

**2019 USPHS Symposium**  
**Wednesday, May 8**  
**Environmental Health Officer Category Agenda**

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8:00 AM - Environmental Health Welcome and Introductory Remarks  
8:15 AM

8:15 AM - Hockey, the Food Code and Professional Relationships  
9:00 AM **Mr. Vince Radke, MPH, RS, CP-FS, DLAAS, CPH**

The speaker will discuss the importance of professional relationships in our everyday work life and career and tell two stories to illustrate this point.

At the conclusion of this session participants will be able to:

1. Explain why it is important to improve their KSAs not only for themselves but for their colleagues and partners.
2. Discuss the importance of communication not only while on the job but off the job with colleagues.
3. Explain the importance of staying vigilant to improve the health of others as the environment and nature of their work changes.

9:00 AM - CPO & EHOPAC Update  
10:00 AM **RADM Kelly Taylor; CDR Mike Quinn**

10:15 AM - Exhibit Theater: Thermo Fisher Scientific - Asthma Guidelines and How Systemic Inflammation  
10:45 AM Can Impact their Differential

11:15 AM - Exhibit Theater: Arizonans Concerned About Smoking - Health Leadership Award Ceremony  
11:45 AM

12:00 PM - Environmental Health Awards Luncheon  
1:30 PM **CDR Jaime Mutter**

1:30 PM - International Food Safety - The Role of FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius in Protecting Consumer  
2:30 PM Health and Facilitating International Trade  
**LCDR Aaron Niman, MPH**

Codex Alimentarius is an international body established by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) to develop international food standards that protect consumer health and facilitate trade. This session will first provide a broad overview of Codex by providing historical background and a description of its mission and organizational structure. This will be followed by a description of the U.S. Government's involvement with Codex with an emphasis on key Federal agencies. Finally, the session will use the Codex Committee on

Pesticide Residues as a case study to illustrate important considerations for officers when engaging with international organizations.

At the conclusion of this session participants will be able to:

1. Explain the role of FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius in establishing international food standards.
2. Describe U.S. Government involvement with FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius and role of key Federal agencies.
3. Illustrate important considerations for officers when engaging with international organizations.

2:45 PM - The Manhattan Project -A Radiation Exposure Assessment in St. Louis  
3:15 PM ***LCDR Erin Evans, MPH, REHS/RS***

In 1942, the Manhattan Engineering District (MED) achieved the first self-sustained nuclear chain reaction and contracted with Mallinckrodt Chemical Works to process uranium for nuclear weapons. Between 1942-1957, more than 50,000 tons of uranium was processed at a facility in downtown St. Louis. The resulting wastes were trucked to a 21.7-acre tract of land near the St. Louis Airport, and accumulated in open pits and piles. Over time wastes eroded into the nearby Coldwater Creek. In 1989, EPA placed the St. Louis Airport Site and nearby properties, including Coldwater Creek, on the National Priorities List. Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (TENORM) contaminated these properties, and area residents, workers, and visitors were exposed for decades. Residents concerned with growing death and disease rates founded a community group to collect and share information about cancer incidence. Because of this community activism, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services investigated, and eventually reported, statistically significant elevated cancer incidence in zip codes adjacent to Coldwater Creek. The state requested assistance from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to determine if environmental radiation exposures could be impacting public health. ATSDR worked closely with the community to better understand their environmental public health concerns, and built and maintained partnerships with the community, federal regulatory authorities, state environmental health agencies, and elected officials. This session details the history of the Manhattan Project in St. Louis, the project's environmental legacy, and ATSDR's work to evaluate exposures and protect public health through better partnerships.

At the conclusion of this session participants will be able to:

1. Explain the role St. Louis, Mo., played in the development of nuclear weapons for the Manhattan Project and the associated environmental health legacy.
2. Define TENORM - Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials and the radionuclides associated with uranium processing.
3. Describe the controversy associated with the Linear No-Threshold (LNT) model and cancer risks from low doses of ionizing radiation.

3:15 PM - Building the Standard for Healthy Cruising: Vessel Sanitation Program's Construction  
3:45 PM Inspections  
***LT Ronan King, REHS/RS, CPO; LT Erin Kincaid, MPH, REHS***

This session will provide attendees with information about the role and impact of CDC's Vessel Sanitation Program's (VSP) construction inspections on new cruise ships and renovations on older cruise ships. VSP's mission is to prevent the introduction of acute gastroenteritis into U.S. ports from cruise ships sailing from foreign ports. When the program was first established in 1970, VSP met this mission by conducting operational sanitation inspections. However, many ships were not able to meet VSP's operational standards because of issues related to design and construction, so concerns from the cruise industry led VSP to begin construction inspections in 1986. Today, through partnerships with owners, shipyards, and the cruise industry, VSP has built a standard for healthy cruising starting even before the ship leaves the shipyard on its first voyage. The best way to minimize public health risks in any setting is to create an environment that limits the chance of the risk occurring. For VSP, this process often begins well before the first piece of steel is cut for a ship. Shipyards and ship owners can request plan reviews and a construction inspection for newly built ships or ships undergoing renovations. VSP inspectors evaluate ships for compliance with the VSP Construction Guidelines during plan reviews and construction inspections. Plan reviews are usually done 18 to 24 months before ship completion; construction inspections are often conducted overseas about 4 weeks before ship completion. VSP's guidelines provide a framework of consistent construction and design standards that protect passenger and crew health.

At the conclusion of this session participants will be able to:

1. Describe the CDC Vessel Sanitation Program's role in the construction of cruise ships.
2. Identify key components of a construction inspection conducted on cruise ships.
3. Explain the impact of construction inspections in minimizing public health risks on cruise ships.

4:00 PM -  
4:30 PM

Partnering with Alaska Native Tribal Health Clinics to Improve Facility Environmental Health Practices

***CDR Michael Box, MS, CIH, REHS***

This session will provide attendees with recent environmental health updates and common findings during environmental health surveys of village health clinics (VHCs) in rural Alaska. Environmental health staff, health aides and other health practitioners frequently use the Guidelines for Environmental Health Practices at Village Health Clinics, developed by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) to evaluate for appropriate environmental health operations within the facilities. The guidelines may be used by tribal health organizations wishing to use them as an environmental health standard for VHCs. The surveys may be used to support investment in facility improvements and assist with compliance with a myriad of regulatory and accreditation standards. Examples include the Joint Commission (TJC), Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and others. Updates to these standards related to VHCs will be covered.

At the conclusion of this session participants will be able to:

1. Evaluate environmental health operations in outpatient medical clinics.
2. Identify healthcare specific regulatory and accreditation standards.

3. Identify common findings and recent environmental health updates that support investment in facility improvements and improve patient and healthcare staff safety.

4:30 PM - Using Invention to Power Innovation to Support Public Health Partnerships  
5:00 PM ***LCDR James Speckhart, MS***

This session will enable attendees to learn the important role of device invention and innovation process in the historical context of using our traditional academic scientific training for inspection and regulatory enforcement to advance the public health field. It will provide attendees with strategies to identify the invention and innovation guiding principles to enable effective original research from draft idea to full product concept development. Attendees will learn the accessible instructional web resources (USPTO, patent lawyers' association, inventors' profiles, and lessons from Nobel Prize winners who foster scientific development), to identify product ideas for advancing public health practice and partnerships.

At the conclusion of this session participants will be able to:

1. Demonstrate specific strategies to conduct a focused search of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) website.
2. Identify the diverse portfolio of field devices or tools utilized by professionals to conduct their daily analytical field work activity.
3. Explain the history of the patent application and device review process.

5:00 PM - Environmental Health Closing Remarks  
5:15 PM