

## **Final Report**

### **2009 Annual Conference of the International Society for Exposure Science (ISES)**

**ISES Secretariat, JSI Research and Training Institute, 44 Farnsworth St,  
Boston MA 02210**

**NIOSH Grant R13OH009749-01  
Budget/Project Period: 9/01/09 – 8/31/10**

**July 24, 2010**

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This NIOSH R13 Award provided funding to ISES in partial support of the 2009 Joint Annual Conference of the International Society for Exposure Science (ISES). The conference planning occurred over a two year period with a conference program committee that with support from the Air & Waste Management Association (for conference management) and the ISES Secretariat.

During 2008 and 2009 the conference program committee organized four plenary sessions and solicited proposals for symposia, individual scientific oral presentations, and individual scientific poster presentations. The proposals were peer reviewed in Spring 2009 by an international group of experts. The program committee received 31 symposia proposals and accepted 23 symposia with an average of 5 presentations in each symposia. Authors on the various symposia and regular abstracts came from over 50 countries.

The conference program committee also organized satellite workshops, morning training sessions for students and new investigators, a student program including special sessions and a poster competition, and social events for conference participants. The committee received 27 applications for travel awards from students and persons from developing nations, and was able to provide partial or total conference and/or travel support to all applicants. A total of \$20,000 was devoted to student/new researcher travel awards.

The conference took place as scheduled on November 1-5, 2009, at the Marriott City Center in Minneapolis, MN. The conference registration was 397 persons (including 138 regular member full and 121 non-member full registrations, 54 single day, 10 press, and 66 student registrations). A total of 42 gratis registrations were provided to international, student/new researcher, and society founders/past society president attendees. The conference had 4 plenary sessions, 23 symposia, 15 platform oral sessions, 3 interactive poster discussion sessions, two 2-day-long poster sessions, and a student poster competition on Sunday evening.

The conference program and scientific proceedings were disseminated via the Internet on both the conference and ISES's web pages and were distributed to conference participants on flash drives provided to each registrant.

The final conference budget was \$ 240,716 with revenues of \$254,180. We note that the conference planning estimated that the conference budget would be approximately \$313,000 and there would be approximately 500 participants. Our conference planning estimates were somewhat high, but clearly impacted by reduction in travel associated with the "great recession" in 2009.

We conducted an evaluation of the program by distributing a written evaluation form at the conference. We also created a similar a Web-based survey and asked participants to complete the evaluation approximately one month after the conference. The surveys were completed confidentially with the Web-based survey being submitted to a third-party, which then provided the data without individual identifiers. A total of 154 attendees responded to the survey for a response rate of 39% of total attendees or 43% of non-gratis attendees. The following pages shows tables on responses to questions about the conference planning and organization, and benefits.

Overall 69% of the respondents rated the conference planning and organization items as very good to excellent. The individual plenary sessions were rated very good to excellent by between 74 to 88% of respondents, and very good to excellent ratings on symposia quality (79%), platform (78%), interactive poster (67%) and poster (67%) were all uniformly high.

One of the goals of the meeting was to improve the student/new researcher program (many of the internationally attendees qualified for this program), and 83% of respondents rated this very good to excellent, which was the highest rating for any of the program items in our survey.

Most attendees rated the benefits of attending the conferences as being very or highly beneficial: more than 75% of respondents rated the ISES09 program very good or excellent on whether it enhanced 1) their knowledge of exposure science, 2) their ability to conduct research or investigations of environmental health issues, and 3) stimulation of new ideas for research or investigations in environmental health. We feel that these responses indicate the conference was highly successful.

<b>Question</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Fair (%)</b>	<b>Good (%)</b>	<b>Very Good (%)</b>	<b>Excellent (%)</b>
Quality of conference planning and materials	153	6%	21%	42%	29%
Opening ceremony and plenary session on Sunday, November 1 (Founders Recognition and Dr. Chris Wild of IARC)	78	1%	17%	37%	45%
Plenary session on Monday, November 2 (Dr. Linda Birnbaum of NIEHS)	123	0%	11%	38%	50%
Plenary session on Tuesday, November 3 (Dr. Larry Reiter of U.S. EPA NERL)	121	2%	23%	39%	35%
Plenary session on Wednesday, November 4 (Dr. John Howard of NIOSH)	116	5%	14%	46%	34%
Quality of symposia	146	3%	18%	47%	32%
Quality of platform (oral) sessions	149	2%	19%	57%	21%
Interactive Poster discussion sessions	122	7%	22%	46%	21%
Poster sessions	150	9%	19%	51%	17%
Student/New Researcher Program	96	2%	15%	34%	49%

**Information on Survey Respondents:**

(percentages not adding to 100 due to non-response for that factor)

Country: 21 countries , USA=112 with range of 1 to 9 attendees for other 20 countries  
Age: range = 21 to 69 years ; mean = 42 years

Characteristic	Number	Percent*
Gender		
Male	72	47
Female	76	49
Organization		
University	76	49
Government agency	51	33
Foundation or NGO	12	8
Private Sector	12	8