

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Steven Verpaele, MSc, CIH, is Industrial Hygiene Manager at the Nickel Institute and currently pursuing a Ph.D. at Edith Cowan University, Australia. With more than 20 years of experience in occupational hygiene, he has worked extensively in exposure assessment, workplace air monitoring, and occupational health standards development.

Steven is Founder and President of the Belgian Center for Occupational Hygiene (BeCOH), which supports occupational hygiene projects worldwide through research, laboratory services, and partnerships, including collaboration with Workplace Health Without Borders (WHWB). He is actively involved in advancing occupational hygiene education and capacity building through leadership roles in OHTA, AIHA, ISO, ASTM, and other international professional organizations. He currently chairs the ISO committee on workplace atmospheres and is a strong advocate for global partnerships, volunteerism, and professional development to improve worker health and safety around the world.



Michael Kilkelly joined Biopharmachem Ireland in July 2024 as Senior Executive responsible for EHS & Sustainability after an 18-month period working for UCC's School of Pharmacy. He has worked in the Pharmaceutical Industry for over 25 years in technical, educational, regulatory & senior leadership roles. He spent 14 years as a Plant Director for an API manufacturing facility in Ireland and spent 8 years as a Responsible Person for a Global Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Network. Michael also has a Ph.D. in Chemistry from NUI Maynooth and spent many years in process development roles.

Central to Michael's role is the development of a Sustainability & EHS strategy for the Biopharmachem sector in Ireland. This strategy was launched in March 2025. Key to this is building engagement with members & key stakeholders on technical & regulatory challenges to ensure that the sector is strongly positioned for growth in an increasingly competitive environment. He is currently a member of the European Fine Chemicals Groups PFAS task Force representing the Irish Pharma sector in Europe.



Michelle McDermott is bringing her years of experience to the 32nd OHSI Annual Conference in April to talk to us about “CMRs and the CoP- 2024 and beyond”.

She worked as an inspector within the Occupational Hygiene Unit, the Healthcare Team and Health Portfolio Team of the HSA since 2008. In addition to workplace inspections and investigations, she was a member of the REACH Substance Evaluation Team. Prior to her role in the HSA, she worked in health and safety roles in the manufacturing industry.



Geraldine Mattimoe is a distinguished occupational hygienist and chemist with over 40 years of experience in occupational health and safety. Originally from Roscommon, she worked with the Medical Bureau of Road Safety, the State Laboratory, and the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), where she served as an Occupational Hygiene Inspector until 2018.

Widely respected for her expertise in occupational hygiene, asbestos management, and chemical safety, Geraldine played a key role in developing national guidance and legislation, including the HSA’s asbestos guidance and the Code of Practice for the Chemical Agents Regulations. Following her retirement, she continued to contribute to the profession as a consultant occupational hygienist and reviewer of leading occupational hygiene publications and contributed to the Workers Exposure Survey on Cancer Risk Factors in Europe.

A valued member of the Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI), Geraldine was awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership in 2023 in recognition of her exceptional contribution to occupational hygiene and workplace health and safety in Ireland.



Dr. Caleb Leduc is a Lecturer in Occupational Health and Academic Director of the IOSH-accredited MSc in Occupational Health (blended) programme within the APHEA-accredited School of Public Health at University College Cork. He serves on the Executive Committee of the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology (EAOHP) and is an active member of the International Commission on Occupational Health. Caleb's teaching and applied research experience is diverse, spanning a decade leading internationally recognized participatory intervention research focused primarily on creating mentally healthy workplaces and positively influencing the psychosocial work environment of traditionally male-dominated or high-risk industries.



Darragh Doherty is a PhD student in the School of Public Health, Sports Science and Physiotherapy at University College Dublin, specialising in exposure science. He is researching environmental and occupational exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides among the Irish population using human biomonitoring strategies. His research involves investigating pesticide exposures among gardeners, horticulturists, pet shelter workers and other occupational users of insecticides to determine exposure levels from insecticide use.

Darragh graduated in Biomedical Science at the University of Galway in 2022, achieving a First Class Honours degree, where he majored in Pharmacology. His Final Year Project, entitled "Identification of a Potential Marker of Increased Adverse Effects of Irinotecan Treatment using In Silico analysis of Colorectal Cancer Microbiome Reconstructions," was highly commended by the Global Undergraduate Awards 2022. My Final Year Project was considered in the top 10% of submissions to the Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences category of the Global Undergraduate Awards.



Alison Connolly is an Assistant Professor in the UCD Centre for Safety and Health at Work (CSHW) within the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science. The Programme Director of the UCD Higher Diploma of the Safety, Health and Well-Being at Work (level 8 NFQ). Dr Alison Connolly is an exposure scientist whose research is motivated by the protection of human health by evaluating and understanding exposures from new and emerging pollutants. Exposure science evaluates contact between stressors (e.g. chemicals, biological agents) and receptors (e.g. humans, other organisms). Exposure scientists are specialists in the characterisation of human exposure sources, pathways, and processes that potentially lead to impacts on human health and the natural and built environment.



Maharshi Mehta is a globally recognised occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) professional with more than 30 years of international experience. He is the recipient of the BGC Lynn C. O'Donnell Lifetime Achievement Award (2022), the AIHA Yant Award (2025), two AIHA President's Awards (2008 and 2015), was named a Fellow of AIHA (2019), and received the AIHA International Affairs Committee Volunteer Group Service Award (2012).

As a Global Leader at International Safety Systems Inc., Maharshi leads a team of more than 50 professionals across nine country offices, supporting organisations worldwide in reducing OEHS risks. Throughout his career, he has conducted risk assessments, advised on risk control strategies, and delivered training workshops at over 300 workplaces across more than 30 countries.

A passionate advocate for the profession, Maharshi has made significant contributions through volunteer leadership, serving as President and Executive Committee Member of the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) and as Chair and Officer of the AIHA International Affairs Committee. He also played a pivotal role in advancing occupational hygiene education by founding India's first Master's programme in Industrial Hygiene more than 20 years ago.