



The ADVISOR

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH 5600 Fishers Lane,
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"Remember when the judgment's weak, the prejudice
is strong."

—Kane O'Hara

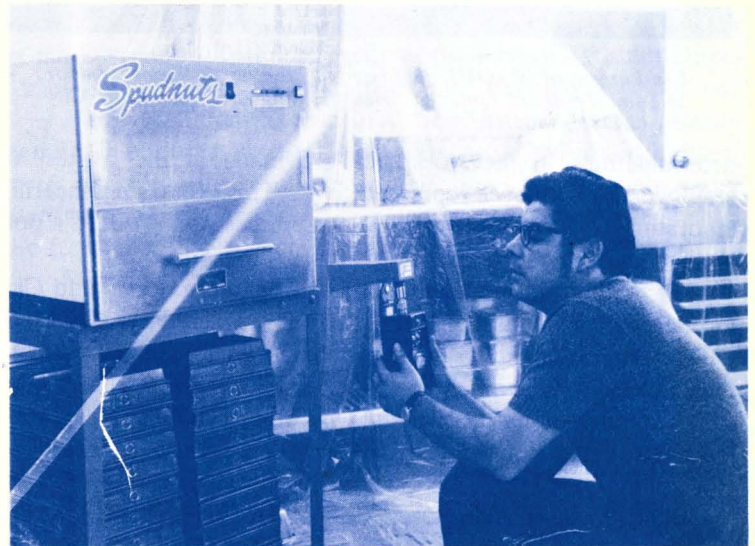
THE SALT LAKE CITY LAB — ALL BUSY ON THE WESTERN FRONT

NIOSH's Western Area Occupational Health Laboratory (WAOHL) is located in suburban Salt Lake City, on ground that slopes gently to the majesty of the Wasatch Mountains. WAOHL is far older than NIOSH, having been originally established in 1949 as the Salt Lake Field Station of the Division of Industrial Hygiene, Bureau of State Services, U.S. Public Health Service. All of this was under the Federal Security Agency, HEW's predecessor department. For years WAOHL was housed at Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City, but in the fall of 1968 moved to its present building, originally a supermarket, but now modified to provide suitable quarters.



Since August of this year, the Western Area Lab has been headed by a new Chief, Robert L. Peterson. Mr. Peterson comes to NIOSH with extensive experience in industrial hygiene with the Atomic Energy Commission, the Aerojet-General Corporation, and the Air Force (see biographical sketch in August ADVISOR). Assisting Mr. Peterson is Administrative Officer Clayton Phelan, a WAOHL veteran of 12 years.

Partly because of its unique location and partly because of specific areas of competence developed in the past, Western Area Laboratory research has focused on certain occupational areas. Many of its projects are concerned with western industries and associated hazards — to uranium miners and cotton gin workers, for example. The Laboratory also performs sampling and analytical services for NIOSH Regional Offices, States, the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration compliance offices, and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Mines.



Ramon Rivera, of WAOHL Staff, measures the amount of radiation leaking from this microwave oven.

The Western Area Laboratory consists of three groups, each of which is part of a Division at NIOSH's Cincinnati laboratories:

- The group under the Division of Field Studies and Clinical Investigations — epidemiology, in effect — conducts many long-term studies of occupational diseases, mostly respiratory ailments, under the coordination of Dr. Victor Archer. Two of

its scientists were largely responsible for a pioneering publication on the hazards of exposure to radiation decay products present in uranium mines.*

Subsequent work has included studies of respiratory disease among cosmetologists (suspected to be associated with certain dyes, sprays, and gases) and of an apparent excess of miscarriages among female operating room personnel (presumed to be associated with exposure to waste anesthetics in the operating room air). Another program focuses on the incidence of byssinosis — a respiratory impairment associated with cotton dust — among cotton gin workers in California.

● The WAOHL contingent under the Division of Technical Services, coordinated by George Butler, gathers data requested by components of NIOSH and by other Government agencies. Its staff includes industrial hygienists who help in the conduct of the hazard evaluation program, in which toxicity



Lee Larson, of WAOHL staff, samples the air at the dryer door as Sam Watanuki removed dried clothing in a Salt Lake City dry cleaning shop.

determinations in the workplace are made at the request of employers or employee representatives. This group's engineering laboratory also performs calibration services on WAOHL's pollutant-measuring instruments.

● The group under the Division of Laboratories and Criteria Development is coordinated by Dr. Russell Hendricks; it collects environmental samples, such as gases and dusts from occupational environments. It performs chemical analyses of samples obtained by its own staff, by other NIOSH researchers, Regional personnel, and by other Government agencies — principally OSHA and the Bureau of Mines.

The Western Area Occupational Health Laboratory supplies room in its laboratories and offices for five Department of Labor scientists, in addition to its own staff. These DOL scientists are chiefly engaged in chemical analyses of samples submitted by compliance officers.

WAOHL is also home for a mobile worker examination facility, housed in two trailers, and now being used for pulmonary function tests and x-rays of California cotton gin workers.

*NIOSH Joint Monograph No. 1, *Radon Daughter Exposure and Respiratory Cancer: Quantitative and Temporal Aspects*, Frank E. Lundin, Jr., Joseph K. Wagoner, and Victor E. Archer.

NIOSH's Office of Public Information is preparing a subject orientation film to prepare the volunteers for these procedures, with the narration in both English and Spanish.

More on NIOSH's Salt Lake facility in future issues of the ADVISOR.

NIOSH'S PHANTOM DIVISION TAKES FORM

When NIOSH first came into existence 16 months ago, not all Offices and Divisions were staffed immediately; there has been a continuing search since then for the right person for each job. After considerable effort, a Director has been appointed for the Division of Occupational Health Programs (DOHP). A. Walter Hoover, M.D., has been named to this post and has started to staff this Division, beginning with Elaine Nelson, R.N., M.P.H., as Occupational Health Advisor.

DOHP's primary goals are (1) to promote occupational health programs at the State and local level in both industry and agriculture, (2) to provide technical guidance for those developing such programs, and (3) to coordinate the practice of occupational medicine in industry with the total delivery of health services.

Dr. Hoover was brought to NIOSH under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970, which provides for temporary exchange, normally for one year, of personnel between the Federal Government and educational institutions, or industry.

Dr. Hoover comes to NIOSH from the Division of Environmental Health Sciences of Columbia University's School of Public Health, where he was Associate Professor and Chairman. Concurrently, he was a consultant in industrial hygiene and chemical toxicology to many chemical industries. Before that he taught internal medicine at the Tulane University School of Medicine. He was a medical consultant to the Continental Insurance Companies and on the staff of the Pennsylvania Railroad systems' Medical Director for a total of 10 years. He served in both the U.S. Navy and Air Force and, at one time, had a private medical practice.

Dr. Hoover is the author of several technical publications and reports on occupational health. He is certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine in Occupational Medicine and by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

In his new position, Dr. Hoover plans to use grants to start demonstration projects designed to show how to provide medical services where they now do not exist in industry. These projects will depend on the cooperation of local medical societies and State health departments in various parts of the country and will make use of facilities of community hospitals and special facilities at universities.

Ms. Nelson, Dr. Hoover's first associate, will be responsible for promoting these programs and for administering them in small industries. She will also promote interest in the profession of industrial nursing.

Ms. Nelson received her R.N. at the Kings County Hospital School of Nursing, New York, and her Master of Public Health at Columbia University in 1972. Before starting work for her M.P.H. she spent five years as a medical services coordinator for Columbia University in the administration of occupational health programs for small industries in Brooklyn, New York. Before that she was on the staffs of an x-ray study conducted

by the New York University Medical Center and of a coronary research program of Health Insurance Plans, a New York medical prepayment plan.

Dr. Hoover states that the DOHP staff will be augmented by another M.D., an industrial hygienist, and an administrative person who can perform program analyses and administrative studies. He hopes that an additional R.N. will ultimately be added to his staff. He would particularly like to promote the use of personnel lending schemes, such as the one under which he comes to NIOSH, to rotate staff members, especially physicians, among organizations that can contribute to professional development.

You will be hearing a great deal from this Division as it expands.

NEW CRITERIA DOCUMENTS BEING PREPARED

The criteria documents for inorganic lead and for ultraviolet radiation are undergoing review before being transmitted to the Secretary of Labor. You will be notified when and where copies will be available!

Criteria documents for two other substances previously scheduled for transmittal about this time have been necessarily delayed — silica until February 1973 because of late receipt of some input, and the need for rewriting and further review. In preparing the document for cotton dust, it was found that additional research now nearing completion could have extremely significant impact on NIOSH recommendations. This document will not be published until the research findings are available and evaluated.

The criteria documents for mercury and coal tar pitch volatiles are expected to be transmitted at about the end of calendar 1972; those for benzene, toluene, trichloroethylene, cadmium, chromic acid, and fibrous glass during midsummer 1973; and that for arsenic during the fall of 1973.

Ongoing work on the document for bis-chloromethyl ether (BCME) has revealed the need for additional medical and environmental data and some further research will be required. However, a use-permit system governing the manufacture of BCME has been recommended to the Department of Labor by NIOSH as an interim measure. It is likely that NIOSH will recommend that the manufacture and use of many carcinogens be controlled by use-permits.

GAS DETECTOR TUBE CERTIFICATION RULES PROPOSED

New regulations proposed by NIOSH's Division of Laboratories and Criteria Development for certifying gas detector tubes were approved by Secretary Richardson on September 15 and appeared in the September 21 *Federal Register*. The *Register* announcement invited inquiries and views concerning the proposed regulations; NIOSH will give consideration to all responses received within 30 days of the announcement.

Gas detector devices consist of an aspirating pump that draws air through an indicating tube at a precisely known rate. The tube contains materials that react with specific gases to

change color, concentrations being indicated by the intensity or extent of the color. Gas detector tubes are useful in determining hazardous exposure levels and for checking compliance with standards.

Because the tubes can be used only once, it is extremely important that the materials and fabrication methods be sufficiently unvarying to produce tubes of uniform characteristics. Concentration-indicating gas detector tubes are now being tested and approved for acceptance by NIOSH and OSHA at NIOSH's Testing and Certification Laboratory at Morgantown, West Virginia. The *Federal Register* announcement gives the conditions and fees for certification for governmental and nongovernmental use.

For a copy of the proposal or for further information concerning the work of the Division of Laboratories and Criteria Development and the Testing and Certification Laboratory, write to: John M. Bryant, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Laboratories and Criteria Development, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 1014 Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

ASSIGNMENT CHANGES AT CINCINNATI

Dr. Edward Fairchild, II, Associate Director for Cincinnati Operations, announced some significant changes in responsibility at the NIOSH Cincinnati Laboratories, effective September 14.

Jeremiah R. Lynch has left the position of Acting Deputy Director of the Division of Laboratories and Criteria Development to become Director of the Division of Training.

John M. Bryant moves from Assistant Director of the Division of Laboratories and Criteria Development to become its Acting Deputy Director, replacing Mr. Lynch. Dr. Fairchild remains as Director of this Division, in addition to his other duties.

William D. Kelley, who left the position of Acting Director of the Division of Training, becomes the Acting Assistant Director of the Division of Laboratories and Criteria Development.

Herbert H. Jones has retired from his position in Cincinnati as Chief of the Physical Agents Branch, Division of Laboratories and Criteria Development. He is returning to his native State to rejoin the academic community as a faculty member of the Central Missouri State University at Warrensburg.

Mr. Jones has contributed significantly to the purpose of NIOSH. He has been editor, co-author, or contributor to twenty-five publications concerning problems of industrial safety and dealing most frequently with evaluation and control over noise pollution.

Replacing Mr. Jones will be Dr. Wordie Parr, who has been named Acting Chief of the Physical Agents Branch since Mr. Jones' retirement. Dr. Parr joined NIOSH in March 1972 from the position of Chief, Laser Section of the U. S. Army Medical Research Laboratory at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

—AND STILL MORE PERSONNEL NEWS

Paul D. Williams has been named as the Acting Chief of the Priorities Evaluation Branch, which was created last June within the Office of Health Surveillance and Biometrics. This Office is headquartered at Rockville, Md., and is directed by Vernon E. Rose.

Mr. Williams earned his B.A. in mathematics and physics at the University of Southeastern Louisiana and in 1963 his M.S. in biostatistics at Tulane University. He came to NIOSH in September 1971 from two years of teaching statistics and consulting in medical research at the Georgetown University Medical School. Previously he worked on developing sampling and analytical methodologies and had taught medical statistics at the Louisiana State University Medical School.

Named as Acting Assistant Chief of the new Branch is David F. Stelzer, an industrial hygienist formerly with the Hazard Surveillance Branch of the Office of Health Surveillance and Biometrics.

Patricia M. Gussey, formerly a chemist with the Bureau of Mines, is now on the staff of NIOSH's Testing and Certification Laboratory, part of the Division of Laboratories and Criteria Development, at Morgantown, West Virginia. There she directs the Respirator Section, consisting of about a dozen employees, and is responsible for all respiratory testing and certification and for all short-term research on respirator test methods.

Gerald G. Wheeler (M.S. in Biology) and Frank L. Mitchell (Doctor of Osteopathy) have been added to the staff

of the Director of the Office of Research and Standards Development. Jack E. McCracker (Ph.D. — Chemistry) has been assigned to the Criteria Development Branch of ORSD.

KEY TESTIFIES FOR NIOSH

NIOSH Director Dr. Marcus Key testified September 27 before the Select Subcommittee on Labor of the Committee on Education and Labor (U.S. House of Representatives). His testimony included an overview of the responsibilities of NIOSH under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and responses to questions from the members of the Subcommittee.

Dr. Key discussed the research activities of NIOSH, which can be measured by the number of criteria documents produced and the potential number of workers protected. He also discussed provisions of The Act under which NIOSH can provide immediate assistance to employers and employees. Included among these "two-way bridges between the Government and the working community" are the hazard evaluation program, technical information services and the manpower development program.

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