

We would love to hear from you....

Please do contact Helen Conlin, Newsletter Editor at specialinterestgroups@icheme.org about contributing articles or providing feedback and comment on: Good practice, previous SIG events, outreach (e.g. support to Universities, other institutions), or anything else that you think our readers would find interesting.

Introduction

Welcome to the December 2022 edition of the S&LP SIG newsletter.

Please use specialinterestgroups@icheme.org to contact anyone associated with the S&LP SIG.

This issue includes articles on [Our New Chair](#), [Feedback from S&LP SIG Members](#), [University Process Safety Workshops](#), [Hazards 32](#), [MHC Process Safety Competence Project](#) and the [S&LP SIG Committee](#).

Feedback from S&LP SIG Members

We were delighted to receive several feedback items following the [July 2022 Newsletter](#) including:

- ❖ Several volunteers for the Major Hazards Committee Process Safety Competence project membership survey
- ❖ A volunteer for assisting with the University Process Safety Workshops

Thanks very much to those S&LP SIG members that provided the feedback, it is always welcomed and appreciated.

Introducing Our New Chair – Sean O’Sullivan

As the latest Chair of the Safety and Loss Prevention Subject Information Group, I am conscious of following in the footsteps of some outstanding process safety professionals and I’d like to start by thanking Andy Rushton for his contribution to steering the SIG back to health.

A few years ago, the SIG had lost its way but a vision for success, a deep enthusiasm from



members and Andy’s steady hand has enabled the group to recover and thrive. Thank you Andy, and thank you to everybody who supported the SIG on this journey.

If you are new to the Newsletter, you might be wondering what the S&LP SIG does, so let me take this opportunity explain. The key to all of IChemE’s Special Interest Groups is that they are run by members for the benefit of members. Any member can become involved with an improvement or concern about safety and loss prevention. The S&LP SIG committee can help you explore and develop a solution. We won’t necessarily solve the problem for you but we can help find the contacts and access the organisations you need to speak to. If more work is required, the S&LP SIG is a great place to start looking for others who share your passion for improvement and who may have complementary skills and experience.

This year, S&LP SIG members have been involved in multiple activities including:

- ❖ Improving process safety competence
- ❖ Collating and communicating lessons from incidents
- ❖ University process safety workshops
- ❖ Sharing case studies of 'safety is my job'
- ❖ Influencing positions and statements on risk and QRA
- ❖ Reflecting on and exploring the past and future of hazard studies including HAZOP.

If you have a passion for process safety and you want to apply it at a profession-wide level, then get involved. Share your ideas, join a working group or join the committee.

The passion of those working on the process safety competence project and a recent encounter with Chris Tighe (Senior Lecturer, Chemical Engineering at Imperial College, London) at Hazards 32 reminded me of my own journey to becoming a Process Safety Professional. Chris is a worthy successor to the late Hans Michels, a hugely respected IChemE Fellow, researcher and lecturer in process safety, who was one of the people that inspired me and changed the direction of my career.

Hans helped me to arrange a university 3rd year summer work placement and project at the Health and Safety Laboratory, and I was delighted to return on a permanent basis a year later. 19 years later, I was keen to return to HSE as an Offshore Inspector, bringing my industrial process safety knowledge from the oil industry with me.

I've always enjoyed contributing to my profession and I've managed to fit that in around my day job. More recently, I've accelerated my efforts to build my network, broaden my skills and contribute in the best way I can. Getting involved in the S&LP SIG committee and following the subjects that interest me has allowed me to do that.

For example, I recently became an associate lecturer in process safety, and although most Chemical Engineering departments only have one lecturer in that subject, I've used the process safety community to find fellow lecturers, and to engage in what the broader community think about process safety teaching.

The critical trait that I want to bring to the S&LP SIG Chair role is my genuine interest in what

others think. I want to know what our membership are interested in and what subjects they are passionate about. If I can help those aspirations be realised, I will have achieved my goal.

Please make contact to introduce yourself and your process safety goals at: specialinterestgroups@icheme.org.

University Process Safety Workshops – Update

An update to the [July 2022 Newsletter](#) article. The S&LP SIG has received interest for a further volunteer facilitator and interest in running workshops at Lancaster University and in UAE during 2023.

We would welcome interest from other academic institutions and from people keen to become involved in co-ordinating and supporting the workshops at the current and new locations.

Paul Balcombe of Queen Mary University London and Peter Hewitson of Brunel University London are happy to discuss with colleagues at other universities wishing to look at hosting the workshops. Additionally, Peter has offered use of an interactive video conferencing lecture theatre to host the plenary sessions for future international University Process Safety Workshops that are scheduled to correspond with the London based process safety workshops.

Experience running the Process Safety Workshops with Brunel University London, Queen Mary University of London and London South Bank University has demonstrated that the half day HAZOP group exercise works best if the students are already familiar with a few key topics such as:

- ❖ P&IDs and their associated equipment symbols and nomenclature
- ❖ Equipment design pressure and temperature
- ❖ Overpressure protection
- ❖ Plant layout considerations
- ❖ Materials of construction
- ❖ Safety data sheets
- ❖ Hazard identification processes (e.g. HAZID, HAZOP)
- ❖ Overview of safety case documentation, etc.

Therefore, the workshop is normally targeted at Year 3 students and scheduled in parallel with the final year design project. Feedback from university lecturers indicates that the optimal approach is to integrate some of these topics into other modules in Years 1 and 2 and revisit /refresh those learnings in the Year 3 process safety module whilst ensuring that those topics relevant to the externally-facilitated process safety workshop are revisited in the 2 weeks prior to the process safety workshop.

For more information or assistance, please contact us at specialinterestgroups@icheme.org.

Hazards 32

[Hazards 32](#) took place in Harrogate, UK between 18 and 20 October 2022.

This was the first in person Hazards conference since 2019 and multiple S&LP SIG members and committee members presented and chaired sessions during the three days.

Over 250 delegates attended, 76 papers were presented and there were five well attended plenary sessions. Short facilitated discussions were retained after each round of presentations; these used to be a standard feature at Hazards conferences and were reintroduced during the virtual conferences. There were several lively discussions during the conference with good audience participation.

MHC Process Safety Competence Project

Further information on the Process Safety Competence project was provided in the [February 2022 S&LP SIG Newsletter](#) and [July 2022 Newsletter](#).

The planned member survey is now due during January 2023 due to delays in other IChemE member communications during September to November 2022.

The discussion session at Hazards 32 exploring IChemE members' role in teaching process safety to chemical engineering undergraduates was very well attended and gave rise to 45 minutes of discussion that continued throughout the following tea and coffee break and has provided further valuable input to the project.

S&LP SIG Committee

The S&LP SIG Annual Meeting took place on 22 September 2022. Andy Rushton stood down as

Chair and Sean O'Sullivan was elected as the new Chair. All other officer roles remained unchanged.

The S&LP SIG committee last met on 31 October 2022.

Planned future S&LP SIG committee meeting dates:

- ❖ 12 December 2022
- ❖ 20 February 2023
- ❖ 20 April 2023

If you have something for the committee to consider, please contact Sean O'Sullivan, Chair, at specialinterestgroups@icheme.org.

We are grateful to those who take the time to contribute to the S&LP SIG Newsletter. Please note that content and opinions are those of the contributor(s) (or in resources accessed online) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Safety & Loss Prevention Special Interest Group Committee or the Institution of Chemical Engineers.