

# Annual Report 2008

## Annual Conference Committee

It has been a pleasure to serve as chairperson of the planning committee for the 2008 NECOEM/MaAOHN Annual Conference. Prior to the commencement of our regular monthly meetings, we carefully reviewed the comments and recommendations from those that took part in the previous conference to ensure we offered a variety of lecture topics while addressing the ongoing logistical concerns regarding the conference facility

With the 2008 conference we implemented several additional components in an effort to enhance the program. It is our hope that these efforts helped distinguish our program from years past. Most notably, "The William B. Patterson Memorial Lecture" was created to honor the vast contributions in the field of occupational and environmental medicine by the late Dr. Patterson. Additionally, with the request and collaboration of MaAOHN, a nursing track was incorporated as part of the second day of the conference to address the growing interest in the field of occupational nursing. More speakers were included in this year's faculty roster including four distinguished physicians from outside the New England area:

1. Dr. Howard Frumkin: *The Climate Change and Public Health: The Role of Environmental and Occupational Health*
2. Dr. Natalie Hartenbaum: *Commercial Driver Certification: Changes are in the Air*
3. Dr. Robert Zuroweste: *Cultural Competence and Legal Issues with Growing Immigrant Workforce*
4. Dr. Kurt Hegmann: *Excellence in Occupational and Environmental Medicine: The Art of Relearning What We Think We Already Know*

Additional lectures will be recorded this year and will be incorporated as part of our NECOEM podcast website. This will enable attendees, as well as others from all over the world, to have access to the presentations from our annual conference via the Internet.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thank you to each member of the planning committee for the ongoing collaboration of excellent ideas and support throughout the year. Specifically, my gratitude goes out to Dianne Plantamura, NECOEM Executive Director, for her tireless efforts with this year's conference. I have enjoyed working closely with Dianne and appreciate her openness to all new ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott C. Mirani, MD