of disablement of a

number of viral vector systems and how these have been designed to limit the potential to generate replication competent viruses and described some of the mechanisms by which these disablement features could be overcome. He went on to describe mechanism of immune modulation and their consequences during host/viral vector interactions.

Mechanism of hosts-pathogen interactions

Dr Anne-Marie Buckle, Manchester University

Ann Marie gave a very comprehensive presentation on the immune system in which she covered the types of cells involved in the immune process, their

mechanisms for communication and the processes involved in an immune response. In terms of how understanding immunology is important in the development of risk assessments, she went on to describe the mechanisms of immune evasion, immune status in pregnant women and immunological privileged sites.

Dealing With The Unknown

Jillian Deans, Liverpool University.

Jillian provided a very useful reminder of COSHH requirements and focused on approaches to take when dealing with samples where the microbiological status is not known with complete certainty. During a workshop session, Jillian focused on how to apply the precautionary principle in a pragmatic manner through the use of a number of real examples which she has come across.

Emerging Zoonosis and pathogens of public health concerns

Professor Malcolm Bennett, Liverpool University.

Malcolm Bennett gave a very interesting and thought

provoking presentation on the sources of zoonosis, the types of zoonotic infection, the scale of human infectious diseases. Malcolm went on to describe the interaction between human activity and the environment and in particular eco-system changes, and how this can impact on human health.

Overview of EU Legislation and practices

Steve Copping, HSE

Steve Copping, HM Specialist Inspector from HSE's Biological agents Unit, provided a presentation to discuss recent European Directives and Regulations and their impact on laboratories within the UK. The presentation focussed on the introduction of the Biocidal Products Directive through the Biocidal Products regulations 2001, and REACH (registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals) a new European framework for the Regulation of Chemicals. The current position with respect to the use of hycolin was explained and an overview was given of the use of formaldehyde as a fumigant in laboratory decontamination. The presentation also highlighted, the potential future roles and obligations of downstream users including laboratories, under REACH.

ISTR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee has met at Manchester University in July 2008 and MRC Edinburgh in September 2008. The following is a summary of the matters considered.

2008 AGM/Conference

It was agreed that the arrangements were very good and the times of the tour and Conference Dinner was also a good incentive for members to attend the AGM. Although a replacement vehicle for the broken down coach did eventually get delegates to Jodrell bank and back, a full refund had been received from the coach company.

Finances

Despite the late invoice run for 2007/8, there has been an improvement in the rate of collection of subscriptions. Consideration is being given to setting a formal cut-off date for receipt of subscriptions after which membership would be temporarily suspended. The Institute's capital is down on the same point last year. The 2008 AGM/Conference was financially successful providing a gain of £967.29. Previous years in reverse chronological order provided gains/losses of +£87, -£201, +£345, +£645 and -£648.

Bio-Safety Accreditation Working Group costs are rising significantly and, currently, travel costs for the Working Group are outstripping the travel costs for the Executive Committee. However, as the project was near completion, the activities of the working group would decrease

In future, the ISTR financial year will run from April to March.

Biosafety Accreditation Scheme

Level 1 material was now with the Secretariat set up for the Scheme. Level 2 material is still under discussion. The present Working Party is expected to cease in early/middle May 2009.

Executive Committee Expenses

Where possible, the use of free meeting rooms should be made but to take into consideration the travel accommodation and meal costs.

March 2009 Workshop Birmingham

Topic: 'Creating your own video clips for Health and Safety Training. This will be held at the University of Birmingham where there will be free use of the Health and Safety Unit's seminar room and laboratory. Overnight accommodation will be in the adjacent University Conference Centre.

Joint Ventures

The Universities' Chemical Safety Forum (UCSF) is contributing to the November Symposium. Further collaborative ventures with UCSF would be pursued.

Change to Constitution – Immediate Past Chair

A new vice-chair is not elected until the year following the previous vice-chair taking over as Chair and there is no formal arrangement to provide a deputy for the

Chair during that period. A proposal to change the Constitution will be put to the 2009 AGM whereby the immediate past Chair will support and deputise for the

current Chair in the year until a new Vice-Chair takes up office.

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 THE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED 6-YEAR REVIEW OF PROCESS GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PART B INSTALLATIONS

Process guidance notes, which set out the Government's view on what constitutes the Best Available Techniques to minimise air emissions from Part B installations, are reviewed periodically to ensure that they remain relevant and up-to-date. This consultation seeks views on how the next review should be conducted and what it should cover. It is

proposed to undertake the review of all 80 process guidance notes between 2009 and 2011.

Closing date for comments 6 February 2009

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

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

CONSULTATION ON BETTER REGULATION REVIEW OF PART B ACTIVITIES

In 2005 Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government and Scottish Government initiated a better regulation review of future regulation of those Part B (LAPPC-regulated) installations for which there is no direct obligation under an EU Directive for operators to obtain a pollution permit for their installation. A first consultation was published in 2006.

and subsequent informal consultations with key stakeholders. The consultation includes a consultation stage Impact Assessment detailing the analysis undertaken to determine which regulatory options best achieve the better regulation and policy aims.

This second consultation contains proposals for regulatory changes having regard to the responses to the first consultation, information obtained since then,

Closing date for comments 6 February 2009

[<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/brr-partb-activities/index.htm>]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE HAZARDOUS WASTE (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2005

The Regulations originally came into force in July 2005 and are working well. However, in the light of operational experience we are now proposing a few relatively minor amendments to minimise the burden on operators and to further clarify the intention of certain parts of the Regulations.

certain specified low risk premises have been exempt from the notification requirement if they produce less than 200kg of hazardous waste per year. We are now proposing to extend this exemption to all premises that produce less than 500kg in a year and estimate that around 72,600 producers of hazardous waste will benefit from this change.

The main change proposed is a widening of the existing exemption from the requirement to notify premises producing hazardous waste to the Environment Agency. Under the 2005 Regulations

Closing date for comments 6 February 2009

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