



Explore the World of Hearing Loss Prevention

35th Annual Hearing Conservation Conference



Thursday, February 25, 2010
2010 Conference Workshop Descriptions

Workshop #1: Full Day (8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

"Forensics & expert witnessing- emphasis for the acoustician/audiologist"

Coordinator: John Casali, PhD - Virginia Tech and Ergonomics-Acoustics Co.
Dennis Driscoll, MS INCE – Associates in Acoustics Inc.
Robert Dobie, MD – University of California-Davis
Michael Seidemann, PhD – Audiological Associates, Inc.

This full-day workshop was designed to introduce NHCA attendees to the practice of serving as an expert witness and/or resource consultant for court litigation, workers compensation cases, and governmental hearings. With a comprehensive set of 125 PowerPoint slides, as well as handouts on retainer agreements, regulations governing expert disclosure and reports, and other reference material, the presenters conveyed a broad spectrum of information ranging from business aspects of forensic consulting to case analysis and testimony. Examples from premises liability, products liability, hearing loss, workers compensation, and patent litigation were provided to illustrate salient aspects of the expert's role. Due to the popularity of this workshop, as well as the fact that not all who requested it were able to attend due to a facility size-imposed enrollment limit, it will be offered again at NHCA 2010 at the request of the NHCA Program Committee. Also planned is the addition of an audiologist with forensic experience to the current panel. So, if you want to ...Learn how acoustics and audiology can provide: important input to juries and judges within the U.S. legal system? Learn the basics of serving as an expert witness in court? Experience the challenge of being cross-examined? Understand how to navigate (and survive) the discovery and litigation process in your capacity as an expert witness? Understand the basics of writing compelling, scientific reports for submission to court? Learn the basic "business" aspects of serving as an expert for court proceedings? Be introduced to the fundamentals of tort law? Be exposed to examples of the application of acoustics and/or audiology to cases involving: noise-induced hearing loss, warning signals as implicated in accidents, community noise annoyance, and intellectual property?

Workshop #2: Full Day (8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

"Hands-on fit-testing"

Coordinator: William Murphy - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Elliott Berger, 3M /E.A.R.
Evert Dijkstra, Phonak Communications
Mihaela Grigorie, Phonak Communications
Ted Madison, 3M /E.A.R.
Greg Moore – Integra
Robert Randolph - NIOSH
Theresa Schulz – Sperian Protection
Mark Stephenson - NIOSH
Jeremie Voix – Sonomoax

For over 30 years, hearing conservation professionals have known that the Noise Reduction Rating is not necessarily representative of the protection afforded to the average user of hearing protection. NIOSH developed one of the earliest fit-test systems, however, the system was far from portable. In the mid 1990's Michael and Associates developed FitCheck for use on a laptop computer. In recent years, other companies have developed systems: VeriPro by Sperian, Sonopass by Sonomax, SafetyMeter by Phonak, MultiFit by NIOSH, INTEGRafit by Workplace INTEGRA, HPD WellFit by NIOSH, and EARFit by 3M. This workshop will present an overview of the technologies available to the hearing conservation professional. During the morning session, attendees will learn about different methods to effect fit-testing and companies will present the features of their particular systems. During the afternoon session, attendees will experience hands-on demonstrations of the various products. Different demonstration areas will be provided for systems that require quiet and for those that do not.

Workshop #3A: AM only (8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)

"PSO member session"

Coordinator: Richard Stepkin – Enviromed Corporation

This workshop is geared toward PSO members and prospective members. The workshop will address a number of topics of current interest and concern regarding the effectiveness of your HCPs.

Workshop #3B: PM only (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

"A new approach to teaching physiology and conservation"

Coordinator: Benj Kanters – Columbia College Chicago

The Hearing Conservation Workshop and HearTomorrow.Org were developed to target a hearing awareness and hearing loss prevention program to students and professionals in the audio and music industries. What evolved, proved to be a very effective effort, utilizing a number of new teaching topics, presentation methods, images, animations, and a different "mind-set" where the approach is more artistic and emotional than "medical-safety". Many of the principles and theories presented in the Workshop are the same as those governing music, audio and acoustics. As such, this audience is particularly adept at understanding this information. In addition, they are quick to understand the importance of developing their own safe listening habits, and equally quick to be concerned about the health and safety of their clients and the listening public. Since the Workshop is directed at an artistic community, and focused primarily on "music-induced hearing loss", the presentation very quickly takes on an air of "inevitability". Attendees soon view hearing conservation as much of a no-brainer as sunglasses and sunscreen. There is a clear difference in the tone of a discussion when the topic is one relating to recreation and entertainment, as opposed to employment and work. The NHCA/ HearTomorrow Workshop will be an opportunity to explore these new presentation perspectives, strategies and tools, and look for ways to incorporate them in the context of health and safety counseling in the workplace and clinic.

Workshop #4A: AM only (8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)

"Recreational firearms noise exposure"

Coordinator: Greg Flamme – Western Michigan University
James Lankford – Northern Illinois University
Deanna Meinke, PhD – University of Northern Colorado at Greeley
Jacob Sondegaard – TBA
Mike Stewart – Central Michigan University

Despite the popularity of recreational shooting, there are relatively few contemporary data concerning the acoustic and auditory risk characteristics of the gunfire produced during these activities. Attendees will learn about the types of recreational firearms, usage habits, gunfire measurement techniques, effects of gunfire noise on hearing, and estimates of hearing protector effectiveness in this presentation.

Workshop #4B: PM only (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

"Hearing Conservation Amendment panel: Challenges persist"

Coordinator: Russ Hannula - HearTrak

A panel of experts, each with many years of on-site experience, has been assembled to discuss important issues still relevant today, such as: a) the role of OSHA; b) noise exposure monitoring/control; c) professional review/recordability; d) effective training measures; e) hot topics such as medical histories, confidentiality, and the SSN; f) baseline revision; and g) using the data to evaluate program effectiveness – are the horses still falling off the cliff?

Workshop #5: AM / Workshop #5 PM (8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)/ (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

"Effective presentations: Structure & delivery"

Coordinator: Jean-Luc Doumont - Principiae

When having to prepare an oral presentation, too many speakers these days seem content with cranking out PowerPoint slides; when their slides are ready, they think they are, too. Yet a presentation is not a set of slides; it is all about someone having something to say to an audience and being able to convey it effectively, with or without slides. To be effective, a presentation must most of all be well-planned, well-structured, and well-delivered; slides are optional. Accordingly, this workshop will focus on these more fundamental aspects: structure and delivery. Building on three simple yet solid principles, it will establish a standard structure that can be used for almost any professional presentation; then discuss how to optimize one's verbal, vocal, and visual delivery; and finally give tips on how to handle nervousness. Participants can expect to learn much from it regardless of their level of experience.

Workshop #6: All-Day Seminar (8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

"Hearing loss prevention: The basics (Noise Measurement)"

Presenter: Tom Lloyd, Associates in Acoustics, Inc.

This segment will provide an overview of the measurement and control of noise, including an introduction to that dear friend/archenemy of hearing loss prevention (the decibel), the equipment we use to measure noise (sound level meters, dosimeters, octave band analyzers, oh my!), how we can reduce noise exposures, and how all this relates to protecting people's hearing.

"Hearing loss prevention: The basics (The Audiogram)"

Presenter: Lynnette Bardolf, US Army

The audiometric test is essentially the report card for the hearing loss prevention program. No worker's hearing has ever been preserved or protected because he or she took a hearing test. How we use that hearing test, how we convey the information, how we track the data becomes critical to the program. This session will go beyond just looking for standard threshold shift. It will provide the technician with information about obtaining a valid result, and will offer the professional supervisor insight into follow-up strategies.

"Hearing loss prevention: The basics (HPDs)"

Presenter: Theresa Schulz – Sperian Hearing Protection

As hearing conservationists we can measure, assess, document, and counsel, but when it comes to effective intervention, our primary tool, sometimes our only tool, is a hearing protector. Therefore it behooves us to become knowledgeable about the specification of hearing protection devices and their use in hearing conservation programs. This presentation will focus on hearing protector function, how they are tested and rated (with particular reference to the NRR), the performance gains available from the use of dual hearing.

"Hearing loss prevention: The basics (Education & Motivation)"

Presenter: Laura Kauth, Audiology Consultants PC

While the ideal solution to a noisy environment is to remove the noise, in many situations, it simply isn't possible. When this is the case, it's not enough to rely solely on compliance with regulations to reduce risk. We need to educate employees thoroughly on the benefits of hearing conservation and the crucial steps they should take to safeguard their hearing. Employees must participate actively for hearing conservation to be successful; we need to engage and interest them in their own protection. Effective hearing conservation cannot be achieved without the combined efforts of employers, supervisors, and the employees themselves. By focusing on the reasons behind hearing conservation, and providing some different approaches, we can better reach these individuals to make them a part of the solution to preventable hearing loss.

"Hearing loss prevention: The basics (Record Keeping)"

Presenter: Cindy Bloyer, Examinetics, Inc.

Identification of work-related hearing loss has long been one of the most complicated and controversial areas of government-mandated injury/illness recordkeeping. Effective in 2000, MSHA provided a new definition of "reportable" hearing loss in its revised noise standard, Part 62. OSHA also defined new criteria for recording occupational hearing loss with its recent revision to 29 CFR 1904 (effective in 2003, with a separate Form 300 column in effect January 1, 2004). This workshop presentation will focus on the basic requirements of MSHA and OSHA recordkeeping regulations, as well as implications for professional review of audiograms and determination of work-relatedness. Although compliance with recordkeeping rules is important to the ultimate goal of tracking incidence of work-related hearing loss, emphasis will also be placed on best practices for an effective hearing loss prevention program.

"Hearing loss prevention: The basics (Regulations & HIPAA)"

Presenter: Nancy Gallihugh, Kalamazoo RESA

This portion of the workshop will provide attendees with an overview of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) as it relates to the hearing conservation provider, including recordkeeping, maintaining compliance, and

available resources. Also discussed will be a summary of Hearing Conservation Regulations including recordability differences between MSHA and OSHA.