Plenary presentation
“Learning Lessons Today for Safety Tomorrow”

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“Why are we not learning our lessons?” is a phrase one hears often in discussions around chemical accident risk.

This presentation looks at the question differently. It is not about learning lessons; it is about understanding our risks. Technology, people, organisations and economic and social factors all influence risk and are also always changing. We cannot predict the future and so we cannot necessarily predict the lessons we should learn today that will prevent an accident tomorrow.

This presentation extracts findings from data, case studies and experiences to highlight some of the things that we already do know about our chemical accident risk that might help us in shaping a strategy for chemical risk management in a somewhat unknown future.