

Expanding Occupational Safety and Health for Disabled Workers

Occupational hygiene for persons with disabilities includes vocational rehabilitation and workers compensation under law, but in-house compliance programs preventing discrimination based on disability must go beyond addressing workplace injuries in order to obey the law. According to the United Nations convention on preventing discrimination against persons with disabilities (2006), and the laws of over 100 nations, people deserve reasonable accommodations to help them work regardless of their disability. Sound occupational health policy and industrial hygiene practice must therefore embrace a whole new realm of concerns to meet the special needs of people with disabilities who might have been shut out of these economic and social opportunities a century before, regardless of the type or cause of the disability. This will now include those individuals affected by COVID-19 and subsequent associated disabilities, including workers whose disabilities were not caused by occupational transmission. This session will describe various types of disabilities and potential workplace solutions. It will explore the best practices that provide meaningful help to workers with disabilities, without regard to the cause of disability. Success stories of good industrial hygiene practice will be used to showcase how positive approaches can make big differences in people's lives by improving diversity, fairness, and workplace health and safety without sacrificing productivity.

The Role of Occupational Hygienists in Understanding and Accommodating Disabled Workers

Thomas Fuller (Illinois State University, USA)

Global Health Impacts of Nanotechnology Law - A Tool for Stakeholder Engagement

Ilise Feitshans (European Scientific Institute, France)

MODERATOR



Thomas Fuller

Dr. Thomas P. Fuller is a Certified Industrial Hygienist and Certified Safety Professional with over 39 years of experience in occupational hygiene, radiation protection, emergency planning, and infection control. He has experience in healthcare, nuclear power plants, labor organizations, biopharmaceutical labs, manufacturing, and universities. He is Professor of Occupational Safety and Health at Illinois State University. He is also the current President of the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) and Chair of the IOHA Education Committee.

SPEAKER



ilise feitshans

The notion that occupational health is a human right has permeated my work since my senior scholars Honors thesis examined laws and regulations in the USA, France and Russia at Barnard College Columbia University. While studying genetics and the laws of informed consent that impact decisionmaking during pregnancy for my Masters of Science from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, I realized that the importance of these norms is universally part of the human condition: This was part of my law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and my doctorate in international relations from Geneva School of Diplomacy. Beyond any juridical underpinnings that justify occupational safety and health programming there is the hard and cold reality that work and health are inextricably linked in order for society to survive. I have devoted my studies of nanotechnology and nonregulations that protect public health while fostering innovation to the working assumption that it is possible to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks of exciting amazing and cool new materials with unquantified and unknown dangers. I serve as the Legal Advisor to the Greek National Platform for Nanomedicine, the Legal Advisor for the European Commission for Nano RIGO where we are drafting a science court, and I am Director for the ESI SAFERNANO BEYOND GLOBAL HEALTH program that teaches safety by design to reduce workplace exposures to harm and eliminate when possible, risks to the environment. My 8 books and nearly 400 published articles address these topics in detail. GLOBAL HEALTH IMPACTS OF NANOTECHNOLOGY LAW describes the World Health Organization workplace guidelines and also relies on laws from around the world. Translated into French NANOTECHNOLOGIES POUR TOUS LA REVOLUTION SCIENTIFIQUE DE NOTRE EPOQUE. Whether working in the United Nations or teaching in a classroom my focus remains on the lessons to be learned from public health that ensure the work health and survival of all society thereby protecting posterity. ilise.feitshans@gmail.com WHS-PROJECT.ORG