

Call for Presentations

21st Audit Conference

Augusta, GA, October 11-12, 2012

The world has become increasingly flat and most organizations no longer have the luxury of deciding whether or not to do business abroad. If you want to stay competitive and remain viable as a company you must be able to effectively conduct business globally. Auditors have no choice but to get on board and are often thrust into situations with which they are totally unfamiliar and have had no prior training. This year we are bringing you a unique perspective by partnering with the Quality Management, Biomedical and Design and Construction Divisions.

The conference committee is looking for tools and techniques that can help auditors navigate this unknown territory. Share your best practices, successes, and proven techniques with an audience representing diverse backgrounds, countries, and industries. Below are the themes for this conference. Select one of the following themes for your presentation.

Managing Diversity and Cultural Differences: As the world becomes flatter and companies expand into all areas of the globe, auditors must be prepared to audit in unfamiliar locations. Preparation is key, not only for the audit itself but also in understanding cultural differences that may affect the audit process and the outcome. What advice can you give to auditors who are preparing to audit global organizations? What potential issues should we be aware of? What are some of the cultural differences unique to a particular country or culture that may potentially impact our audit? How do we prepare, what communication issues will we encounter? What tools can we use?

Best Practices in Managing Risk: Technology has erased global barriers and made communication instantaneous. Interlocking global economies require constant monitoring of international events that can affect local business conditions. How can audit leaders use the audit function to help their organizations manage and minimize risk and drive change?

Changing Technology: How has the economy impacted the auditing organization globally? How has company spending changed? Recession has increased the demands on many internal audit departments as they have become involved in risk and cost reduction programs. The audit program can become the global standard for the preparation of the company's regulatory and compliance programs. Who better to help apply these new standards? How will technology impact the roles of training, system implementation, and project management in the auditing organization?

Virtual Teams: Because more and more organizations have global offices it is often more cost effective to have auditors in those locations instead of incurring the costs associated with sending auditors to various locations. An audit manager is now faced with managing a virtual audit team that requires a different type of management style. Tell us how we can best manage a virtual audit team. What is important? Is it technology, or sophisticated data storage and retrieval systems? What differences in managing a virtual team should an effective leader understand and how should they be handled. How can we adjust for lack of face to face contact? How can we communicate virtually? What are some of the problems encountered with virtual communication? What can the team do to help?

Implementing Techniques: Would you like to share a successful implementation of a management or leadership technique that enabled an organization to stay competitive in a global economy? Do you have a presentation related to management or leadership that is associated to any of the topics described above? If so, please help spread the learning by sharing your experience.

Strategic Planning: This "focus area" is dedicated to quality systems, issues, and audits for the Design & Construction industries. Sessions on the needs, resources, attributes, and methodologies of the industries will be addressed. Specific details will be added at a later date.

Globalization of Requirements: Efforts to harmonize Quality and Compliance standards globally in the Medical Device, Diagnostics and Pharmaceutical industries. Advances have been made to apply proven Quality management practices in these industries over the last few years. Consistency across industries is the formula for success.

Pre Conference Tutorials:

Share your knowledge and experience. Proposals for one, two and three day pre-conference tutorials to be conducted on **October 8-10, 2012** are also being accepted. Submissions should be a maximum of two pages, include presenter(s) name(s) and contact information, demonstrate how the tutorial will benefit the attendees and enhance their auditing or related skills and knowledge. All proposals must be received before **March 1, 2012**. Printed brochures will not be considered.

Session Presenter Information:

Abstracts are required of every speaker/presenter. Abstracts must be received by **March 1, 2012**. The abstracts (about ½ pages) should indicate the presenter(s) name(s), contact information, proposed focus area (see above), recommended knowledge level (beginner, intermediate, advanced) and a brief description of the presentation content. No presentation will be considered without an abstract.

All accepted speakers will be notified by **April 15, 2012**.

All speakers will be required to prepare a PowerPoint® presentation to conform to requirements of the Division (written papers are optional). Submissions of both papers and presentations will be due **July 1, 2012**.

Session Presenters will receive one (1) complimentary conference registration for their presentation. All Session Presenters will be responsible for their hotel and transportation arrangements and expenses.

Point of Contact: Send all abstract and tutorial proposals to:

Nancy Boudreau
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Sponsorship Opportunities

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Point of Contact for Sponsorship Opportunities

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