

# IEQ Global Alliance

*For better indoor environment quality*



## **IEQ-GA – Presidential Column (July 2023)**

I want to thank all of the ‘live’ and ‘virtual’ participants on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the General Assembly and a Board of Directors meeting in Tampa, Florida, USA. These meetings were well attended by IEQ-GA members’ representatives as well as guests, prospective supporters, and guests, both in person and virtually. As outlined in this Presidential Column, IEQ-GA membership is growing, and we are being recognized by other professional organizations as important to the field of Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ).

Here in North America and elsewhere in the world, there have been several recent environmental hazards that affect workers and the public. I mentioned in my previous Presidential Column that the wildfires in North America (and elsewhere in the world) are dramatically affected the health of many elderly people as well as those who are living with pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma. This outbreak of wildfire is likely to be a yearly hazard that affects the lives of millions. The IEQ-GA researcher members of the various professional organizations worldwide will be researching this hazard, and the practitioner members will be monitoring the levels of PM2.5, soot and other airborne contaminants that are associated with the smoke from wildfires.

Another hazard of concern is the elevated air temperatures worldwide that have been recorded recently. The record for the world’s hottest day was broken three times during the first and second week of July 2023. On Monday, average global temperatures reached a record of 17.01C. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the average temperatures of 17.18C was recorded. Then, on Thursday, global temperatures reached a new high of 17.23C. The heat has left many people becoming ill and dehydrated during their outdoor workday and overnight. The elevated temperatures will also result in failed crops, desert conditions, and reduction in water resources. IEQ-GA members will be at the forefront of this issue worldwide.

It should be noted that the new elevated temperature records, however, could soon be broken again, according to Dr Karsten Haustein, a climate scientist at the University of Leipzig. She indicates the following: “The coming days will probably see a small downturn, but, since the annual global temperature maximum is at the end of July, more days are likely to be warmer than yesterday...Chances are that the month of July will be the warmest ever and, with it, the hottest month ever: ‘ever’ meaning since the Eemian which is some 120,000 years ago.”

This is a worldwide issue, with thousands dying, or are expected to die, in the next few weeks, and many others affected by the heat doing their jobs and other necessary tasks.

On a brighter note, it is noted that ASHRAE has issued a new Standard 241-2023, 'Control of Infectious Aerosols' It is available now from the ASHRAE Bookstore ( <https://www.techstreet.com/ashrae/> ). It is a comprehensive document that was completed in record time. I was honoured to be a part of the Project Committee that worked diligently on this Standard. I believe that this Standard is a large step forward for indoor air quality and infectious aerosol control. The Standard will be on 'Continuous Maintenance', which means that anyone can submit a question, recommend an improvement, or request a clarification of the Standard 241 through the online comment database .

Another positive development is IEQ-GA's affiliation with the IBEC Commit to C.A.R.E program. Commit to C.A.R.E. is the program designed to be the website to share resources and knowledge on infectious diseases and how to protect workers and our communities better. More info on the Commit to CARE program is available on its website:

[Commit To C.A.R.E. - Protecting people from infectious diseases \(commit2care.org\)](https://commit2care.org)

Please note that all member organizations, as well as other related organizations, that are holding conferences in 2023-4 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 decide regarding IEQ-GA's endorsement of the conference.

If there are any efforts being undertaken by IEQ-GA's member organizations regarding the pandemic, please post an update on IEQ-GA's website under the heading 'News' so that all members can benefit from the current research, data collection, and information about Standards and Guidelines regarding the pandemic.

Personally, I want to thank the IEQ-BOD members, all of our full and affiliate members, and all of the individual members of the organizations that support the work of IEQ-GA. We are all looking forward to a bright future for IEQ-GA!

Please stay safe and healthy.

Donald Weekes, CIH, CSP, FAIHA  
President, IEQ-GA