

Georgia Local Section

Quarterly Newsletter

For electronic versions see the [GLS web page](#).



President's Message

Dear Georgia Local Section Members,

On October 15, the nation's first baby boomer (born between 1946 and 1964) registered for Social Security benefits. According to government estimates, for the next two decades, some 10,000 people a day will become eligible for Social Security. Some of these baby boomers will go into retirement, and others will continue working or return to the workforce. As baby boomers age, the number of retirement-age people who will continue working will increase.

Older workers bring many positive attributes to the table;

however, having them in the workforce also brings a different set of risks that needs to be addressed to ensure that they can be safe in the workplace. Older workers are often more educated and experienced, and they also tend to suffer fewer workplace injuries. However, when they are injured, the injuries can be more severe and take significantly longer to heal. Older workers also potentially face many challenges that younger workers do not such as reduced blood flow; memory problems; side effects from medications used to treat illnesses; loss of strength, flexibility, balance, and stamina; slower reaction times; and vision

and hearing difficulties. Older workers can also be more sensitive to overexertion, light, cold, heat, and noise. Employers can do a number of things to address their workplace demographics including ergonomic evaluations focusing on the level of strength and flexibility needed, as well as the level of visual and auditory acuity necessary for the job. Modifications may also be needed (e.g., shorter work shifts) and common workplace risks like falls may be elevated with older workers (fall risks are one of the more common injuries suffered by older workers).

(Continued on page 5)

MemberClicks™

The GLS Board of Directors has decided to start using a web-based membership service called MemberClicks™. This service will allow GLS members to register for GLS meetings and pay annual dues on-line.

National AIHA identified and is encouraging the Local Section use of MemberClicks™. This service should greatly reduce the administrative burden on

the GLS Treasurer and Secretary. It will also facilitate the transition between GLS Offices and improve our "institutional memory."

The cost to GLS will be less than 60 dollars per month. Our specific cost depends on the number of local AIHA section users. We should be able to recoup most of this cost by maintaining a comprehensive and up to date

membership roster. GLS is under no contractual obligation with MemberClicks™.

In order to be sure we have your most current contact information in our GLS member database, please send an e-mail with your name and contact information to Hilarie Schubert, hilarie@gatech.edu.

Next GLS Meeting

Save the Date!

Winter Meeting Date: *January 31, 2008*

Location: *To be determined; location information will be included with the final meeting agenda*

Georgia Local Section
American Industrial Hygiene Association
Quarterly Newsletter
December 2007

www.georgiaaiha.org

Recent OSHA News

Public Health Notification on Hazards Associated with Cleaning and Disinfecting Medical Equipment

OSHA joined forces with the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Environmental Protection Agency to publish a **public health notification** that examines the hazards of using excess cleaning

and disinfecting liquids on certain electronic medical equipment and offers solutions to avoid those hazards.

New OSHA Outreach Training Program Guidelines

OSHA has issued new Construction and General Industry Outreach Training Program **guidelines**. The guidelines replace the 2003 versions and significantly

change the training topics required in the OSHA 10- and 30-hour training programs. There are additional mandatory topic requirements, and the new report form requests additional training data. The guidelines affect an estimated 13,000 active outreach trainers in addition to many more thousands of eligible OSHA-authorized outreach trainers.

-Reprinted from QuickTakes, 11/ 2007

■ **ABIH CM Points**

The American Board of Industrial Hygiene has awarded 0.5 certification maintenance (CM) points for the Summer 2007 Georgia Local Section Meeting.

The approval number is:
07-2425 Summer Meeting



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ASSE Seeking GLS Members Assistance

The Georgia Chapter of the ASSE is helping staff the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, in Atlanta, Georgia, May 11 through 17, 2008. ASSE needs volunteers for judging

and safety and health services (<http://www.sciserv.org/isef/index.asp>). This is a great opportunity to partner with ASSE and utilize your professional expertise to support the community.

For more information please contact Ray Hudson at 770-432-2900.

Thank You to Contributors to This Newsletter

These newsletters would be rather empty if it were not for the contributions of the GLS board and GLS members. Here are the members who contributed to this issue of the GLS Newsletter:

Peter Kowalski, MPH, CIH
Art Wickman, CIH;
Hilarie Schubert, MPH;
Margaret Buckalew, MPH;
Vicki Hanrahan Ainslie;
Ray Hudson.

If you have an announcement, news item or article you'd like to submit for inclusion in the newsletter, please contact Vicki Ainslie (vicki@gatech.edu or 404-407-6988).



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OSHA Issues Final Rule Requiring Employers to Pay for PPE

On November 15, 2007, OSHA published a final rule requiring employers to pay for personal protective equipment ("PPE"). Under the new rule, employers are required to pay for any item of PPE that is required by an OSHA standard, unless the PPE falls within a few narrow exceptions.

Examples of items that must be paid for by the employer:

- Hard hats;
- Work gloves, when they are required to protect employees from hazards such as lacerations, abrasions and chemicals;
- Metatarsal guards, or metatarsal boots if the employer requires them instead of detachable metatarsal guards
- Non-specialty safety-toe protective footwear (steel-toe shoes or boots), but only if the employer does not allow the items to be worn off site
- Specialty footwear, such as steel-toe rubber boots or shoes with non-slip soles
- Non-specialty prescription eye wear, but only if the employer does not allow the items to be worn off site
- Specialty prescription eye

wear, such as special-use prescription glasses that allow employees to wear respirators

- Special equipment or extraordinary clothing needed to protect employees from unusually severe weather conditions

Employers do *not* have to pay

for:

- Uniforms, caps, or other clothing worn solely to identify a person as an employee
- Steel-toe shoes or boots and ordinary prescription safety eye wear, provided the items can be worn off the job site
- Shoes or boots with built-in metatarsal protection, as long as the employer provides and pays for detachable metatarsal guards. If the employer requires that the employee wear metatarsal shoes or boots instead of metatarsal guards, the employer must pay for them.
- Logging boots required by 1910.266(d)(1)(v)
- Everyday work clothing. This includes clothing worn for protective purposes, such as blue jeans or long sleeve shirts, as long as the item is

not specifically required by an OSHA standard.

- Flame-resistant clothing
- Ordinary clothing, skin creams, or other items used solely for protection from the weather, such as winter coats, gloves, raincoats, and ordinary sunglasses.
- The replacement of any item that the employee has lost or intentionally damaged.

This new rule will go into effect May 15, 2008. In issuing the rule, OSHA has acknowledged that many collective bargaining agreements contain language specifying how certain PPE will be paid for by either the employer or employees. OSHA has explained that workplaces with collective bargaining agreements should be treated no differently under this rule than workplaces without collective bargaining agreements. By delaying the effective date of the new requirements for six months, OSHA is allowing employers and employees time to renegotiate agreements to conform to the new rule.

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Employment or Internship Advertising Opportunity Available!

Consider participating in the Emory 2008 Public Health and Biosciences Career Fair to solicit for your upcoming internship or employment needs! The Fair is scheduled for Friday, February 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Emory Conference Center on Clifton Road. Agencies and organizations who have participated attend to: develop and maintain name recognition; educate attendees on hiring practices, desired skills, and recruiting peaks; network and pre-recruit with industry-leading graduate students and alumni; and recruit for volunteers, special projects, interns, fellows, and/or career opportunities.

Attendees will include public health graduate students and alumni with experience and education in:

- Health management

- Health policy research and analysis
- Health education program design, implementation, and evaluation
- Epidemiology and biostatistics
- Informatics
- Environmental and occupational health
- Behavioral science research
- Global health issues, including community development, infectious diseases, nutrition, and reproductive health and population studies

Attendees will also include the over 500 School of Medicine Ph.D. and M.D. postdoctoral fellows, approximately 40 percent of which have been awarded peer-reviewed extramural fellowships or training grant support, and nearly 500 Ph.D. graduate students. Fellows possess biomedical research training in diverse bioscientific areas,

including but not limited to:

- Neuroscience
 - Pharmacology
 - Microbiology
 - Biochemistry
 - Immunology
 - Genetics
 - Physiology
 - Cancer research
 - Areas of Medicine including Cardiology, Digestive Disease, Psychiatry, and many others
- Additional information and registration forms are available at http://www.sph.emory.edu/CAREER/fair_employers.php. Please contact Hilarie Schubert at 404-407-6255 or hilarie.schubert@gtri.gatech.edu if you have additional questions.

President's Message (continued from Page 1)

Every day in Occupational Health, we balance the risk and reward, the potential and the work necessary to achieve that potential in our work places. We work to protect our potential- mainly our human capital- from risk and damage in our workplaces and homes. With age demographics changing, we will have the opportunity to learn the challenges

associated with older workers and work towards a goal of making safer workplaces for all workers.

I've learned so much from all of you during my time as President of the local section. I thank you all for your support and encouragement and hope to work with you again soon.

—Margaret D. Buckalew, MPH

Mark Your Calendar—Dates for 2008 GLS Meetings

We've heard from many of you that it would help you stay organized and more effectively plan your calendar if we gave you a bit more notice about the dates for upcoming GLS meetings. So here

are the dates for the next three meetings:

- 31 January (full day meeting)
- 25 March (1/2 day meeting)
- 6 May (Vendor's Day; full day meeting).

Dates for the 2008 Summer and Fall meetings will be announced in the next few months.

NIOSH Blog

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) introduced a new NIOSH Science Blog on Nov. 5, 2007, to further communicate – and stimulate discussion on – scientific issues related to NIOSH’s research and recommendations. The blog or web log at www.cdc.gov/niosh/blog/ is intended as a new way

to help NIOSH fulfill its mission of translating research into practice for preventing work-related injuries, illnesses, and deaths. It is designed to provide a rapid system for partners and stakeholders to present ideas to NIOSH scientists and each other, while engaging in scientific discussion with the goal of protecting workers.

Additional information may be found in the press release at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/upd-11-05-07-b.html>

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Synergist Article Review: From Uncertainty to Practice, The Latest Developments in Nanotechnology

In the September 2007 issue of the *Synergist*, Bob Adams of ENVIRON provides an update on recent developments in the field of nanotechnology. As he reports in the article, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that it has regulatory authority over certain aspects of products containing nanomaterials. Specifically, the use of silver nanoparticles used to provide antimicrobial control in appliances such as washing machines falls under the scope of the Federal Fungicide, Insecticide, and Rodenticide Act. The EPA consequently is regulating the microbial claims

of the product. With respect to worker and workplace protections, OSHA at present intends to use existing rules such as Hazard Communication and the Laboratory Chemical Hygiene standards to regulate the use of nanomaterials. In an effort to standardize terminology used to reference nanotechnology, the ASTM has developed a standard for the use of nomenclature. The ASTM standard E 2456-06 provides unique definitions for 13 nanotechnology terms, including nanotechnology, nanoscale, ultrafine particle and nanoparticle. NIOSH continues to place a strong emphasis on

research related to the workplace safety and health implications of nanotechnology. An international conference on nanotechnology was held in Cincinnati in December of 2006 under the sponsorship of NIOSH and the University of Cincinnati. Additionally, NIOSH continues to redirect its resources to integrate the institute's work on nanotechnology through the Nanotechnology Research Center. Outside of governmental agencies, companies such as DuPont are collaborating to develop best practice protocols for the use of nanomaterials in the workplace.

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What is MRSA?

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) is a type of **staph** that is resistant to certain antibiotics. Staph infections, including MRSA, occur most frequently among persons in hospitals and healthcare facilities who have weakened immune systems.

The following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention fact sheets may be helpful to you for addressing MRSA questions at your workplace:

[Community-Associated MRSA Information for the Public](#)

[Information About MRSA for Healthcare Personnel](#)

[MRSA in Schools](#)

Your New Executive Board

The nominating process has finally been completed and electronic ballots were recently sent out via e-mail. Thank you to the members who have committed to serve in these important positions. Here are your 2008 Executive Board members:

President: Peter Kowalski
pek2@cdc.gov
404-498-0492

President-Elect: Barb Epstien
bepstien@chemrisk.com
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Past President: Margaret Buckalew
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Secretary: Wes Barfield
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