ICPHSO is now accepting proposals for presentations at its 2017 Annual Meeting and Training Symposium. Presentations must be non-commercial in nature and pertain to topics of interest to the global consumer product safety community. The proposals can be for general plenary sessions, workshops or panels.

Suggestions for Presentation Proposals

- **Workshop proposals** should address key current issues and pertain to the overall theme of Evaluating and Managing Risks in Product Safety. Proposed topics **that are novel or explore prior topics in new ways are preferable** (see list of topics below). Proposals based on unique issues (e.g., single product hazards) should make an effort to advise how findings apply to other products in order to appeal to attendees who are not involved with that specific product.

- **Panels should draw on the widest possible pool of subject matter experts.** Where possible, panels are advised to include: (a) representation from different stakeholder groups; (b) speakers with geographical diversity; and (c) speakers with a fresh perspective. There shouldn't be more than one panelist from any one organization or business including the moderator.

- **Panels must build audience participation into their format & time allowances.** Session formats that engage the audience, encourage their participation, and encourage interaction between panelists are preferred by the audience and will be given strongest consideration.

- **A maximum of three presenters is strongly advised;** exceptions will be made for regulatory or other panels requiring input from more than three stakeholders. Panels must include varying points of view from multiple stakeholder groups and panelists that are geographically diverse including regulatory bodies and consumer advocacy groups.

- **Speakers and moderators may normally only participate in one session during the conference.** (Exceptions are made in particular for underrepresented stakeholder groups; e.g., consumers, government, NGOs, researchers). If you are invited to speak on more than one accepted panel, you must call this to the attention of the moderators for both sessions. The moderators will decide on which panel you will speak.

The theme of this year’s program is *Evaluating and Managing Risk in Product Safety.* We are specifically seeking proposals and suggestions to address topics based on this general theme:

*Risk is an element of every business decision. It has a seat in every conference room and is inherent in every business plan. It excludes no enterprise, no matter how large, no matter how rich, no matter how smart, and no matter how careful. Risk also plays into consumer purchasing decisions so it affects not only business but also consumers.*
For questions such as whether an expensive marketing program will achieve double digit revenue growth or whether a newly recruited manager will develop into a successful leader, the risks simply involve time and money. But when the issues involve safety, injury or worse, the risks are much greater. Even in these cases, there are limits on the number of people, time and dollars that any enterprise can profitably afford to invest in product design, quality materials, protective and redundant systems and performance testing. There are also practical limits on what companies can afford to devote to production oversight, particularly overseas. There is no benefit to a manufacturer or retailer to have unsold shelves full of the safest products on the market that no one buys because they are too expensive.

What case studies, methodologies, and systems can we enlist for the 2017 ICPHSO Symposium to inform these decisions and to help our attendees deal more successfully with these issues in each of their companies?

- How does one evaluate the safety risks are of any given product? From the product designer, the importer, the manufacturer, the retailer, the certification and testing lab, the regulatory authority and from the consumer’s perspective.
- How does one develop a model for understanding and evaluating these risks?
- How does one determine an acceptable risk? How does one’s size, financial resources, mission, reputation, marketing position, safety record and corporate philosophy inform these decisions?
- How does one determine the cost of developing a product that will mitigate whatever risks are identified to whatever acceptable level is determined?
- What kinds of product design, construction, quality of materials, redundant systems, production methods and testing are required to achieve these goals throughout the supply chain?
- What would any of this cost at various levels of production?
- Can the product be sold at a price that justifies this investment?
- What compromises or short cuts, if any, are acceptable and which are not?
- How does management’s appetite for risk or pressure by marketing or product development impact these issues?
- What is the impact of what is happening in the market place, what competitors are doing or what customers are asking for?
- What is the regulators definition of risk and how does that differ between regulatory authorities and does it differ from the manufacturer, importer, retailer or consumer’s perspective?
- What safety information does the consumer purchaser use to identify potential risks to their use of the product? How are these addressed by industry and the regulators?

The challenges in these decisions involve product development, engineering, manufacturing, certification, testing, marketing, and finance not to mention senior management. Businesses need to be competitive to stay viable, yet safety is a critical component of viability. In the end, how well a company manages this delicate balance can ultimately determine their success as an enterprise.

Proposal Selection Process

An initial round of weighting presentations will be performed by the Annual Meeting and Training Symposium Planning Committee and the ICPHSO Board of Directors. Final selections will be made by the Executive Committee of the ICPHSO Board. Please note that submission of a proposal is not a guarantee of being on a panel or serving as a moderator; proposals that are similar in theme and content may result in a decision to combine proposals to optimize value to the ICPHSO community. Moderator and presenter suggestions are strongly considered, but moderators and presenters will be chosen at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Proposals taking into consideration the guidelines listed above should be submitted on the proposal form at the end of this message to mschoem@icphso.org.
Timeline

Deadline for Submissions – OCTOBER 7, 2016

Selection and Communication to Submitters – end of October 2016

Final Selection and Communication to Submitters – November 10, 2016

Identification and Selection of Panel Moderators and Participants by November 30, 2016

Further Questions?

Rick Brenner, Annual Meeting Program Chairman – rfbrenner@icphso.org

Marc Schoem, Executive Director – mschoem@icphso.org

Continue to next page for proposal submission form.
ICPHSO Call for Presentations Submission Form

Please complete the form below and submit via email to mschoem@icphso.org on or before October 7, 2016.

Subject: ____________________________________________

Title: _____________________________________________

Description: _______________________________________

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Type: □ Panel discussion □ Interactive Workshop □ Roundtable □ Keynote

Learning Objectives / Relevance to ICPHSO members: __________________________________________________________

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Suggested presenters and moderator (please provide names and affiliations):

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__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Submitted by:

Name ________________________________________________

Title: _______________________________________________

Organization: _______________________________________

Mailing address: _____________________________________

City: __________________ State / province: ___________ Postal code: ______ Country: ______________

Telephone number (please include country code): ____________________________

Email address: _______________________________________
