Workshop on Nickel Dermatitis:
Facts, Understanding, and Prevention

TIME: Thursday, June 23, 2016 – all day
LOCATION: Chicago, Illinois

BACKGROUND

Nickel is a well-known allergen and one of the most common causes of allergic contact dermatitis in many parts of the world. Approximately 12-15% of women and 1-2% of men in North America are allergic to nickel. While this rate is consistent with the percentage of nickel allergic people for combined age groups in Europe, there has been a significant decrease in the number of young people (less than 30 years old) that are allergic to nickel in several European countries since legislation was instituted limiting nickel release in articles in direct and prolonged contact with the skin. However, prevalence rates remain non-negligible, even in the young population. Similar regulation does not exist in North America. Regardless of regulation, raising awareness and public education by communicating accurate information is critical to effectively reduce nickel allergic contact dermatitis (NACD) reactions worldwide. In order to share knowledge between stakeholders and better understand the perspectives of the numerous groups interested in nickel dermatitis, as well as promote communication, the Nickel Institute and its science branch, NiPERA Inc. (Nickel Producers Environmental Research Association) are organizing a stakeholders’ workshop. This workshop will discuss:

- prevalence of nickel dermatitis in North America;
- science of nickel dermatitis;
- integrating existing knowledge; and
- communication strategies to decrease the prevalence of nickel dermatitis.

The workshop will provide a timely opportunity for interested parties to share their views and experiences as well as their concerns and expectations regarding communication and prevention strategies to decrease prevalence of nickel dermatitis in North America. This follows a Brussels stakeholder workshop in June 2015. (https://www.nickelinstitute.org/HealthScienceEnvironmentalScienceAndSafeUse/HumanHealthScience/NACD.aspx).

The participants will be provided with a complete overview of all dimensions around the issue of nickel allergic contact dermatitis, including history of prevalence, the science, challenges, and next steps. The workshop will also inform about the many beneficial properties of nickel and nickel-containing materials and their vital role in a wide range of applications.
The objective of the workshop is threefold:

- To provide a historical overview of the prevalence of nickel allergy in North America and Europe;
- To review the science involved in nickel allergy;
- To openly discuss with stakeholders their practical experiences, challenges, concerns and expectations; and
- To inform stakeholders on the Nickel Institute’s activities and its new scientific research projects.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The workshop is open to all parties interested in nickel allergic contact dermatitis and its prevention in North America: regulators, dermatologists, toxicologists, allergists, metallurgists, representatives from trade associations, businesses, research institutes, and academia.

REGISTRATION

To receive information on how to register, please send an e-mail to dermatitis.workshop@nickelinstitute.org.

ABOUT THE NICKEL INSTITUTE

Nickel Institute (NI) (www.nickelinstitute.org) is the global association of the world’s primary nickel producers. Our mission is to promote and support the use of nickel in appropriate applications. NI grows and supports markets for new and existing nickel applications including stainless steel; and promotes sound science, risk management, and socio-economic benefit as the basis for public policy and regulation. Through our science division NiPERA Inc. (www.nipera.org), we also undertake leading edge scientific research relevant to human health and the environment. NI is the center of excellence for information on nickel and nickel-containing products and has offices in Asia, Europe, and North America.

Additional information on nickel allergic contact dermatitis is available from Nickel Institute communications:

- https://www.nickelinstitute.org/en/HealthScienceEnvironmentalScienceAndSafeUse/HumanHealthScience/NACD.aspx
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Chairperson: Dr. David Basketter

1. Welcome and introduction
   Setting the scene and aim of the Workshop
   Introduction of speakers

2. Overview of the issue
   History and present NACD prevalence in North America
   History and present NACD prevalence in Europe

3. Properties and applications of nickel
   Physico-chemical properties
   Uses
   Corrosion process

4. Nickel sensitization process
   Nickel sensitization mechanism
   Existing data
   Research

5. Clinician perspective
   NACD in general population
   NACD in children
   NACD and implants

6. Market perspective
   Each presenter to address:
   - How and why nickel is used in products
   - Importance of nickel
   - Achievements, challenges and concerns of businesses
   - Effects of European nickel restriction
   - Best practices

7. Path forward
   Industry communication role
   Clinician communication role
   Product/legal/regulatory perspective

8. Panel discussion—Q&A
   What information or help is needed from different stakeholder groups to assist in resolving the issue?
   What can be learned from the European experience?
   Questions from workshop participants for panel members
   Next steps

9. Conclusions

This program subject to modifications