Committee on the Use of Elastomeric Respirators in Health Care

National Academy of Sciences Building
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

WORKSHOP AGENDA
Thursday, March 22, 2018
Lecture Room

OPEN SESSION: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

8:30 – 8:40  Welcome and Opening Remarks
             Linda Hawes Clever, Committee Co-Chair
             Bonnie Rogers, Committee Co-Chair

8:40 – 10:00  Panel 1—Elastomeric Respirators: Context and Efficacy
              Facilitator: Chris Nyquist

8:40 – 9:30  Panel Introductions and Presentations
              • Overview of respiratory protection issues in health care; innovations in respiratory protection programs
                • Mary Godwin, Cone Health
              • Comparative efficacy of elastomers
                • Ronald Shaffer, National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory
              • Project BREATHE
                • Lew Radonovich, National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory
              • Comparative costs of elastomers
                • Sheri Eisert, University of South Florida (web conference)

9:30 – 10:00  Discussion with the committee

Issues for Presentations and Discussion:

• Provide an overview of your hospital/facility’s respiratory protection program (e.g., number of users, types and numbers of respirators used, decision criteria regarding types of respirators) and innovations in your program; discuss challenges in fully implementing respiratory protection programs
• Discuss the overall efficacy of elastomeric respirators in comparison to N95s and PAPRs and specifics on the efficacy of elastomerics to prevent infectious disease transmission (particularly influenza transmission)
• Discuss the economic landscape on respirators with comparisons across the types of respirators regarding purchase costs, life cycle/maintenance costs, and other costs
• Discuss Project BREATHE and its work in identifying performance characteristics and innovative approaches for respirators for health care workers of elastomerics to prevent infectious disease transmission (particularly influenza transmission)
10:00 – 11:15 Panel 2—Elastomeric Respirators: Effectiveness and Use Issues
Facilitators: Gio Baracco and Jim Johnson

10:00 – 10:50 Panel Introductions and Presentations
- Physiology and Psychology
  - Ray Roberge, retired National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory
- Disinfection
  - Brian Heimbuch, Applied Research Associates
- Decision Criteria on Respirators Including Storage and Maintenance Issues
  - Christopher Shields, Chicago Department of Public Health

10:50 – 11:15 Discussion with the committee

Issues for Presentations and Discussion:
- Provide an overview of the research on elastomeric half-mask respirators regarding communication, comfort, disinfection, and storage and maintenance issues
- Discuss decision criteria on selection, use, and storage of respirators

11:15 – 11:30 BREAK

11:30 – 1:00 Panel 3—Use of Elastomeric Respirators in Clinical Practice
Facilitator: Jim Chang

11:30 – 12:30 Panel Introductions and Presentations
- Texas Center for Infectious Diseases
  - Annie Quratulain Kizilbash, Medical Director (web conference)
  - Scott Ollerman, Chief Nursing Officer (web conference)
  - Cynthia Guenther, Respiratory Therapist (web conference)
- Jim Chang, University of Maryland Medical Center

12:30 – 1:00 Discussion with the committee

Issues for Presentations and Discussion:
- Describe your respirator program, e.g., number of users, types and numbers of respirators used; decision criteria regarding types of respirators purchased and used; training programs
- Discuss your experience with elastomeric respirators (and compare with other types of respirators) from the perspectives of:
  - Employee issues, comments, and experiences using elastomeric half mask respirators
  - Implementation – storage, disinfection, maintenance
  - Fit testing
  - Training
- Provide your thoughts on the benefits and limitations of elastomeric half mask respirators
- Discuss issues regarding sustainability of use of elastomers including any future plans, evaluations, or anticipated changes in type of respirators that will be used

1:00 – 1:45 LUNCH—NAS Cafeteria
1:45 – 2:45  **Panel 4—Elastomeric Respirators: Lessons Learned from Other Industries**  
Facilitator: *Bruce Lippy*

1:45 – 2:15 Panel Introductions and Presentations  
- *Mike Schmoldt*, Argonne National Laboratory (web conference)  
- *Bruce Lippy*, Center for Construction Research and Training

2:15 – 2:45 Discussion with the committee

**Issues for Presentations and Discussion:**
- Describe your respirator program, e.g., number of users, types and numbers of respirators used; hazards protecting against, environment where respirators are used; decision criteria regarding types of respirators purchased and used; training programs
- Discuss your experience with elastomeric respirators (and compare with other types of respirators) from the perspectives of:
  - Employee issues, comments, and experiences using elastomeric half mask respirators
  - Implementation – storage, disinfection, maintenance
  - Fit testing
  - Training
- Provide your thoughts on the benefits and limitations of elastomeric half mask respirators
- Discuss issues regarding sustainability of use of elastomers including any future plans, evaluations, or anticipated changes in type of respirators that will be used

2:45 – 3:00 BREAK

3:00 – 4:30  **Panel 5—Stockpiling of Elastomeric Respirators: Public Health Preparedness**  
Facilitators: *Tener Veenema* and *Gloria Addo-Ayensu*

3:00 – 4:00 Panel Introductions and Presentations  
- Manufacturing perspective  
  - *Ellen White*, 3M (web conference)
- Stockpile logistics and decision points  
  - *Paul Petersen*, Tennessee Department of Health
- Hospital systems perspective  
  - *Carol Barsky*, Hackensack Meridian Health

4:00 – 4:30 Discussion with the committee

**Issues for Presentations and Discussion:**
- To what extent are elastomeric respirators currently part of the preparedness response? What are the primary factors driving decisions about elastomers?
- What are the issues regarding volume, cost, shelf life, monitoring, etc. for the stockpiles?
- What are the manufacturing, supply chain, and distribution opportunities and challenges?
- How are hospital systems preparing for the potential of respirator shortages?

4:30 – 5:00  **Public Comment Period**  
Facilitators: *Linda Hawes Clever* and *Bonnie Rogers*

5:00 p.m. Workshop Adjourns