

## **International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA)**

### **Presidents Report: 2019**

April 2020

This report outlines IOHA's achievements and some of the challenges in what is essentially a review for the year 2019. This report has been compiled during a time when the world finds itself in a state of disarray due to the global pandemic of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 that causes the COVID-19 disease. The world is mostly in 'lockdown' with many businesses forced to close and people either left unemployed or working from home. An event like this is what I like to call a '1-in-100-year event', and something last seen roughly 100 years ago during the 1918 global influenza pandemic. With this backdrop in mind, I trust that you will take the time to read the report and to appreciate the good work carried out by IOHA on behalf of all occupational/industrial hygienists globally.



*Taking over from Andrea Hiddinga*

### **Administrative Services**

As mentioned in the 2018 President's report, the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS), who had been rendering an administrative support service to IOHA for 26 years, informed IOHA that it would no longer be offering this service. After an extensive search for a suitable candidate to fill this role, IOHA appointed Retha van Niekerk from a small enterprise called Prengco, as the new IOHA administrator in January 2019.

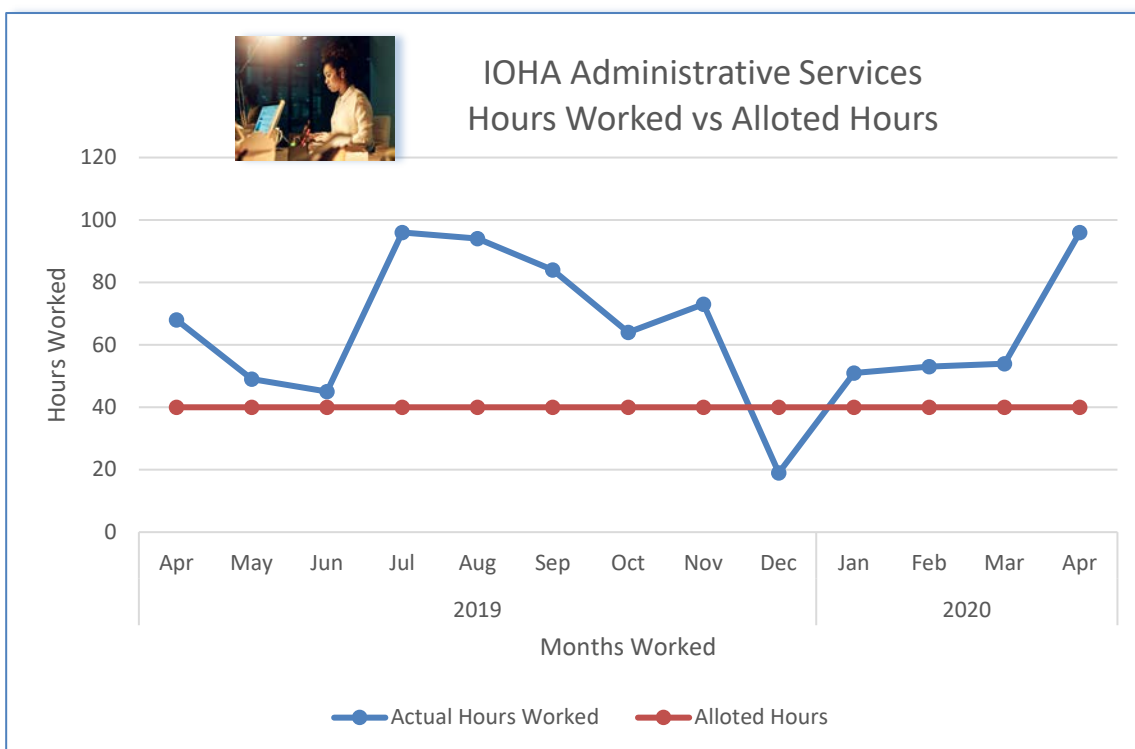
Administrative services form the heart of IOHA's operations and without a strong administrator, an association cannot function! When the appointment of the new administrator was made, the IOHA executive had to juggle between a limited budget, sourcing the best person for the job and the service hours required every month to allow IOHA to function as efficiently and effectively as possible. The final decision was taken with these three considerations in mind. Budgetary constraints at the time of the appointment meant that IOHA could only contract Prengco's services for 40 hours per month.



*Retha van Niekerk*

To run the administrative function of IOHA optimally, more monthly hours are required and a review in this regard will be undertaken during this year. A look at service hours rendered per month, in relation to hours paid for, reveals that IOHA has a monthly shortfall of around 25 hours, given that Retha works an average of 65 hours per month. To

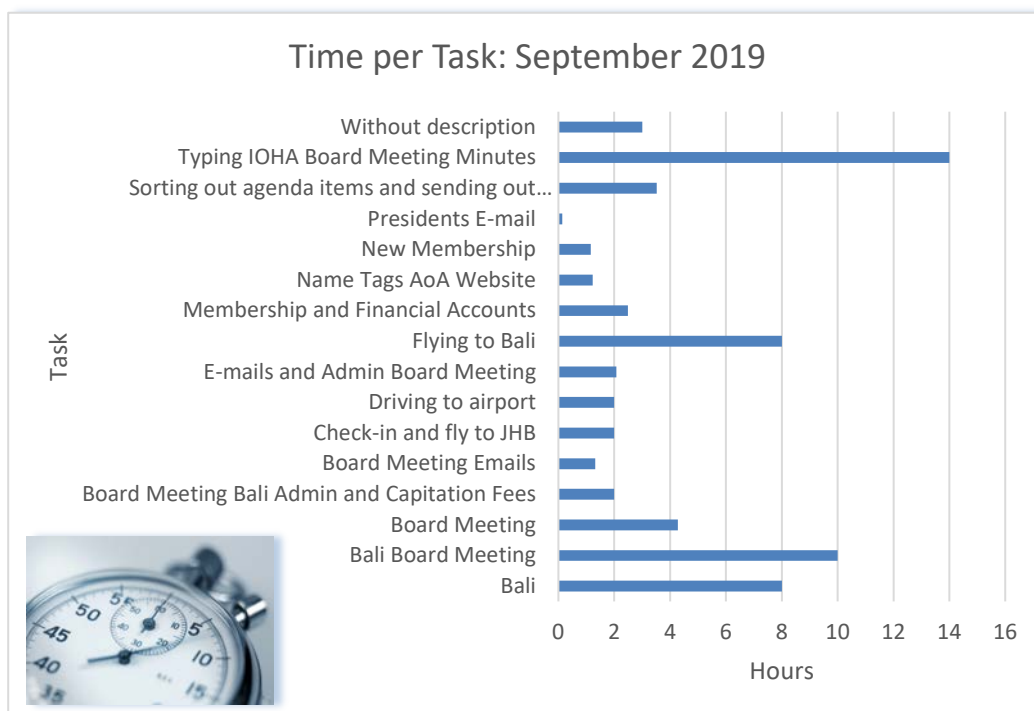
emphasize, IOHA only pays for 40 hours of administrative services per month. Monthly administrative tasks vary between usual administrative type tasks to assisting the various IOHA committees. The graphics below illustrate hours worked against the IOHA allotted/budgeted hours and then drill down to explain how many hours are spent in a typical month per task performed. The inter month tasks and time spent per task vary dependent upon strategic business requirements.



*IOHA Administrative Services: Hours Worked by Month*

Despite its limited time resources, IOHA’s administrative function and capability have continued to grow from strength to strength with an example being the transition from a traditional computer desktop and paper-based record-keeping system to a digital, Cloud-based system with the rollout of Business 365 – a Microsoft application. Please refer to capability details elsewhere in the report.

In an effort to make IOHA Board meetings as inclusive as possible given the constraints of cost, time and travel, the Board meeting held in Brighton in April 2019 made provision for online video attendance, allowing Board members who were unable to be physically present at this meeting to still attend, contribute, and feel part of the meeting via video conferencing technology. The use of this technology was a first in IOHA’s history, and was subsequently used again for the Board meeting in Bali in September 2019, with several Board members attending the meeting virtually. It is anticipated that video conferencing will remain the technology of choice for future Board meetings, given that the global pandemic of COVID-19 will have far-reaching impacts and consequences for many months, and possibly years, to come.

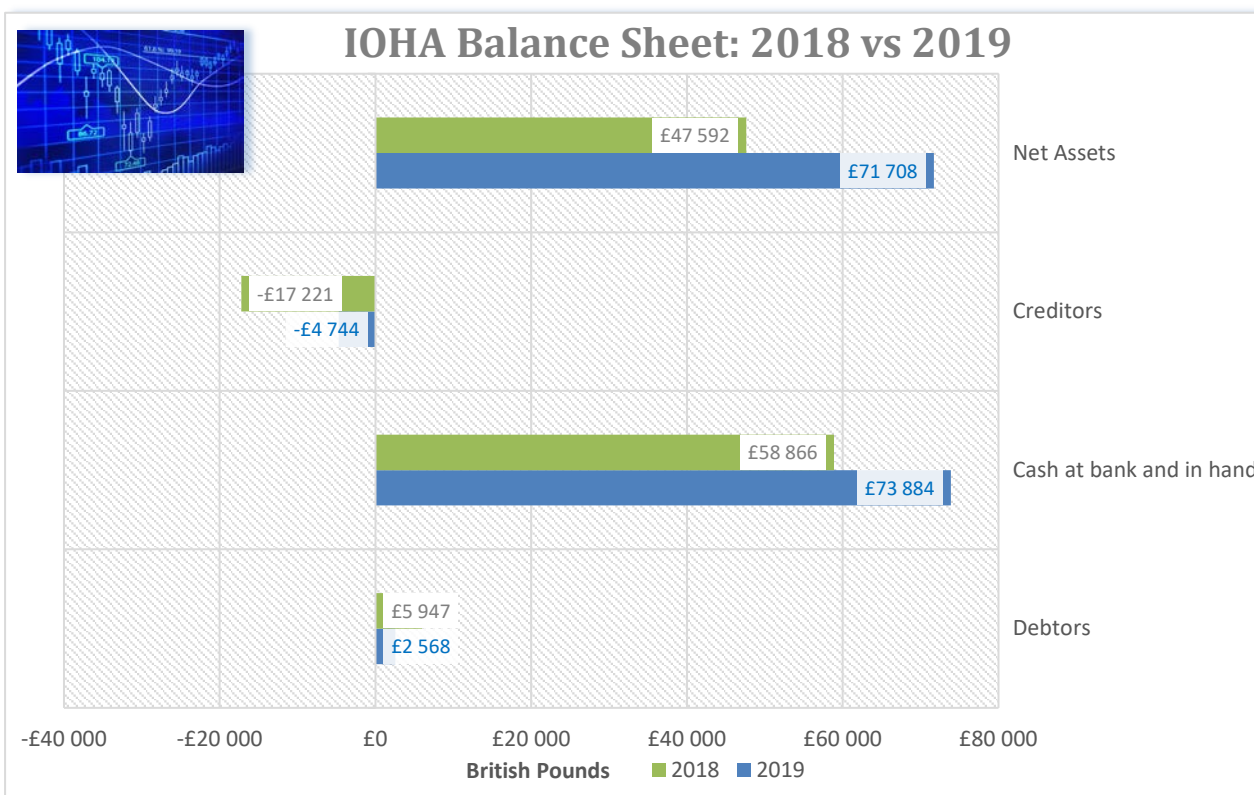


*Time Spent per Activity: September 2019*

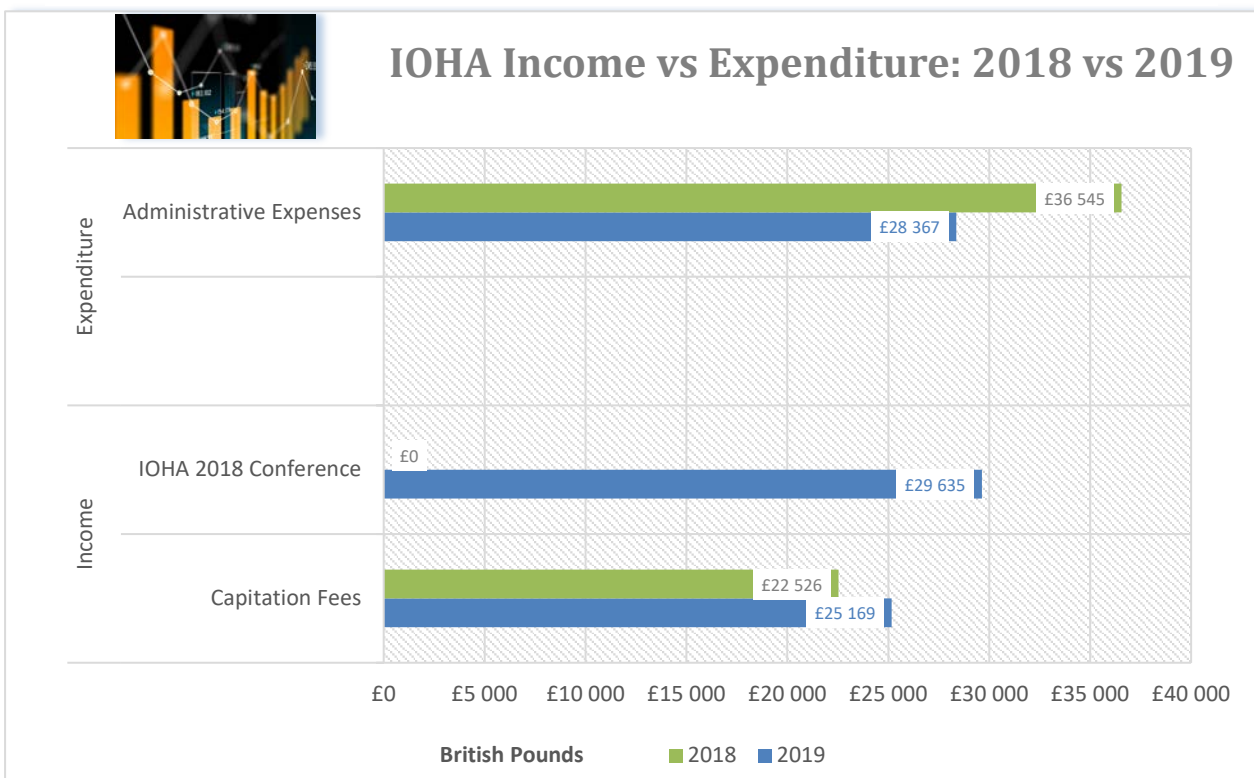
## Finances

IOHA at present has two primary sources of income: capitation fees and its triennial conference. Capitation fees make up a very small component of the income, hence IOHA has relied heavily on successful conferences to make up revenue to ensure that there is enough operating capital for IOHA to remain sufficiently liquid in order to achieve its mission. We are currently considering additional revenue streams, including website advertising, as options to increase revenue and to hedge IOHA’s operating capital given the limited current revenue streams.

I am pleased to report that IOHA’s finances are in a strong position, bolstered by good returns from IOHA 2018 – our successful conference held in Washington DC in the United States and hosted by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA).



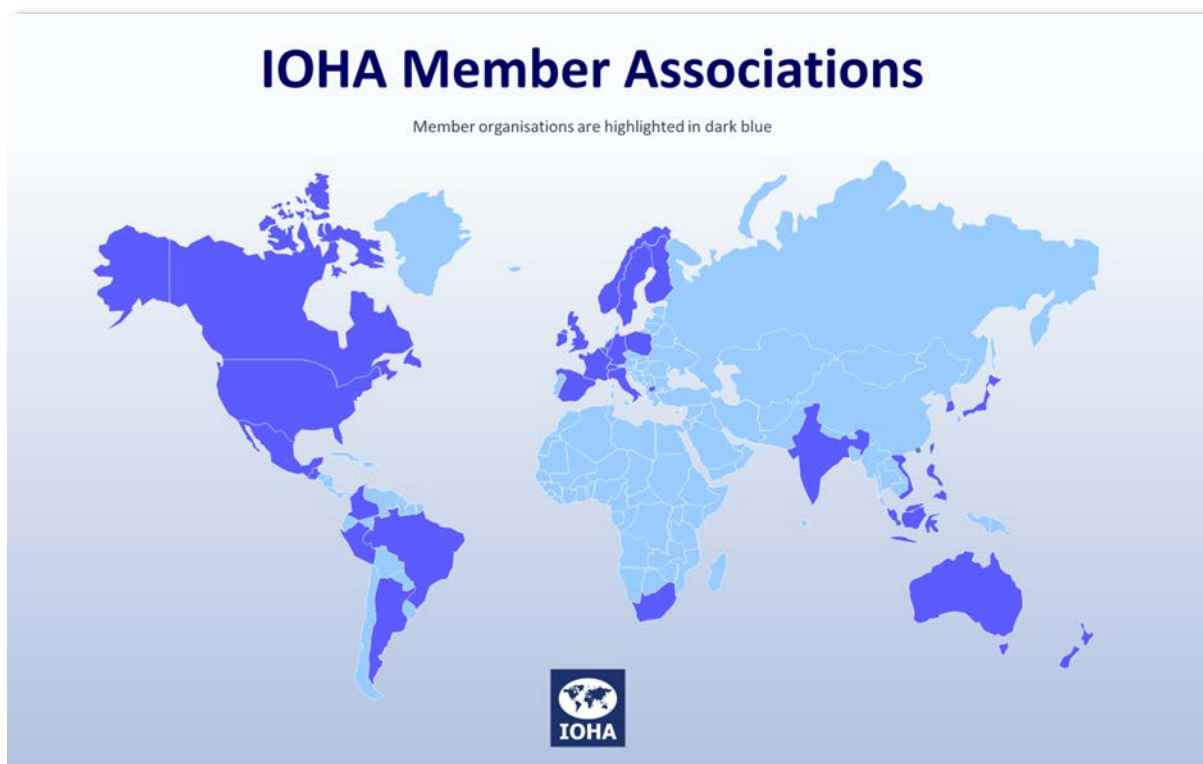
IOHA Balance Sheet: 2019



IOHA Income vs Expenditure

## Member Associations

IOHA, at present, is made up of 37 member associations representing 34 countries from across the globe as depicted in the world map below.



*IOHA Member Associations: April 2020*

There are ~197 countries in the world today. IOHA members, therefore, represent ~17% of all countries and as can be seen from the membership map, Africa and Asia are the regions with the fewest IOHA member associations.

IOHA is aware of the need to continue to assist to grow occupational hygiene globally, and discussions are currently underway with occupational hygienists in Ghana and Tanzania, as well as in China, to assist and encourage the formation of occupational hygiene associations within these countries. It is hoped that once these associations come to fruition, they will apply for IOHA membership.

## IOHA Board Meetings

Two Board meetings were held in 2019 – in Brighton, United Kingdom in April and Bali, Indonesia in September. Both meetings provided video conferencing capabilities and afforded IOHA Board members the opportunity to dial in for the meetings. Both meetings were well attended and IOHA wishes to thank both BOHS and the Indonesian Industrial Hygiene Association (IIHS) for their warm hospitality and



assistance with meeting arrangements and logistics. Minutes of both meetings have been circulated to Board members and are available from the IOHA Secretariat.



*IOHA Board Dinner: Brighton, 2019*



*IOHA Board Meeting: Bali, 2019*

## **IOHA 2020 Conference**

IOHA's 12<sup>th</sup> scientific conference - IOHA 2020, scheduled to be held in Daegu, Korea in October 2020, has been postponed to 21 to 26 August 2021, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. IOHA will be embarking on a strong drive to ensure that the conference is as well attended as possible under the current circumstances. Please diarise the dates and we hope to see you there – <http://www.ioha2020.org/>



## **IOHA Committees**

To deliver on its mission to enhance the international network of occupational hygiene organisations that promote, develop and improve occupational hygiene worldwide, thus providing a safe and healthy working environment for all, IOHA established five working committees in five key focus areas.

These five committees are:

1. Stakeholder Relations
2. Marketing and Communications
3. Education and Training
4. National Accreditation Recognition (NAR)
5. Governance

For committees to be successful, there must be a team at work to ensure that the workload is distributed and more importantly, to ensure that there is business continuity. Too many times, the success of committees revolves around a few key individuals. When these individuals decide to move on, the committee/s in which they were involved cease to exist or are seriously compromised in their capacity to deliver on their mandate. It is for this reason that I encourage you to join an IOHA committee. Anyone is welcome to approach any committee chair to offer their help at any time, irrespective of whether or not they are a member of the IOHA Board. Please step up to the plate and make your contribution felt on a global scale.

### **1. Stakeholder Relations**

This committee is headed by Andrea Hiddinga with support from the following IOHA Board members:

- Mariella Carrieri – Italy
- Slawomir Czerczak – Poland
- Norhazlina Mydin – Malaysia
- Carmela Capule – Philippines
- George Gruetzmacher – United States
- Frances Wright - Ireland



*Andrea Hiddinga*

The aim of this committee is to develop and maintain partnerships with key IOHA stakeholders such as the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), International Ergonomics Association (IEA), Workplace Health Without Borders (WHWB), Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA) International Labour Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO), European Network Education and Training in Occupational Safety and Health (ENETOSH) and others, including existing and new member associations.

## ILO

During 2019 there were several meetings and visits to the ILO in Geneva which resulted in various collaborations:

- Pooling expertise for the development of guidelines on biological and chemical agents
- Writing two of 33 'think pieces' for the World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2019 - Safety and health and the future of work: <https://www.ilo.org/safework/events/safeday/33thinkpieces/lang--en/index.htm>
- Discussions on collaborative projects including sector-specific projects in Madagascar (textiles) and South America (coffee)
- Attending the International Labour Conference (ILC) in celebration of ILO's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary along with global state leaders, such as the South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and issuing a statement on behalf of 70 000 OSH professionals during the 'Future of Work' committee meeting at the ILC:

*"We OSH professionals call upon the ILO, governments, employers and employees to recognise the fundamental rights of safety and health at work. When the ILO states that decent work is safe work, it seems obvious to include these rights as a fundamental right and as a tool for the design of work in the future. Because having healthy workers at the end of the day is the key to a prosperous society."*



ILO ILC: 2019

The Governing Body (GB) of the ILO requested the Director-General to take into account the guidance provided during the discussion and prepare a paper for the 340<sup>th</sup> Session (October–November 2020) of the GB, in accordance with the roadmap, for the consideration of proposals for including safe and healthy working conditions in the ILO's framework of fundamental principles and rights at work, including the placement of a technical item on the agenda of the 110<sup>th</sup> Session (2022) of the ILC.

You are encouraged to reach out to your respective governments and inform them about these planned discussions so that this fundamental right can be adopted.



[https://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB338/WCMS\\_736700/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB338/WCMS_736700/lang--en/index.htm)

### *Tuberculosis (TB) Committee*

As a follow-on to IOHA's joint TB statement presented at the United Nations (UN) in 2018, two TB committees were established, namely TB in silica-exposed workers and TB in healthcare workers. Meetings were held in March and October 2019.

### *IEA*

The IEA requested IOHA to review a guideline that had been developed on ergonomics for the ILO.

### *WHO*

IOHA attended an expert meeting in Geneva at the end of October, however, IOHA was unable to attend the World Health Assembly in 2019. The WHO decided to discontinue official relations with IOHA citing financial and human resource constraints. IOHA continues to make itself available and strives to support and work with the WHO in reducing global work-related diseases and injuries, albeit in an unofficial relationship capacity.

### *WHWB*

Our member associations' members continue to support WHWB in its noble efforts of providing critical occupational hygiene services, technical skills and training to regions that are under-resourced, particularly in the developing world.



*Signing of MoU between  
IOHA and WHWB*

### *OSHAfrica*

Recently established, the 'Occupational Safety and Health Africa Foundation (OSHAfrica)' is a Pan-African OSH organisation legally registered in 2017 with the principal aim of bringing together OSH professionals across Africa, creating an atmosphere for collaborative work, sharing knowledge and data across different countries and sub-regions of Africa, and aspiring to be the African information agency on OSH.

OSHAfrica's inaugural conference (OSHAfrica 2019) and the first conference of its kind in Africa, was held from 18 to 20 September in Johannesburg, South Africa and covered a range of topical health and safety issues from across the globe. The conference was well attended with close to 1 000 participants from across the continent and globe including representatives from the WHO, ILO and other health and safety agencies

such as the International Social Security Association (ISSA). IOHA was offered the opportunity to present a keynote address, and I presented on the Association and also provided a personal perspective on occupational hygiene, past to future - <http://www.oshafrica2019.com/HOME/>

The OSHAfrica conference will be held once every three years on African soil with the next one planned for 2022 in Kenya.

## 2. Marketing and Communications

The Marketing and Communications committee is headed by René Leblanc. René is assisted by the following IOHA Board members:

- David Rodriguez – Mexico
- Milja Koponen – Finland
- Dave Marsh – United Kingdom
- Luis Muñoz – Colombia
- Elsy Safira – Indonesia
- Luis Miranda – Brazil
- Andrew Orfanos – Australia
- Gustavo Viglieri – Argentina



*René Leblanc*

The committee was mostly active in the development of the new website in 2019 which is one of IOHA's major communication platforms. The new website was launched in September 2019.

The new website needs to serve as a global occupational/industrial hygiene data repository to attract members from IOHA associations across the globe to visit and contribute to the further expansion of information and collaboration via this platform. This in turn will place IOHA in a favorable position to attract advertisers for much needed revenue via this income stream.

Various presentations to promote the website were conducted by René Leblanc in Colombia and Australia during 2019 at their respective occupational hygiene conferences, with further presentations planned for 2020. To note is that five volunteers came forward during these presentations and offered to assist in content development and maintenance of the IOHA website.

A plan to develop clearer roles, responsibilities and objectives as well as a mission and vision for this committee needs to be developed to enhance committee member involvement going forward.

### 3. Education and Training

Headed by Thomas Fuller, this committee comprises the following Board members:

- Nathalie Argentin – France
- Philip Hibbs – Australia
- Tuan Nguyen – Vietnam
- Chih Chieh Chen – Taiwan
- Philippa Gibson – New Zealand
- Christian Schumacher – Germany
- Maharshi Mehta – India
- Alberto Riva – Argentina
- Hajime Hori – Japan
- Enney Ramirez - Colombia



Thomas Fuller



The screenshot shows a newsletter article with the IOHA logo at the top right. The main headline is "IOHA sponsors North-West University Student Top Achiever Award". Below the headline, there is a sub-headline "Asha de Paolis, North West University, a well-known Occupational Hygiene Specialist, is the recipient of the award." The article text is partially visible, mentioning "The International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) has proudly sponsored the North West University Student Top Achiever Award for the 10th year." At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a URL: <https://www.ioha.net/newsletter/>

### Global Exposure Manager (GEM)

During 2019, IOHA discontinued publishing arrangements with the *Chem Watch* trade journal for the publication of the IOHA *Global Exposure Manager (GEM)* newsletter. As a replacement, during the year IOHA negotiated an arrangement for the *Occupational Health Southern Africa (OHSa)* journal to publish a short (2-3 pages) GEM-IOHA Newsletter with every issue (six issues per year). The IOHA Newsletter is published in both versions of the OHSa journal - hard copy and digital.

In addition, IOHA is encouraged to submit longer articles to be considered for electronic publication on the journal website, following a peer-review process by OHSa.

The first GEM article was published in the September-October 2019, Vol 25 No 5 issue of OHSa (<https://www.occhealth.co.za/?viewArticle/1996>). An additional article – a report on the 8<sup>th</sup> International Control Banding Workshop held during the IOHA 2016 Conference in Washington DC – was published in the November-December 2019, Vol 25 No 6 issue (<https://www.occhealth.co.za/?viewArticle/2005>); and



the latest submissions have been made for 2020 issues of OSHA.

Articles and new items can be submitted to Thomas Fuller for review and submission to contacts at OSHA. All IOHA members are encouraged to make submissions on international OSH topics.

### *Spanish Certification Examination Development Task Force*

A group has been formed comprising representatives from Spanish-speaking countries to create a Spanish Certification Examination Development Task Force. The long-term goal of the group is to create an independent international governing body that will administer a NAR committee-approved credential in Spanish. The project will proceed on two tracks:

1. Creation of a governing body and operational procedures
2. Creation of an examination in Spanish

The goal is to have both objectives met by the end of 2021.

### *Education Committee*

During 2019 the Education Committee held a few telephone conference meetings to conduct business. In chronological order the committee accomplished the following tasks and projects:

- March 2019 – Members attended the ENETOSH meeting in Bilbao, Spain
- May 2019 – Members conducted a joint session with ENETOSH at the American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Expo (AIHce), on Child Labour
- May 2019 – Members conducted a joint session with ENETOSH at AIHce, on OSH Mainstreaming
- June 2019 – Worked with the IOHA 2020 Planning Committee to identify Technical Scientific Review Committee members, and provided six members from five continents
- July 2019 – Members drafted and submitted the Curriculum Development Guide to IOHA executives
- September 2019 – Members submitted a proposal for a presentation to be made at the BOHS 2020 Conference on the educational assessment of OSH credentialing and certification bodies
- December 2019 – Members submitted a proposal for a special session on occupational hygiene education for the IOHA 2020 Conference in Korea
- December 2019 – Members submitted a proposal for a session on educational curriculum development for the ILO World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Toronto in October 2020



- During 2019 members continued ongoing work on harmonization of education and credentialing within the European Union.

## AIHA

The IOHA liaison with AIHA provided periodic updates and reports on AIHA activities and projects. Some of the ongoing AIHA activities are as follows:

- IAC Micro Grant sub-committee:
  - o \$20,000 was allocated to five different projects in 2019 - <https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/volunteer-groups/aihas-iac-micro-grants-subcommittee-on-emerging-economy-projects-fund-review-protocol>
- A new E-Library was established to provide online access to 50 publications at reduced rates - <https://www.aiha.org/education/elibrary-subscription>
- AIHA submitting a session on waste workers for the IOHA 2020 (2021) Conference
- Proposed future International Affairs Committee (IAC) projects:
  - o Impact of changing economics, for example in China and Philippines and other countries in Asia;
  - o Establishing an academic resources group to help people in developing countries who want to continue their academic studies; and
  - o Looking at ways to assist people from developing countries who may have opportunities for educational sessions and/or presenting at conferences but who do not have travel budgets.
- Initiating special emphasis on Brazil, India, Columbia, Mexico, China, Puerto Rico
- Over-arching strategies:
  - o Increasing numbers of occupational/industrial hygiene professionals;
  - o Increasing educational offerings for professional credentialing (CIH and other designations);
  - o Increasing global access to educational materials; and
  - o Providing support for professional development and training in developing economies through financial backing.





## OHTA

OHTA developments during 2019 include:

- New Chief Editor – Sven Hoffmann
- New Board members – Ruth Jimenez Saavedra and Lucetta Weaver
- New Advisory Committee members – Dr Sharann Johnson and Jason Hodgkiss
- New Working Partnerships – American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) and the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP)
- New Courses:
  - o 1-day Silica Hazards Awareness course; and
  - o AIHA online OHTA W201 – Basic Principles in Occupational Hygiene
- Course Reviews in Progress:
  - o OHTA W501 – Measurement of Hazardous Substances (project lead Michael Connor);
  - o OHTA W503 – Noise Measurement and its Effects (project co-leads Thais Morata - NIOSH, Bernard Fontaine - OHTA);
  - o OHTA W504 – Asbestos and other Fibres (project lead Jonathan Grant); and
  - o OHTA W506 – Ergonomics Essentials (project lead Terry McDonald).
- New Courses under development:
  - o Occupational Hygiene in the Mining and Mineral Processing Industries (project lead Ross Di Corleto) - due to be published during 2020;
  - o Occupational Hygiene in the Oil and Gas Industry (project lead Noel Tresider); and
  - o Occupational Hygiene in the Pharmaceutical Industry (project lead Nancy McClellan).
- Snapshot of Training in 2018:
  - o 1397 examinations taken, a 38% increase on 2017;
  - o 35 Approved Training Providers (ATPs) presented 157 courses, an increase of 25% in ATPs and 15% in courses on 2017;
  - o Top 10 (out of 24) countries for examinations: UK, Australia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, India, Kuwait, Singapore, Botswana, Ireland and New Zealand;

- Most pass rates remained high, with 97% for W504, 96% for W507 and 95% for W502;
- 12 ATPs joined OHTA; and
- Five students were awarded the ICertOH, from South Africa, Azerbaijan, Iraq and India.
- OHTA W201 Exam Administration Approval:
  - WHWB and the Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH) were both recently approved to act as examiners for the OHTA W201 Basic Principles course. OHTA W201 examinations have taken place in Botswana, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia.
- Two new Task Forces:
  - Developing a basic 2- to 4-hour OSH awareness course; and
  - Exploring new E-technologies for training.
- New Committees:
  - Volunteer committee to provide structure and support for volunteers; and
  - Website committee to help with administration and content.
- May 2019 – OHTA participated in a joint session at AIHce with IOHA, Developing World Outreach Initiative (DWOI), AIHA, Maquiladora Health and Safety Support Network, and IOHA.
- 2020 ILO Safety Congress – Working on an OHTA submission

#### 4. National Accreditation Recognition (NAR)

This committee is led by Philip Hibbs who is supported by the following committee members:

- Sharann Johnson – Australia
- Dave Marsh – United Kingdom
- René Leblanc – Canada
- André Winkes – Netherlands
- Christian Schumacher – Germany
- Tai Wa Tsin – Hong Kong
- Domenico Cavallo – Italy



*Philip Hibbs*



- Shigeru Asuka – Japan
- Norhazlina Mydin – Malaysia
- Margareth Ovidt – Norway
- Anna Dahlman-Höglund – Sweden
- Garth Hunter – South Africa
- David Vernez – Switzerland
- Alan Leibowitz – United States
- Adrien Laurent – France
- Boon Tian Ang – Singapore

The NAR Scheme has been in existence for roughly 20 years and there are currently fifteen (15) IOHA member societies with certification programmes accredited under NAR. The Mission in the IOHA NAR Committee Charter, dated 31 May 2009 states:

*“To promote global respect for, and recognition of, Occupational Hygiene Certification Programmes that meet or exceed the “IOHA Model Certification Programme” developed at the 1999 IOHA workshop on Certification/Registration and approved by the IOHA Board of Directors on 8 July 2000 and revised in 2007 and 2008.”*

The primary purpose of the NAR Scheme is to establish a benchmark or minimum standard against which the certification programmes of participating IOHA members can be assessed. Those certification programmes that have been assessed as meeting the NAR Scheme requirements are permitted to use the IOHA logo in conjunction with the wording ‘IOHA Recognised Certification Scheme’ on their literature and certificates. This is the ‘gold standard’ in terms of global recognition of occupational/industrial hygiene certification programmes and a recognition that global occupational/industrial hygiene certification programmes would want to strive for.

The NAR Committee reviewed and recommended one association – SAIOH – for IOHA certification scheme re-recognition in 2019. The following applications are under review:

- Re-recognition:
  - o Hong Kong Institute of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (HKIOEH)
  - o Japan Association of Working Environment Measurement (JAWEM)
  - o Board for Global EHS Credentialing (BGC)
  - o Swiss Society of Occupational Hygiene (SSOH)
  - o German Society of Occupational Hygiene (DGAH)

- Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association (MIHA)
- New applications:
  - Occupational and Environmental Health Society of Singapore (OEHSS)
  - Finnish Occupational Hygiene Society (FOHS)
- Potential future applications:
  - Indonesian Industrial Hygiene Association (IIHA)
  - Argentina Society of Occupational Hygiene (SAHIO)
  - Industrial Hygienists Association of the Philippines (IHAP)
  - Argentinian Association for Occupational Hygiene (AHRA)
  - Mexican Association of Industrial Hygienists (MAIH)

## **5. Governance Committee (GC)**

Peter-John Jacobs heads the GC with assistance from the following Board members:

- Nathalie Argentin –France
- Eric Febres - Peru
- Michel Vangeel – Belgium



*Peter-John Jacobs*

The GC aims to ensure that the governance side of the association is aligned to international best practice in line with not-for-profit organisational management criteria and to assist IOHA in achieving one of its key strategic objectives – robust governance. To this end, the GC has done the following:

- Assisted in establishing a secure, reliable data platform:
  - Transitioned IOHA from an organisation that operated its document management system, archives, records and related documents on a computer hard drive to Microsoft 365 with Cloud storage capabilities
  - MS Teams rollout to facilitate better communications
- Formulated a roadmap to review all IOHA documents
- Indexed all IOHA documents
- Clustered all IOHA documents in line with ISO 9001 and ISO 17024 standards
- Created a document template to be used by all committees when reviewing existing procedures

and compiling new procedures

- Held regular committee meetings to ensure team consultation and process definition and redefinition and support, as needed
- Established a Cloud-based document review process for GC members to ensure a streamlined approach to document review and document revision control.

## Conclusion

IOHA's success means success for all occupational/industrial hygienists globally. I would like to thank all IOHA Board and Committee members for their support during my tenure as the IOHA President.

I would also like to thank IOHA member associations for supporting their respective IOHA Board representatives. Retha van Niekerk needs a special mention and I would like to thank her for the hard work she has put into making the administrative transition from BOHS as smooth and efficient as possible.

With a single administrator and the remainder of the Association made up of volunteers, IOHA has achieved much and with the calibre of people I see sitting around the table during IOHA Board meetings, I have no doubt it is set to achieve even more and rise to greater heights. Onward and upwards!



*Handing over to René Leblanc*

## **Peter-John Jacobs – IOHA President 2018/19**

