



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



We, at the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center appreciate the support and assistance given to us by various organizations and individuals. This support comes in many forms without which many of the activities of the Center would not be possible. A major part of the support for various programs and activities of the Center comes from annual membership dues. Organizations can become members of the Center at the Partner, Sponsor, or Advisor level. Small business and individual memberships are also available. Details about membership benefits, membership criteria, and annual dues are available on request.

The Chemical Safety Assessment Project is moving ahead with renewed vigor and direction. The first Annual Chemical Safety Assessment Report is going to the press as scheduled in the near future. Also, with the addition of Bill Effron as the Associate Director with primary responsibility for the Assessment Project, things are beginning to take off at a much higher pace. In the near future, we intend to complete the hiring process for other critical personnel including a Repository Manager and Data Analysts. As we move through these critical milestones, we would like to call on the support of the Roundtable and all stakeholders.

Other research activities of the Center are also in full bloom. Our reactive chemicals research has resulted in several publications. This includes experimental work on hydroxylamine and family of

hydroxylamine compounds. Our goal in the reactive chemicals research arena is to combine experimental and theoretical understanding of reactive chemical analyses to develop a structured approach for reactive chemical hazard management. In the aerosol research, we have completed two years of data collection on aerosol generation. The work has resulted in the publication of much needed aerosol data for heat transfer fluids. Currently, work is continuing on additional data gathering on an array of other fluids. The next phase of the aerosol research will concentrate on flammability studies. The objective is to be able to use the experimental data to further the understanding of aerosol generation mechanism for heat transfer fluids and other high flash point fluids. The advanced understanding will be used to develop aerosol correlations, determine design solutions to avoid hazardous situations, and identify potential inhibitors to prevent aerosol formation. Research is also moving ahead in other areas of interest for the Center. These include inherently safer design, abnormal situation management, quantitative risk assessment, benchmarking and measurement systems, and electrostatics.

The 2001 Symposium is also fast approaching. The program has been finalized and once again we expect two days of intense discussions and presentations on technical issues of interest in the process safety arena. We look forward to seeing you all at the Symposium on October 30-31, 2001 at the Reed Arena in College Station, Texas.

*M. Sam Mannan*

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