Best Practices for Transitioning to Safer Chemicals

SPEAKER BIOSKETCHES

David Kalman, PhD, is a professor in the department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences (DEOHS), UW School of Public Health. Dr. Kalman is a chemist by training, earning his doctorate from—and joining the faculty of—the University of Washington in 1978. His numerous positions include chairperson of DEOHS, director of the Environmental Health Laboratory, and director of a graduate degree program and undergraduate degree education. His research focuses on issues such as hazardous properties of materials, environmental fate and transport, environmental quality assessment, hazard management, and occupational and community exposure assessment, especially using biomarkers of exposure. Active research areas include assessment of exposures and effects of arsenic in drinking water, diet, and soil. Dr. Kalman has participated in several national peer reviews of biomarker and exposure-related issues, most recently regarding dioxins and Vietnam War veterans for the National research Council.

Jessica Schifano, JD, MPH, works as a health scientist in OSHA's Directorate of Standards and Guidance developing occupational health standards and guidance products. Prior to joining the Agency, Ms. Schifano worked with a variety of organizations on state, federal, and international chemicals science and regulation in close collaboration with government officials, industry, and advocates. Ms. Schifano holds a law degree from Northeastern University and a Masters in Public Health from Tufts University.

Matthew Thurston, MEM, is the Manager of Product and Supply Chain Sustainability at REI. In this role he is responsible for overseeing labor, environmental, and chemical regulations in product supply chains. This includes measuring, managing, and reporting the environmental impacts of REI's private brands. In his role Mr. Thurston works with REI's materials developers, designers, factories, and merchandizers to evolve product supply chains. His background is in industrial ecology, a field of environmental science that measures the environmental impacts of manufacturing. He has a Master's in Environmental Management from Yale University.

Richard Morgan, MS, is a senior process chemist at Modumetal, Inc, working with research, development and scale-up of metal coatings and surface finishing processes of advanced nanotech coating systems. As a chemist at Boeing Space and Defense and senior chemist at Aerojet, Mr. Morgan developed and characterized aerospace propellants and fire suppression systems, and maintained metal finishing and surface coatings for space vehicles. Since 2006, he has taught introductory chemistry classes at the Lake Washington Technical College, advising on councils for Energy and Science Technician and Engineering Technician degrees. Mr. Morgan is the principle for Rick Morgan Technical Consulting and has degrees in Chemistry from the University of Washington and the University of Oregon.

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Ann Blake, PhD, is an independent consultant with over 20 years of experience finding safer alternatives to chemicals in global manufacturing. Her work has included creating criteria for environmentally preferable purchasing, ecolabels and product rating systems, and chemicals policy reform. Clients include the San Francisco Department of Environment, UCLA Law's Sustainable Technology and Policy Program, the International POPS Elimination Network, Good Guide, the Electronics Takeback Coalition, the Breast Cancer Fund, the Safe Cosmetics Campaign and the Blue-Green Alliance. Dr. Blake has chaired and served on the board of WAGES--building worker-owned green businesses that create healthy, dignified jobs for low-income women, and on the board of Women's Voices for the Earth, a non-profit working to eliminate toxic chemicals in our communities. Dr. Blake has created curricula in green chemistry, chemicals policy and alternatives assessment for UC Berkeley Extension's professional certificate in Green Chemistry. She is a member of the Green Ribbon Science Panel of the California legislature to advise Cal EPA on the implementation of Safer Consumer Product regulations. Dr. Blake has worked for the Cal EPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control as a hazardous waste inspector and Pollution Prevention Coordinator. She has a Ph.D. in molecular genetics and neural development from the University of Oregon.

Sara Wakai, PhD, is the Assistant Director at the University of Connecticut Health's Center for Public Health and Health Policy. She has designed and conducted several research studies and program evaluations related to public health including the identification of barriers and incentives for implementing green cleaning programs in state agencies, mold exposure and health related training, underage and binge drinking on college campuses, suicide prevention programs, and mental health in correctional populations. She is conducting the evaluation for the educational component of the Hartford Neighborhood Healthy Homes project, a HUD funded-project. Dr. Wakai has an MA and an PhD in Higher Education & Organizational Change from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Brian Penttila, PhD, is the principal of iWatchChems Consulting which provides technical assistance and training in toxics use reduction, chemical hazard assessment and associated regulatory issues, most recently with the hydraulic fracturing sector. He has participated in many regional chemicals projects including work with the Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center and the Northwest Green Chemistry Center. Dr. Penttila has a PhD and MS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rochester and a BS in Chemical Engineering and Bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania. He has extensive industrial experience in new product and process development, experimental design, manufacturing technical support, and test method development from physical testing through analytical chemistry.

Saskia van Bergen, MS, started working for Ecology in 2013 as a Green Chemistry Scientist where her main focus has been to help establish a technically strong and vibrant green chemistry program in Washington State. She is also serving as the Project Lead for the Advancing Green Chemistry Education Project as part of the

Green Chemistry in Commerce Council and the Washington state member for the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse. Previously, after working at Madis Botanicals and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Ms. van Bergen worked as the research organic chemist at East Bay Municipal Utility District, researching regulated and unregulated contaminants in drinking water, wastewater and San Francisco Bay sediments and serving on the Emerging Contaminant Workgroup for the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in the San Francisco Estuary. She also worked at Green River Community College where she developed and implemented ways to incorporate the principles of green chemistry into the chemistry department. Ms. van Bergen has a B.A. in Chemistry from Vassar College and a M.S in Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry from the University of California, Davis.

Rick Gleason, MSPH, is a lecturer in the University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. He teaches several graduate level courses in occupational safety management, technical aspects of industrial safety, and applied industrial hygiene and safety. Mr. Gleason is also an instructor for the UW OSHA Training Center, providing services to Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. He worked for Federal OSHA and Washington State WISHA as an inspector for thirteen years. Mr. Gleason is a member of the American Society for Safety Engineers, the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, the Evergreen Safety Council and the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association. He received his MSPH in industrial hygiene and safety from the University of Washington.