8:20 a.m.  OPENING KEYNOTE – Dr. Bob Emory - “Citizen Science”

The Promise and Peril of “Citizen Science” – A Cautionary Tale for Health & Safety Professionals

The proliferation of personal electronic devices has resulted in an exponential expansion in the ability to rapidly gather and disseminate information – some accurate, some not so accurate, and some downright wrong. With virtually every member of the workforce and community now equipped with this technology, the notion of “citizen science” has expanded, wherein citizens and employees can collect and instantly transmit data and information about exposures and situations. While this technique holds great promise as a “force multiplier” to address various concerns, the technique is largely unfiltered and can result in the dissemination of misinformation, apprehension, and confusion. This presentation will discuss the evolution of “citizen science” and how it has changed with recent technological developments and then will provide a series of suggested steps for health and safety programs to take to proactively address the challenge.

Dr. Robert Emery is Vice President for Safety, Health, Environment & Risk Management for The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and Professor of Occupational Health at the University of Texas School of Public Health. Bob has over 35 years of experience in health & safety and possesses master’s degrees in both health physics and environmental sciences, and a doctorate in occupational health. Bob holds the unique distinction of possessing national board certification in seven main areas of health & safety. While managing a comprehensive safety program, Bob has authored over 70 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles and book chapters and has fulfilled interview requests from media outlets such as the Wall Street Journal, LA Times, NY Times, ABC, CNN, FOX, MSNBC, BBC, and NPR. He is a frequent presenter at the local, state, national and international level.



9:10 a.m. 1st Session - Dr. Michael Larranaga - "Strategies for a Catastrophic World”

"Strategies for a Catastrophic World – Natural Accidents and The Safety Professional”

As technology advances and the world becomes increasingly networked and optimized through the pressures of globalization, everyday systems become vulnerable to cascade failure, or a failure in which a single failure leads to successive failures in a system.  We see a rapid increase in system complexity and large-scale catastrophes that cannot be described by reductionist thought, or cause-and-effect, action-reaction, or predictive *a priori/posteriori* relationships.  Can we explain catastrophic events by a single initiating incident or a series of incidents, or are we fooled by randomness?  Understanding reductionist relationships is only one step towards accident prevention.  But another plausible explanation rooted in complex adaptive theory exists that lies halfway between cause-and-effect and the unpredictability of “acts of God.”  This theory maintains that inevitable catastrophe is imbedded within complex systems themselves and that this is a property of the system’s evolution and emergence.  This tendency is exhibited in natural systems, and we can look at nature to learn more about why catastrophic events occur and how cause-and-effect preventative measures are not always the best solutions to complex problems. Today’s complex systems constantly approach the edge of chaos, riding a razor’s edge between normal operation and disaster.

Michael Larranaga, PhD, CIH, CSP, PE isa Principal Consultant for Ramboll Environ US Corporation and is an internationally recognized expert in environmental, safety, and health. Michael has served as an advisor to multi-national corporations and government organizations on global strategies for business and supply chain continuity, product development, sustainability and energy conservation, risk management, critical infrastructure protection, labor-management relations, crisis management, and regulatory issues.  Michael earned a PhD in industrial engineering from Texas Tech, a MS in Environmental Science from The University of Houston Clear Lake, and a BS in Fire Protection and Safety from Oklahoma State University.  He is a graduate of the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the United States Naval Postgraduate School and is a Certified Industrial Hygienist, Certified Safety Professional, and Professional Engineer.



10:20 a.m. 2nd Session - Joe Gasparino – “Risk Innovation”

Risk Innovation – Combining Safety, Lean Six Sigma, and Engineered Solutions to eliminate risks while improving safety, quality, delivery, and costs.

We’ve all been there, the day to day push that cuts corners to delivery products or services to the customer. Most organizations praise that safety is first, but in the work trenches, it’s about the almighty dollar and “making the month”. Most organizations praise safety, quality, delivery and costs. While the rest operate in the opposite direction. This mindset can be demotivating to safety professionals and the overall culture. ***How can safety truly be #1 priority and make bigger impacts than any other business strategy?*** This presentation will discuss the background of Joe Gasparino and how he was able to transform his experiences as a safety manager into becoming a CEO, and develop “Safety Through Innovation”. His experience has allowed him to see a gap in safety and business practices and the necessary paradigm shift. He has chosen to devote his efforts on promoting a risk innovation process for business and safety leaders. This process will drive massive business return on investments by focusing on safety initiatives, thus flowing into improved quality and delivery while driving costs out of the business.

Joseph Gasparino is the Founder of ODIZ Safety, a company focused on “Safety Through Innovation”; which consists of four major pillars; Risk Innovation, Engineered Solutions, Services, and Products. He has a Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA) focused on [Lean Six Sigma critical success factors within the aerospace manufacturing supply chain](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?keywords=Lean+Six+Sigma+critical+success+factors+within+the+aerospace+manufacturing+supply+chain&trk=prof-edu-field_of_study) from Walden University, an MBA with a focus on Finance from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, a Masters of Electrical Engineering and Business Practices from the University of Hartford, and a BS of Electrical Engineering from Wentworth Institute of Technology. He is also the founding partner of Viewpoint Results, an operational excellence company that has developed processes to examine business practices and the opportunities that are otherwise over looked. He has combined his years of experience as a maintenance technician, safety manager, operations manager, operational excellence, executive management, and his time as a CEO, to focus on “Safety Through Innovation”. Joe was the synthesizer of a recently published article; “Combining Safety Job Hazard Analysis & Lean Six Sigma to Improve Machining Guarding”. He also has patents for the “No-Go Grinder Safety Gauge”, along with a pending patent on the “No-Go Grinder Safety Stand”.



11:10 a.m. 3rd Session - Russell Ammons – “The Worse Drug Epidemic in U.S. History”

“Why you can no longer afford to ignore the worst drug epidemic in U.S. history: Proactive approaches to reduce the numerous and often hidden costs associated with hiring and retaining drug users”

America is in the grips of an unprecedented epidemic of drug addiction, being called by many experts the worst drug addiction epidemic in U.S. history. Russell begins with a breathtakingly gut wrenching journey through the current state of the drug epidemic along with some startling statistics. Unfortunately, most of the tools organizations have used in the past were never designed to address this new problem. It’s not that one test is good and one test is bad, it’s the challenge of selecting the right test for the right situation, so Russell will walk through the various testing methods and discuss the best application for each.

Russell Ammons is a National Account Executive with Phychemedics Corporation with over 25 years of success in various roles. Russell now focuses on helping organizations maximize the benefits of their workforce through Substance Abuse Testing. He advises organizations of all sizes and industries to craft and refine screening programs to maximize return on investment, and ensure legal compliance while taking into consideration the varying levels of risk a new applicant, current employee, or vendor, may pose.

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12:45 p.m. 4th Session - Beata Smela - “Align & Move”

A wide range of “Work and Stretch” programs has been utilized over the years by physical therapists, occupational therapists, ergonomic engineers and athletic trainers. The effectiveness and sustainability of these programs remain to be limited. Just like choosing a specific tool for a specific job, should not the selection of injury preventive movements be deliberate? A “one for all” approach to injury prevention does not take into consideration a person’s mechanical challenges, psychological and social needs. Hence, the effectiveness of the movements, whether proactive or reactive, remains questionable.

This presentation will introduce a basic science behind “Align and Move” approach to worker’s mechanical health. The simple and solid rational behind the various components of the program will be reviewed. A short practical movement session will be conducted for those, who are willing to try. Are you ready?!

Beata Smela, PT, MPT, Dip. MDT, CEAS, has been working as a consultant in DFW area for 20 years. She holds a master degree, and is currently enrolled in a clinical doctoral program in physical therapy. Beata has been an instructor for the McKenzie Institute International, a world renowned organization, since the year 2000. She teaches a scientifically supported method of Mechanical Diagnosis and Treatment of Spine and Extremity Pain. Beata applies extensive experience in the arena of chronic, complex pain conditions to the effective injury prevention and ergonomics. She also recognizes the challenges of designing effective ergonomic and injury prevention programs, for workers of various ages and existing health problems. Please visit a free website Align-move.com for the valuable resources of scientific knowledge presented in layman language.



1:35 p.m. 5th Session -Chip Duffie – “Making the Business Case for H&S Excellence”

From brand enhancement to a reduction in costs, protecting your employees by making H&S a core company value and commitment drives improvement to the bottom line. In this discussion we’ll look deep into H&S costs and go beyond a spreadsheet to demonstrate value. Then we’ll look at the maturity continuum, profitability blockers, increasing management visibility from the Boardroom to the Shop Floor, and then taking a deep dive into the scary, true costs of H&S litigation and their associated horror stories. Finally, we’ll look at marketplace and customer demands, and how this flow down effect is driving major players in the market to improve.

Chip Duffie is Counsel in the Dallas, TX office of Strasburger & Price and focuses his practice on regulatory law, with a particular emphasis on compliance, safety and sustainability issues. He regularly counsels clients on regulatory, administrative and environmental issues, compliance program development, enterprise risk management, superfund issues, liability accounting, due diligence and internal investigations. Chip has worked extensively with all levels of local, state and federal regulators, as well as multiple political, NGO and community stakeholder groups, covering a broad array of complex issues. Prior to joining Strasburger, Chip served as Chief Compliance Officer and the sole in-house environmental counsel for North America’s largest environmental and oil recycling company with responsibility for all Environmental, Health and Safety functions at more than 200 facilities. He led a team of more than 60 environmental professionals in 48 states and 5 Canadian provinces. Chip also serves as the principal of EHS Momentum, LLC, an environmental, health and safety consulting and software firm which does not provide legal services.



2:45 p.m. 6th Session – Michael Belcher – “The Safety & Health Profession Now & Into the Future”

In this session, we will discuss global trends that are affecting the occupational safety and health profession now and likely into the future.  The following trends will assist safety and health professionals in mitigating risk and creating value for their organizations:

1)    Prevention Through Design, which is a proven to prevent occupational injuries and illnesses because it eliminates hazards and risks early in the design process. By incorporating safety and health decisions into all aspects of workplace design and retrofit, an organization can mitigate risks upfront, while eliminating or reducing the need for additional controls.

2)    Management Systems.  We are now on the verge of an international management standard for OSH known as ISO 45001.  Along with other recognized standards like OHSAS 18001 and ANSI Z10, this standard provides a framework by which any organization can link safety to its overall strategy and improve its safety performance. Many believe ISO 45001 will be the most significant OSH standard in the past 50 years.

3)    Professional Framework for Practice.  Factors such as university degrees, a code of conduct, a body of knowledge, certification standards and the existence of an association help establish the framework of a profession. Such a framework delineates attributes required to undertake professional roles and responsibilities, and it provides employers with clear guidance on how to assess, maintain and update employee capabilities.

4)    Integrated Financial Reporting. Historically, an organization’s worth has been determined primarily based on financial information such as equity, cash, property and equipment. But that has changed. Investors now recognize that financial data alone are not sufficient for evaluating future performance, and they are viewing elements such as business strategy, environmental and social factors, human capital and risk management as material information for the valuation process.

Michael Belcher, is Vice President, Safety and Risk for DS Services, a global leader in home and office water delivery, where he leads safety and health efforts that affect more than 5,000 employees. Belcher devotes most of his time working to align safety and risk management processes with desired business outcomes while managing a multimillion dollar budget. With 25 years' experience as a safety professional, Mike has worked successfully with various employers to control losses, improve operational performance, and prevent injuries, illnesses, fire and vehicle accidents. He also worked for Cingular Wireless and Coca-Cola Enterprises in prominent safety and risk management roles. He holds a B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from University of Florida. Mike serves on various Society committees, and was the Region IV vice president from 2010 to 2011 and deputy chair of the Council on Member and Region Affairs from 2011 to 2012. Mike was an area director for 5 years, and he has held offices as delegate, president, president-elect and secretary in the Georgia Chapter. Mike was named the Georgia Chapter's Safety Professional of the Year in 2003, and he has appeared in television interviews as an ASSE spokesperson.



3:35 p.m. CLOSING KEYNOTE – Tim Page-Bottorff – “The Humor in Safety”

**WARNING:** Attending this session may cause belly-aches, teary eyes and sore sides!

Have your safety and health presentations become drab and dreary? Do your employees attend safety sessions with a kick in their step? Spruce them up with a little humor! In this presentation Tim will demonstrate how using a bit of levity and humor in your safety training will not only keep people interested during the session, but will improve motivation once they are back on the job. Tim will present information for safety and health professionals, to better prepare, deliver and critique professional training. Tim incorporates several workplace examples, including some light –hearted home and road examples by weaving in anecdotal stories and humor.

Tim Page-Bottorff, CSP is an inspirational professional who brings experiences from his over 22 years of Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental experience. As a United States Marine, Tim earned the Humanitarian Service Medal and is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Tim started his safety career in the Marine Corps and is very proud of his grass roots approach.

Tim is the Region II Vice President of the ASSE. He is also a on the Leadership Conference Committee, in the Military Branch and Executive Secretary for the Training and Communications Practice Specialty. Tim is a Senior Safety Consultant with SafeStart and owns his own consulting firm Total Safety Compliance.

His industry accomplishments include certification as an OSHA Training Institute and an Adjunct Faculty Member for the University of California San Diego, Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner, HAZWOPER Instructor, California Specialized Training Institute Instructor and California Fire Marshal Instructor. Tim has a BS in Management and is completing his MS from Arizona State University. He is also a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals.