INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER PRODUCT HEALTH AND SAFETY ORGANIZATION

celebrating 20 years
1993-2013
With special thanks to our many sponsors over the years.

about ICPHSO

Founded in 1993, ICPHSO is a non-profit, volunteer-driven and membership-based organization dedicated to providing forums for the exchange of ideas and information on health and safety issues related to consumer products that are manufactured and marketed in the global marketplace. ICPHSO’s unique non-partisan and inclusive approach to product health and safety dialogues draws participation from government agencies, manufacturers, industry and trade associations, professional services firms, academia, standards developers, consumer advocates, retailers, testing organizations, and interested individuals. Because product health and safety issues transcend geographic boundaries, ICPHSO encourages participation from interested parties around the globe. ICPHSO's efforts in this regard are reflected in the diversity of participants, who today represent over 20 economies around the world.

about ICPHSO’s services

ICPHSO’s services can be divided into two general categories – programs and information. ICPHSO hosts three types of programs: an annual symposium in the United States, an annual symposium outside of the United States, and US-based regional training workshops. ICPHSO also seeks to provide current and timely information to the public and its members on product health and safety developments through its website (www.icphso.org) and through electronic newsletters.

The current attendance at ICPHSO’s annual US Symposiums is in excess of 600 people. The growth in the organization’s attendance and activities since 1993 has paralleled increasing business and government interest in globalization issues. ICPHSO is now recognized as not only the premier organization responsible for ‘setting the product safety table in the US’, but also for playing a key role in facilitating dialogue between international consumer product safety stakeholders.

ICPHSO’s main mission is to provide a neutral forum for the exchange of consumer product safety information on a worldwide basis. Today, ICPHSO enjoys participation from the European Union (DG Sanco, ProSafe), Canada (Health Canada, Electrical Safety Authority), Korea, Japan, China, India, Australia and many other nations.

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Editor/designer: Leslie Bank
People often ask me what does ICPHSO do? I tell them that we set the table for product safety stakeholders around the world. We feed them, we educate them, and our evaluations tell us we provide excellent networking opportunities. That’s it. We don’t lobby. We don’t set standards. We are not a clearing house for product safety activities, and we do not draft model legislation. In fact, I could list many, many more things we do not do and I believe what we don't do is the reason ICPHSO is successful. We throw an education party for product safety leaders around the world and we try hard to get the best speakers and moderators as possible. Period!

To recognize the many people who are responsible for ICPHSO’s success without leaving someone out would be impossible. I have been fortunate to work with all of these leaders and this journey of my life has been a blessing beyond my wildest expectations.

- Ross Koeser, ICPHSO Executive Director
the story begins

THE FIRST MEETING IN 1993

This is the story of an organization brought together on the Atlantic coast of Florida on a winter’s day 20 years ago. It was February 18, 1993, and 24 individuals from across the U.S., Canada and Europe had gathered in West Palm Beach, Florida, for the initial meeting to organize what would eventually become the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization.

The roots of ICPHSO are tied to the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)’s Product Safety Committee. The AFDO is comprised of federal, state and local Food and Drug officials and the related industry. The AFDO’s existing Consumer Product Safety Committee in 1993 aimed to address product safety issues both nationwide and within individual states. The Committee had some modest success, but was never able to reach its full potential because very few Food and Drug officials were involved in consumer product safety programs. Food issues dominated the AFDO’s mandate, not product safety.

In 1993, four state officials who were members of the AFDO, along with several other state and industry representatives, decided to see if it was the right time to make a change. The aim of the West Palm Beach meeting was to determine the feasibility of starting an organization dedicated solely to product safety.

Mary Heslin, AFDO’s Executive Director for Public Policy, set forth an ambitious list of possible objectives for the new organization:

1. To develop and seek enactment of uniform consumer health and safety laws.

2. To promote uniform enforcement of consumer health and safety law and regulations at all levels of government.

3. To promote cooperation and mutual respect and trust by establishing a working liaison among government agencies, industry, professional associations, academic institutions and consumer groups.

4. To encourage, support and promote the development and dissemination of information on the safe uses of consumer products and to alert the public to safety information that increases the consumer's overall awareness of product safety.

5. To encourage the development of educational materials to assist the public and private sector in designing and implementing consumer health and safety education programs.

6. To encourage the development and promotion of training programs.
Twenty four individuals attended the first meeting, representing regulators, the regulated industry, and consumers. Two international representatives, from Great Britain and Canada respectively, also attended the meeting. The two-day meeting was spirited and productive, concluding in a vote to create a new organization focused on consumer product safety issues.

Tom Messenger, representing the State of Colorado, was elected first President of the organization; Mike Brown, a product safety attorney, was chosen to be Vice President. Product safety consultant Joan Bergy acted as facilitator.

**Twenty four state, industry, government and international representatives attended the first meeting:**

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<tr>
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key moments in time

1993

The West Palm Beach meeting set the wheels in motion for a new organization. During the two-day discussion, it quickly became clear that in order for ICPHSO to be independently successful, it would have to adapt to reflect less polarizing issues such as education, networking and professional growth. President Messenger and Vice President Brown issued a letter identifying a critical mission for ICPHSO:

“A forum for international, federal, state and local regulators, members of regulated industry, and members of public interest groups to meet to discuss their various perspectives and concerns. In short, a settling to ‘network’ for the discussion of ideas, approaches and problems with other product safety professionals.”

1994 -1996

In 1994, ICPHSO held its first Annual Symposium in Orlando, Florida. The Symposium was attended by 137 people from across the globe. Over the following two years, the symposiums were regularly attended by an average of 150 people. The organization was continuing to grow and establish itself both within the United States, and on a global scale.

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Following the 4th symposium held in 1997, the AFDO suddenly dropped its support for ICPHSO, and the young organization found itself standing alone. Ross Koeser, the President of ICPHSO at the time, made the decision, along with the support of the Board, to bolster the organization. Ross hired an Executive Assistant, incorporated ICPHSO as a 501©(3) non-profit organization, and set up office in Germantown, Maryland.
The 5th Annual Symposium introduced four major changes to the organization and the structure of its annual events.

1. ICPHSO set aside a half day to run a Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Compliance Workshop, in order to take full advantage of interest in CPSC enforcement issues.

2. During the Symposium, time was also set aside for the state contacts of CPSC to hold their annual meeting in conjunction with the ICPHSO meeting.

3. The formation of an International Caucus helped to draw an increased global audience.

4. The format of the Annual Symposium was changed to a workshop style that encouraged more interaction between the audience and the presenters. Attendees viewed this as an improvement to the plenary format used in previous years.

**Compliance Program**

The first Compliance Workshop was held one day prior to the 1998 Annual Meeting and Symposium, and proved to be highly successful. Over 90 people attended the half-day session, including representatives from manufacturers, importers, retailers, trade associations, international, state and local government, media and special interest groups. The workshop focused on various aspects of the CPSC Compliance Program, and featured discussions around the industry’s reporting obligations, CPSC expectations for voluntary recalls, and how compliance activities relate to voluntary product safety standards.

**International Caucus**: The purpose of the first International Consumer Product Safety Caucus, held at the 1998 Symposium, was to determine what benefits could be derived from making the international product safety community more collaborative, which issues should be tackled, and how to improve the safety of products.

Several recommendations were put forth for development:

- Create an information package about ICPHSO to be distributed prior to the next annual meeting, with the aim of increasing international participation.
- Develop an ICPHSO website, featuring meeting reports, product safety information and links.
- Cement that the International Committee’s main purpose should be to suggest topics and organize workshops that focus on harmonization, enforcement and implementation of standards.
1999

Over 190 people attended the 1999 Symposium, which included 9 separate workshops and more than 25 speakers. The American Bar Association’s Consumer Product Safety Law Seminar was added to the Annual Symposium schedule, following in the footsteps of CPSC’s Compliance Program. The Consumer Product Safety Law Seminar focused on CPSC’s burden of demonstrating substantial hazard findings for products, and what constitutes a ‘consumer product’ under the Consumer Product Safety Act.

In 1999 former President Ross Koeser agreed to serve as part time Executive Director and Newsletter Editor for ICPHSO.

**Increasing International Involvement:** Several members of the Product Safety Enforcement Forum of Europe (PROSAFE) attended the 1999 Annual Symposium in February, and international attendance was increasing. The International Caucus held during the Symposium underscored the importance of greater collaboration on enforcement worldwide.

**Education Program:** In May of 1999, ICPHSO and CPSC teamed up to present an Education Program in Chicago. Directed by Mark Schoem and organized by Ross Koeser, the highly rated one day conference was attended by over 200 people. In October, a second similar training course was held in Los Angeles. This education program aimed to expand the opportunities for safety professionals to learn about safety law, practices and initiatives.
2000

Thanks to the popular and successful addition of the ABA Consumer Product Safety Law Seminar, attendance in 2000 jumped to over 270 registrants. The annual meeting focused on hot button topics like chemical risks, safety advocacy, emerging textile issues and safety research. ICPHSO was quickly becoming a must-attend conference for product safety professionals throughout North America.

ICPHSO introduced a new committee structure in 2000, which saw the creation of several new committees including the Strategic Planning Committee, Membership Committee, Events Committee, and the Outreach Committee (formerly known as Information and Education). The first meeting of the newly minted Outreach Committee took place during the annual meeting in Orlando. The Outreach Committee established a mission statement that focused on developing a Profile Snapshot Directory, creating an ICPHSO membership profile, and increasing web activities.

A New Century, A New Website: ICPHSO entered the new century with a technological leap forward by developing a website and appointing Elaine Tyrell of CPSC as website director. The website offers easy access to information about upcoming meetings, workshops, and training programs, as well as helpful links to health and safety research. icphso.org

2001

In October of 2000, Mark Schoem of CPSC and Ross Koeser of ICPHSO met with the Chairman’s Group of PROSAFE to plan an international enforcement meeting. ICPHSO was aiming to broaden its international appeal and provide a platform for industry, business, consumers and government to meet and discuss product safety issues.

An ICPHSO meeting on Global Product Safety Enforcement was held in Orlando on February 27, 2001, one day prior to the annual meeting. Over 100 delegates from several countries were present at the meeting, which emphasized the need for an ongoing, structured dialogue on international product safety enforcement.

The Annual meeting in Orlando had high attendance, with over 300 attendees from all over the world. Highlights included workshops covering safety issues related to transportation, media, e-commerce, and information management.
2002

Following the success of 2001’s one-day Global Product Safety Enforcement meeting, the day-before program was turned into an annual occurrence. ’The Tuesday program’ was designed to facilitate discussion and help answer the question of how to better integrate the I in ICPHSO.

During the 2002 Annual Meeting, ICPHSO teamed up with the European Consumer Safety Association (ECOSA) for a meeting to cover international product safety research.

The 2002 Symposium also introduced one new roundtable style workshop, where attendees had the chance to meet and network with leaders and experts. International attendance soared this year and the organization continued to grow its reputation as a fully worldwide organization.

2003

The ICPHSO board met off-site for strategic planning in 2003 and embarked on the development of its first Strategic Plan. Three key strategies were identified: improvements to the annual meeting; membership development; and expansion of Regional events.

The Board also developed a 10 word mission statement for ICPHSO: “An international forum for individuals dedicated to consumer product safety.”

2003 marked ICPHSO’s 10th anniversary as a unique organization dedicated to addressing health and safety issues related to consumer products on a global scale. The Annual Meeting drew 300 attendees, including 32 international representatives from 10 countries. Half of those international participants were from non-government agencies, the largest number to attend an ICPHSO meeting to date.

How Do You Pronounce ICPHSO?: Over 10 years’ worth of meetings, seminars and training programs, it was becoming increasingly clear that a vast number of ICPHSO members did not know how to pronounce the acronym correctly—or even confidently. In 2003, the ICPHSO newsletter finally put the confusion to rest and settled on one pronunciation-- ICK-FA-SO.
2004

At the 2004 Annual Meeting and Training Symposium in Orlando, Florida, all evaluations were completed online for the first time. The Annual Meeting drew 343 attendees, including 71 people who took part in the Tuesday Pool and Spa Safety program.

Following through with its strategic plan to become increasingly global, ICPHSO held its first meeting outside of the United States in London, England. The one day seminar, “Product Safety: Enforcement and Notification; A Transatlantic Perspective” took place on November 11, 2004. The symposium represented a unique opportunity to facilitate discussion and share views with decision makers in the formulation and enforcement of product safety issues around the world. Ninety-two people from 14 different countries attended the symposium. The event served to open a dialogue on consumer safety regulation and helped lay the groundwork for future discussions.

2005

The Annual Meeting in Orlando in February, 2005, was attended by 340 people and included a first day seminar for retailers.

The new strategic plan, set out by the Board and the Strategic Planning Committee, indentified the following strategies and corresponding goals to be addressed over the next two years:

- International expansion
- Financial sustainability
- Membership development
- Governance

Following the success of the first international meeting in London, ICPHSO held a second in Arnhem, the Netherlands, on November 10, 2005. The meeting attracted 101 delegates from 22 countries around the world, most notably bringing together representatives from China with colleagues from the European Union, Canada and the United States. With two successful international meetings to its name, ICPHSO was beginning to find its space on the international map.
For the 13th annual meeting, ICPHSO moved from Florida for the first time, meeting instead in the Washington, DC area—Bethesda, Maryland, on May 9-12, 2006. The meeting drew over 400 registrants, the highest attendance number in the history of the organization to that date. The meeting also drew a record 36 sponsors and $62,000 in donations.

The Bethesda Declaration: Participants at the 2006 meeting drew up and signed the “Bethesda Declaration”, outlining the shared values and developed plans for the future international cooperation in the field of consumer product safety. The Declaration outlined three shared values of ICPHSO’s members:

1. To improve the safety of products and thereby foster the health and safety of consumers.
2. To improve the confidence of consumers in the products they buy.
3. To encourage compliance with safety standards and requirements in order to achieve these improvements in the most cost effective way whilst building global trade to the benefit of consumers and business alike.

ICPHSO held its third consecutive international meeting in Brussels on November 29-30, 2006. The meeting, “International Cooperation in the Global Marketplace: Meeting the Challenges of Consumer Product Safety,” was attended by 162 participants from 30 countries. The ICPHSO International Meeting was becoming an increasingly global affair, as 2006 saw countries like Japan, Australia, Korea, Malaysia, and Turkey send representatives for the first time. The success of the first three ICPHSO meetings in Europe demonstrated the growing interest in promoting ICPHSO as a global forum.

In 2007, the international ICPHSO meeting moved from Europe to Asia. The first Asian Symposium was held in Beijing, China on May 21-22, 2007, taking the forum directly to the center of manufacturing and consumer products. Over 400 registrants attended the conference, titled “Consumer Product Safety, Our Common Responsibility,” which was co-hosted by AQSIG, China’s General Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

Back in the US, the Annual Symposium continued to grow with record attendance and positive evaluations across the board. The Preliminary Program in 2007 was International Day, which gave participants the opportunity to share knowledge about initiatives in their countries.
The Annual Meeting and Training Symposium returned to Washington, DC, in February, 2008. A record 451 people attended the meeting, breaking all previous attendance records. International participation also broke records, with 51 international registrants representing 18 countries.

In November, the International meeting returned to Brussels and once again acted as part of an International Product Safety Week hosted by the European Commission. The conference was well attended with 200 registered delegates from over 30 countries, which represented a 25% increase from the first Brussels meeting in 2006. The emphasis at this meeting was placed on considering new and emerging issues. The workshop sessions dealt with issues as diverse as nanotechnology, age grading and labeling and environmental and health aspects of product safety and counterfeiting.

Membership Changes: For the previous 15 years, ICPHSO membership was offered to anyone who registered to attend the most recent annual meeting. In 2008, the Board of Directors voted to make ICPHSO a true membership organization, including applicable annual dues.

The ICPHSO Annual Meeting in Orlando had record-setting numbers of almost 500 people from around the world. One major discussion point at the 2009 meeting was the pressing Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) in the US.

In October, ICPHSO held its first meeting in Canada. The two day Toronto conference was titled “International Cooperation on Product Safety” and was co-hosted by ICPHSO, Health Canada and the Canadian Standards Association. The meeting gave participants an opportunity to discuss international efforts to coordinate product safety, including recalls performed by both CPSC in the US and Health Canada.
ICPHSO’s 8th annual International Meeting and Training Symposium returned to London, England in November, 2010. The Symposium’s theme was “Evolution of Product Safety in the EU and Beyond: The Threats it Faces and its Adaptability to the Increasingly Distended Supply Chain.” 161 delegates from around the world attended, and it was rated very favourably in evaluations.

As before, ICPHSO’s 19th Annual Meeting and Training Symposium in Orlando broke attendance records with 625 attendees from around the world. In October, the International Meeting returned to Brussels, Belgium for a symposium with the theme of setting the agenda for international collaboration.

Seoul, South Korea played host to ICPHSO’s 9th annual International Meeting and Training Symposium. The symposium, titled “Toward Global Best Practices in Product Safety and Consumer Protection,” was well attended and well received by all participants.

The 2013 Symposium, held in Crystal City, Virginia, marks the 20th anniversary of ICPHSO. Over 20 years the organization has grown and thrived into the premier organization for consumer product safety issues, hosting meetings, symposiums and programs around the world that are revered as must attend by product safety professionals. The organization wouldn’t be where it is today without the support of its current and past Presidents, its dedicated sponsors, the early pioneers of the organizations, the CPSC, and the many volunteers, among others. ICPHSO is a success because of its people—because of you. Thank you.
**meet the people**

**THE HEROES OF ICPHSO**

**Mike Drewry** – One of the founders of ICPHSO, Mike was a leader in product safety in UK and Europe. He was the head of ProSafe, the European organization of regulators. Mike was a strong supporter of ICPHSO and he helped bolster the Organization’s reach across Europe. In addition to his many contributions as a member, Mike was responsible for designing the logo.

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**John Drengenberg** - John served as the Treasurer on the Board of Directors for many years and always ensured the Organization never strayed far from its budgets. As a representative of Underwriters Laboratories (UL) John was always an exhibitor and often a speaker at ICPHSO meetings.

**David Baker and Peter Winik** - David and Peter are product safety attorneys in the Washington, D.C. area and have been responsible since 1999 for planning and executing the ABA Product Safety Law Seminars which are a highlight of the ICPHSO Annual Meeting. Attendance at the Symposium increased substantially once the ABA Seminar was introduced and the sessions are always educational, provocative and engaging. David also served as ICPHSO President in 2009.

**Bruce Farquhar** – Bruce chaired ICPHSO’s International Safety Caucus and led the development of the Bethesda Declaration, which set out the road map for ICPHSO’s international role. A former member of the Board, Bruce has also worked as a consultant to the organization in the planning and execution of ICPHSO’s very successful European symposiums. Bruce’s contacts and esteem among the community leaders in Europe have been a great resource for ICPHSO.

**David Miller** – A leader of the Toy Industry Association (TIA), David participated in the first meeting in Palm Beach. One of David’s most meaningful contributions to ICPHSO was his awareness of the need for scholarships, and he was the first person to contribute to the Organization’s scholarship fund.
David Schmeltzer – David was a steadfast supporter of ICPHSO in the early days when support from CPSC was crucial, and over the past 20 years he has continued to offer his support as an officer, speaker, moderator and friend of the organization.

Marc Schoem - Marc is currently Deputy Director, Office of Compliance and Field Operations at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. In 1999, thanks largely Marc and David Schmeltzer initiated the Annual CPSC Workshop which immediately increased attendance and has continued to draw participants to ICPHSO's Annual Symposiums. Marc has been a key member of the Board and helped to establish the Regional Training Programs.

Elizabeth Nielsen – One of only two international representatives at the first meeting, Elizabeth represented Health Canada’s Product Safety Group and was the champion of the “I” in ICPHSO. Over the years she has acted as moderator, speaker and supporter of ICPHSO. She is active in product safety standards as a consumer representative.

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Carol Pollack-Nelson - Carol assisted in the development of the ICPHSO Research Program, and also helped fund the China meeting by single-handedly raising $50,000 through sponsorships. Carol is the 2013 Chairman of the Symposium Planning Committee.
# Meet the Leaders

## Past Presidents

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**Tom Messenger** – Tom Director of the Consumer Product Safety Division for the Colorado Department of Health. At the 1993 Palm Beach meeting, he was elected first president of ICPHSO.

**Mike Brown** – Mike played a crucial role in helping to get ICPHSO off the ground, and provided invaluable knowledge of product safety and key players. Mike served as ICPHSO’s second President and has been involved in the organization over the years as workshop moderator, speaker, and, most importantly, as an ambassador.

**John Liskey** – John was an employee of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute who took an active interest in product health and safety. OPEI hosted many early ICPHSO planning meetings and John served as President for two terms.

**Ross Koeser** - Ross is the Executive Director of ICPHSO, and the heart of the organization. During his Presidency in 1997, Ross had to rebuild the organization when the original sponsorship was terminated. With the support of the Board, Ross succeeded in getting the organization incorporated as a not-for-profit entity, hired an Executive Assistant and set up a working office. Over the years, Ross has done it all.

**Alan Korn** – As the Director of Public Policy at Safe Kids Worldwide, Alan participated in all of the early planning meetings and helped set the direction for the organization and many of the Symposiums. Alan was one of the most skilled speakers and moderators of the organization.

**Mary Ellen Fise** - A revered and leading consumer advocate as the General Counsel for the Consumer Federation of America, Mary Ellen brought visibility and credibility to the organization. She was responsible for many firsts: the first consumer advocate to act as President of ICPHSO; the first female President; the proponent of the first American Bar Association (ABA) seminar; and the first to propose a concurrent workshop structure. Mary Ellen has also been a great recruiter of talent to the ICPHSO Board of Directors.

**John Kupsch** - John was a dedicated member and always ready to volunteer when a volunteer was needed. In addition to speaking at many events, he was the organization’s first Treasurer, headed the Membership Committee, and provided a blueprint for future ICPHSO investments.
Kitty Pilarz - A leading expert and speaker in product safety and standards development, Kitty ran two Symposia and served as President in 2002. Her can-do attitude, drive for accuracy and organized approach was critical to the growth of ICPHSO. She also helped establish a valuable alliance with ASTM.

Elaine Tyrrell - Elaine was ICPHSO’s 10th President and brought her expertise as a Consumer Education Specialist with CPSC to ICPHSO, helping to develop a number of marketing and communication initiatives, including the first website and the very first ICPHSO press release.

Robert Waller - A senior association management executive, Robert served as President in 2003/04 and helped to bring ICPHSO into the 21st century by creating the blueprint for its future by introducing strategic planning to the organization.

Joan Lawrence - Joan is the Vice President of Standards and Government Affairs at the Toy Industry Association. She is a current Board member and was President in 2004/05. Joan overhauled ICPHSO’s sponsorship program and achieved a fivefold increase in sponsorship. While some folks advocated for a name change, Joan’s arguments convinced the Board unanimously to stay with the unique moniker.

Rachel Weintraub - Rachel has always championed the consumer interest at ICPHSO. The Director of Product Safety at the Consumer Federation of America, Rachel has been a key member of the ICPHSO Board and served as President in 2010. She has ensured that the perspective of the consumer and injury prevention is included in the Symposium programs.

Joan Mattson - Joan is one of those standout volunteers, someone who is always willing to help without being asked. Joan ran the membership committee and was instrumental in organizing the meetings in China and Brussels. She is the 2013 President of ICPHSO.

Jeanne Bank - Jeanne is responsible for Consumer Policy at the Canadian Standards Association and was the first President from outside of the US and a strong supporter of the need for greater international focus. Jeanne’s work ethic, dedication to ICPHSO and attention to detail always led to great successes.

Jack Walsh - Jack is the Director Emeritus of Keeping Babies Safe. Jack is responsible for helping to get crib safety legislation passed in seven states and introducing the National Infant Crib Safety Act. When ICPHSO decided to hire a company to manage the organization in 1999, Jack was instrumental in leading this process.

Denise Pozen - Denise served as ICPHSO President in 2008 and was tireless in her efforts to advance the strategic plan. Denise is also largely responsible for the negotiation and contract work that brought the current management team to ICPHSO.

Kitty Pilarz - Mark is a partner with Simmons & Simmons in London. He helped lead the first International Symposium in London, but his key contribution was bringing ICPHSO to China. Mark was responsible for the initial planning and overall execution of the successful meeting in Beijing.

Jeanne Bank - Jeanne is one of those standout volunteers, someone who is always willing to help without being asked. Joan ran the membership committee and was instrumental in organizing the meetings in China and Brussels. She is the 2013 President of ICPHSO.
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

1. How would describe your involvement with ICPHSO?

On a professional level, my involvement with ICPHSO has been most beneficial and an opportunity for regulators to meet the regulated community on a more informal basis. The networking and interaction with attendees allows me to see many points of views and to hear thoughts and ideas that might not otherwise been raised. (Marc Schoem)

ICPHSO is the most important organization that I belong to. I always make sure that the Annual Symposium dates are on my calendar each year. The combination of top flight workshops and the participation of the key stakeholders, makes it the most important conference of the year. (David Baker)

I have been attending ICPHSO since the beginning, and now feel quite capable of pronouncing the name in a conversational tone. That took about 10 years, chairing the symposium and serving as president to accomplish. (Kitty Pillarz)

I was fortunate enough to be one of the people that Ross contacted when AFDO decided that the product safety portion of its organization needed to find a new home. (Mike Brown)

2. What was your most important and/or meaningful experience as a member of ICPHSO?

John Drengenberg: The most important thing to come out of my long relationship with ICPHSO is finding other people who are interested in helping to keep people safer by making consumer products safe...it is always great to see that others from other organizations around the world have a similar interest and are able to share their knowledge. (John Drengenberg)

I think organizing the international symposia and drafting the Bethesda Declaration. The discussion that led to the establishment of the ICPSC also ranks up there. (Bruce Farquhar)

It was seeing the growth in the organization and the direction that it is taking with respect to becoming more international in approach. (Elizabeth Neilsen)

Meeting so many professional friends and colleagues from different disciplines and countries time and time again, with different perspectives, converging on the same issue- consumer product safety. I also loved being the President and on the board of this brilliant organization. (Mark Dewar)

3. What was your first impression of ICPHSO?

A wonderful idea that might not succeed. (Mike Brown)

It was an organisation clear in the extensive reach of its ambition. It immediately conveyed the sense that nothing was impossible, everything achievable. This is empowering and above all else for this I owe it a huge debt of gratitude. (Mark Dewar)

I was surprised we all had the same problems. (Mike Drewry)

I was somewhat overwhelmed at the assembly of experts under one roof. (Kitty Pillarz)

It was a great opportunity to get to know the CPSC staff and talk with them about something other than Commission business. It is why networking remains one of the top reasons our members join ICPHSO and come to our Symposums. (David Baker)
4. Is there one Symposium that stands out in your mind, and why?

I think I am one of a few to have chaired two of the annual symposiums. My most memorable was the first one I chaired, when we were a much leaner organization, and I asked all the board members to refrain from eating until we were sure all the attendees had a seat. (Kitty Pillarz)

Whilst possibly London 2004 for being the first non-US event, Seoul 2011 for being simply the best Symposium to date, or even Toronto 2009 for its intimate bonhomie, it was Beijing, China—but for purely selfish reasons. I thought perhaps arrogantly that we had broken through to another level. (Mark Dewar)

The Beijing symposium stands out for me as it marked a significant breakthrough for consumer attention and because it is an area where many of the issues arise. (Doug Geralde)

The symposium we had in Florida when PROSAFE met the same week so we really had an international ICPHSO meeting (1998?). Also the first ever meeting outside the US in London at Simmons & Simmons. Mark takes the credit for making that a reality and being the godfather of the international symposia. The first one we held in Brussels was also impressive – the first time we walked into the main conference room took the breath away. (Bruce Farquhar)

5. What impact has ICPHSO had on you or your organization?

Initially I attended by myself. But today, as we have grown, there are a considerable number of my colleagues who are finding how useful ICPHSO is in helping us move forward in our long standing mission of enhancing consumer safety. (John Drengenberg)

Treating the CPSC bar as “my organization,” I would say that ICPHSO has been the forum for a greater understanding of not only CPSC, but the world-wide product health and safety movement. (Mike Brown)

As the Director of Compliance at the Commission ICPHSO meetings allowed free and open exchange of organizations and people I regulated and other State regulators. As a consumer product safety consultant and lawyer the meetings provided opportunity to meet potential new clients, old clients and government regulators. (David Schmeltzer)

Provided an opportunity to improve the knowledge of others about the Canadian programs, and to learn from others. (Elizabeth Neilsen)

6. Where would you like to see ICPHSO go in the next 20 years?

Bringing together people from all across the world with a common interest in product safety should continue and meet the new safety challenges we face in our jobs every day. The ability to actually meet and discuss these issues face to face on an informal basis is a key ingredient to the success ICPHSO has had over the last 20 years and I expect that same winning formula will continue. (Marc Schoem)

Hawaii. No wait – Paris? (Kitty Pillarz)

I would like to see greater involvement of students, researchers and consumers. (Elizabeth Neilsen)

BF: It needs to keep challenging itself so it doesn’t become the same old same old. It’s great that it has a strong identity and that it recognises the value of respecting that but it is also a fine balancing act to ensure that it stays strong and vibrant. (Bruce Farquhar)

ICPHSO continues to be a moving force in the regulation of consumer products. I would like it continue to do that, particularly in the area of international activities and focusing on the consumer safety for older citizens of the world. (David Schmeltzer)
THANK YOU

The annual ICPHSO Symposium presents an opportunity to bring experts together to share information on regulatory changes, interpretations and applicability and research. In addition to the annual symposium, the ICPHSO international conferences held outside of the US focus on regulatory information as well as one or two current areas of interest. One-day regional conferences are also offered, focused on updates from the CPSC along with current product safety interests.

ICPHSO members have online access to past conference presentations and attendee lists, enjoy discounts of up to $150 on the annual conference, and the invaluable opportunity to network with others in similar industries. Members are able to share best practices, discuss the challenges of compliance in an increasingly complex world of regulatory requirements, and meet and chat with government consumer product safety regulators from around the world in an informal setting.

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