

# Meet CSHEMA Volunteer Ryan Lisk



## **Title:**

Director, Biological and Chemical Safety

## **Institution:**

UTSouthwestern Medical Center

## **Current leadership role in CSHEMA:**

Co-Chair of the Professional Development Committee

## **How long have you worked in EHS?**

13+ years in various roles

## **How did you get into EHS?**

A fresh out of college grad looking for a job that paid more than my paltry earnings in the restaurant business and something I could do with my Biology degree. Little did I know being hired as a Safety Specialist at Georgia Tech would turn into a career.

## **How long have you worked at your current institution?**

4+ months

## **Best career advice?**

Keep building networking relationships as sometimes you can't see it when the cornerstone is being laid that sooner or later turns into an architectural masterpiece. Always remember there's room for improvement on any aspect of your game as a professional.

## **What is the biggest problem you face at your institution?**

With a customer base in both the research and health care settings, getting the proper training, support services and communication(s) to all of our customers is one of our biggest challenges.

## **Proudest professional accomplishment so far?**

The opportunity to lead the Biological Safety, Chemical Safety, and Environmental Compliance teams at UTSouthwestern Medical Center.

## **Where do you see yourself in five years?**

Continuing and growing my role as a Safety Professional here at UTSouthwestern and helping to grow the Office of Safety and Business Continuity.

## **What do you think the future of the EHS profession will look like?**

Continuing the shift from being looked at as the safety police to being a crucial partner and support service to our campus customers. We must be prepared for a continued influx of researchers into safety and how that helps evolve our service and perception to the campuses we serve.

## **How has being a member of CSHEMA benefited you/your institution?**

Presents excellent continuing education opportunities. More importantly, the networking relationships and friendships formed with colleagues who can empathize with the professional hurdles we all face in higher education safety is impossible to put a value on.

## **Hobbies?**

Spending time with the people I love; doing almost any outdoor activity; playing tennis; vinyl/listening to music; reading books/researching cold-war era history/JFK; craft beer; video games; traveling; Peaky Blinders; documentaries; college football; Atlanta Braves baseball; sports and history podcasts.

## **Areas of expertise?**

Chemical safety; environmental programs; indoor air quality; customer service.