

Press Release

BOHS
Stand H21

March 2010



Bad Science Journalism Exposed at BOHS 2010 Annual Conference

Ben Goldacre, 'Bad Science' columnist for the Guardian and author of the best-selling book of the same name, will be taking the stage at the BOHS 2010 Annual Conference to deliver the Conference-opening Warner Lecture: *'When journalists kill: how the media promote the public's misunderstanding of evidence, and why it is a problem'*.

Ben Goldacre is perhaps the most prominent and prestigious scientific opinion leader in UK journalism, and is a magnificent communicator of science, health and logic-related concepts in a manner than can be understood by anyone. As well as writing the weekly 'Bad Science' column since 2003, he has made two documentary series for BBC Radio 4, 'The Placebo Effect' and 'The Rise of the Lifestyle Nutritionists' and has appeared on numerous television and radio programmes, including the Today programme, Newsnight, Start The Week, the Now Show, Loose Ends, PM, Quote Unquote, Watchdog, Nightwaves, amongst other things. 'Bad Science' the book has sold 180,000 copies, reached Number 1 in the paperback non-fiction charts, and is being published in 18 countries.

Ben describes himself as "a zealot for evidence based thinking and science", and we're delighted to welcome him to our Conference. His lecture will be followed by a session entitled 'Real Science, Real Risk' about communicating the science of occupational hygiene effectively to lay audiences and those with vested interests, especially in potentially controversial areas. This session will consider the use of real data and scientific knowledge in the risk assessment process, illustrated by case studies in the areas of asbestos, pesticides and ionising radiation.

*The BOHS Annual Conference - **Occupational Hygiene 2010** - takes place at The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, from 27th to 29th April.*

The BOHS Annual Conference is the largest occupational hygiene conference in Europe, and brings together leading UK, European and international researchers, practitioners and regulators, in a professionally cosmopolitan environment, so providing excellent scope to meet fellow hygienists and peers from related professions from all sectors of industry. The Conference Dinner is the social highlight, on the Wednesday night.

The Conference can be booked on-line, via www.occupationalhygiene2010.com where further programme and venue information is also available. All non-BOHS members paying the full Conference fee will be granted complimentary Society membership until 31st December 2010.

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Background information

Occupational hygiene is about eliminating or controlling health hazards in the workplace (NOT about washing hands properly!). The British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) was formed in 1953 and its aim is simple: to reduce work-related ill-health. With members from across industry, and within health, education, government and research, it is by far the biggest occupational hygiene society in Europe and is the definitive voice of occupational hygiene in the UK.

The Faculty of Occupational Hygiene within BOHS plays a vital role in developing and maintaining the professional standards of occupational hygienists, and is the internationally recognised examination board for qualifications in occupational hygiene and allied subjects.

For further press information, including an image to accompany this release, please contact:

Anthea Page, Communications Manager

Email: anthea.page@bohs.org or tel: **01332 250701**

Or at Stand H21 at the IOSH Exhibition

BOHS, 5/6 Melbourne Court, Millennium Way, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8LZ.

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An Introduction to the Control of Dermal Exposure at Work

BOHS (the British Occupational Hygiene Society) is offering a reduced price professional development session on occupational exposure of skin to chemicals, now available for online booking.

'P801 – An introduction to the control of dermal exposure at work' will be run for the first time at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, on Monday 26 April 2010. This is a one-day course that will provide an introduction to the prevention of damage to health due to the interaction between the skin and the working environment. It is aimed at anyone who is concerned with the maintenance of a healthy workforce – not just occupational hygienists, but safety and health practitioners, human resource managers and occupational health personnel, as well as small business managers and owners. Industry sectors that could be affected typically include the building trade, spraypainting, powder coating and other finishing industries, printing, cleaning, hairdressing and beauty, and nursing and healthcare.

The learning outcomes from the course are a basic understanding of the elements of a skin management system and the many factors that need to be incorporated into any risk assessment and risk management strategy for workplace skin exposure. There will be the optional opportunity to take an examination at the end of the course leading to the BOHS P801 certificate.

The course fee is just £220 + vat and the optional exam fee is reduced to just £75.

For further information, and to book directly online via the BOHS website, follow this link:

<http://www.bohs.org/standardTemplate.aspx/Home/OH2010PDCourses>

This and two other professional development courses precede the opening day of the BOHS 'Occupational Hygiene 2010' Annual Conference, from 27 to 29 April, and can be booked separately if required. Ben Goldacre, 'Bad Science' columnist for the Guardian and author of the best-selling book of the same name, will be taking the stage at the Conference to deliver the opening Warner Lecture: *'When journalists kill: how the media promote the public's misunderstanding of evidence, and why it is a problem'*.

Ben describes himself as "a zealot for evidence based thinking and science", and we're delighted to welcome him to our Conference. His lecture will be followed by a session entitled 'Real Science, Real Risk' about communicating the science of occupational hygiene effectively to lay audiences and those with vested interests, especially in potentially controversial areas. This session will consider the use of real data and scientific knowledge in the risk assessment process, illustrated by case studies in the areas of asbestos, pesticides and ionising radiation.

If you're interested in the skin exposure course, why not stay on for a day or two at the Conference as well? It can be booked on-line, via www.occupationalhygiene2010.com where further programme and venue information is also available. All non-BOHS members paying the full Conference fee will be granted complimentary Society membership until 31 December 2010.

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