Meet the Research Committee

Chair of the Research Committee

Vanessa Mayatt

Current position
Director of Mayatt Risk Consulting Ltd

Qualifications
BSc, PhD, Dip OHS, CFIOSH, FRSPH

Experience
Vanessa has over 30 years’ experience in occupational safety and health. She has held several senior roles in global risk management consultancies following 16 years with HSE. She has operated a portfolio career since 2002, combining independent consultancy support to large private and public sector organisations with non-executive director roles for the Health Protection Agency and the Public Health Laboratory Service.

She has held research fellowships at Salford University and has edited and co-authored risk management publications for the healthcare sector. She is the former Chief Executive of the British Occupational Health Research Foundation.

Research interests
- Integration of arrangements for corporate governance and health and safety management
- Health and safety leadership
- Health and safety performance monitoring
- Occupational health risks
- Management of biosafety risks
Research Committee

Dr Steve Cowley

Current position
Senior Consultant at Finch Consulting. Steve is also Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Health & Safety Research & Practice, a peer-reviewed scientific journal and is Associate Professor, Accident Forensics, in the School of Health and Human Services at Central Queensland University.

Qualifications
Steve has a PhD and BSc (Hons) in Health & Safety, MSc in Occupational Hygiene and Graduate Certificate in Adult Education. Steve is a Chartered Member of IOSH, an Associate Member of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene and a Fellow of the Safety Institute of Australia.

Experience
Since 1983, Steve has been an active OHS practitioner and academic in the UK, Australia and Asia and the South Pacific. His experience has been in the practical application of hazard management and industrial hygiene principles in a wide variety of industry sectors, ranging from mining, agriculture and construction through manufacturing and retail to emergency services and education. Steve has held OHS management positions within large organisations, as well as senior academic appointments.

Research interests
Steve’s PhD research explored strategies that might be employed to market health and safety solutions and increase their adoption by business managers, especially in SMEs. Particular interest lies in the increasing the adoption of higher order occupational health risk controls.

Professor Roger Haslam

Current position
Professor of Ergonomics at Loughborough University

Qualifications
PhD, FErgS, CMIOSH

Experience
Roger is Coordinating Editor of the journal Ergonomics and past President of the Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors.

Research interests
- Enhancing the ‘fit’ between people and the products, equipment, systems and environments with which they interact
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Tanya Heasman

Current position
Managing Director, System Concepts

Qualifications
MA (Oxon), MSc, MBA, CFIEHF, CMIOSH

Experience
Tanya has been practising as an ergonomics/human factors/health and safety specialist for more than 25 years. She is the author or co-author of over 30 books and research contracts for the UK Health and Safety Executive. Previous appointments include Consumer member of the Food Standards Agency Research committee for six years, and Trustee and Deputy Chair of Which? Ltd/Consumer’s Association for 15 years.

Research interests
- Ageing, work and health
- Human factors in manufacturing contexts
- Display screen equipment and manual handling issues

Damien McElvenny

Current position
Principal Epidemiologist at Institute of Occupational Medicine and Director of Statistics and Health Limited

Qualifications
BSc (Hons), MSc, CStat, CSci

Experience
Damien has almost 30 years of experience working in epidemiology and biostatistics. He has worked in the nuclear industry, the NHS, for HSE (for 11 years), and in academia before his current positions. He currently co-leads the occupational epidemiology research portfolio at IOM and works as an independent statistical and epidemiological consultant. He is Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Central Lancashire, an Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Medicine at the University of Manchester, a member of the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council and an Assistant Editor for Occupational Medicine. Damien is nearing completion of his PhD at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Damien is chair of the organising committee for the 2017 International Symposium Epidemiology in Occupational Health, which is to be held in Edinburgh in 2017.

Research interests
- Occupational cancer epidemiology (lead, hard-metal, styrene, vinyl chloride, rubber industry, asbestos, man-made mineral fibres, formaldehyde)
- Barriers and facilitators to occupational epidemiology research in the UK
- Meta-analysis methods as applied to occupational epidemiology
- Factors affecting return to work after cancer
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Dr Rob Cooling

Current position
Director of Health, Safety, Quality & Environment at EXPO 2020 Dubai

Qualifications
BA, MA, BSc, PGCE, PhD, MBA, CFIOSH

Experience
Rob is a risk management professional with multidisciplinary knowledge across safety and health, quality, environment, security and business continuity. In his current role he heads the assurance function at EXPO 2020, overseeing the delivery of the US$ 8 billion construction programme. Previously, he spent seven years in various safety and health roles with the engineering consultancy firm WSP. Rob is an Adjunct Professor at UAE University and is regularly involved in supporting associated research and training activities.

Research interests
Rob's PhD thesis explored the law and management of worker involvement in safety and health. His research interests include safety and health leadership and governance, behavioural safety and culture, and worker involvement and communication.

Heather Sheeley

Current position
Public Health England, Lead on Workplace Health and Safety/Biosafety and Biosecurity

Qualifications
BA, MSc, CBiol. RSB, CMIOSH, FISTR

Experience
Heather has over 30 years' experience in occupational safety and health. She has worked in high hazard industries involving pathogens, heavy metals and radiation. She has worked globally on projects with the EU, WHO, NGOs and UK and other Governments to improve laboratory safety and public health.

Research interests
- Evidence based risk assessment
- Designing for healthy workplaces
- Occupational health risks
- Management of biosafety risks
Dr Patrick Waterson

Current position
Reader in Human Factors and Complex Systems, Loughborough University

Qualifications
BSc, MSc, PhD, C.ErgHF, FCIEHF, CPsychol, AFBPsS, CSci, FHEA, MIET, AMBCS

Experience
Patrick’s background is in applied psychology and human factors/ergonomics. He has worked at the Universities of Nottingham, Sheffield and Loughborough, as well as spending four years working in Germany for the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft. He has served as a Scientific Editor for Applied Ergonomics, as well as a member of editorial boards for four other journals including Safety Science and Cognition, Technology and Work. He is the Editor of IOSH’s journal, Policy and Practice in Health and Safety.

Research interests
- Human factors of safety-critical industries
- Applying the systems approach to risk, accidents and incident investigation and analysis
- The assessment of safety culture in healthcare and other industries
- Rail passenger safety
- History of human factors and safety

Brenda Weir

Current position
Formerly Head of Health and Safety at London Fire Brigade under the London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA)

Qualifications
BSc (Hons), MSc Eng, Dip H&S, Sp Dip EM, CBiol, CMIOSH

Experience
Brenda has over 30 years’ experience in science, microbiological research, water and waste treatment engineering, occupational health, safety and environmental management in a wide range of industries from construction, utilities, waste management, broadcasting, printing and packaging, food and pharmaceutical manufacturing to heavy engineering and latterly fire and rescue services.

She was Head of a Microbiological Research Department in industry in the UK. This was followed by research on the value of in-vitro genotoxicity testing as a tool for the identification of industrial chemicals as carcinogens and reviewing occupational exposure levels for a Provincial Government in Canada.

On return to the UK she spent a number of years as an HM Inspector of Health & Safety with the HSE. Her Head of Service roles have covered both strategic planning and management of occupational health, safety and environmental units servicing large scale operational activities.

Research interests
- Leadership in safety and health
- Organisational and human factors
- Minimising occupational exposures/occupational cancers
- Human factors in accident/incident investigation
Research Committee support team

**Shelley Frost**

**Current position**
IOSH Executive Director – Policy

**Qualifications**
- LLB (Hons), NVQ4 Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, Post Graduate Diploma in Occupational Safety & Health

**Experience**
Shelley joined HSE in 1998, spending much of her time post-operational working on construction policy and regulation, including CDM and occupational health issues. She held a number of senior positions in both public and commercial sectors, responsible for health and safety and sustainability, before joining IOSH in 2015.

**Kate Field**

**Current position**
Head of Information and Intelligence

**Qualifications**
- BA (Hons), PGDip OHS, PGDip FAHE, CMIOSH

**Experience**
Kate has over 18 years’ experience in occupational safety and health covering most industry sectors. She spent eight years with HSE, first as an Inspector and then moving in policy and programme work, focusing on health risks, where she commissioned a number of pieces of research. Kate then moved into consultancy, including running her own successful consultancy business. Kate has written guidance material and articles for a number of publications and regularly speaks at OSH-related conferences. Kate is also an experienced trainer and qualified lecturer.

**Research interests**
- Psychosocial risks in particular stress and shift working
- Broader mental health issues
- Neuroscience
- Changing age profile of the workplace – both ageing and generations x, y, z
- Changing technology and its implications for OSH
- Leadership, culture and behavioural change
Mary Ogungbeje

Current position
Research and Development Coordinator

Qualifications
BSc, MSc, CMIOSH, EurOSHM

Experience
Mary’s role at IOSH involves co-ordinating the Research and Development Fund. Part of her role includes liaising with the sponsored organisation or principal investigator and monitoring commissioned research projects.

Her other work activities include advising members seeking development funding; providing technical editing of articles, publications and presentations; and representing IOSH at external events, such as meetings, exhibitions and conferences.

Research interests
- Behavioural safety
- Manual handling
- Social issues

Ivan Williams

Current position
Research and Development Adviser

Qualifications
BSc, MSc, PhD Research Student

Experience
With a background in a retail multinational health and safety department, Ivan has always tried to work with a shared business–academic outlook. For the past two years he has been preparing his PhD thesis based on a psychosocial comparative law analysis.

Ivan’s role at IOSH involves supporting the Research and Information Services team. Part of his role includes developing and managing IOSH’s research-into-practice strategy, including liaison with practitioners and business, academic institutions. It also includes monitoring research projects and disseminating research outcomes.

Research interests
- Working conditions, corporate social responsibility, sustainability and ethics
- Psychosocial issues
- International health and safety legislation, comparative law