

# Chrysoula J. Komis, PhD, MS, CIH, CSP, CHMM, CPEA, AIHA Fellow

## Senior Scientist and Senior Project Manager

## **Summary of Qualifications**

- 38+ years delivering industrial hygiene and safety services, working with clients in refineries, chemical plants, pharmaceuticals, foundries, chemical and biological laboratories, food facilities, healthcare, manufacturing, and construction.
- 30+ years of service with OSHA, specializing in OSHA Enforcement Programs, OSHA Compliance, OSHA Recordkeeping and Litigation Support services with the Department of Labor, Office of the Regional Solicitor.
- Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Manager and VPP Team Leader for Region III, specializing in the implementation of exemplary safety and health programs and injury reduction.
- Adept at hazard and exposure assessment techniques, chemical hazard information, hearing conservation and noise control, safety and health training, OSHA recordkeeping, ergonomics evaluations, air and noise exposure monitoring, laboratory and biosafety/health and safety audits.
- Visiting and Adjunct Professor at Temple University in the Department of Public Health and in the College of Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.
- Adjunct Professor at Drexel University in the Dornsife School of Public Health, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health.

## **Professional Certifications/Associations**

- Fellow, American Industrial Hygiene Association (June 2015)
- Certified Industrial Hygienist Comprehensive Practice American Board of Industrial Hygiene (1989-Present)
- Certified Safety Professional Comprehensive Practice Board of Certified Safety Professionals (1990-Present)
- Registered Biosafety Professional American Biological Safety Association (1998-2013) (retired)
- Certified Hazardous Materials Manager Institute of Hazardous Materials Managers (1990-Present)
- Certified Professional Environmental Auditor Health and Safety (2016)
- Member, American Academy of Industrial Hygiene (AAIH)
- Member, American Industrial Hygiene Association, & Philadelphia Chapter (AIHA) and serves on the Philadelphia Local Chapter Board of Directors
- Member, American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH)
- Member, American Biosafety Association (ABSA)



- Member, Mid-Atlantic Biological Safety Association (MABSA) Education
- Drexel University Doctor of Philosophy, Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology (1993)
- Drexel University Master of Science, Industrial Hygiene (1978)
- Marist College Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science and Biology (1976)

## **Professional Highlights**

## COLDEN CORPORATION

As a senior scientist and project manager, Dr. Komis serves as a member of the Litigation Support Practice Group where she provides litigation support to attorneys in areas of occupational safety and health and toxicology. She has extensive experience in providing expert OSHA litigation support services including conducting mock OSHA inspections and assessments for health and safety issues, onsite concurrent inspections with OSHA compliance officers, enforcement action and case settlement support, as well as management defense against OSHA citations.

In addition to litigation support, she conducts hazard assessments, safety and health compliance audits, hazard communication reviews, chemical risk assessments, emergency response evaluations, accident and near miss investigations and VPP & Safety management systems evaluations. She specializes in emergency response, biosafety, OSHA recordkeeping, machine guarding, preparing written safety and health programs, and exposure monitoring including air and noise monitoring services to assist clients in minimizing future compliance costs and liabilities.

Dr. Komis also conducts safety and industrial hygiene assessments and audits in a variety of industries including: refineries, chemicals, foundries, foods manufacturing, steel production, furniture manufacturing, glass/ceramics, construction, and biological and chemical laboratories. In that realm, she is familiar with and has used the following standards and guidelines as auditing criteria: OSHA General Industry, OSHA Construction, OSHA Recordkeeping, Executive Order 12196 29 CFR1960 Basic Program Elements for Federal Employees, ANSI, ASME, CGA, NFPA, ASHRAE and others.

Dr. Komis is an OSHA certified instructor authorized to teach the following OSHA Train-the-Trainer Classes: OSHA 30 and 10 hour Construction Safety and General Industry Classes, as well as, machine guarding classes, blood borne pathogens, respiratory protection, OSHA Recordkeeping, industrial hygiene, noise and training in many specialized subject areas as part of the Mid-Atlantic OSHA Training Centers.



#### **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION – COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS**

Dr. Komis served as the Region III Voluntary Protection Programs Manager responsible for the implementation of the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). She also served as a VPP Team Leader responsible for conducting VPP evaluations at industrial facilities performing both pre-approval and recertification evaluations. As part of her VPP activities, she conducted onsite evaluations, reviewed annual program evaluations from VPP participants, and taught numerous VPP training courses for Special Government Employees (SGEs) and VPP Application Workshops for the VPPA.

#### **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION – ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS**

As the Regional Industrial Hygiene Coordinator in Region III in Federal and State Operations, Dr. Komis was responsible for providing technical advice on adverse health effects of chemical and physical agents. She supported area offices in conducting technically complex field inspections and assisted in exposure assessments and risk characterization at a variety of work sites. She conducted internal OSHA Agency Audits to determine if OSHA National and Regional Office policies and procedures were followed.

Dr. Komis participated in special projects, prepared briefing papers, presented speeches and provided advice to the Assistant Regional Administrator on significant program, policy and technically complex health issues. She participated in settlement negotiations with the Regional Solicitor's Office in the settlement of technically difficult health cases to assure favorable settlements. As the Superfund/RCRA/Hazardous Waste and Emergency Response Coordinator, Dr. Komis conducted specialized training for compliance personnel who perform hazardous waste inspections and emergency response. She also helped draft the OSHA Compliance Directives for 1910.120 Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response.

Prior to her work as the Regional Industrial hygienist, Dr. Komis was the Philadelphia Area Office Health Supervisor/Assistant Area Director and served the Agency as a Compliance Safety and Health Officer.

- Audited many industry sectors including refineries, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, laboratories, electronics, steel, battery plants, foundries, heavy and light manufacturing.
- Conducted informal and formal settlement conferences and testified in administrative hearings regarding cited occupational hazards.

#### USDA-AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICES

Dr. Komis was the Occupational Health and Safety Manager for the Agricultural Research Service Laboratories of USDA North Atlantic Region. She was responsible for planning, organizing, directing, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive safety and health program for 13 laboratories in the North Atlantic Area including the nation's premier biosafety laboratory at Plum Island in Greenport, New York. The USDA sites, she provided safety and health services to included full-service analytical and research laboratories and extension stations.

• Program activities included accident and fire prevention, biosafety, radiation safety, chemical hygiene, ergonomics, hazard and risk assessment, industrial hygiene surveys,





asbestos abatement, indoor air quality, medical surveillance, hearing conservation and environmental compliance activities including emergency planning, community right to know, air pollution, and hazardous waste disposal. Select tasks that Dr. Komis completed at these site included:

- Auditing of chemical exposures in analytical laboratory personnel performing key analyses.
- Served on the site's safety review committee, including biosafety, which considered the safety and health impacts of all proposed research and analytical projects.
- Review of reproductive hazards to specific employees as requested by the site physician.
- Investigation of occupational illnesses and injuries as requested,
- As the Safety Committee Chair and Radiation Protection Officer, she was responsible for providing advice and guidance on radiation safety and conducted radiological safety monitoring and training.
- Participated in special projects, prepared briefing papers, provided expert advice, presented speeches and presented technical training in areas of safety and health.
- Other evaluations involving chemical synthesis and traditional food safety pilot operations, biosafety and noise exposures.

## TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, PHILADELPHIA, PA

Dr. Komis has developed courses and continues to teach in the Environmental Health/Public Health Masters and Doctoral Program. Graduate courses that she has taught in the last 20 years include: Environmental and Occupational Toxicology, Industrial Hygiene Seminar, Medical Aspects of Industrial Hygiene, Industrial Hygiene Sampling Methods/Analytical Instrumentation Laboratory, and Industrial Safety. She also teaches undergraduate courses in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department which include: Environmental & Construction Safety and Introduction to the Environment. She serves as advisor to students on course selection, career development and on curriculum matters. Dr. Komis has served as the academic doctoral and masters thesis advisor to many students.

## DREXEL UNIVERSITY, PHILADELPHIA, PA

Dr. Komis has developed and continues to teach courses in Exposure Assessment - Industrial Hygiene Sampling Methods/Analytical Instrumentation Laboratory in the Master's Program of the Dornsife School of Public Health in the Department of Environmental Health and Occupational Health Masters at Drexel University in Philadelphia. She also provides guidance and advice to students on course selection, career development and on curriculum matters.



## **Additional Experience**

**Hazard Assessment -** Completed numerous hazard-specific assessments. She performed safety and industrial hygiene assessments in refineries, foundries, foods manufacturing, steel production, furniture manufacturing, chemical and petrochemical, glass/ceramics, construction, and biological and chemical laboratories among others.

**Safety and Health Auditing** - Performed regulatory, OSHA Voluntary Protection Program and good practice audits at many types of facilities including NASA, US Postal Service and US Army sites, foundries, paper and wood product manufacturing, food manufacturing, truck manufacturing, steel bridge and concrete plants. Other types of industries audited include chemical, refineries, plastics, and waste management, furniture, apparel and assembly facilities.

**Chemical Hazard Information** - Provided outreach and current information on the toxic and physical hazards associated with workplace chemicals.

**Occupational Safety and Health Program Evaluation -** She has assisted companies interested in the VPP to create facility-specific safety and health management programs. Program development topics have included hazard communication, specific toxic substances, OSHA recordkeeping, respiratory protection, OSHA laboratory standard compliance, personal protective equipment, lock out/tag out of energy sources, confined space entry, emergency response, bloodborne pathogens, fall protection, ergonomics, industrial noise, and others.

**Biosafety Experience** - As a Registered Biosafety Professional, Dr. Komis conducted audits of biological laboratory facilities to evaluate work practices designed to confine organisms containing human and animal pathogens, including: viruses, bacteria, fungi, parasites, blood components and products, tissues and body fluids, cultured cells and potentially infectious agents these cells may contain, infected animals and animal tissues. Evaluations were completed and reports were written for compliance with federal and state regulations and laboratory best practices and to reduce the potential for exposure to laboratory workers, persons outside of the laboratory, and the environment.

**Ergonomics Evaluations -** Performed ergonomic risk assessments and helped facilities to reduce risk factors associated with ergonomic hazards. She has provided guidance to companies with developing and implementing ergonomic programs that have lead to significant reduction in ergonomic related injury and illness.

**Safety and Industrial Hygiene Training -** Prepares and presents program implementation training for employees and management. Training has been provided on many aspects of safety and health. Dr. Komis has provided VPP Application Workshop training, training to Special Government Employees (SGEs) on becoming VPP Team members. She has also provided training to OSHA personnel on VPP safety and health program procedures. Lastly, as a college professor of occupational health and safety at Temple University, she has taught courses and many aspects of industrial hygiene and safety.



### **Presentations and Publications**

Dr. Komis has been honored to speak and present at esteemed seminars on industrial hygiene and occupational health for organization including the American Industrial Hygiene Association, University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, Millersville University, and Stockton College.

As a frequent presenter for the Region III Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association (VPPPA), Dr. Komis has been asked to present at their annual conferences since 2000. Participation has included being an instructor for the VPP Application Workshop and Special Government Employee 3-day training class. She has presented on a variety of subjects including VPP Annual Self-Assessments, VPP Recertification evaluations, OSHA 101 for the VPP, Contractor Participation in the VPP, and Employee Involvement in safety and health programs. Dr. Komis was selected to present Voluntary Protection Program Overviews at the AIHA Philadelphia chapter, AIHA Delaware chapter, and ASSE Philadelphia chapter associations.

**Komis, C.J.** "Exposure Assessment of Workers at Hazardous Waste Sites Based on Concurrent Environmental Monitoring and Breath Sampling." Dissertation presentation at Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, 1993.

**Komis, C.J.** "Exposure Assessment of Workers at Hazardous Waste Sites Based on Concurrent Environmental Monitoring and Breath Sampling." Presented at the American Industrial Hygiene Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, 1993.

**Komis, C.J.**, Scott, B.F. "The Regulatory Framework: Occupational Safety and Health Administration." Asbestos: The Hazardous Fiber, (Ed): Melvin A. Benarde, CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida, (1990).