

IEQ-GA – Presidential Column (July, 2020)

There is so much that has occurred since my last Presidential Column in May, 2020. The good news is that COVID-19 virus appears to be receding in certain parts of the world. However, it is continuing to be a major outbreak of illness in other parts of the world. As of the writing of this column (July 21st), there is reported to be over 14.7 million of cases worldwide, and over 600,000 deaths. Nearly every country in the world has had cases of the virus since January, 2020.

IEQ-GA's organizational members and their professional members have been closely involved in the efforts to control the virus. In the past month, a letter signed by over 200 scientists and researchers (many of which are members of the organizations that comprise IEQ-GA) was issued to the World Health Organization (WHO) about the airborne transmission of the virus. The letter was co-authored by Professors Lidia Morawska and Donald Milton, and it discusses the potential for airborne transmission of the COVID-19 virus. As noted in the May Presidential Column, IEQ-GA issued a Position Document on this matter. In response to the letter, WHO is reconsidering its position on airborne transmission of the virus. It is expected that a revised WHO position on this matter will be issued in the next few weeks.

The IEQ-GA Task Force on COVID-19 remains active, and its members are meeting soon to discuss the ongoing pandemic and our response. A reminder that there is a webpage specifically dedicated to addressing concerns about COVID-19. This webpage includes a series of Questions & Answers (Q&A) that are intended to help anyone who has concerns about COVID-19. This webpage can be found here: <https://ieq-ga.net/covid-19/information-center/>

IEQ-GA welcomes another full member, the Acoustical Society of America (ASA). Their members will be very helpful with issues in building with unwanted noise, and the methods that can be used to mitigate this problem.

I am pleased to note that the India-based professional organization, Society for Indoor Environment (SIE) has been accepted as an Affiliate Member of IEQ-GA. For information regarding SIE, please review the following webpage: <https://ieq-ga.net/about/affiliate-members/>. IEQ-GA is always receptive to enquiries regarding full, and affiliate, membership. For more information, please click on this webpage: <https://ieq-ga.net/contact/how-to-join-us/>

Due to the pandemic, the ASHRAE/AIVC 2020 Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) conference planned for September, 2020 has been postponed to September, 2021. IEQ-GA is a

sponsor of this conference entitled 'Transiting from IAQ to IEQ'. IEQ-GA looks forward to participating in the conference in September, 2021. For more information on this conference, please click on this webpage: <https://www.ashrae.org/conferences/topical-conferences/indoor-environmental-quality-performance-approaches>

IEQ-GA continues to lead the way on all matters related to indoor environmental quality, including IAQ, acoustics, lighting, vibrations and other environmental factors. These factors, and their measurement and evaluation, can greatly affect the building occupants if they are appropriately addressed. IEQ-GA expects to proceed with new and innovative means to communicate to workers and building occupants throughout the world that have issues with indoor environmental quality in their workplaces as well as their dwellings.

Please be safe in these difficult times.

Donald Weekes, President of the IEQ-GA