

# The Collaborator

News from the IChemE Safety Centre | Issue One | December 2014

## Welcome

The end of our first year of operation rapidly approaches and I'm pleased to welcome you to the first issue of *The Collaborator*, the e-newsletter of the ISC. It's a fitting title, because collaboration is what the centre is all about and we are aiming to publish this newsletter every quarter to keep all members, and the broader process safety community up to date with what we have been doing in the ISC. If you have any feedback or comments on the content of this newsletter, please contact me via [safetycentre@icheme.org](mailto:safetycentre@icheme.org)

## The year that was..

2014 was a big year for the ISC and also for me personally. After 20 years spent working in industry, I made the switch to IChemE to take up the role of inaugural director of the ISC. This was a very exciting challenge. When I joined, we had an initial membership of six oil and gas companies. We ended the year with ten oil and gas companies, one chemical, and one mining and mineral processing company. There has also been a great deal of interaction with other potential operating partners across industries including food and pharmaceutical manufacture – stay tuned for developments.

From a governance perspective, we agreed a formal charter to direct our activities, appointed an independent chair to our advisory board, and held four meetings. The charter permits the inclusion of industry partners - companies that consult, contract or provide equipment to companies like the ISC's operating partners. There are now two members in this category. We also established an additional category of supporting partner, to engage with regulators and academic institutions. This is by invitation only. At the time of writing, we have two confirmed members in this category, with a number of invitations pending.

The name, 'ISC' is becoming better known in process safety circles around the world, through engagement activities and presentation of papers in Asia, Europe and the USA.

In terms of getting work done, it became apparent from the outset, that if we were to be successful in bringing different industry sectors together, we had to define a common language to use. This need led to our first body of work, a process safety framework. The framework has proved invaluable for coming together on work, as well as engaging with other organisations.



Other work underway includes the development of guidance on lead process safety metrics and a competency matrix across an organisation. These will be published in mid 2015.

We have also delivered the first member webinar, focusing on the Bhopal Tragedy, to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that tragic episode, as well as a learning workshop, where members were invited to review, present and discuss case studies.

The year ahead will be another busy one, with the attendance of Dr Sam Mannan, director of the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Centre at our May advisory board meeting as well as a member networking event, all coinciding with the Hazards Australasia Conference in Brisbane. We also have Hazards 25 in Edinburgh and Hazards Asia Pacific in Kuala Lumpur.

As well as more member webinars and workshops planned for 2015.

Stay safe...

*IRISH*

