



Editor's Briefs, [Tyler.Nguyen@esa.sccgov.org](mailto:Tyler.Nguyen@esa.sccgov.org)

## **ASSE Supports Re-Appointment of NIOSH Director Dr. John Howard**

I attended the 2008 American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Northern California Section (NCS) Symposium on "The Occupational Health Aspects of Nanomaterials" on May 14th sponsored by the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) International. It was a wonderful event facilitated by our very own Greater San Jose Chapter of the ASSE Jobs Coordinator, Mr. David Krack.

The keynote address "Nanotechnology and Risk: The NIOSH Perspective" delivered by NIOSH Director, Dr. John Howard, MD, MPH, JD, LL.M set the tone for the rest of the conference. Those of you who have been plying your trade in California know that Cal/OSHA was in hiatus for a two-year period during the George Deukmejian governorship. Dr. Howard was then appointed to lead as Cal/OSHA Chief until his NIOSH appointment term.

The following is verbatim text sent from ASSE President, Mr. Michael W. Thompson to its members recommending that we collectively voice our opinion through an individual campaign directly to Health and Human Services Director Mr. Mike Leavitt to re-appoint Dr. Howard.

"ASSE is deeply troubled that a highly valued leader of the occupational safety and health (OSH) community is set to lose his job. From information that ASSE has learned, John Howard will be forced out as director of NIOSH on July 5 unless Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Michael Leavitt personally reverses a decision by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) leadership not to reappoint Dr. Howard.

For the last several years, CDC leadership has engaged in an effort to limit NIOSH through budget cuts and reorganizations. During that time, ASSE has consistently supported John Howard's leadership of NIOSH and championed the need to keep NIOSH a strong and independent resource for OSH research and education.

Failing to reappoint John Howard could prove to be a final blow NIOSH's effectiveness. What is there to lose? ASSE fears these achievements will be lost -- The active outreach to safety and health practitioners and ASSE that has brought research results funded through NIOSH directly to the job site where our members work.

Greatly improved integration of the OSH community in setting NIOSH's research agenda as evidenced by the significantly increased involvement of our members and others in OSH in the NORA agenda-setting process.

Leadership in addressing the safety and health risks of emerging technologies, most notably nanotechnology.

Increased accountability for NIOSH's research programs by inviting examination through the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine, thereby assuring that this nation's investment in occupational safety and health research is well placed.

## **Upcoming Chapter Meeting**

To reserve a seat via e-mail, please send your name, telephone number and email address to:

[reservations@assesj.org](mailto:reservations@assesj.org). Meeting time- Noon to 1 p.m. Location- Ramada Silicon Valley, 1217 Wildwood Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94089, (408) 245-5330

**Tuesday, July 8, 2008**  
**Topic: Confined Space Program at Santa Clara Valley Water District**  
**Speaker: Paul Purnett, Safety Program Administrator**



## ASSE Supports Re-Appointment of NIOSH Director Dr. John Howard (continues)

investment in occupational safety and health research is well placed.

Most importantly, ASSE believes strongly that John Howard shares our understanding that NIOSH needs to do much more to advance safety research and training opportunities.

Please join ASSE in making sure HHS Secretary Leavitt reappoints John Howard. I urge you to send an e-mail message like the one below (a personalized message is always best ) to Secretary Leavitt to tell him you support John Howard. And please do it ASAP. July 5, the final day of his current appointment, is fast approaching. (Please blind copy your e-mail to dheidorn@asse.org so we can measure our members' response.) Pass this message on, and think especially of asking your employer to join you in this effort.

To: mike.leavitt@hhs.gov

Subject: URGENT: Reappoint John Howard to Lead NIOSH

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

I am a safety, health and environmental professional who is troubled to learn that the CDC will not reappoint John Howard as Director of NIOSH. John Howard has been a creative, dynamic leader who has made NIOSH a more effective and successful federal agency to the credit of the Department of Health and Human Services and this Administration . That effectiveness was achieved despite continued efforts by CDC to cut NIOSH's budget and take away from its capabilities through reorganization.

I work every day with my employer to protect workers and workplaces from occupational safety and health risks. Both my employer and I need an effective NIOSH to provide meaningful safety and health research and training for future safety and health professionals to help us address rapidly changing workplace risks that threaten workers and my employer's global competitiveness. Letting John Howard go is a mistake that will not help us meet these challenges. I urge you to make sure he is reappointed as Director of NIOSH.

Respectfully,  
 Your Name  
 Your City, State



Sincerely,

Michael W. Thompson, CSP  
 ASSE President"



*Contributions to this article made By **John T. Steele**, ASSE Greater San Jose Chapter Government Affairs Coordinator*





## **An Open Letter to the Membership**

**TO: Fellow Greater San Jose Chapter ASSE Members**  
**FROM: Tyler Nguyen, President-Elect**

Thank you for electing me President-Elect for the 2008-09 term. Your confidence in my leadership abilities is appreciated.

Advancing your interests and elevating the environmental, health & safety profession are my reasons to serve the Greater San Jose Chapter of ASSE for the next two years.

I pledge to:

1. Invite experts in and outside of the EH&S field to share their knowledge at our chapter's monthly meetings as I believe learning is a lifelong process. I am always interested in knowing about subjects that directly impact what we do for our employers and the community. Please contact me should you wish to speak and address the membership (share your knowledge and expertise) in the near future.

2. Network with other local associations and Region 9 chapters to promote alliance and camaraderie.

Also, the Chapter is looking for a few volunteers to help with scribing the newsletters, maintain the website, and otherwise assist with activities that benefit our membership.

My contact information is listed below. Do not be shy and contact me via electronic mail or the telephone.

Thank you and best regards,

Tyler Q Nguyen, CSP  
President-Elect  
Tyler.Nguyen@esa.sccgov.org  
408.441.4286

## **Chapter Officers 2008-09**

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### **Past-President**

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### **President-Elect**

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