Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres
in partnership with
Workers’ Compensation Board of Nova Scotia
Present

Symposium on
Noise Induced Hearing Loss

October 23 - 24, 2013

World Trade and Convention Centre
1800 Argyle Street
Halifax, NS

Photo courtesy of Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage (2011)
Anatomy, physiology, and societal impacts of noise induced hearing loss

Dr. Robert V. Harrison, B.Sc (Hons), Ph.D., D.Sc.

October 23, 2013  *  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Dr. Robert V. Harrison is a Professor, and Director of Research in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Toronto, and has appointments in the Department of Physiology, and the Institute of Medical Science. He is also a Senior Scientist in the Neuroscience and Mental Health Program at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Bob has basic training in biological sciences, with doctoral degrees in auditory neuroscience from universities in the UK. He worked with scientists in England, France, Sweden and the Netherlands before moving to Canada. His research ranges from basic laboratory science to clinically applied projects in the area of hearing loss and communication disorders.

Bob has a continuing interest in audiological issues relating to hearing loss in children. He has made studies on auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder and he has been involved with the cochlear implant program at the Hospital for Sick Children since its inception. Bob is also involved with the Hearing Foundation of Canada, a non-profit concerned prevention of noise induced hearing loss in children. Much of Bob's present and past research has focused on the development of the auditory system, and on the effects of hearing loss on central auditory function. His research philosophy is to take new basic science findings and apply them to promote wellness and improved healthcare.

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Occupational Audiology: What’s in it for You?
Christine Harrison, B.A., M.Sc., RAUD, CHSC

October 23, 2013  *  1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Christine Harrison is a Registered Audiologist and currently the Manager of Certification Services for WorkSafeBC. She is also a Certified Health and Safety Consultant and holds a Diploma in Adult Education.

Her role as an audiologist at WorkSafeBC has spanned over 3 decades. In the early years, she conducted clinical/diagnostic assessments of workers claiming compensation for occupational noise-induced hearing loss, dispensed hearing aids, and taught industrial audiometric technicians to conduct hearing screening. Later, as WorkSafeBC’s occupational audiologist, Christine managed hearing conservation programs for over 15,000 employers and 250,000 workers, including the construction industry.

Her responsibilities also included providing technical expertise and leadership regarding occupational audiology—both on the claims and prevention sides of the profession. She was a guardian of an electronic audiometric database comprising over 3 million hearing tests.

Her particular areas of professional interest include motivation of the adult learner, speech and communication challenges in noisy industry, hearing conservation in the construction industry, and factors affecting the use (and non-use) of hearing protection in different industries and age groups. Christine has presented internationally on these, and other, topics.
Robert Dobie is a clinical professor of otolaryngology at both University of Texas (San Antonio) and University of California (Davis), and partner in Dobie Associates, providing consultation in hearing, balance, hearing conservation, and ear disorders (www.dobieassociates.net). After residency training at Stanford University, he completed fellowships in auditory physiology and otoneurosurgery. Previous positions included professor (University of Washington), department chair (University of Texas), and director of extramural research (NIDCD, NIH). Dr. Dobie's research interests include age-related and noise-induced hearing loss and tinnitus. He is the author of Medical-Legal Evaluation of Hearing Loss (2nd edition, 2001) and over 185 other publications.

Can a Hearing Conservation Program Prevent Heart Attacks? The ‘Non-Auditory’ Effects of Noise on Human Health
Dr. Hugh W. Davies, Ph.D., M.Sc., B.Sc., CIH

Dr. Hugh Davies has a PhD in interdisciplinary studies, is a Board-Certified industrial hygienist (CIH) and currently an Associate Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health in the UBC School of Population and Public Health.

Dr. Davies’ research encompasses the breadth of the hygiene paradigm, ie. hazard recognition, evaluation and control. He has studied the “non-auditory” effects of noise for over a decade, investigating its role in cardiovascular disease, childhood learning, birth outcomes, and chronic diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes. His work has resulted in the first large-scale Canadian noise map, of Metro-Vancouver. He is also interested in the study of the effectiveness of hearing conservation programs, and understanding how they can be improved.

Dr. Davies has published in many other areas of occupational health research including pesticide exposure, the health of sawmill and forest-industry workers, and occupational health issues in Bangladesh. Dr. Davies is Principle Investigator on the Canadian Workplace Exposure Database Project, and the President of the BC Occupational and Environmental Health Network (BCEOHRN).
For more information contact

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