

# Newsletter

**October 14, 2010**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

In the next two months, we will be experiencing some exciting events that we hope you will consider taking part in...

### **CXLT CLASS - CHARLOTTE, NC**

First, on November 2, 2010, we will be conducting the next CXLT Program for all interested participants. The last program was considered highly successful, with expanded science and extensive hands-on instruction with the instrument.

It is interesting to note that not only have there been first time CXLT program participants, but very experienced XL users who wanted a refresher as well as CXLT's who chose to retake the course and the test to maintain their current status. Of course, we encourage anyone who owns an XL who has never taken the program to please do so in order to ensure your compliance with both the understanding of the science and principles of metering as well as proper and accurate use of the XL VIT. Please consider the importance of your participation.

This next class will be held at the Comfort Inn Executive Park, West Park Drive, Charlotte, NC 28217, (704) 525-2626. A room block is available at the rate of \$59.99 for November 1 and/or November 2. The cut-off for the room rate is October 18. Please make your reservations immediately to guarantee this rate and to reserve your spot as a participant in the CXLT Program.

A free shuttle is available from the airport, and rooms include a breakfast in the lobby.

Holding the CXLT certification assures your **recognition and respect** as an expert who is knowledgeable, competent, and proficient in walkway safety and in the use of the XL VIT. Anyone who wants to perform a competent risk assessment of a walkway, or flooring and footwear products, needs to establish a strong foundation in the principles of safety engineering, the sciences of walkway safety, the scientific and mechanical aspects of the available slipmeters, and the effects of reasonably foreseeable variables on the performance of slipmeters. The certification also shows the CXLT had extensive hands-on instruction in the

proper use of the XL Variable Incidence Tribometer and proved his or her proficiency with the most respected slip meter.

Make sure you review the **updated and expanded** CXLT Certification Program described on the EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC website. Also please keep in mind on-site programs are available if you are one of the many organizations that have a large staff who are interested in tribometry and walkway safety.

### ***PRESICION AND BIAS TESTING***

Secondly, on November 20 and 21, 2010, at the biomusculoskeletal research laboratory at the University of Southern California in Pasadena, EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC will be participating in an event to reaffirm the precision and bias of the XL VIT. In order to accomplish this process, we are looking for participants to operate, record and witness the testing on eight tribometers. If you would like to participate, please contact Peter Widas at 757 897-2853 for further details, and so we can coordinate your availability and assignments.

The current schedule and protocol is for EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC to have our equipment and operators together by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. On Saturday, we will run through the current [XL VIT User Guide](#) (click to view) for about ½ hour to assure everyone is using the current methods and equipment similarly, and then allow the participants to practice any newly learned techniques.

EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC will provide all XL VIT equipment, and all standard supplies for the VIT testing, i.e. machines, test feet, CO2, sandpaper, brushes, and wetting bottles.

All test surfaces will be tested dry before any wet testing takes place. Because the VIT requires significantly less time to perform testing, rather than just waiting, the VIT will be testing two feet during each testing cycle; one smooth, one grooved.

### **Test Foot Calibration**

Recent contact from users has created a heightened awareness of the criticality of proper sanding and keeping the sandpaper square with the test foot to prevent rounding of the test foot surface. The VIT is an instrument that is sensitive to the critical parameters and characteristics that most accurately represent slip and fall injury risk in human ambulation, for the at-risk population. Yes, the test foot could be larger, but then the heel contact area of real people who fall would not be represented. Yes, the test foot could be grooved to eliminate sensitivity to smooth hard surfaces. However, metering smooth hard surfaces is where your

tribometer better be most sensitive. Smooth hard surfaces are the highest slip and fall injury risk material, as we all know. Also, worn footwear where the shoe contact area is smooth is represented in a preponderance of slip and fall injury events. A grooved test foot may not be representative.

As a reminder, if your XL VIT is in sound condition, if the slip meter instrument is properly calibrated, if the test foot is properly calibrated, and if you use your slipmeter according to the XL VIT User Guide, then you will be assured of accurate and reliable testing results with the XL VIT.

Use extra care when you calibrate your test foot. First, make sure your XL VIT is current with its annual instrument calibration and refurbishing. Annual instrument calibration and refurbishing is not the same as test foot calibration. Extensive recent testing and research has shown test foot calibration must be performed before each metering episode, not only for the XL VIT, but for any tribometer that uses Neolite ® as the test foot material.

We look forward to your participation in both these important events.

George P. Widas, PE, CSP, CXLT, President and CEO, and  
Peter Widas, BSMSE, CXLT, Vice President, Chief Operating Officer

EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC  
160 Tymberbrook Drive  
Lyman, SC 29365

757 897-2853  
888 804-3727 fax

[pwidas@EXCELTRIBOMETERS.com](mailto:pwidas@EXCELTRIBOMETERS.com)

[www.EXCELTRIBOMETERS.com](http://www.EXCELTRIBOMETERS.com)

© EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. You may print off any information on this Web Site for your personal use, but no part of these documents may be otherwise reproduced in part or in full in other publications without the express, written approval of EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC.