

# UPDATE

The Newsletter of the  
Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation

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The CAOHC Executive Committee held a meeting in April at the new executive offices in Milwaukee. Seated from left: Paul Ostergaard, PE, and Rena Glaser, MA, CCC-A; standing from left: Barbara Panhorst, EdD, RN, COHN, Sandra M. Koehler, Maria Connor and Thomas Markham, M.D.

## Course Directors: New Course Outline and Course Application in Effect

by Susan Cooper Megerson, MA, CCC-A

During the past several months, the Council has been studying the current 1973 outlines for courses leading to OHC certification/recertification. The first step was to poll 20 of the most active CD's for their feedback and suggestions. Then the Council put to work updating the course outlines, to reflect current hearing conservation practices and to better address needs of the OHC.

The result is an update and revision to the course outline topics, while retaining the original overall time requirements of 20 hours for certification and eight hours for recertification. Additions to the cer-

tification course outline include requirements for a segment on employee education programs, a lab practicum for otoscopic screening and hearing protection fittings, and expansion of the topic dealing with audiogram review, referral and employee follow up.

New requirements for the refresher course include coverage of basic topics such as federal and state regulations, hearing protection, employee education, audiometric evaluation follow-up procedures, and supervised audiometric practicum. Sixty minutes of CD discretionary time have been retained for each course.

## CAOHC Moves Executive Offices to Milwaukee

Beginning March 31, the CAOHC Executive Offices were moved from New Jersey to Milwaukee, WI.

CAOHC joins 11 other clients managed by Executive Director, Inc. EDI has been in business since 1962, providing high-quality, cost effective service to clients that function on community, state, national and international levels.

The new executive director for CAOHC is Sandra M. Koehler. Ms. Koehler has been with EDI since 1981 and is associate executive director for an international client, the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology, and executive director for the Wisconsin Society of Internal Medicine.

Maria Connor will be handling the administrative and public relations activities for CAOHC. If you need information please contact Maria at 414-276-5338 or FAX 414-276-3349.

To reflect the new course outline topics and to improve usability, a new course approval application has also been developed. This application form and the new course outline became effective in 1992. To receive copies of the revised course outline and a supply of application forms, call the CAOHC office, 414-276-5338. All courses submitted for approval after January 1, 1992 must adhere to the new guidelines. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CAOHC office at 414-276-5338.

# Chairperson's Message

by Rena Glaser, MA, CCC-A

Many of you may be aware, CAOHC has a new address. In mid-February, we were informed by the Association Management Company (AMC) of Springfield, NJ, that their company would cease to provide association management services effective March 13, 1992. The CAOHC Council solicited bids from several association management firms and interviewed representatives from the four finalists prior to our March Council meeting in Cincinnati. The Council unanimously selected Executive Director Inc. (EDI) of Milwaukee to manage CAOHC's affairs. The transition to

our new management corporation is nearly complete.

The CAOHC Council, and I personally, want to take this opportunity to thank Jim Grassi (former Executive Director) and Judy Policastro (former Administrative Assistant) for their contributions to CAOHC over the years. CAOHC contracted with AMC in the early 1980s and Judy had worked on the account for all but about six months of that time. Jim became associated with the CAOHC account about two years ago. CAOHC owes both of these individuals a debt of gratitude for their assistance and support. They were great to work with and we will miss them.

On behalf of all of the Council members, I would like to apologize for any confusion or inconvenience that may have occurred during the transition from AMC to EDI. Additionally, I would like to ask for your patience and cooperation in working with our new headquarters'

staff as they become familiar with the day-to-day workings of CAOHC. You will find them very pleasant and cooperative. On page one in this UPDATE you will find an article introducing Sandra Koehler, CAOHC's new Executive Director and Maria Connor, our new Administrative Assistant, as well as Sarah Kaluzny and Kay Whalen. Sandy and Maria are ready and willing to answer your questions and help you with any CAOHC questions or concerns.

This is a time to look forward to continued growth and change and we are excited about working with Sandy Koehler and Maria Connor. If you have suggestions, questions or concerns about CAOHC activities, please contact Sandy, Maria or any one of the Council members.



## UPDATE

Published by the Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the establishment and maintenance of training standards for those who safeguard hearing in the workplace.

The *Update* is published biannually in February and July. Articles should be submitted, with a black & white photograph of the author, by the first day of May or December. The *Update* is available to individuals not certified by CAOHC at an annual subscription of \$15. Payment must accompany request.

611 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 276-5338, FAX (414) 276-3349

- Chairperson -  
Rena Glaser, MA, CCC-A
- Editor -  
Maria Connor
- Contributing Editor -  
Lt. Col. John Elmore, M.A., M.B.A.,  
U.S. Air Force
- Executive Director -  
Sandra M. Koehler
- Administrative Assistant -  
Maria Connor

Opinions expressed in the *Update* are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect official CAOHC policy.

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## CAOHC Certification: Important Step Beyond Training

Course Directors are reminded to encourage certification. Occupational Hearing Conservationists may be granted certification by the Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation by successfully completing an OHC course and completing a few additional steps. They include: submitting an application, completing a course survey and sending in the fee.

Following the completion of an OHC course, an OHC may receive a certificate stating that they have completed a training course. Unless they have completed the additional steps stated above, they are not CAOHC-certified.



## Wanted: Recommendations for a new CAOHC Logo

The Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation (CAOHC) is establishing a new logo and we would like your input!

Occupational Hearing Conservationists and Course Directors are encouraged to draw up their ideas for a new CAOHC logo and send them to the CAOHC Executive Office, 611 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202. The top five choices will receive the new CAOHC manual due out in January.

The resulting drawing would be refined into a logo and used on stationary, envelopes, brochures, flyers, manuals and other CAOHC printed products. Please send your entries by September 1, 1992.

# The Long-Awaited Draft ANSI S12.13 Standard is Here

by Theodore R. Hatfield, MD,  
FACOEM, FACPM

After eight years of long meetings and hard work by the Drs. Royster, the Draft American National Standard, "Evaluating the Effectiveness of Hearing Conservation Programs," has been published. And after three years of comments and revisions it will be hopefully published as an ANSI standard.

## Working Group Formed

The OSHA Noise Standard in 1971 and subsequent amendments recommended that a method of measuring the effectiveness of hearing conservation programs (HCP) in industry be developed. HCP managers and other interested professionals have attempted to address this need. In 1984, a group comprised of representatives from the various professional organizations to the Accredited Standards Committee, S12 Noise, convinced the committee that they needed to form a working group of experts in hearing conservation to develop such a standard.

## Draft Standard Sections

The Draft Standard currently has the following sections: introduction, scope, applications, references to other standards, definitions, recommended audiometric data base analysis criteria, procedures implementation, results interpretation, and references.

The introduction section makes the major point that this standard is designed to identify problems with a program before permanent threshold shifts occur. The major problem with the OSHA standard is that it primarily documents permanent threshold shifts after they occur. While this might be acceptable in an enforcement program, it is not acceptable in a prevention program. In addition to the sections, there are

appendices which include an explanation of the recommendation process, sample calculations, and comparisons to the OSHA standard. The explanation appendix is profusely illustrated with statistical graphics which simplifies the statistical reasoning behind the recommendations.

## Largest Audiometric Data Base

The working group provided the audiometric data base from the hearing conservation programs at their companies or organizations which combined to make the largest data base of this type in the country. This data base was used to test the various systems that were in vogue at the time. Most were discarded for reasons that are explained in the Appendix A. The statistics that were eventually developed were the percent worse sequential (%Ws), the percent better or worse sequential (%BWs), and the standard deviation of differences in threshold levels. Comparisons with baseline audiograms were discarded primarily because of the difficulties in applying age corrections. The standard contains a series of tables which use the recommended statistics to categorize hearing conservation programs into acceptable, marginal and unacceptable categories in various frequency ranges and test sequences.

## Learning Curve Should Be Noted

The evaluator using the standard must be aware that the standard has limited value in the early phases of a HCP. There is a learning curve associated with the standard which stabilizes after several years and this must be considered. If high variability is encountered, the evaluator must assure himself/herself that this is not due to poor audiometric technique or inadequate protection from noise exposure. This can usually be deter-

mined by comparing different departments or groups with different levels of noise exposure, or different types of hearing protection. This is an effective way to identify problems in an HCP.

Company management needs to be convinced of the value of the standard. The major selling point is that by using the standard it is possible to determine noise induced hearing loss in populations before the loss becomes compensable under worker's compensation. If a company waits until hearing loss is detected by the OSHA standard, they are very likely to incur worker's compensation losses with the amount of loss determined by the state statute.

Copies of the Draft Standard are available for \$30 each from:

Standards Secretariat  
c/o Acoustical Society of  
America  
335 East 45th Street  
New York, NY 10017-3483  
(212) 661-9404

## Oregon Changes Certification Procedure

Students in Oregon now obtaining Audiometric Technician Certification will be required to take a written examination at the central Oregon-OSHA office located in Salem. These exams will be given on a regularly scheduled basis. Certification by CAOHC by itself is not valid in the state of Oregon.

This new procedure began May 1, 1992. Future dates for the state exam are: July 31, September 11, October 23, and December 4. If you have any questions about the Oregon changes, please contact Sharon Dey, MS, CCC-A, Audiometric Program Coordinator, Oregon OSHA, 503-378-3272.

## Course Director Workshop Set for October 19

The Course Director Certification/Recertification Workshop is scheduled for October 19 at the Stapleton Plaza Hotel and Fitness Center in Denver.

Registration for the workshop is \$225 and includes a CAOHC manual. The cost for recertification is an additional \$25. A course director should attend this workshop if he/she was originally certified in 1987 or later and will wish to qualify for recertification.

A brochure with details on the workshop will be mailed in July. This is an ASHA-approved program offered for .8 CEUs of continuing education credit.

The course will include experts from the various disciplines using a new and interactive format. Topics include: teaching problems, course planning and development, perform-

ing valid audiometric monitoring, effective hearing protection programs and more.

For those people attending the

### 30 Days Lead Time Needed for Courses

Course directors should remember that 30 days advance notice is required before OHC courses can be approved.

The reason for the 30-day advance period is for the Executive Office to process the information and to mail out needed materials to the course directors. The 30-day time period also allows students adequate time to select an upcoming course in their area and to schedule time to attend.

workshop for initial certification he/she must have had an application approved by the CAOHC Screening Committee and fee paid to the Executive Office. Applications must be approved prior to attending the workshop. Course director applications can be obtained by calling Maria Connor at 414-276-5338.

## Letters to the Editor



### Dear Editor:

I was told that an employee's baseline hearing evaluation can be changed. How do I revise a baseline?

Signed, "a new OHC in Milwaukee".

### Response:

True, the OSHA Hearing Conservation Amendment (CFR 1910.95) does state that "an annual audiogram may be substituted for the baseline audiogram..." OSHA recognized that the original baseline audiogram occasionally may be invalid or no longer representative of an employee's hearing ability, and therefore, no longer appropriate for comparison purposes. Please note, however, that the decision to revise baselines can be made only by your program supervisor. OSHA states that baselines can be revised in certain cases when appropriate "in the judgement of the audiologist, otolaryngologist, or physician who is evaluating the audiogram...". Ask your supervising audiologist or physician about provisions and procedures for reviewing and revising baselines.

## Welcome Course Directors

CAOHC welcomes the following course directors who completed certification/recertification at the course director workshop in March in Cincinnati.

Kenneth Aspinall, Aberdeen  
Proving Ground, MD

Robert Bancroft, Muskegon, MI

Cindy Bloyer, Kansas City, MO

Carl Bohl, Ballwin, MO

Margaret Burke, Laurel, MD

Dennis Burrows, Macomb, IL

Jerry Cammarata, Staten Island,  
NY

Lawrence Clayton, Rockford, IL

Roger Clem, Sour Lake, TX

Harlan Conkey, Portland, OR

Patrica Fox, West Point, GA

Barbara Garrett, Cedar Rapids,  
IA

Mary Hallmark, Monument, OH

C. Garth Hengen, Worcester, MA

Jill Hughes, Bellingham, WA

Sierra Irizarry, Lt. Col.,

Fairfield, CA

Anthony Joseph, FPO, NY

Herbert Kern, Philadelphia, PA

Barbara Markham, Bay Village, OH

Mary McDaniel, Seattle, WA

Richard Merchant, Potsdam, NY

Marion Morgan, Madisonville,  
KY

Gail Neuhann, Long Branch, CA

Bruce Olson, Waterville, ME

Richard Palasz, Scottsdale, AZ

Curtis Paskett, San Antonio, TX

Leeann Phillabaum, Aberdeen,  
MD

Jane Prince, M.D., Jonesboro, AR

Patrick J. Scanlon, Elmira, NY

Cari Sheeris, Cincinnati, OH

Walter J. Smoski, Bloomington,  
IL

Phyllis Sochrin, Shelton, CT

Lea Spencer, Chapel Hill, NC

Giri Sundar, Succasunna, NJ

Christa Themann, Cincinnati, OH

Verapon Towannasut, M.D.,  
Merrillville, IN

Marianne Towell, Pascagoula,

MS

Thomas Walker, Palo Alto, CA

David Wirth, San Antonio, TX

Don Wolfe, Spokane, WA

Jeff Young, Fremont, CA

*Continued on page 5*

# Upcoming OHC Refresher Courses

Approved June 9, 1992

Date	City	Course Director	Phone Number	Date	City	Course Director	Phone Number
7/7	Chapel Hill, NC	Andrew Stewart	(919) 967-2228	9/21-25	Bremerton, WA	James Wax	(206) 476-3286
7/7-7/10	Oakland, CA	Jeffery L. Young	(510) 633-6231	9/23	Washington, DC	Lloyd S. Bowling	(202) 994-7166
7/10	Newport News, VA	Henry C. Hecker	(804) 874-4665	9/24	Blackwood, NJ	Richard Stepkin	(609) 228-3353
7/13-7/16	Guam	K.A. Kopay	(919) 451-4720	9/30	Roanoke, VA	Richard Hawkins	(703) 343-0165
7/13-7/17	Great Lakes, IL	Michael J. Szynski	(708) 688-6712	10/6	Detroit, MI	Thomas Simpson	(313) 577-6754
7/15	Toledo, OH	Dr. Herbert Greenberg	(800) 488-4185	10/6	Chapel Hill, NC	Andrew P. Stewart	(919) 967-2228
7/15	Greensboro, NC	George Cook	(919) 665-1818	10/7	Buffalo, NY	Timothy Swisher	(800) 345-4790
7/16	Houston, TX	Gayla Sullivan	(713) 531-5544	10/8	Atlanta, GA	William Wolfe	(404) 992-2827
7/16	Brookfield, WI	Edward Korabic	(414) 288-7349	10/9	Denver, CO	Dr. Dean Harris	(303) 586-0702
7/17	Pittsburgh, PA	Gary Schurman	(412) 784-4025	10/14	Toledo, OH	Dr. Herbert Greenberg	(800) 488-4185
7/24	Dallas, TX	Dr. Dean Harris	(303) 586-0702	10/15	Brookfield, WI	Meredy Hase	(414) 547-2227
8/4	Bala Cynwyd, PA	Lawrence Vassallo	(215) 667-1711	10/16	Long Beach, CA	Michael Metz	(714) 638-8122
8/6	Jacksonville, FL	Nancy Green	(904) 724-4329	10/15-17	Tempe, AZ	Gordon Cluff	(602) 967-7976
8/6	Atlanta, GA	William Wolfe	(404) 992-2827	10/20	Oak Brook, IL	Robert Connelly	(708) 519-0666
8/12	Greenville, SC	Stephen Guryan	(803) 235-9689	10/21	Charlotte, NC	Miriam S. Olynick	(919) 665-1818
8/12	Greensboro, NC	Miriam S. Olynick	(919) 665-1818	10/23	Franklin, PA	Harold Hartley, Jr.	(814) 437-6849
8/12-14	Pittsburgh, PA	Timothy Swisher	(800) 345-4790	11/11	Greensboro, NC	George Cook	(919) 665-1818
8/14	Montgomery, AL	Curtis Smith	(205) 887-6302	11/12	Houston, TX	Gayla Sullivan	(713) 531-5544
8/18	Oak Brook, IL	Robert Connelly	(708) 519-0666	11/13	Dallas, TX	Dr. Dean Harris	(303) 586-0702
8/19	Lafayette, LA	Jim Guillory	(318) 233-3955	11/18	Greenville, SC	Stephen Guryan	(803) 235-9689
8/19	Toledo, OH	Dr. Herbert Greenberg	(800) 488-4185	11/18	Toledo, OH	Dr. Herbert Greenberg	(800) 488-4185
8/19-8/21	Hattiesburg, MS	Robert C. Rhodes	(601) 266-5216	11/19	Cleveland, OH	William Wolfe	(404) 992-2827
8/21	Boulder, CO	Richard Krug	(303) 494-0766	12/1	Bala Cynwyd, PA	Lawrence Vassallo	(215) 667-1711
8/25-28	Brooks Air Force, TX	Jay Lehman	(512) 536-2844	12/2	Philadelphia, PA	Timothy Swisher	(800) 345-4790
9/1	Atlanta, GA	Charles Russell	(404) 294-4672	12/4	Montgomery, AL	Curtis Smith	(205) 887-6302
9/10	Cleveland, OH	William Wolfe	(404) 992-2827	12/4	St. Louis, MO	David Levine	(314) 968-4710
9/12	Sunnyvale, CA	Pamela Gordon	(408) 773-9933	12/7-11	Bremerton, WA	James P. Wax	(206) 476-3286
9/16	Greensboro, NC	Deborah Woodward	(919) 665-1818	12/8	Oak Brook, IL	Robert Connelly	(708) 519-0666
9/16	Baltimore, MD	Vic Gladstone	(410) 467-1040	12/9	Greensboro, NC	Deborah Woodward	(919) 665-1818
9/16-18	Toledo, OH	Dr. Herbert Greenberg	(800) 488-4185	12/9	Maple Shade, NJ	Richard Stepkin	(609) 228-3353
9/17	Houston, TX	Gayla Sullivan	(713) 531-5544	12/16	Toledo, OH	Dr. Herbert Greenberg	(800) 488-4185
9/18	Dallas, TX	Dr. Dean Harris	(303) 586-0702				

## Letters to the Editor

*Continued from page 4*

### Dear Editor:

Recently, there has been discussion on using videotape in CAOHC courses. What is CAOHC's policy? Signed, "a CD in Tallahassee".

### Response:

In order for your course to be eligible for CAOHC approval, all speakers must be physically present at the Course. In addition, you as the course director must also be physically present throughout the course. Therefore, viewing videotapes in the

absence of an instructor/presenter would not meet CAOHC guidelines; however, videotapes may certainly be used to supplement presentations.

### Dear Editor:

Recently a 17 year-old registered for one of my training courses. Is there a minimum age requirement for OHC's?

### Response:

No, CAOHC has no such requirement. Eligibility for OHC certification is determined by the CD, based on your judgement of the individual's competency.

### Dear Editor:

I am in the process of arranging faculty for my next OHC training

course. Does a Physicians Assistant qualify as an acceptable faculty discipline?

### Response:

No, unless this individual is otherwise qualified. Faculty members must represent one of the disciplines comprising the Council. These disciplines are: Audiology, Industrial Hygiene, Occupational Medicine, Occupational Health Nursing, Otolaryngology, and Safety.

## REMINDER:

**Recertification fee is \$15.**

# Council Members & Their Represented Organizations

## Chair

*[American Speech-Language-Hearing Association]*  
Rena Glaser, MA, CCC-A (term - 1993)  
3M Medical Department  
3M Center Building 220-2E-02  
St. Paul, MN 55144-1000  
Office: (612) 733-4019

## Vice Chair

*[American Association of Occupational Health Nurses]*  
Barbara Panhorst, EdD, RN, COHN (term - 1993)  
Spring Industries  
1 Pacific Street  
P.O. Box 2000  
Lyman, SC 29365  
Office: (803) 433-4388

## Secretary-Treasurer

*[American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine]*  
Thomas Markham, MD (term - 1993)  
Medical Department  
17876 St. Clair Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44110  
Office: (216) 383-6813

## Immediate Past Chair

*[American Industrial Hygiene Association]*  
Paul Ostergaard, PE (term - 1992)  
10 Glenwood Way  
West Caldwell, NJ 07006-8004  
Office: (201) 731-7002

*[American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery]*  
Robert A. Dobie, MD (term - 1995)  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
Department of Otolaryngology

Head & Neck Surgery  
7703 Floyd Curl Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78284-7777  
Office: (512) 567-5655

*[American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery]*  
Sherman E. Hatfield, MD (term - 1995)  
One Union Square  
#2 Monongalia, Suite 200  
Charleston, WV 25302  
Office: (304) 342-6806

*[American Association of Occupational Health Nurses]*  
Richard Kowalski, RN, MSA, COHN (term - 1992)  
Saginaw Division of General Motors  
3900 Holland Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48605  
Office: (517) 757-4379

*[American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine]*  
Theodore Hatfield, MD, FACOM, FACPM (term - 1994)  
Hatfield Consultants, Inc.  
60 Canongate Drive  
Sharpsburg, GA 30277  
Office: (404) 463-1815

*[American Industrial Hygiene Association]*  
Jeffrey C. Morrill, MS (term - 1992)  
Impact Hearing Conservation, Inc.  
920 Main Street, Suite 700  
Kansas City, MO 64105-2008  
Office: (816) 471-3900

*[American Speech-Language-Hearing Association]*  
Susan Cooper Megerson, MA, CCC-A (term - 1992)

Impact Hearing Conservation, Inc.  
920 Main Street, Suite 700  
Kansas City, MO 64105-2008  
Office: (816) 471-3900

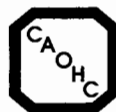
*[Military Audiology and Speech Pathology Society]*  
Col. Rodney M. Atack, PhD, CCC-A (term - 1994)  
Army Audiology & Speech Center  
Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
Washington, DC 20307-5001  
Office: (202) 576-2413

*[Military Audiology and Speech Pathology Society]*  
Lt. Col. John Elmore, MA, MBA, CCC (term - 1993)  
6463 Lost Arbor  
San Antonio, TX 78240  
Office: (512) 536-3421

*[National Safety Council]*  
Eva Barnard, RN, BA, COHN  
Morovic & Associates (term - 1996)  
1401 W. 76th Street, Suite 400  
Richfield, MN 55423  
Office: (612) 861-3608

*[National Safety Council]*  
Jill Niland, CIH, CSP (term - 1993)  
National Safety Council  
1121 Spring Lake Drive  
Itasca, IL 60254-3201  
Office: (708) 775-2226

**CAOHC Executive Office**  
Sandra M. Koehler, Executive Director  
Maria Connor, Administrative Assistant  
611 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
Office: (414) 276-5338  
Fax: (414) 276-3349



CAOHC  
611 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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