

BIRMINGHAM 'INTRODUCTION TO WORKPLACE RESPIRATORY HEALTH SURVEILLANCE' COURSE

Course Overview

This new 1-day course on workplace respiratory health surveillance has been created by the Oasys team, facilitators of the successful and well-established Birmingham ARTP Occupational Asthma Course. It is offered to anyone with an interest in workplace aspects of respiratory health or health surveillance – including occupational health practitioners and managers, occupational physicians, respiratory medicine specialists, primary care healthcare professionals, and respiratory physiologists. The course covers the legal basis for health surveillance, fundamentals of linked respiratory diseases (asthma, COPD, silicosis), case-based approach to spirometry, choosing respiratory questionnaires, implementing and evaluating health surveillance programmes for respiratory sensitizers and crystalline silica, assessing longitudinal lung function decline. It does not assume that participants have a working knowledge of spirometry.

Location

The course will be held face-to-face at the Exchange, 3 Centenary Square, Birmingham B1 2DR (part of the University of Birmingham).

Date

7th November 2025

Costs

1-day course: £150. ARTP members £120

Target Audience

Anyone with an interest in workplace aspects of respiratory health or health surveillance – including occupational health practitioners and managers, occupational physicians, respiratory medicine specialists, primary care healthcare professionals, and respiratory physiologists.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course delegates will:

1. Define occupational asthma, COPD, silicosis, and other key work-related respiratory conditions, and explain their main causes and diagnostic characteristics.
2. Demonstrate how to perform and interpret spirometry, and take appropriate action when results are abnormal.
3. Use respiratory health questionnaires effectively to identify workers at risk.
4. Explain the purpose and process of respiratory health surveillance (HS) for sensitising agents (asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis) and for silicosis.
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of workplace control measures (e.g. ventilation, respiratory protective equipment) in preventing lung disease.
6. Analyse longitudinal lung function data to monitor respiratory health over time.
7. Implement and evaluate a respiratory health surveillance programme, including the use of spirometry and respiratory questionnaires.
8. Outline the regulatory framework for workplace respiratory health surveillance, and explain the legal and compensation aspects of occupational asthma and other work-related respiratory conditions.

Activity Evaluation

The course will be delivered using a mixture of lectures, interactive case-studies, group work and open discussion.

Speakers and Tutors

GW	Gareth Walters	Consultant in Occupational Respiratory Medicine
CH	Chris Huntley	Consultant in Occupational Respiratory Medicine
ER	Emily Rawle	Consultant in Occupational Medicine
EH	Emma Hirons	Specialty Registrar in Occupational Medicine
VM	Vicky Moore	Clinical Scientist in Occupational Respiratory Health
SW	Sam Wallbanks	Clinical Scientist in Occupational Respiratory Health
SS	Steven Sadhra	Professor in Occupational Health

Course Support

Administration	Gareth Walters
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Course Programme

0900-0915	Welcome and introduction	GW
0915-0945	Legal framework for lung health and safety at work	GW
0945-1030	Occupational asthma, COPD and silicosis	CH
	<i>Coffee break</i>	
1045-1200	Performing and interpreting spirometry	VM
1200-1230	Respiratory questions and questionnaires	GW
	<i>Lunch</i>	
1315-1400	Overview of respiratory HS for sensitizing agents (asthma, HP)	ER
1400-1430	Overview of respiratory HS for silicosis	EH
1430-1500	Assessing effectiveness of control measures (ventilation and RPE) for work-related lung disease	SS
	<i>Coffee break</i>	
1515-1545	Measuring longitudinal lung function decline	SW
1545-1630	Implementing a respiratory HS programme, and how to deal with surveillance failures	ER
1630-1645	Summary and close	All

Speaker Biographies

Dr Gareth Walters BSc, Med, MD, DOccMed, FRCP, FHEA

Dr Walters is the Director of the Birmingham Regional NHS Occupational Lung Disease Service based at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (Birmingham Chest Clinic). He has an active role in undertaking workplace visits, and has previously undertaken workplace bronchial challenges and specific inhalational challenges to occupational agents. His research interests include the early identification of occupational asthma, and to this end he is an Hon. Associate Professor in Applied Health Sciences at University of Birmingham. He is a keen research writer and also manages others' research. He is a trained educationalist and Member of the Academy of Medical Educators.

Dr Christopher Huntley MRCP(UK), MBChB.

Chris is a NHS Consultant in Occupational and Interstitial Lung Diseases. He is a Member of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and has obtained his Specialty Certificate Examination in Respiratory Medicine. Chris joined the Birmingham Occupational Lung Disease Service in August 2019 and has been completing his PhD at the University of Birmingham. He is currently leading the SANDSTONE Study, looking at occupational causes of sarcoidosis, hosted by the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust. He is also a Clinical Tutor at University of Birmingham leading elements of the MSc in Respiratory Medicine

Dr Vicky Moore BSc, MSc (Occupational Health), PhD

Dr Moore Is a clinical scientist who specialises in the interpretation of serial peak expiratory flow records (using the Oasys system) for occupational asthma, workplace visits and previously in specific inhalation challenge testing. She runs clinics in occupational asthma with the team and at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire. She completed her PhD entitled "Development and validation of a diagnostic tool for occupational asthma based on serial lung function measurements" in 2010. Her enthusiasm for research has continued. She is also the current Chair of ARTP Education.

Dr Emily Rawle BSc MBChB MRCP(UK) MFOM

Dr Rawle is a Consultant in Occupational Medicine. She has completed her MFOM examinations and her dissertation for the MSc in Occupational Medicine at the University of Manchester. She has experience working in Occupational Medicine in both NHS Trusts and in Industry. She has provided medical advice to surveillance programmes within these organisations. She previously trained in general medicine.

Dr Emma Hirons MB ChB DOccMed DRCOG MRCGP

Dr Hirons is Specialty Registrar in Occupational Medicine in the West Midlands, currently working with University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and with Health Partners Group. She has an interest in respiratory aspects of occupational medicine and health, and prior to training as an occupational physician she trained as a general practitioner.

Mr Samuel Wallbanks BSc MSc

Samuel Wallbanks is a current Clinical Scientist in Respiratory and Sleep Physiology working across Birmingham Heartlands Hospital and Birmingham Chest Clinic. After completing the Scientist Training Programme in 2023, he now undertakes much of the serial peak flow analysis using the OASYS system and is routinely involved in occupational workplace visits and challenge testing.

Prof. Steven Sadhra PhD, MFOH, CMIOSH, FFOM (Hon.), FSOM (Hon.), FHEA

Prof Sadhra has over 30 years' experience in teaching and conducting research in occupational health. He was Director of the University of Birmingham's Occupational and Environmental Medicine Department, and led its MSc in Occupational Health, until 2019. He has published more than 150 peer reviewed journal papers, consultancy reports for international organisations, books and books chapters. He is the lead editor of the Oxford Handbook of Occupational Health, published by Oxford University Press (OUP). He is one of three facilitators running the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (FOM, London) Diploma in Occupational Medicine course (for doctors) and Diploma in Occupational Health practice (for nurses).

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COURSE 7th NOVEMBER 2025

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and return to Gareth Walters - e-mail: gareth.walters@uhb.nhs.uk

Title	
First Name	
Surname	
Job Title	
Workplace	
Address	
Email address	
Telephone number	

Registration including lunch and refreshments during the course (delete as appropriate)	
Y / N	Non-ARTP member course rate (£150)
Y / N	ARTP member course rate (£120). ARTP registration number (required):

Dietary Requirements:

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment is via an online link which will be sent to you on receipt of your registration form

Unfortunately, we are unable to issue invoices therefore payment is via credit/debit card only.

Please tell us how you heard about the course

Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be received in writing by post or email

Cancellations before 28th October 2025 will be subject to a £20 administration charge; no refunds after 28th October 2025 will be given.