

The BOHS logo features the letters 'BOHS' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter 'O' is stylized with a white circle inside it.

British Occupational  
Hygiene Society



**IOHA**



OCCUPATIONAL  
HYGIENE SOCIETY  
OF IRELAND

# 13th IOHA International Scientific Conference

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Dublin, Ireland  
June 2024

The Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI) and the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) are privileged to jointly host this conference and to contribute to its successful outcome.

The conference theme has been confirmed as - 'Protecting workers from health hazards: Advancing in this changing world'.

The conference aims to promote occupational hygiene and worker health protection by the minimisation of worker exposure to hazardous agents globally through plenary sessions, keynote lectures, parallel talks, workshops, poster presentations and

professional development as well as networking opportunities and social functions.

A strong Global media campaign will publicise the main causes of occupational disease throughout the conference.

More information including venue, dates and abstract submission arrangements will be announced very soon. Please mark your diaries for June 2024 in Dublin, Ireland!

## GLOBAL EXPOSURE MANAGER

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# Memorandum of understanding signed between Asbestonomy and the International Occupational Hygiene Association

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A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Asbestonomy and the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA). Asbestonomy, a new organisation with the mission to enhance global asbestos awareness, promotes the safe handling and elimination of asbestos to reduce risks to health from occupational and environmental exposure. The goal is to provide a platform for collaboration and communication between labour organisations, victims' organisations, employers, governments, and other professional organisations.

The first international conference of Asbestonomy was held on 16 and 17 June 2022 in London, United Kingdom. The event hosted 16 international keynote speakers from different fields, who brought their expertise to more than 150 attendees from more than 10 different countries from Latin America, North America, Europe, and Oceania. Some of the special presentations included:

**Sven DeMulder**, the Project Team Manager at OVAM Belgium: 'The current asbestos-safe programme being conducted in Flanders for 2040'

**Dr Yvonne Waterman**, Director of Waterman Legal Consultancy and President of the European Asbestos Forum: 'Looking backward at past asbestos exposures and forward towards new innovations being used to fight asbestos exposure today'

**Charles Pickles**, independent campaigner for the practical improvement of UK asbestos management: 'Asbestos regulations and controls'

**Simone Stevenson**, CEO of Victoria Asbestos Eradication Agency: 'Practical and digital solutions to manage asbestos in situ at a state level'

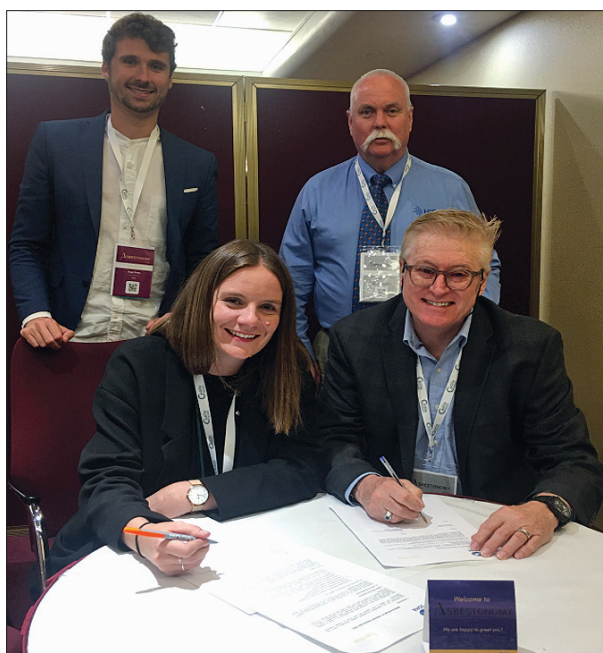
**Sean Fitzgerald**, internationally recognised in the asbestos testing field with more than 35 years of experience: 'Asbestos testing and management'

**Mavis Nye**, asbestos survivor: 'The status of the fight to eliminate asbestos exposure around the world today'

Many other speakers provided interesting and informative presentations. Please visit the conference website for additional information at <https://asbestonomy.com/>.

The MoU between Asbestonomy and IOHA was signed at the conference on 17 June 2022. Asbestos causes an estimated 255 000 deaths (243 223–260 029) annually, of which work-related exposures are responsible for 233 000 (222 322–242 802).<sup>1</sup> The rationale for supporting the work of Asbestonomy by IOHA is clear as it relates closely to worker health. The MoU will provide opportunities for support and collaborative projects between the two organisations.

Moving forward, Asbestonomy has plans to become a registered non-profit organisation and to have opportunities for general professional membership. It plans to continue to work and support stakeholders, globally,



**Signing the MoU between Asbestonomy and IOHA – Front: Elise Bouthemy and Thomas Fuller; Back: Hugo Perez and Philip Hibbs** Photograph: courtesy of Thomas Fuller

on topics of asbestos management, control, disposal and elimination. Its goals are to:

- help raise awareness about asbestos hazards and controls;
- enhance work practices for those who are dealing every day with asbestos in situ;
- give momentum, financial support and a stimulating environment to experts who do research to get new insights, improve work practices through new technology such as artificial intelligence (AI), and develop the best tools to reduce asbestos exposure risks.

The second Asbestonomy conference is planned for June 2023, in Brussels, Belgium. A call for speakers will soon be published on social media and the Asbestonomy website. If you would like to be part of and support Asbestonomy, please e-mail [contact@asbestonomy.com](mailto:contact@asbestonomy.com) to receive information and updates.

### REFERENCE

1. Furuya S, Chimed-Ochir O, Takahashi K, David A, Takala J. Global asbestos disaster. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2018; 15(5):1000. doi: 10.3390/ijerph15051000.

# Updates from the Italian Association of Industrial Hygiene (AIDII)

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The 38th National Congress of Industrial and Environmental Hygiene, organised by the Italian Association of Industrial Hygienists (AIDII), was held from 22 to 24 June 2022 in the beautiful city of Cagliari in Sardinia, Italy. After three years as a virtual event, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's congress was held in person. The Conference Committee delivered a high-quality event, with more than 50 scientific presentations and 24 poster presentations, seven presentations for the 'Young Industrial Hygienists' competition, and more than 150 attendees.

The conference was dedicated to traditional industrial hygiene topics such as 'health risks in non-industrial living and working environments', and also to innovative ones like 'environment and health: natural sources and environmental pressures from anthropogenic activities on the population', 'emerging risks and methodological innovations for occupational hygiene', and 'human factors, perception and communication of risk'. One session, titled 'Exposure to noise, auditory and extra-auditory effects', was organised in collaboration with the Italian Acoustic Association (AIA).

The conference gave the AIDII and the AIA the opportunity to embrace a closer collaboration and to foresee future events by



sharing their respective expertise. The President of AIA delivered one of the four conference keynote addresses, on the correlation between acoustic quality of classrooms and extra-auditory health damage in scholastic environments.

The other three keynotes covered a study of vehicular emissions based on big data, and the impact on the environment and health; a new method for hexavalent chromium determination in particulate samples; and new strategies and application tools for risk perception. The 'Young Industrial Hygienists' competition award ceremony was very inspiring. This year, the winner was PhD student Marta Keller, registered at Insubria University in Varese, Italy. Her presentation was titled 'Air quality assessment in restaurant kitchens'.

The conference also hosted the annual AIDII Members' Assembly. One of the points on the agenda was a discussion about the evolution of occupational hygiene training in the context of global changes, also correlated to the upcoming modification of Italian national laws.

The next National Congress of Industrial and Environmental Hygiene will be held in June 2023 in Genoa (Liguria region, Italy), where we hope to reach the same levels of participation from the members, and to have more international attendees.



Conference attendees during the social event, 'Cagliari by night' Photograph: Andrea Martinelli