

IEQ Global Alliance

For better indoor environment quality



IEQ-GA – Presidential Column (March, 2022)

I would be remiss if I didn't begin this column with a discussion about the war in Ukraine and the human toll it is taking. The environmental and occupational health concerns for the people of Ukraine are also to be noted, and the IEQ-GA members that are in the health field should do all we can to help those in need, including assuring that the conditions in the refugee camps are sufficient for the families, seniors and children fleeing the conflict. There is also concern about the nuclear power plants in Ukraine, and the potential for radiation release and exposure to the population. It is hoped that scientists and engineering working at these facilities can maintain control of the radioactive materials found at these plants. Overall, our technical and scientific assistance regarding the mental and physical stress of the Ukrainian people must be part of the response we as health professionals, scientists, engineers and researchers bring to help those affected by the war. An end to the hostilities is what we all wish for, and we also hope that a quick cessation of the war will lead to a return to peace for the Ukrainian people.

Here in Canada, there are the first hints of spring, 2022. It has been a difficult (but hopeful) winter with the reduction of COVID-19 cases in many countries. But the pandemic is not over, with more than 4.5 million deaths from COVID-19. And there are many countries that are going through the worst of it right now. But, gradually, we are all working together, including the IEQ-GA member organizations, to further reduce the number of cases worldwide, particularly in poorer countries. A reminder about COVAX, which is the WHO's project to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world. More information can be found on their website: <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax>

Beginning in the spring and moving forward in the summer and fall, there will be at last a chance to meet again our colleagues at conferences and conventions. That face-to-face meetings that we all have missed over the last two years will enable us all to work together on position statements, publications, and guidelines, to listen to presentations about the latest research papers and projects, and to talk about future collaborations with colleagues from around the world. I am looking forward to trips to Greece ([ASHRAE/AIVC IAQ conference](#)), Nashville ([AIHce](#)), and Toronto ([ASHRAE](#)). There will be worthwhile conferences that will also be taking place this year, including the [REHVA CLIMA2022 Congress](#) in May, 2022; and the [42nd AIVC Conference](#) in October, 2022. I hope that you will be able to attend many of these conferences. All member organizations, as well as other organizations that are holding conferences in 2022 that are focused on IEQ issues, are invited to submit information about the conference to IEQ-GA's Secretariat. The IEQ-

GA Board of Directors will review the info and then make a decision regarding IEQ-GA's endorsement of the conference.

I would like to conclude with a reminder that IEQ-GA has set up a webpage specifically dedicated to addressing concerns about COVID-19. This webpage includes a series of Questions & Answers (Q&A) that are intended to provide information to anyone that wants to know more about COVID-19 transmission in buildings. This webpage can be found here: <https://ieq-ga.net/covid-19/faqs/>

Please stay safe and healthy.

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