

IOHA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024



IOHA



SAMANTHA CONNELL

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As I write this report and reflect on everything that happened in 2024, it seems nearly unbelievable. For one, it was a year marked by several major triennial events, including the World Congress 2023 (December), ICOH2024, and IOHA2024. During this time, IOHA made significant strides in raising the visibility of the occupational hygiene profession by actively participating in member and partner events, strengthening key partnerships with various organizations along the way. Our efforts focused on connecting members across the globe, fostering collaboration, and providing development opportunities and a platform for emerging leaders. By elevating these future professionals, we've created a clear pathway for them to contribute and lead within our field, ensuring the continued growth and impact of our profession for years to come.

Some of IOHA's key achievements in 2024 were:

- Establishment of the Community of Practice on Sensor Technologies
- Supporting the Inaugural Emerging Leaders Institute
- 6 webinars reaching more than 500 practitioners
- Addition of 1 new member association
- 7 documents revised and approved
- Introduction of the Chief NAR Reviewer role

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to lead this organization during my three-year term on the Executive Committee and to represent our profession on a global scale. While I anticipated the need to hone my soft skills, I never imagined the wealth of technical knowledge, friendships, and professional connections I would gain along the way. What I have received from IOHA over this time is immeasurable. If you are reading this, you likely already serve our profession in some capacity. If so, I encourage you to continue your involvement, and if you haven't yet found your role, know there is a place for you – find it and make a difference.

Thank you to my dear colleagues Nancy, Maharshi, Nathalie, and Retha for your support and guidance throughout my year as President. Thank you to all IOHA board members and their respective members for allowing me to lead our organization during this time.

Kindest regards,



Samantha Connell



FOREWORD

A MESSAGE FROM IOHA PRESIDENT,
SAMANTHA CONNELL

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

RETHA VAN NIEKERK



Dear IOHA Family,

It would be an understatement to say that 2024 was a highlight year for me. Since IOHA2024 has been announced, I knew if there was one travel I needed to do, this was it. I had the opportunity to meet so many IOHA Board Members, Committee Chairs, and others in person.

From the moment I set foot in Dublin, I recognized familiar faces. During the week at the IOHA Booth, the Executive Committee pulled all the strings to make it as memorable event as possible! Many of you came to say hello and conversations ranged from childhood stories of growing up at the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro to deeper conversations about life and faith. I realized how in the greater scheme of things we are stronger when we spend time together. Thank you to everyone that came to introduce themselves and to chat! A big thank you to the Executive Committee that made it all possible. Thank you for a great year, we achieved so much!

On a personal note - thank you Samantha for caring and looking after me! (I tried to do my bit by feeding you bananas for breakfast during the conference!) No, seriously, thank you for valuing my insights and perspectives. You had your plate extremely full but always made time to check up and see if everything is ok on my side of the world.

Much love and appreciation to you all,

Retha



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023-2024

President: Samantha Connell (SSOH)

Past President: Maharshi Mehta (CIHA)

President Elect: Nancy Wilk (ACGIH)

Treasurer: Nathalie Argentin (SOFHYT)

BOARD MEMBERS

COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION	BOARD MEMBER NAME
Argentina	Association of Hygienists of Argentina (AHRA)	Dan Rajsfus
Argentina	Sociedad Argentina de Higiene Ocupacional (SAHIO)	Melina Di Lorenzo Viglieri
Australia	Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (AIOH)	Andrew Orfanos
Belgium	Belgian Society for Occupational Hygiene (BSOH)	Michel Vangeel
Brazil	Brazilian Association of Occupational Hygienists / Associação Brasileira de Higienistas Ocupacionais (ABHO)	Valdenise Souza
Canada	Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygienists (CRBOH) / Conseil Canadien d'Agrément des Hygiénistes du Travail	Suzanne Wilde
Chile	Chilean Association of Occupational Hygienists (ACHISO)	Ana Maria Salazar
Colombia	Colombian Association of Occupational Hygiene (ACHO)	Juan Caballero
Colombia	Sociedad Colombiana de Higienistas Ocupacionales (SCHO)	Luis Guillermo Araque Muñoz
Finland	Finnish Occupational Hygiene Society / Suomen Työhygienian Seura (STHS)	Milja Koponen
France	French Society of Occupational Hygienists / Société Française des Hygiénistes du Travail (SOFHYT)	Nathalie Argentin
Germany	German Society for Occupational Hygiene / Deutsche Gesellschaft für Arbeitshygiene (DGAH)	Christoph Lutermann
Guatemala	Asociación Guatemalteca de Salud y Seguridad Ocupacional (AGSSO)	Rocio Bautista

COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION	BOARD MEMBER NAME
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Institute of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (HKIOEH)	Alex Cheung
India	Central Industrial Hygiene Association (CIHA)	Maharshi Mehta
Indonesia	Indonesian Industrial Hygiene Association (IIHA)	Elsye As Safira
Ireland	Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI)	Nuala Flavin
Italy	Italian Industrial Hygiene Association (AIDII)	Mariella Carrieri
Japan	Japan Occupational Hygiene Association (JOHA)	Hajime Hori
Japan	Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWME)	Shigeru Asuka
Korea	Korean Industrial Hygiene Association (KIHA)	Doo Yong Park
Malaysia	Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association (MIHA)	Marina Zainal Farid
Mexico	Mexican Industrial Hygiene Association / Asociación Mexicana de Higiene Industrial (AMHI)	David Rodriguez
Mongolia	Mongolian National Association of Occupational Hygienists (MNAOH)	Naransukh Damiran
Netherlands	Dutch Occupational Hygiene Society / Nederlandse Vereniging voor Arbeidshygiëne (NVvA)	Andre Winkes
New Zealand	New Zealand Occupational Hygiene Society (NZOHS)	Kerry Cheung

COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION	BOARD MEMBER NAME
Nigeria	Association of Industrial Higienists Nigeria (AIHN)	Matthew Olota
Norway	Norwegian Occupational Hygiene Association / Norsk yrkeshygienisk forening (NYF)	Ellen Katrine Jensen
Peru	Asociación Peruana de Higiene Ocupacional (APEHO)	Leonardo Cipriano
Philippines	Industrial Hygienists Association of the Philippines (IHAP)	Carmela Capule
Poland	Polish Association of Industrial Hygienists / Polskie Towarzystwo Higienistów Przemysłowych (PTHP)	Joanna Jurewicz
Singapore	Occupational & Environmental Health Society of Singapore (OEHS)	Boon-Tian Ang
South Africa	Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH)	Deon Janse van Vuuren
Spain	Spanish Association of Industrial Hygiene / Asociación Española de Higiene Industrial (AEHI)	Ruth Jimenez
Sweden	Swedish Association of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (SAOEH) / Svensk Yrkes- och Miljöhygienisk Förening (SYMF)	Stefan Ljunggren
Switzerland	Swiss Society for Occupational Hygiene (SSOH) / Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Arbeitshygiene (SGAH) / Société Suisse d'Hygiène du Travail (SSHT)	Samantha Connell
Taiwan	Taiwan Occupational Hygiene Association (TOHA)	Chih-Chieh Chen
Turkey	Industrial Toxicology and Occupational Hygiene Association (ETOK-IHIDER)	Dr Engin Tutkun
United Kingdom	British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)	John Dobbie

COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION	BOARD MEMBER NAME
United States	American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH)	Nancy Wilk
United States	American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)	Abbas Virji / Jake Ward
Vietnam	Vietnamese Industrial Hygiene Association (VIHA)	Tuan Nguyen

IOHA STRATEGIC PLAN

***A SAFE AND
HEALTHY
WORKING
ENVIRONMENT
FOR ALL.***

IOHA'S 2021-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN AIMS TO:

- **INCREASE WORLDWIDE PRESENCE.**
- **IMPROVE COLLABORATION WITH KEY PARTNERS.**
- **PROMOTE THE PROFESSION AND ENHANCE VISIBILITY.**
- **DEVELOP RESOURCES FOR THE OH COMMUNITY.**
- **ENHANCE COMMUNICATION & TRAINING.**
- **ENSURE STRONG GOVERNANCE.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

IOHA maintains a sound financial standing.
Key revenue sources include:

Profit

Capitation Fees:	£28,312
NAR Levy Fees:	£6,004
Sponsorship (donations):	£12,021
Webinars & Advertising:	£790
Bank interests:	£581

Total: £47,708

*IOHA2024 income will be listed in the 2025 report.

Expenditure

Secretarial Services:	£17,255
Travelling and Subsistence (Secretariat & Executive Committee Travels, Board Meetings):	£11,164
Awards: £2,715	£2,715
Emerging Leaders Institute sponsorship: £2,000	£2,000
Website and Teleconference Support: £1,386	£1,386
Promotional items: £1,790	£1,790
Accountancy: £969	£969
Bank Charges: £719	£719
Other fees: £134	£134
Tax Due: £1,820	£1,820

Total profit (2023-2024): £7,756

2024 marked IOHA’s second year of sponsorship from Amazon and the first year we published an advertisement in GEM.

Sponsorship provides IOHA with vital resources to expand education, training, and the professional development of occupational hygienists worldwide. Thanks to Amazon’s support, IOHA initiated work on the Global OH Library and contributed to the Emerging Leaders Institute in 2024.

Donations help fund essential training programs and global outreach. We invite you to support our mission – or to share this opportunity with organizations dedicated to advancing occupational hygiene.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

Chair: Norhazlina Mydin (MIHA)
Co-Chair: Maharshi Mehta (CIHA)

Committee Members

- **Norhazlina Mydin** (MIHA)
- **Maharshi Mehta** (CIHA)
- **Kelly Jaunzems** (AIOH)
- **Samantha Connell** (SSOH)
- **Nuala Flavin** (OHSI)
- **Joe Mott** (BOHS)
- **Lee Kelly Burkett** (BOHS)
- **Valdenise Souza/ Reinaldo Morelli** (ABHO)
- **David Rodriguez** (AMHI)
- **Koponen Milja** (FIOH)

Key Contributions

- Finalized and launched the IOHA Communications & Marketing Guideline (approved May 2024), providing a structured strategy for all IOHA communications.
- Conducted an IOHA Brand Survey in 2023, with results guiding improvements in member engagement and service delivery throughout 2024.
- Established and regularly updated C&M Dashboard to monitor communication impact and outreach.
- Published quarterly issues of the Global Exposure Manager newsletter.
- Organized 6 successful webinars, reaching over 500 participants worldwide :
 - Noise
 - Two sessions on Ototoxicants
 - Rare Earth Element Mining
 - Two sessions on Heat Stress
- Began aligning communications around the theme “A Safe and Healthy Environment for All!” to strengthen IOHA’s global identity.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

***Chair: Ana Rocio Bautista followed by Co-Chairs:
Phil Hibbs & Terry Elms (AIOH) in March 2024***

Committee Members

- **Phil Hibbs** (AIOH)
- **Terry Elms** (AIOH)
- **Ana Rocio Bautista** (AGSSO)
- **Maharshi Mehta** (Immediate Past President)
- **Tuan Nguyen** (VIHA)
- **John Dobbie** (BOHS)
- **Nathalie Argentin** (SOFHYT)
- **Dan Rajsfus** (AHRA)
- **Morné de Beer** (AIOH)
- **Ana Salazar** (ACHISO)
- **Melissa Caballero** (ACHO)
- **Engin Tutkun** (ETOK-IHIDER)
- **Ruth Jimenez** (AEHI)
- **Jignesh Vadher** (CIHA)

Key Contributions

- Provided input into IOHA's draft Strategic Plan (2026–2030), ensuring alignment of E&T priorities. Intent to build a committee work plan after the IOHA Strategic Plan is finalized.
- Began updating the IOHA website's Education page and collecting details of global occupational hygiene programs to expand visibility of training opportunities.
- Developed a list of potential webinar topics and influential speakers, aiming to reach wider audiences and strengthen knowledge-sharing.
- Advanced collaboration with MIHA and AIHA on an online ethics course, with AIHA offering access to its material.
- Supported ANOH in delivering international training courses in Malaysia, Vietnam, and upcoming in Cambodia and Nepal, with strong backing from AIOH and BOHS.
- Strengthened ties with ANOH and AIHA's International Affairs Committee to improve exchange of information and joint initiatives.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION & RECOGNITION (NAR) COMMITTEE

Chair: Sharran Johnson (AIOH) followed by Stefan Ljunggren (SAOEH) in October 2024

Committee Members

- **Stefan Ljunggren** (SAOEH)
- **Sharann Johnson** (AIOH)
- **Kelly Fernandes** (Past Chair) (Board of Global Credentialing – BGC)
- **Alex Tse** (HKIOEH)
- **Andre Winkes** (NVvA)
- **Camilla Solheim Adams** (NYF)
- **Christoph Lutermann** (DGAH)
- **Cynthia Ozobu** (BGC)
- **Deon Jansen van Vuuren** (SAIOH)
- **Domenico Cavallo** (AIDII – ICFP)
- **Haruo Hashimoto** (JAWWE)
- **Jean Parrat** (SSOH)
- **Len Morris** (BOHS)
- **Matthew Brewer** (CRBOH)
- **Milja Koponen** (STHS)
- **Pascal Kerneiss** (SOFHYT)
- **Sabrina Wan Mohamad** (MIHA)
- **Thomas Fuller** (Iberoamerican Board of Occupational Hygiene – JIHO)
- **Veronica Chow/ Boon-Tian Ang** (OEHS)

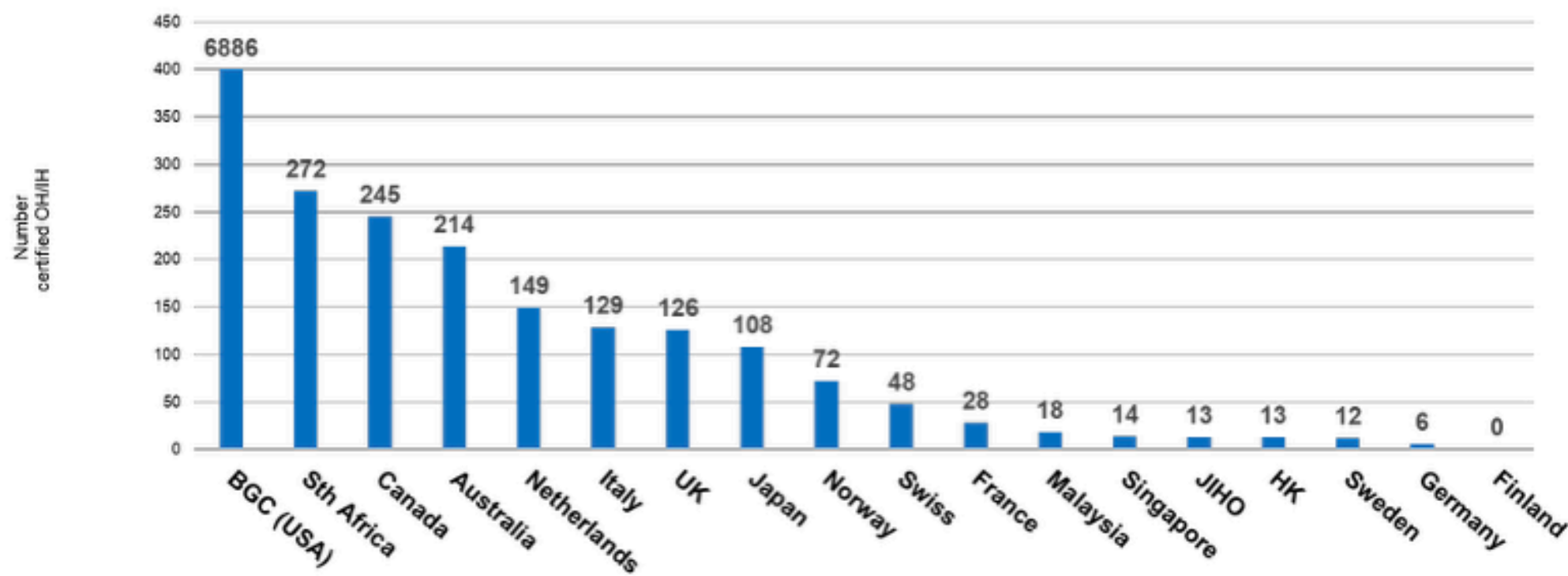
Key Contributions

- All NARC procedures and documents reviewed and signed off by ExCo, including:
 - o The NAR Program Procedure: NAR-PR-008-001
 - o The NAR Recognition Program Pathways and Status Process Procedure: NAR-PR-009-001
 - o The NAR Application Process and Notification of Changes to Certification Programs Procedure: NAR-PR-010-001
 - o The NAR Reciprocity and Mutual Recognition of IOHA Accredited Certification Programs Procedure: NAR-PR-011-001
 - o The NAR Appeals Process Procedure: NAR-PR-012-001
 - o The NAR Chief Reviewer Position Procedure: NAR-PR-013-001
- New Matrix delivered with the 6 Criteria updated to reflect current activities and potential improvement areas.
- New NARC structure with Chair, Deputy, and Past Chair implemented and considered model structure for IOHA Committees.
- NARC New Role: Dr. Sharann Johnson AM appointed as NARC Chief Reviewer.
- IOHA website improvements to increase transparency and information about certification programs. New table added with links to national association websites: [Occupational Hygiene Certification – IOHA](#).

- 5-yearly Re-accreditation completed for:
 - Southern African Institute of Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH)
 - German Society for Occupational Hygiene (DGAH)
 - Swiss Society of Occupational Hygiene (SSOH)
 - Board for Global EHS Credentialing (BGC)
- National Associations preparing for Accreditation:
 - Brazilian Association of Occupational Hygienists (ABHO)
 - Argentina Society of Occupational Hygiene (SAHIO)
 - Indonesian Industrial Hygiene Association (IIHA)
 - Mongolian National Association of Industrial Hygiene (MNAOH)
 - Turkiye Industrial Toxicology and Occupational Hygiene Association (ETOK IHDER)

Total Certified Hygienists: 8,353

2024 IOHA Register, Certified OH/IH Globally



STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Andre Winkes (NVvA)

Committee Members

- Andre Winkes (NVvA)
- Laurence Svirchev (AIHA)
- René LeBlanc (CRBOH)
- Andrea Hiddinga (NVvA)
- George Gruetzmacher (ACGIH)
- Mariella Carrieri (AIDII)
- Carmela Q. Capule (IHAP)
- Joanna Jurewicz (PTHP)
- Nuala Flavin (OHSI)
- Nancy Wilk (ACGIH)
- Ruth Jimenez (AEHI)
- Abbas Mohammed Virji (AIHA)
- Dan Rajsfus (AHRA)

Key Contributions

- Strengthened IOHA's stakeholder engagement by assigning each committee member to a key partner organization.
- Review of requested partnerships and memorandums of understanding (MOUs)

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

***Chair: Nancy Wilk (ACGIH) followed by
Suzanne Wilde (CRBOH) in June 2024***

Committee Members

- Suzanne Wilde (CRBOH)
- Nancy Wilk (ACGIH)
- Stefan Ljunggren (SAOEH)
- Ellen Katrine Jensen (NYF)
- Jainil Panchal (CIHA)
- Matthew Olota (AIHN)
- Alex Cheung (HKIOEH)
- Shara Smith (OHSI)
- Ana Rocio Bautista (AGSSO)
- Norhazlina Mydin (MIHA)
- Milja Koponen (STHS)
- Kevin Bampton (BOHS)
- Deon Jansen van Vuuren (SAIOH)
- TW Tsin (HKIOEH)
- Sharann Johnson (AIOH)

Key Contributions

- Established a document hierarchy for the IOHA governance management system
- Requested documentation that requires review from each committee
- Reviewed IOHA documentation, including:
 - 1.** IOHA Rules / Byelaws (GOV-PR-003-001) – alignment with the Articles of Association and Guidance and Strategy
 - 2.** IOHA Code of Ethics
 - 3.** IOHA Collaboration Award
 - 4.** NARC documents including NAR procedures
- Implemented a model where a representative from each IOHA committee joined and participated in the Governance Committee (i.e., the Chair or a Committee Representative)
- Reviewed draft Strategic Plan 2026 – 2030 to confirm process and timelines, prior to releasing to the IOHA Board
- Developed Work Plan for 2025 – 2030

**MEETINGS,
CONFERENCES,
AND
PARTNERSHIPS**

BOARD MEETING

**- 14 JUNE 2024 -
HOSTED BY OHSI/BOHS DUBLIN, IRELAND**



BOARD MEETING

- 20 OCTOBER 2024 -

HOSTED BY MIHA, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA.



KEY CONFERENCE INVOLVEMENTS

ICOH2024 Triennial Conference:
Conference opening from sister organization.

Marrakesh, Morocco, April 2024.

AIHA Connect 2024
Conference presentation:
Principles of Good Practice in Occupational Exposure Assessment.

Columbus, Ohio, May 2024.

Inaugural Emerging Leaders Institute, Organizing Committee role and event speaker.

Dublin, Ireland, June 2024.

IOHA2024 President's Panel.

Dublin, Ireland, June 2024



AIIDI 40th National Congress on Industrial Hygiene and Environment conference
keynote: Occupational Hygiene in the Future World of Work.

Virtual, June 2024.

Institute of Ergonomics and Hygiene (IEH) Ergonomics & Hygiene 2024 Conference
keynote: Relating Occupational Hygiene and Social Sustainability.

Singapore, August 2024.

IIHA 9th IIHA Connect 2024
Conference keynote: Shaping the Future of the Industrial Hygienist: Strategies for Success.

Surabaya, Indonesia, August 2024.



MIHA International Conference and Exhibition 24 & 7th ANOH Conference
keynote: Role of the Occupational Hygienist in the Future World of Work.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 2024.

Global Initiative for Safety, Health, and Wellbeing 2nd Executive Committee meeting.

Virtual, November 2024.

OSHPro Services 7th Annual International OSH Conference keynote:

Virtual, October 2024.

AIHN 3rd Annual Conference keynote:

Virtual, November 2024.

AIOH Annual Scientific Conference and Exhibition
conference attendance and support.

Perth, Australia, December 2024.

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING INITIATED OR RENEWED IN 2024

- International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) / International Ergonomics Association (IEA) (renewed)
- Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation (CAOHC)
- International Society for Respiratory Protection (ISRP)
- International Network of Safety & Health Practitioner Organisations (INSHPO)
- Global Initiative on Safety, Health, and Wellbeing (GISHW)





IOHA2024



258
Presenters



From
45
Countries



33
Sponsors & Exhibitors



665
Attendees



70+
Hours of Content



IOHA²⁰²⁴

In Numbers



Reflecting on IOHA 2024, several key points stand out: the diversity of attendees, the well-rounded scientific program, the energy and networking among participants, and the recurring theme of promoting the value of the occupational hygiene profession. The diversity of attendees enriched discussions and broadened collective understanding. The meticulously curated scientific program catered to a wide array of interests and levels of expertise, thanks to the hard work of the scientific and organizing committees and distinguished speakers.

Keynote speakers



Dr. Sharon McGuinness,
European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



Dr. Roger Ailesbury,
Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA)



Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan,
an environmental health scientist from India



Dr. Cas Badenhorst,
a global mining and metals company



Dr. Lisa Brosseau,
known for her research in infectious diseases

IOHA 2024 Scientific Committee

Dr. Alison Connolly (Chair),
Vincent Perret,
Dr. Victoria Hogan,
Dr. Sharyn Gaskin,
Dr. Urs Schlüter,
Steven Verpaele,
Dr. Ryan LeBouf,
Ruari Ward,
Dr. Linda Apthorpe,
Laurence Svirchev,
Kerry Cheung,
Kate Jones,
Karen S. Galea,
Dr. Ivan Niranjana,
Dr. Holger M. Koch,
Dr. Emanuele Cauda,
Dr. Conor Buggy,
Darren Arkins,
Dr. Darpan Das,
Ana Maria Salazar,
Dr. Radu Duca,
Dr. Marie Coggins,
Dr. Penpatra Sripaiboonkij,
Nicolaas Claassen,
Dr. Abbas Virji,
Professor Anja Franken

IOHA 2024 Organizing Committee:

Nuala Flavin (Chair),
Shara Smith,
Alex Wilson,
Marie Townshend,
Dr. Alison Connolly,
Maharshi Mehta,
Samantha Connell,
Lee Kelly-Burkett,
Joe Mott,
Eoin Collins,
Kevin Bampton,
Rita Grigoriadou,
Lee Heffernan,
Frances Wright,
Kate Jones,
Claire Tully,
Edel Costello

IOHA2027

Bids for IOHA2027 were presented at the board meeting immediately following the conference on June 14th.

The IOHA Board voted for the bid by CRBOH to host the 14th IOHA

International Scientific Conference in Montreal, Canada in September 2027.

MONTREAL, CANADA



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

COP members

- Australia **Candice Dix, Peter Knott**
- Colombia **Luis Guillermo Araque**
- Ireland **Michelle McDermott**
- Italy **Francesca Borghi, Andrea Spinazze**
- Korea **Seungwon Kim**
- Mexico **David Rodriguez, Pedro Padilla**
- Mongolia **Naransukh Damiran, Otgonjorel Delgersaikhan**
- Netherlands **Daan Huizer, Erik van Nuenen**
- New Zealand **Kerry Cheung, William Porter**
- Nigeria **Ifeyinwa Okafor, Oghoin-Olem Oruene**
- Norway **Torunn Ervik**
- Peru **Leonardo Cipriano, Alvaro Enrico Andres**
- Singapore **Ang Keng Been**
- South Africa **Cas Badenhorst, Stefan Linde**
- Spain **Ruth Jimenez, Miguel Ángel**
- Sweden **Gunilla Runstrom, Therese Klang**
- Switzerland **Michael Riediker**
- Taiwan **Chih-Chieh “CQ” Chen, Sugar Sheng-Hsiu Huang**
- United Kingdom **Stephen Smith**
- United States **Spencer Pizzani, Alex Brown, Abbas Virji**
- Vietnam **Tuan Nguyen, Dr. Hien Ngo**
- Zambia **Nabiwa Lubinda**

IOHA established a Community of Practice (COP) on Particulate Matter (PM) Sensor Technologies in March 2024.

This COP serves as a global forum for occupational hygiene professionals to share up-to-date information on PM sensor technologies, encompassing both technical and applied perspectives.

Its objectives include promoting the dissemination and harmonization of ideas, research findings, and challenges related to the selection and adoption of PM sensor technologies in occupational hygiene.

By connecting experts worldwide, the COP aims to streamline approaches to PM sensor technologies, reducing the need for individual national organizations to develop separate programs.

[IOHA's Community of Practice on Particulate Matter Sensor Technologies](#)





The **Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI)** was launched in 2024 as a groundbreaking initiative aimed at strengthening leadership skills among early-career professionals in Occupational, Environmental, Health & Safety (OEHS) and Product Stewardship. Held in conjunction with the IOHA 2024 Conference in Dublin, Ireland, this inaugural program was developed through a collaborative effort by IOHA, NVvA, BOHS, and AIHA volunteers. ELI was designed to recognize early-career professionals who show promising leadership potential, supplementing their technical expertise with critical soft skills. The 2.5-day program provided participants with immersive training in self-awareness, team management, and cultural influences on leadership, alongside dedicated networking events to foster meaningful professional relationships. Through interactive workshops and the Color Code personality profiling system, attendees gained deeper insights into their strengths, leadership styles, and strategies for effective collaboration within diverse teams.

The program was a tremendous success, selecting **41 participants from approximately 80 applications, representing 20 countries** and creating an energetic, global learning environment. The diverse group of motivated young professionals fully embraced the program's goals, forming accountability partnerships and initiating knowledge-sharing efforts beyond the event. A key achievement of the organizing team was **securing nearly €30,000 in funding within just six months**, a testament to the strong support and belief in the program's mission. Encouragingly, requests have already been received on how to donate to future ELI initiatives, demonstrating its value to the broader OEHS community. Many participants have since taken on leadership roles, presented at international conferences, and contributed to occupational hygiene outreach and advocacy.

Recognizing its impact and future potential, ELI is planned to be officially housed under IOHA, ensuring its long-term sustainability and integration into the international occupational hygiene network. The next session is planned to take place at IOHA 2027, ensuring continued opportunities to develop the next generation of OEHS leaders. The overwhelming enthusiasm from both participants and supporters highlights the critical role of leadership development in advancing the profession globally, positioning ELI as a flagship initiative for years to come.

RECOGNITIONS

NEW MEMBER IN 2024:

Occupational Hygiene Society of Tanzania (OHST)

Occupational Hygiene Society of Tanzania is IOHA's 43rd member organization and the third association in an African country after South Africa & Nigeria. OHST was formally registered and officially became an IOHA member in November 2024. According to OHST founding member Aristides Medard, the purpose of establishing the society is to raise the profession's standards, giving industrial hygiene recognition as a profession and support ongoing national and global initiatives to protect worker health and wellbeing.

Welcome to IOHA, OHST!



IOHA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This prestigious award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the promotion and development of occupational hygiene practice that improve the health and welfare of working men and women.

Deon Jansen van Vuuren was selected as the 2024 recipient. Dean's rousing nomination from the Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene can perhaps best be described by a direct quote from their letter of recommendation as follows here: "It is truly difficult to overemphasize Deon's worthiness for a "lifetime" achievement award in Occupational Hygiene.

His consistent and enduring contributions have left an indelible mark on the field, impacting the lives and well-being of countless individuals. Deon's legacy is one of selflessness, expertise, and a profound passion for the improvement of occupational hygiene standards." On a personal note: from the moment I met Deon during my first visit in South Africa in October 2023, I felt like I had a brand new, genuine friend in Deon. He did everything possible to make sure that IOHA and I were welcomed and taken care of during our time there. I will hold on to these memories for a long time to come.

Congratulations, Deon!



IOHA COLLABORATION AWARD

The IOHA Collaboration Award celebrates a group within IOHA who have chosen to collaborate with other countries or organizations for the purpose of advancing the knowledge and practice of occupational hygiene and/or the development and promotion of practical solutions in the field of occupational hygiene. This award recognizes and celebrates the person/s and/or the organization/s who have achieved outstanding results, and the collaboration effort offers models to inspire others.

The 2024 award was presented to the Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA). Their work in developing globally accessible training programs has played a critical role in building capacity and strengthening professional standards worldwide. From the size of the population directly impacted to the level of inspiration it offers to occupational hygienists worldwide, OHTA's project excelled in every aspect.

Moreover, their long-term collaboration efforts and dedication to sustainable improvement truly align with the mission of IOHA to provide a safe and healthy working environment for all.

Congratulations, OHTA!



IOHA DEDICATION AWARD

Chih-Chieh “CQ” Chen and Nuala Flavin

The Dedication Award is awarded by the Executive Committee to individuals who have shown exceptional commitment to IOHA. This may include long standing service as a board member or committee member that made a positive impact/contribution to the organization. This award celebrates those who have dedicated their time and expertise to the organization.

The award was presented to CC Chen (a.k.a. CQ, or C-cubed) in June 2024 at IOHA2024 in Dublin. The award was presented virtually to Nuala Flavin in October 2024. IOHA would like to thank them again for their contributions, leadership, and service to the occupational hygiene community.

Congratulations, CQ and Nuala!



IOHA would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our members, volunteers, stakeholders, partners, and donors.

IOHA is a volunteer-driven organization, and its continued success and impact are made possible by your unwavering support and dedication.

CLOSING REMARKS

To be an Occupational Hygienist and serve workers and communities is a privilege in itself. To contribute to our profession is a responsibility that goes beyond technical expertise – it's about making a meaningful impact on health, safety, and well-being, and ensuring that our work continues to inspire future generations to lead with purpose and dedication.



For further details:
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