



Report from SAIOH's President and Council Members

MESSAGE FROM THE SAIOH PRESIDENT

It is with great pride and humility that I take up the position of President of the Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH) this year. The adage of having large shoes to fill is so true, and I look back in awe at the Past Presidents of SAIOH and their achievements in making SAIOH the strong and active Institute it is today. I hope that I am able to continue producing the excellent outcomes generated by their leadership and ideas, and to continue to steer SAIOH in the best direction for our members.

In February, SAIOH Council will spend several days reviewing and developing the proposed strategy for the Institute for the next five years. As with any business, it is imperative that we have a blueprint and project plan to ensure that SAIOH develops and delivers the services required by our membership. This is a good time for members to lobby Council and send ideas and requests to the SAIOH office for consideration and inclusion in future plans.

For myself, I have a special project I would like to focus on with our members. This relates to volunteering and taking part in SAIOH activities. I recently read a wonderful article on volunteering, written by Karen Bufton, the new President of the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS). It was interesting to realise that our larger sister associations have similar challenges, and her comments echoed many of my concerns and thoughts.

I asked Karen's permission to include several key points from her article, which address the advantages of volunteering, and I am sure you will agree that these considerations may change our mindsets and increase our willingness to volunteer.

As President-Elect of BOHS, and in line with the BOHS strategic plan, Karen visited all nine of the BOHS regional branches and presented interactive sessions on volunteering. Discussion and feedback identified that many people do volunteer, not necessarily for BOHS, but on other committees such as school boards and sports club organising committees. What was revealed and acknowledged was the sense of achievement felt by these volunteers, as well as recognition that they learn management skills, develop networks and even boost their own careers.

Karen shared results from a Timebank Survey run by Reed Executive (<http://timebank.org.uk/key-facts>) which showed that, among 200 leading businesses in the UK, 73% would recruit a candidate with volunteering experience over one without; 80% believe volunteering adds skills; and up to a quarter of employees who volunteer benefited by getting their first job, improving their salary or being promoted ahead of non-volunteers.¹

Don't believe that you are not experienced enough, or do not currently hold high enough qualifications or registration levels within SAIOH, to volunteer. Whilst the office bearer positions on Council do have certain requirements in this regard, this does not exclude any keen member at any level from volunteering and supporting SAIOH. Start at Branch level to learn the basics, and progress to Council and sub-committees where you may add specialist input and knowledge. Remember that working on any SAIOH committee or sub-committee earns you Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points as well.

2018 is an important year, as SAIOH focuses on improved support and development of Branches and discussion groups, to serve our members

across the provinces and neighbouring countries better. I hope that I and my fellow Council members will get to meet many of you at your local meetings so that we can share ideas and knowledge. Please support these meetings. This will be a large but necessary expense for SAIOH, but it is a priority as part of our service delivery to our members.

I wish you all a safe and prosperous year ahead and look forward to serving our noble profession during 2018.

Julie Hills

SAIOH President 2018

REFERENCE

1. Karen Bufton, President's message. Exposure magazine (BOHS), Issue 3, 2017.

THE YEAR 2017 IN REVIEW, AND LOOKING AHEAD FOR 2018

Looking back at 2017, we can say that we had a rewarding and successful year at SAIOH, with many opportunities to raise the profile of the occupational hygiene discipline and profession.

The highlights include SAIOH being formally awarded accreditation to act as an examiner for the 'W201 – Basic principles of occupational hygiene' module of the Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA); the introduction of recognised proficiency training in asbestos-related work in South Africa, accredited by BOHS; the renewal of SAIOH's status as an Accredited Certification Provider with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA); and Peter-John (Jakes) Jacobs, one of our own Council members, SAIOH Past President and official representative of SAIOH to the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), being voted in as the IOHA President-Elect for 2018.

SAIOH continued its representation at the Department of Labour's Occupational Health Forum, in collaboration with the sister organisations, The South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM) and the South African Society of Occupational Health Nursing Practitioners (SASOHN), and made valuable contributions to discussion groups and workshops on hot topics and priority issues in occupational health, such as hazardous biological agents, service provision of medical surveillance, and reviews of the draft regulations for hazardous chemical substances and ergonomics.

We kept our members informed about new developments for improving the competence and professional delivery of occupational hygiene services, and provided a number of refresher topics through *Occupational Health Southern Africa*, including notes on taking a career break from occupational hygiene, the new requirements for CPD and the maintenance of a Personal Learning Portfolio (PLP), benefits of SAIOH membership, the SAIOH awards, and SAIOH fast facts on membership.

SAIOH also organised and offered CPD-accredited events to its members and other occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals, such as the occupational health seminar presented by Dr Thomas Fuller from the University of Illinois in July; the SAIOH Annual Conference and pre-conference Professional Development Courses (PDCs) in October; and the international training course in occupational hygiene, presented at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) in December.

The SAIOH key objective for 2018, 'To promote the occupational hygiene profession', is a natural progression from the 2017 objective 'To entrench excellence, professionalism and competence' for occupational hygiene professionals. Both objectives had a sound foundation from the 2016 objective 'To build SAIOH capacity at all levels'. The New Year 2018 will see the implementation of the approved new SAIOH regional structure, to achieve the key aims of the SAIOH Five-Year Strategy (2015-2019).

SAIOH ELECTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2018

At the last SAIOH Council Meeting of 2017, held on 30 November, Council members elected Celia Keet as the SAIOH Vice President for 2018. Celia is a Registered Occupational Hygienist (ROH) employed by Occupational Hygiene Monitoring Services, and the Immediate Past Chair of the SAIOH Western Cape branch. SAIOH welcomes and congratulates Celia on her new appointment, as well as Sean Chester, the new Professional Certification Committee (PCC) Chair, who took up his post in October 2017. Julie Hills vacated the position of Vice President and Treasurer, which she held in 2017, to become SAIOH's new President in 2018; Kenneth Hlungwane is the Immediate Past President.

SAIOH ASSESSMENTS FOR 2017

In a first for SAIOH, there were 16 ROH certifications by SAIOH's PCC during 2017 – this is yet another feather in SAIOH's cap, and aligns well with SAIOH's key objective for last year, 'To entrench excellence, professionalism and competence' for occupational hygiene professionals. The results of the SAIOH PCC assessments across all three categories for 2017 are summarised in Table 1.

NEW FACES AT THE SAIOH PCC

SAIOH and its members extend a warm welcome to two new additions to the PCC.

Rebecca Kaitlin was recently employed as the new SAIOH PCC Assistant Administrator, and is excited to get to know the SAIOH members and assist them in their occupational hygiene professional development. Although the occupational hygiene profession and her new position at the PCC are uncharted territory for her, Rebecca is very keen to learn and looks forward to her progression alongside the SAIOH members. Rebecca can be contacted on the PCC Administrative Office number (071 672 4916) or via e-mail at rebecca@saioh.co.za. **Brian Mongoma** is the newly nominated PCC Vice Chair for 2018. Brian has worked in occupational health since 1999 and is currently employed at the Chamber of Mines (CoM) of South Africa as the Deputy Head/Occupational Hygienist, representing



Rebecca Kaitlin



Brian Mongoma



the interests of the CoM members at the tripartite stakeholder meetings of the Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC), and other relevant structures wherein mines require representation on matters relating to occupational hygiene and mine environmental control. Brian is a member of both SAIOH and the Mine Ventilation Society of South Africa (MVSSA), and holds a BTech degree in Environmental Health from Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and a Certificate in Mine Environmental Control from the CoM. He is currently registered for a Masters degree in Public Health (MPH) at the Wits School of Public Health.

SAIOH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP 2018

It is that time of the year again when all members are required to submit their CPD points for the preceding year (2017), as well as to ensure that their mandatory annual membership fees are paid.

Each member will be able to obtain an invoice through their SAIOH Profile, via the SAIOH website (www.saioh.co.za). It is each member's responsibility to ensure that payment for annual membership is made timeously; failure to do so will result in suspension of membership.

In terms of submission of CPD points, please note that all members are required to action their submissions through their SAIOH Profile, via the SAIOH website. Guidelines and documentation on how to submit CPD points are available on the SAIOH website on the CPD page. Copies of Attendance Registers for Branch Meetings and the Annual Conference are also available for downloading, as support documentation for members' CPD submissions. Members are reminded that instructions on how to retrieve annual membership invoices and download membership certificates are also available on the SAIOH website.

Once these conditions have been met, the SAIOH Membership Certificates for 2018 will be made available to members. Please be advised that SAIOH no longer posts hard copies of membership certificates. Should you wish to receive a hard copy of your certificate, please submit a special request to the SAIOH Head Office for consideration. Should you require any further assistance, please e-mail Kate Smart, the SAIOH Chief Administrative Officer, at info@saioh.co.za.

Table 1. Summary of SAIOH PCC certification assessment results for 2017 (as at December 2017) compared with 2016 results

Certification category	Written assessment results					Final assessment results			
	2016		2017			2016	2017		
	Candidates assessed n	Pass rate %	Candidates assessed n	Candidates passed n	Pass rate %	Pass rate %	Candidates assessed n	Candidates passed n	Pass rate %
Occupational hygiene assistant	98	90.8	64	62	96.9	90.8	64	62	96.9
Occupational hygiene technologist	80	52.5	60	36	60.0	78.7	46	28	60.9
Occupational hygienist	40	42.5	42	16	38.1	81.8	25	16	64.0
Total	218	67.9	166	114	68.7	82.2	135	106	78.5



SAIOH AND DUT HOST AN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE IN OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE

Under the auspices of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SAIOH and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), SAIOH organised and co-hosted an international training event at Durban University of Technology (DUT), from 4 to 7 December 2017. The training course in occupational hygiene was presented by international discipline experts representing AIHA and the Indiana University Fairbanks School of Public Health (FSPH), USA.

The planning for the delivery of the course started during 2016, as part of the collaborative partnership between SAIOH and AIHA, which encompasses 'technical cooperation in a number of activity areas, including joint collaboration in the field of occupational hygiene, such as training courses, seminars, and conferences'.

SAIOH took the decision to offer the course on a break-even model, charging the lowest possible registration fee, to cover costs it would incur for accommodation and travel expenses of course trainers, and expenses related to the course logistics and participant training materials. A discounted registration fee was afforded to students to maximise the benefit which can be derived from the presentation of this type of expert training, including networking opportunities, discussion fora and first-time exposure to certain topics for some of the attendees.

As a further benefit negotiated between SAIOH and AIHA, course participants were given the opportunity to purchase three of the AIHA e-books (on assessing and managing occupational exposures; a noise manual; and evaluation, control and management of the occupational environment) at a significantly reduced cost (approximately 80% off the AIHA non-member pricing, through SAIOH).

The training course, CPD-accredited by SAIOH and the South African Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Saiosh) for their respective members, was attended by occupational hygienists and other OSH professionals, including environmental consultants.

Course participants came from as far afield as Botswana and Mozambique. Thirty-four participants attended the course, representing associations and organisations across various sectors, including Occutech, Apex Environmental, Engen Oil, SAPREF (a Shell and BP joint venture), Toyota, Tongaat Hulett Sugar (Botswana), Mozal Aluminium Smelter (Mozambique), Metso Minerals SA, Petra Diamonds and SA Forestry Company (SAFCOL). Seven of the nine student participants were from DUT.

The training programme spanned a range of topics relevant to practitioners in occupational hygiene and OSH, including evaluation and control of chemical and physical hazards; ergonomics and human factors; psychosocial factors in the work environment; statistics for occupational hygiene practice coupled with the presentation and interpretation of data sets using statistical tools; field skills; and the evaluation of interventions.

The discipline experts who facilitated the training were Drs Steven Lacey, Emily Ahonen and Perry Logan, all members of AIHA. Dr Steven Lacey is a certified industrial hygienist and safety professional with a PhD in Industrial Hygiene. He is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Health Science at Indiana University FSPH, in Indianapolis, and his current research is on medical laser health and safety. Dr Lacey is the Immediate Past President of AIHA. Dr Emily Ahonen is an Assistant Professor



SAIOH President 2017, Kenneth Hlungwane, signs the SAIOH renewal as an Accredited Certification Provider with SAQA, while fellow Council members look on. L to R: Deon Jansen van Vuuren, Jaco Pieterse, Jakes Jacobs (at the back), Kenneth Hlungwane, Julie Hills, Sean Chester

Photograph: Kate Smart

in the Department of Environmental Health Science and the Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences at FSPH. With a PhD in Public Health, her areas of interest and research are work and housing as they interact with health and wellbeing, and the evaluation of interventions to address various public health challenges. Dr Ahonen has also worked in health promotion with migrant agricultural workers in Michigan. Dr Perry Logan, a certified industrial hygienist with a PhD in Environmental Health, is the global manager for 3M Corporate Ergonomics, Industrial Hygiene. Dr Logan enjoys all aspects of the disciplines of Environment, Health and Safety, with areas of interest in leadership, competency development, auditing, exposure risk assessment and management, ventilation design, and Bayesian and mathematical exposure modelling.

SAIOH would like to extend a special vote of thanks to Mr Shakeel Ori, Director of Co-Operative Education at DUT, for his proactive contribution to arranging the venues, student support, transport and catering logistics, and for making his staff members readily available for assistance with the training course.

SAIOH is grateful to and appreciative of two of its members for representing both SAIOH and DUT at the training course, for their on-the-ground support and assistance for the various aspects of the training, and for graciously hosting the visiting course presenters: Dr Ivan Niranjani, Senior Lecturer in the Environmental Health programme, Department of Community Health at DUT and Immediate Past Chair of the SAIOH KwaZulu-Natal branch, recently appointed by the Minister of Labour as Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Council Member for Occupational Hygiene; and Peter-John (Jakes) Jacobs, SAIOH Council Member and Past President, and IOHA President-Elect for 2018.

Acknowledgement is also given to Claudina Nogueira, SAIOH Council member responsible for liaison, for much of the behind-the-scenes work and planning of the training course; and to Kate Smart in the SAIOH Office, for administrative support for the course.

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