



**ICOH**

International Commission on Occupational Health

# NEWSLETTER



**CIST**

Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail

Volume 22 · Number 2  
August 2024

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## Message from the President



**Dear ICOH colleagues,**

This is the first newsletter since the new Triennium began after the successful conclusion of the ICOH 2024 Marrakesh Congress on April 3, 2024. On behalf of all newly elected officers, I extend my gratitude to all members for entrusting us with the responsibility to serve ICOH for the current Triennium from 2024 to 2026. Additionally, we appreciate your active participation in the election of the new officers and board, as well as the selection of Rome as the venue for the 2030 Congress.

We, the officers –myself (President), Martin Hogan and Shyam Pingle (Vice Presidents), and Diana Gagliardi (Secretary General) –will do our best to promote ICOH activities, improve communication among members, and facilitate collaboration with other organizations and associations.

### ICOH Congress

The 2024 Marrakesh Congress has successfully concluded with your support. Approximately 1,300 participants enjoyed a week-long Congress in the historic North African city of Marrakesh, Morocco. First of all, I extend my appreciation to the Congress President, Professor Abduljalil El Kholti, Professor at University Casablanca Hassan II, and his team for their endless work and heartfelt sincerity during the preparation and management of the Congress. Although the number of participants was smaller than in previous Congresses, the event was a wonderful opportunity to gather members and professionals of occupational health and safety from around the world.



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Occupational Health



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## NEWSLETTER

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### ICOH Newsletter

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translated into other languages and disseminated  
among ICOH members.

When the city of Marrakesh won the bid for the 2024 Congress on the fourth attempt during the 2018 Dublin Congress, some concerns were raised among members regarding the capability to manage the event. However, with six years of preparation and strong support from the Secretariat in Rome, the Congress was successfully concluded despite the 2-3 year obstacle posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The detailed information about the Congress is reported by Ms. Claudina Nogueira, the Vice President for the Triennium 2018-2023, in the following article. She has summarized the Congress so well that even those members who could not attend in person can feel as if they were there. Claudina has done a wonderful job, as she has served as Vice President for the previous two Triennia.

Now, it is time to start preparing for the next Congress, which will be held in Mumbai, India, from February 14 to 19, 2027. This period is an ideal time to visit India before the hot weather sets in.

### General Assembly and Board meetings

According to the Constitution, Byelaws, and tradition, the General Assembly, board, and officers' meetings were held before and after the Congress. The board for the previous Triennium met before the Congress to approve reports, address other matters, and review bids for the venue of the 2030 Congress. The board meeting of newly elected members was held the day after the Congress to approve the work plan for the current Triennium.

The first General Assembly was held before the opening in the afternoon on the first day of the Congress. Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut, who was Vice President, was awarded a lifetime achievement award for her long-standing contribution. She gave an inspiring speech about her passion for global occupational health online, as she couldn't attend the Congress in person.

The second General Assembly was held in the afternoon on the final day of the Congress. Newly elected officers and board members, elected by online vote, were introduced, and Rome, Italy, was announced as the venue for the 2030 Congress, as decided by the vote during the Congress.

The WHO Collaboration Centre ([link here](#)) meeting was held before the Congress, as is tradition. ICOH is in official working relations with WHO and enjoys participating in the WHO CC as an active partner.

## ICOH Congress Proceedings

The Congress Proceedings ([link here](#)) were published as a supplement to Occupational Medicine-Oxford (2023 Impact Factor: 2.4), following the tradition of being published in an SCIE journal. The Proceedings of the 2027 Mumbai Congress will also be published in one of the major occupational health journals.

## ICOH Marrakesh Declaration

During the Congress, the ICOH Marrakesh Declaration on occupational health was adopted as the product of the Policy Forum. Jorma Rantanen, the former President, made a draft, which was reviewed by officers and approved by the Board. The Declaration ([link here](#)) expressed the commitment of ICOH to take action for the development of occupational health, well-being, work ability and decent work and life for all workers of the world. The Declaration has been published in the Safety and Health at Work (SH@W) (2023 Impact Factor: 3.5).

## New ICOH Officers for Scientific Committees (SCs) and National/Area Secretaries (NSs)

Many SCs are now processing the election of new leadership: Chairs and Secretaries. NSs are being elected in each country/area. As members are aware, the election must be conducted in a democratic manner as outlined in the Byelaws. All members of SCs or country/area can participate in the election process, and the process must be communicated to all members, even if there is no election due to only one nominee or a 2nd term service.

The main role of the officers of SCs is to organize international scientific conferences. To maintain the SCs, at least one international conference must be organized.

I would like to ask SCs to contact the NS and the Board in the respective country/area when organizing an international conference. This collaboration will enhance the activities of SCs with the support of the country/area.

## International Labour Conference

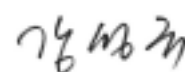
ICOH is an international non-government organization (NGO), recognized by the United Nations and in official working relations with ILO and WHO. ICOH was invited to deliver a keynote at the Plenary Sitting of the 112th International Labour Conference that was held in Geneva on 3-14 June 2024. I gave a 5 min-speech at the Plenary ([link here](#)) about global responsibility for workers' health with the title of "The Road for the Decent Work together with Healthy Workers. ([link here](#))" Jukka Takala, Past President, give a talk at the Committee of Biological Risks, because he and his team made a draft of the ILO Convention for Biological Risk ([link here](#)).

## GISHW2025 at the OSAKA EXPO

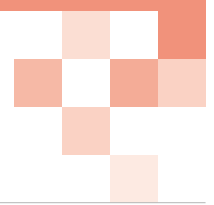
The Global Initiative for Safety, Health & Well-Being at the EXPO2025 and Beyond (GISHW [link here](#)) is being organized from July 16 to 19, 2025, in Osaka, Japan. Most organizations related to occupational health and safety, including the ILO and WHO, will participate in the GISHW. ICOH has proposed an international conference with the theme of "Climate Change and Workers' Health: Construction and Migrant Workers" on July 18, 2025. ICOH members will benefit from a 30% reduced registration fee, which includes access to all the EXPO exhibitions.

ICOH was established during the 1906 Milan EXPO; however, since then, there has been no relationship between the OSH community and EXPO. This event is a good opportunity for OSH communities to engage with the public. Please stay updated with the news on the website (ICOH or GISHW) if you plan to visit the 2025 EXPO in Osaka, Japan.

**Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang**  
President of ICOH



# News from the Secretary General



**Dear ICOH members,**

The 34th ICOH Congress was conducted at the Palais des Congrès in Marrakesh, Morocco, from April 28 to May 3, 2024. It has been the first opportunity to meet in presence since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a very demanding and challenging event, whose organization required huge commitment and work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all ICOH members who attended the ICOH2024 Congress and contributed to its success, exploring the latest trends in occupational health, and actively participating in discussions and sessions.

The ICOH2024 Congress represented an excellent chance to engage in the activities carried out by ICOH and showcased an outstanding programme with a Keynote by Elisabete Widerpass (IARC Director), 10 plenary sessions, 32 semi-plenary sessions and a rich variety of topics presented in special sessions and oral and poster presentation sessions. Participants were also invited to actively participate, discuss and reflect further on the theme of the Global Policy Forum, namely: 'Strategies to improve occupational health and safety policies and implementation in low-and middle-income countries'.

Two partial scholarships were assigned to two ICOH members from LMICs to attend the ILO Master in Occupational Safety and Health at the ILO-ITC in Turin, Italy. The two winners of the ILO Master Partial Fellowship assigned in conjunction with the ICOH2024 Congress were awarded during the Closing Ceremony on May 3, 2024.

Furthermore, on the same occasion, a judging committee composed of senior ICOH members recognized the winners of the Student Poster Competition, accessible to students with an accepted abstract, to promote career development and visibility of the work carried out by young and early-career researchers. A monetary prize was awarded to the top 3 students in the ranking. In addition, all eight winners

have been awarded with a waived ICOH membership fee for the triennium 2024-2026.

The results of the elections for Officers and Members of the Board for the triennium 2024-2027 were announced during the second General Assembly on May 3, 2024 and the new Board and Officers had their first meeting on 4 May in Marrakesh, to discuss new strategy and actions for the triennium.

Appointment of the new Chairs and Secretaries of Scientific Committees and National/Area Secretaries is progressing well.

In addition, while we will soon start working with the ICOH2027 Local Organizing Committee for the preparation of the ICOH Congress in Mumbai, we are pleased to announce that, following the preference expressed with their vote by the participants at the ICOH Congress in Marrakesh, the 36th ICOH International Congress (ICOH2030) will be held in 2030 in Rome, Italy. We trust that we can continue counting on your support in meeting the challenge of making the each ICOH Congress a unique event.

I seize this opportunity to draw your attention to the recent launch of the ICOH membership renewal campaign. Members are receiving individual communications from the ICOH Secretariat with all instructions and forms for payment of their membership fee for the 2024-2026 period. Online payment options are also available in the Private Area of the ICOH website.

We look forward to your participation in ICOH activities.

For further information, please contact the ICOH Secretariat at [icoh@inail.it](mailto:icoh@inail.it)

**Dr. Diana Gagliardi**  
ICOH Secretary General

## Message from the Editor


**Dear ICOH members,**

Welcome to the first Newsletter for the new Triennium, 2024-2027. I appreciate all the members who contribute and are concerned about the Newsletter.

The summary of the ICOH2024 Congress (thanks to the former Vice President, Ms. Claudina Nogueira) is a valuable resource for the attendees as well as those who were not able to attend. You can also find many interesting news, including the new launching program - the ICOH webinar series, greetings and introductions from the new Scientific Committee Officers and National Secretary, members' activity, and so on. Please find the information on the new Officers and Board members included at the end of the Newsletter.

We will continue to have exciting news to share - stay tuned!

**Prof. Won-Jun Choi**  
Editor-in-Chief, ICOH Newsletter



### The editorial planning of the ICOH Newsletter

The editorial plans for 2024 are as follows:

- Number 1: 1st April (deadline for article submission: end of February)
- Number 2: 1st August (deadline for article submission: end of June)
- Number 3: 1st December (deadline for article submission: end of October)

# ICOH webinar series

## – a new, free tool for ICOH members

**Dr. Martin Hogan, ICOH Vice President**

**Dr. Diana Gagliardi, ICOH Secretary General**

**Prof. Alexis Descatha, ICOH Board member**

We are pleased to announce the launch of the ICOH webinar series, covering a wide range of current topics in occupational health. ICOH members in good standing will have free access to the ICOH webinars as an additional benefit included in their ICOH membership. Non-ICOH members will be charged a small fee for participation.

The decision to establish a structured programme for this ICOH webinar series is an important contribution to the ICOH mission for the promotion of scientific progress, knowledge and development of occupational health and safety, in all its aspects. ICOH operates according to the principle of the overriding importance of increasing the knowledge of our members who are the experts, in order to face the rapidly changing world of work. We hope that the ICOH webinar series will help our colleagues in the world to build up and exchange this knowledge and experience.

We are currently shaping the programme of the ICOH webinars that will be organized during this triennium with the support of ICOH Board members and Scientific Committees.

The first webinar will focus on the theme ‘Connection from occupational practice to research and global evidence. An ICOH webinar for practitioners’ and will take place on 21st October 2024 from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. CEST. The aim is to present some important points for practitioners who are not very experienced in research: basics presentation on helping their communication (key elements on abstract), and how to use (and contribute to) reports for some agencies, social media databases, and networks. There will be time at the end for questions and answers. Registered attendees will have access to the webinar recording.

An accreditation request has been made for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) recognition.

Additional information about the program and registration for the webinar of 21st October 2024 will soon be published on the ICOH website.

We hope you will enjoy the program of the ICOH webinar series and look forward to your participation.



# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)

**Claudina M. C. A. Nogueira**

**International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) – National Secretary for South Africa (2024-2027) and Immediate Past Vice President for Scientific Committees (2018-2024)**

## Introduction to the ICOH2024 Congress



ICOH President, Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang (left) and ICOH2024 Congress President, Prof. Abdeljalil El Kholti, sign the 'Marrakesh Declaration on Occupational Health'

During the Congress, three international organizations in occupational health - the ICOH, IEA, and IOHA - renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for ongoing closer collaboration.

ways, e.g. by recommending plenary and semi-plenary speakers, sourcing presenters, organizing 73 special sessions, and providing reviewers for the abstracts submitted to the 51 free paper topics as oral or e-poster presentations.

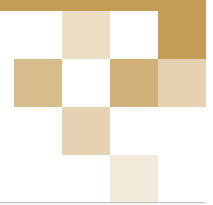
ICOH2024 – the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) - themed 'Enhancing Occupational Health Research and Practices: Closing the Gaps!', was held from 28 April to 3 May 2024, at the Palais de Congrès in Marrakesh, Morocco. ICOH is grateful to its scientific committees (SCs), working groups (WGs) and members for their valuable contributions and ongoing commitment and dedication to occupational health, which ensure the sustainability and continuity of the ICOH Congress. The Congress organizers (ICOH, supported by the Moroccan Organizing and Scientific Committee members, the Moroccan Occupational Health Association (MOHA), the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of the University Hassan II of Casablanca, and working in close collaboration with the professional congress organizer, 'We Mice You') endeavored to reinstate the flavor of the traditional ICOH triennial congresses, in post-COVID-19 pandemic times, by returning to an in-presence format.

During the condensed past triennium (two years: 2022-2024) instead of three, as a direct result of the impact of the global pandemic and an extended previous triennium of four years (2018-2022) instead of three, the SCs, WGs and Board members of ICOH and the National Scientific Committee (Morocco) contributed extensively to the development of the scientific content of the Congress in various

## Fast facts on the ICOH2024 Congress

- Approximately 1 300 participants (occupational health experts, researchers, practitioners, trainers, and educators)
- 93 countries from six continents
- Approximately 900 presentations delivered across all oral sessions

# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)



- Registration fee waivers granted to 99 presenters (ICOH members in good standing) from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
- One opening keynote address
- 10 plenary presentations
- 32 semi-plenary presentations
- Global Policy Forum - ‘Strategies to improve occupational health and safety policies and implementation in low- and middle-income countries’
- 73 special sessions with close to 300 presentations
- 78 free paper sessions with 1 394 presentations (513 oral communications and 881 e-posters) across the 51 free paper topics (see Tables 1 to 6)
- Scientific content - 350 hours across all sessions
- ICOH2024 was accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) for a maximum of 28 European CME credits (ECMEC®s)
- Accepted abstracts are in the process of being published as open access ICOH2024 Congress Proceedings in an online supplement of Occupational Medicine, one of the key international journals in its field and part of the Oxford Academic, Oxford University Press (OUP) platform, with an impact factor of 5.1
- 34 of the 66 applications received for the International Labour Organization (ILO) Master Fellowship in OSH Award (open to ICOH members from LMICs with a scientific contribution at the Congress), met the basic requirements; 14 applicants submitted the additional requested documents to be admitted to the selection process. Two winners were identified:
  - Dr Anissa Thattil (India)
  - Dr Cheng Lim Yin (Malaysia)
- Eight winners in the student poster competition and two winners of the Moroccan best poster award (see Table 7)

## ICOH2024 Congress Special Sessions

The Congress organizers endeavored to grant at least one special session to all SCs and WGs that submitted proposals. Preference was given to special sessions organized, collaboratively, by more than one SC and/or WG and/or other entity.

Several special sessions were organized and presented by external (non-ICOH) organizations, in some cases in collaboration with ICOH SCs, e.g. Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Spain; Cochrane Thematic Group ‘Work and Health and Social Security’; European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) Taskforce on Work-related Asthma Questionnaires and Algorithms for Screening and Surveillance (WAQASS); European Association of Schools of Occupational Medicine (EASOM); European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS); European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA); French Society of Occupational Health; Global Network for Evidence Synthesis in OSH; Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES); International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI); International Centre for Rural Health, Milan, Italy; International Ergonomics Association (IEA); International Organization of Migration (IoM); International Social Security Association (ISSA) - Research and Construction Sections; ISO TC283 OHS Management Systems; Kuwait University; MEDICHEM; Migration Health and Development Research Initiative (MHADRI); Nordic Labour Inspections (Nordic Future of Work



# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)

Group for OSH Practice); OSHAfrica; Partnership for European Research on Occupational Safety and Health (PEROSH); Workplace Health Without Borders (WHWB); Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO); the ILO; and the World Health Organization (WHO).

One ICOH sustaining member and two affiliate members, respectively, organized/co-organized one special session each:

- Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH, UK) - ‘Proactive approach to accident prevention through risk management’, in collaboration with the ICOH SC on Accident Prevention. The session explored the risks associated with vulnerable and high-risk sectors, e.g. high-risk industries such as oil and gas, as well as small- and medium-sized enterprises, and provided insights into how injury and disease prevention, and safe and healthy work for all can be achieved.
- Colombian Society of Occupational Medicine - ‘Psychosocial risks and mental health promotion in Colombia’, which included the following presentations: i) Futuristic vision: Mental health in Colombia; ii) Mental health management in companies: The importance and impact of health promotion strategies; and iii) Impact and assessment of mental health issues/consequences as occupational diseases.
- Society of Occupational Medicine of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina (SMTBA) - ‘Occupational health in Latin America: Postgraduate student presentations’. The presentations, in Spanish, were on the following topics: i) factors associated with daytime sleepiness in public transportation drivers in Lima, Peru; ii) validation of the Computer Vision Syndrome Questionnaire (CVS-Q) instrument among administrative workers in Lima, Peru; iii) toluene use and exposure and its implications for the visual health of restorers of works of art; and iv) potential nanotoxicological risks of carbon nanotubes in workers’ health.

The special session ‘How to publish your work on workers’ health: Insights from the Editors- in-Chief of several OSH journals’, organized by the ICOH President, Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang, was very well attended. Scientists usually seek to publish their work in renowned international journals, primarily indexed in Web of Science (WoS) or Scopus. However, young scientists often face challenges in publishing their manuscripts due to a lack of submission strategy, despite the

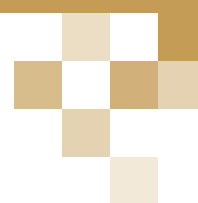


The special session on publishing research on workers’ health brought together editors-in-chief of a sample of international journals.

L to R: Won-Jun Choi, ICOH Newsletter (Republic of Korea); Seong-Kyu Kang, Safety and Health at Work (Republic of Korea); Hans Kromhout, Occupational and Environmental Medicine (The Netherlands); Gill Nelson, Occupational Health Southern Africa (South Africa); Ingrid Siversind Mehlum, Scandinavian Journal of Work Environmental Health (Finland); Paul Blanc, Journal of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology (USA); Alexis Descatha (France), Archives of Occupational and Environmental Diseases; Jacqueline Moline (USA), Archives of Environmental and Occupational Health; and Hyoung-Ryoul Kim, chair of the session and associate editor of Safety and Health at Work (Republic of Korea).

Photograph: Courtesy of Prof Seong-Kyu Kang (Republic of Korea)

# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)



adequate quality of their work. In this session, Editors-in-Chief of major OSH journals provided insights into the status of their journals and offered strategies for successful submission. The seven OSH journals represented in this session, and their respective Editors-in-Chief (or their representatives), were: Journal of Occupational Health, Japan - Narufumi Suganuma; Occupational and Environmental Medicine, UK - Hans Kromhout; Safety and Health at Work, Republic of Korea - Seong-Kyu Kang; Scandinavian Journal of Work Environmental Health, Finland - Ingrid Sivesind Mehlum; Archives of Occupational and Environmental Diseases, France - Alexis Descatha; International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology, USA - Paul Blanc; and Occupational Health Southern Africa, South Africa - Gill Nelson.

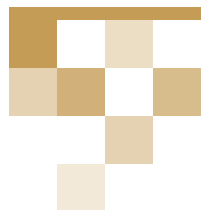
The special session ‘Nordic and global collaborations for OSH impact: Integrating ‘Vision Zero’, climate change, and non-communicable disease prevention to create safe, sustainable and healthy workplaces for all’ was organized by Yogindra Samant of the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority. The session proposed an innovative approach that combines ‘Vision Zero’ principles, prevention of non-communicable diseases, and climate change adaptation for future workplaces’ safety and sustainability. ‘Vision Zero’, once focused on accident prevention, now includes broader disease prevention at work, like work-related cardiovascular diseases. Additionally, it explores how climate change adaptation affects worker health. Regulatory agencies must incorporate this evolving knowledge to develop new OSH practices. The session presenters and moderator represented the following organizations: EU-OSHA, WHO, ILO, ICOH, the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority, and the Indian Institute of Public Health. Key outcomes of the discussions include reducing work-related deaths (accidents and diseases), addressing climate change’s impact on OSH, and informing OSH practices that incorporate non-communicable diseases, ‘Vision Zero’, and climate change. This effort aims to create workplaces that are safe, sustainable, and resilient in the face of evolving challenges.

The National Scientific Committee and other Moroccan entities also contributed to the special session organization, viz. the Association of Occupational Medicine and Ergonomics of the Northern Region of Morocco; the Association of Occupational Medicine of the Eastern Region of Morocco (AMETRO); the Interprofessional Group for Prevention and Industrial Safety (GIPSI); the Moroccan Federation of Insurance and Reinsurance Companies (FMSAR); Moroccan Society of Maritime Medicine (SMMM); and the Professional Association of Cement Manufacturers (APC).

The special session titled, ‘The organization of Moroccan crafts and government policy in the artistic crafts sector’, was delivered in French. The four presentations delved into common risks faced by artisans, such as exposure to toxic chemicals, and poor working conditions; explored how addressing these risks aligns with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals; tackled the issue of persistent child labor in the handicraft sector despite the ratification of international conventions; focused on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of craft production; and discussed the organization of Moroccan crafts and government policies in the artistic crafts sector.

The special sessions spanned a diverse range of topics, with some recurring themes across different sessions, such as vulnerable workers, OSH in LMICs, risk prevention, climate change; and the inclusion of various sectors and industries. Some examples of the special sessions are:

- Adverse human health and safety impacts of chemical use among small-scale miners, and their households and



# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)

community, and interventions

- Bottlenecks and solutions in starting and progressing basic occupational health services
- Building global consensus for occupational health and safety management through ISO standardization
- Building knowledge capacities for the future of work in the chemical industry
- Climate change and occupational safety and health
- Combating occupational heat stress: Moving towards a global approach
- Core values at work: Everyday tools for the workplace
- Effective delivery of occupational health services: Promoting safety and health as a universal fundamental right at work
- Electronic waste (E-waste) and informal work in LMICs
- Emerging and continuing biohazards in the workplace
- Ergonomics and musculoskeletal disorders in health workers and healthcare settings
- Guidelines for emergency preparedness and management: learnings from situations like the 9/11 disaster and the COVID-19 pandemic
- IARC Monographs update: Opportunities and challenges in occupational epidemiology and exposure characterization
- New developments in pesticides: Enhancing occupational health and safety
- Occupational and environmental medicine in Africa
- Occupational cancer: What are we missing?
- Occupational disease coverage system in Morocco and international market perspectives (session in French)
- Occupational health for indigenous and migrant workers: Challenges and opportunities
- Occupational health in the automotive industry in Tangiers, Northern Morocco (session in French)
- Occupational health of the fisherman
- Occupational health training and education in LMICs: Overcoming challenges and developing solutions
- Occupational safety and health and decent work
- Off-job experiences and wellbeing
- Prevention of exposure to radiation risks: Current updates and implications for workers' health
- Road safety program in the Moroccan cement industry (session in French)
- SDG 8 Decent Work: Healthy workplaces for vulnerable workers
- Screening and surveillance for work-related asthma
- Shiftwork, health, and the individual: Challenges and opportunities for research and prevention
- The future of work after the COVID-19 pandemic: Ethical issues and proposed solutions
- The history of occupational health on the African continent
- The jigsaw of job insecurity
- 'Vision Zero' for promoting a culture of prevention in construction: Role of leadership, stakeholders, and technology
- Women, health and work in post-pandemic times

## ICOH2024 Free Paper Communications (orals and e-posters)

Details regarding geographical origin, the most popular topics for abstract submission, the 10 countries with the highest numbers of accepted abstracts, and the poster awards, are provided in Tables 1-7.

# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)

**Table 1. Geographical origin of ICOH2024 Congress free paper (oral and e-poster) presentations**

Continent	No.
Africa	325
Asia	384
Europe	470
North America	113
Oceania	28
South America	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>1394</b>

**Table 2. Accepted oral and e-poster presentation abstracts by continent**

Continent	No. oral abstracts	No. e-poster abstracts
Europe	194	276
Asia	119	265
Africa	105	220
North America	60	53
South America	20	54
Oceania	15	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>881</b>

**Table 3. Accepted oral presentation abstracts for the 11 most popular free paper sessions**

Free paper session	No.
Occupational safety and health (OSH) in Morocco	34
Epidemiology in occupational health	34
Positive mental health, work engagement and wellbeing	31
Occupational medicine	28
Occupational health for health workers	27
OSH in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs): sharing good practices	26
Women, health and work	20
Education and training in occupational health	18
Psychosocial risks: regulation and policies from an international comparative perspective	14
Evidence-based prevention in occupational health	14
Occupational health in small-scale enterprises	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>

**Table 4. Accepted oral presentation abstracts by the top 10 countries**

Country	No.
Morocco	49
Italy	36
India	29
Canada	27
United States	27
Belgium	23
Germany	23
China	21
France	20
Sweden	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>271</b>

**Table 5. Accepted e-poster presentation abstracts for the 10 most popular free paper sessions**

Free paper session	No.
Occupational health for health workers	85
Epidemiology in occupational health	63
Occupational medicine	56
Occupational toxicology, human biomonitoring, and neurotoxicology	45
Positive mental health, work engagement and wellbeing	44
Education and training in occupational health	38
Work-related musculoskeletal disorders: the new ways of working and prevention among informal workers	31
Shiftwork and working time	28
Evidence-based prevention in occupational health	28
Occupational safety and health (OSH) in Morocco	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>444</b>

**Table 6. Accepted e-poster presentation abstracts by the top 10 countries**

Country	No.
Tunisia	89
Morocco	67
India	53
Italy	51
Japan	50
Germany	31
China	30
Brazil	29
France	27
Belgium	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>453</b>

# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)

Since the ICOH2009 Congress in Cape Town, the student poster competition has been a main event at ICOH Congresses. Free membership for the 2024-2027 triennium was awarded to all eight winners; monetary prizes were awarded to the top three winners (see Table 7).

**Table 7. Winners of poster competitions**

Student winners	Name	Country	Title of poster
First	Adam Moskowitz	USA	Occupational injury from patient handling and workplace violence at residential disability and mental health facilities
Second	Shinhyeong Kim	Korea	The impact of long working hours (LWH) and the use of work-related communication devices outside regular working hours (WDOW) on computer vision syndrome (CVS) among workers intensively utilizing visual display terminals (VDTs)
Third	Kian Kiong Yap	Malaysia	Predictors of noise-related hearing disorder among vector control workers in Kuala Lumpur
Runner-up	Marieme Tah	Tunisia	Work-related factors affecting life and job satisfaction among medical residents
Runner-up	Aicha Haddar	Tunisia	Assessment of radiological risk in the operating rooms of a university hospital in Sfax, Tunisia
Runner-up	Chayma Sridi	Tunisia	Extremely low frequency electro-magnetic fields and quality of sleep: A cross-sectional study in a power plant in Tunisia
Runner-up	Moustafa Sherif	UAE	Genotoxicity of occupational pesticide exposures among agricultural workers in Arab countries
Runner-up	Amanda Voss	Germany	Evaluation of secondary aspects of online teaching by medical students
Jaouad El Jai Prize-best Moroccan poster	Nadia Manar Imane Zerrad	Morocco Morocco	Prevalence of respiratory symptoms, diseases and ventilatory disorders among dental technicians Child labour in Moroccan legislation: View of an occupational physician

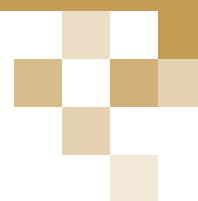
Various ICOH SCs and WGs and other organizations used the Congress as an opportunity to hold business meetings, and two ‘meet and greet’ sessions were held for ‘old’ and ‘new’ SC leadership (outgoing and incoming chairs and/or secretaries) and the ICOH National Secretaries. The non-profit international organization, WHWB, held a meeting to discuss the proposal for the launch of an African branch of WHWB.



Workplace Health Without Borders ([www.whwb.org](http://www.whwb.org)) leadership, members, OSHAfrica representatives, and friends of occupational safety and health, met at the ICOH2024 Congress to start discussing a proposal to launch an African branch of WHWB

Photograph: Courtesy of Ehi Iden (Nigeria)

# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)



## First ICOH General Assembly

The First ICOH General Assembly, held on Sunday 28 April 2024, was attended by ICOH members in good standing only; it comprised the following presentations and topics of discussion:

- Opening address - Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang, ICOH President
- Approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly (ICOH2022 Rome-Melbourne Digital Congress, held virtually in February 2022)
- President's Report - Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang
- Report on ICOH Scientific Committees - Ms Claudina Nogueira, ICOH Vice President
- Report on ICOH National Secretaries - Dr Martin Hogan, ICOH Vice President
- Secretary General's Report - Dr Diana Gagliardi
- The ICOH Triennium Report (2022-2024) - available on the ICOH website (<https://www.icohweb.org/site/news-detail.asp?id=254>)
- ICOH Newsletter - Prof. Won-Jun Choi, Editor-in-Chief of the ICOH Newsletter
- Auditor and Vice Auditor election
- Amendments to the ICOH Constitution

Honorary ICOH membership was bestowed on Prof. Bonnie Rogers - Past ICOH Vice President (USA), and Prof. Toshiaki Higashi (Japan), in recognition of their distinguished contributions to global occupational health.

Venue for the ICOH2030 Congress - presentations by bid committees from the two candidate cities - Medellín (Colombia) and Rome (Italy) - and explanation of the voting procedure during the Congress week.

## ICOH2024 Congress Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony followed the First General Assembly. Ms Rim El Kholti (ICOH National Secretary for Morocco) was the master of ceremonies. Welcome addresses were delivered by two Presidents, viz. Prof. Abdeljalil El Kholti (ICOH2024 Congress President) and Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang (ICOH President). Congratulatory addresses were delivered by national authorities, United Nations agencies and sister organizations, represented by various invited dignitaries:

- Wafaa Asri - Secretary General of the Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills, representing Younes Sekkouri - Minister of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills, Rabat, Morocco
- Fanfan Rwanyindo Kayirangwa - Regional Director for Africa and Assistant Director General, ILO
- Maria Neira - Director, Department of Public Health and Environment, WHO, representing Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, WHO
- Karim Cheikh - President of the General Confederation of Enterprises of Morocco (CGEM), Human Capital Commission



# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)

- Ana Ercoreca de la Cruz - Secretary General, IALI
- Samantha Connell - President, IOHA

The opening keynote address was delivered by Dr Elisabete Weiderpass, Director of the IARC in Lyon, France, who presented a paper on global cancer burden due to occupational exposures.

Dr Diana Gagliardi, ICOH Secretary General, introduced Dr Marilyn Fingerhut (USA) who was honored with the ICOH Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her longstanding commitment, dedication, and support to the ICOH community, and invaluable contribution to global occupational health. Dr Fingerhut, an ICOH member for more than two decades, participated remotely in the ceremony and expressed her thanks to the audience, which responded with a standing ovation. Dr Fingerhut, PhD and a molecular biologist by qualification, is retired from the National Institute for

Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH, USA), where she worked for 25 years. She also worked for NIOSH at the WHO in Geneva, Switzerland. She served as an ICOH Board member for two triennia (2009-2015) and as ICOH vice president for two non-consecutive triennia (2006-2009 and 2015-2018). She contributed to the ICOH leadership, organizing several congresses, and assisted in the founding of the SCs on Women, Health and Work (SC WHW) and Mining Occupational Safety and Health (SC MinOSH).



Dr Marilyn Fingerhut

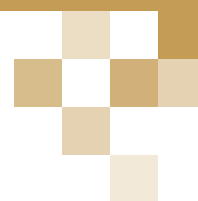
The welcome cocktail followed the opening ceremony, in the pool area of the Mövenpick Hotel Mansour Eddahbi, a haven of lush greenery, tranquility and luxury, located adjacent to the Palais de Congrès. It was an animated event of Moroccan hospitality, sumptuous cuisine and world music, very conducive to socializing under the Marrakesh evening sky.

## ICOH2024 Congress Global Policy Forum

The Global Policy Forum, titled ‘Strategies to improve occupational health and safety policies and implementation in low- and middle-income countries’, a highlight of the Congress, was held on Tuesday, 30 April 2024. The main focus of the Forum was the practical implementation of research findings to improve workers’ health, in the era of globalization. The Forum also explored the lessons learned from high-income countries and the realities facing LMICs, with the main aim of formulating strategies for priority actions and programs that can help to create a more harmonized world of work in the future. The Forum addressed pressing occupational risk issues on each continent, particularly in LMICs, the current status of practices for managing these risks, and gaps between research and practice.

Leading experts in the fields of research and practice in occupational health from international and national policy-making organizations, public institutes, and professional associations were invited to engage in interactive discussions with Congress participants. Speakers were selected with the aim of achieving representation from different regions of the world, including the host country, and professional organizations from various disciplines.

# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)



The moderator was Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang (ICOH President), Gachon University Gil Medical Center, Incheon, Republic of Korea. The invited panel participants, representing various sectors, were as follows:

- International organizations
  - WHO - Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General (video recorded message), Geneva, Switzerland
  - WHO - Dr Ivan Ivanov, Cross-cutting Lead, Occupational and Workplace Health, ECH Directors' Office, HQ/HEP/ECH, Geneva, Switzerland
  - ILO - Joaquim Pintado Nunes, Chief of Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health, Geneva, Switzerland
- Enforcement authority
  - Africa - Younes Sekkouri, Minister of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills, Rabat, Morocco
- Regional organization
  - Europe - William Cockburn, Executive Director, EU-OSHA, Bilbao, Spain
- Research
  - North America - Dr Lyne Sauvageau, President and CEO, Robert-Sauvé Research Institute on Health and Safety at Work (IRSST - Institut de Recherche Robert-Sauvé en Santé et en Sécurité du Travail), Montreal, Canada
- Academia
  - South America - Prof. Marcia Bandini, Latin American Association of Occupational Health (ALSO - Asociación Latinoamericana de Salud Ocupacional), University of Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil
- Practice
  - Asia - Teresita S Cucueco, Consultant, Philippines College of Occupational Medicine (PCOM), Former Executive Director, Occupational Safety and Health Centre, Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE-OSHC), Manila, Philippines.

The deliberations arising from the Forum and the scientific program throughout the Congress week served as the foundation for the 'Marrakesh Declaration on Occupational Health', which was adopted by the ICOH2024 Congress on 3 May 2024. The Declaration expresses the commitment of ICOH to take action for the development of occupational

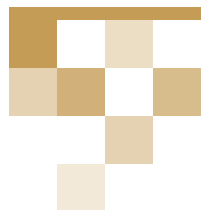


Signing of the MoU between the ICOH, IOHA and IEA

L to R, standing: ICOH Vice Presidents Martin Hogan (Ireland) and Claudina Nogueira (South Africa); Diana Gagliardi, ICOH Secretary General (Italy); Paulo António Barros Oliveira (Brazilian Ergonomics Association); Frida Marina Fischer, ICOH Board member (Brazil)

L to R, seated: Samantha Connell, IOHA President (Switzerland); Seong-Kyu Kang, ICOH President (Republic of Korea); José Orlando Gomes, IEA President (Brazil)

Photograph: Courtesy of Prof. Frida Marina Fischer (Brazil)



# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)

health, wellbeing, work ability and decent work and life for all workers of the world, in collaboration with other relevant international actors. More specifically, ICOH calls for support from the ILO and WHO, through: (i) the revitalization of the Joint ILO/WHO Committee on Occupational Health, (ii) a request from the ILO to its member states to ratify the ILO Convention 161, and (iii) a request for the WHO to revitalize and expand its global and regional networks of Collaborating Centers in Occupational Health. The Declaration was signed by Prof. Abdeljalil El Kholti, President of the ICOH2024 Congress, and Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang, ICOH President, and has been published in Safety and Health at Work (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.shaw.2024.05.006>).

## ICOH2024 Congress Plenary and Semi-plenary Presentations

The following plenary and semi-plenary presentations were delivered from 29 April to 3 May 2024 (in alphabetical order of presenter surnames):

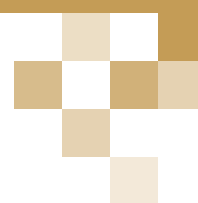
### *Plenary Presentations*

- Nicola Cherry (Canada) - Department of Public Health, University of Alberta: 'Occupational health epidemiology in the face of disasters'
- Titilola Hameed (Nigeria) - Legal Professor, Nigerian Law School: 'Occupational safety and health: Probing the legislative affairs within the African continent'
- Bobby Joseph (India) - Head, Department of Community Health, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore: 'Development of occupational health services in a medical college setting in India: Looking back over 25 years to inform the future'
- Maria Neira (Spain) - Director, Department of Public Health and Environment, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland: 'Healthy, safe and resilient workplaces for all'
- Stéphane Pimbert (France) - General Director, French National Institute for Research and Safety (INRS): 'Occupational health and public policies'
- Kathy A Seabrook (USA) - CEO, Global Solutions, Inc.: 'Connecting the dots: The value of people at work and their health, safety and wellbeing'
- João Silvestre Silva-Junior (Brazil) - Professor, University of São Paulo Medical School and São Camilo University Centre: 'Mental health of frontline healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic'
- Malcolm Sim (Australia) - Emeritus Professor, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Melbourne: 'From Ramazzini to robots: The impact of new technologies on occupational health'
- Loubna Tahri (Morocco) - Assistant Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Hassan II University of Casablanca: 'Most wanted OSH actions in Morocco: Current state, lessons learned and the way forward'
- Ken Takahashi (Japan) - Emeritus Professor, Advisor for International Centre, University of Occupational and Environmental Health: 'Global spread of asbestos-related diseases: Still seriously under-recognized'

### *Semi-plenary Presentations*

- Ken Addley (Ireland) - 'Health inequality in work: Advocating for occupational health in Ireland'
- Salima Admi (Morocco) - 'Impact of international regulatory standards in the implementation of public occupational safety and health policies'

# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)



- Houssine Azeddoug (Morocco) - 'Leading innovation for excellence in occupational health in Moroccan universities on the eve of major world-class projects'
- Ana Bakic (Montenegro) - 'Heavy physical work and fatigue in healthcare workers'
- Thuthula Balfour (South Africa) - 'Prevention culture in the mining industry: A female perspective from the African region'
- Amy Behrman (USA) - 'Vaccine recommendations, and mandates for adults and specific worker populations'
- Mohammed Ali Benmakhoulouf (Morocco) - 'Ethical issues of global health'
- Jorge Morales Camino (Mexico) - 'Long COVID impact on workers and its monitoring in occupational health'
- Jiabin Chen (People's Republic of China) - 'Post-pandemic occupational health services in Guangdong Province, China'
- San Daniel Choi (USA) - 'Prevention through design (PTD) and research to practice to research (RTPTR) in the ageing US construction workforce: Bridging the gap between academia and practitioners'
- Cecilia Colautti (Argentina) - 'Risks and challenges in the ferro-port work of the General Ports Administration (AGP), Port of Buenos Aires, Argentina'
- Martin Cottam (UK) - 'Building global consensus for occupational health and safety management through ISO standardization'
- Andrew Curran (UK) - 'Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: Findings from a national core study'
- Tiaan de Jager (South Africa) - 'Endocrine disrupting chemicals: Impact on the environment and human health'
- Marie-Agnès Denis (France) - 'Mental health and occupational health'
- Alexis Descatha (France) - 'Job exposure matrices: Past, present, and future'
- Jorge Barroso Dias (Portugal) - 'Promoting longevity by means of 'ATOS' - alcohol, tobacco, obesity, and sleep: Measuring, intervening, and controlling major risk factors in the workplace'
- Marie Diallo (Senegal) - 'The culture of workplace improvement in Senegal: The social security strategies'
- Maria Claudia Borda Gallon (Colombia) - 'Lifestyle medicine as a strategy for health and productivity in the workplace'
- Fabriziomaria Gobba (Italy) - 'Occupational health surveillance of workers exposed to non-ionizing radiation: Lessons learned and new challenges'
- Halim Hamzaoui (Switzerland) - 'Biological hazards'
- Chakib El Houssine Laraqui Hossini (Morocco) - 'Occupational health and safety of coastal fishermen: A gap to fill in developing countries'
- Jan Hoving (The Netherlands) - 'Development and validation of a core outcome set for work participation'
- Louis Laurent (France) - 'Research and occupational health'
- Koji Mori (Japan) - 'Development, success factors and challenges of health and productivity management initiatives in Japan'
- Suvama Moti (India) - 'Basic occupational health services: Challenges and opportunities for universal occupational healthcare'
- Ade Mutiara (Indonesia) - 'Digitalization in occupational health programs: The new challenges'
- Dorothy Ngajilo (Tanzania) - 'Caring for those who care: Safeguarding health, safety and wellbeing of health workers'
- Noriko Nishikido (Japan) - 'Support for balancing medical treatment and work in small- and medium-sized enterprises: The role and function of occupational health nurses'
- Diane Rohlman (USA) - 'Health effects of organophosphorus pesticides on children working in the agricultural industry'
- Evgeny Shigan (Russian Federation) - 'Modern requirements for occupational physician professional competencies'
- Jin-Ha Yoon (Republic of Korea) - 'Platform workers: Social inequity in occupational safety and health'



# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)

## ICOH2024 Congress Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony was held on Friday 3 May 2024. The Congress President, Prof. Abdeljalil El Kholti, presented overall highlights and a short report on the Congress. The ICOH President, Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang, presented highlights and take-home messages from the Global Policy Forum. This was followed by a summary of the scientific program and statistics for free paper and special sessions, presented by the two congress scientific co-chairs: Prof. Kamal Wifaq (Chair of the National Scientific Committee and University Hassan II of Casablanca, Morocco) and Ms Claudina Nogueira (ICOH Vice President for SCs and Chair of the International Scientific Advisory Committee, and SASOM ExCo member, South Africa). The awards for the winners of the student poster competition, the ILO Master Fellowships in OSH, and the best poster presentation by a Moroccan delegate (the Jaouad El Jäi Prize) were announced by Ms Claudina Nogueira, Dr Diana Gagliardi, and Prof. Kamal Wifaq, respectively.

The ICOH flag was passed from Prof. Abdeljalil El Kholti, President of the Congress, to the Organizing Committee members of the ICOH2027 Congress, themed ‘Occupational Health – Growth and Sustainability in Changing Times’, to be held in Mumbai, India, 14-19 February 2027. The handover of the flag followed video presentations about the next congress, and highlights of ICOH2024. The Congress was declared officially closed by the ICOH President, Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang, after his vote of thanks to all individuals and teams involved, especially the participants, in making the ICOH2024 Congress a resounding success.

## Second ICOH General Assembly

The closing ceremony was followed by the Second ICOH General Assembly, which was attended by ICOH members in good standing only; it included the following presentations and events:

- Opening address - Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang, ICOH President
- Farewell to ICOH Officers and Board members of the previous triennium 2022-2024, and respective service awards - Dr Diana Gagliardi, ICOH Secretary General
- Report from the scrutineers’ committee of the elections of the ICOH Officers and Board members for the new triennium (2024-2027) - Dr Jorge Camino Morales, President of the ICOH2012 Congress, Cancún, Mexico
- Results of the elections of ICOH Officers and Board members for the new triennium (2024-2027)
  - ICOH Officers:
    - President - Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang (Republic of Korea)
    - Secretary General - Dr Diana Gagliardi (Italy)
    - Vice President for Scientific Committees - Dr Martin Hogan (Ireland)
    - Vice President for National Secretaries - Dr Shyam Pingle (India)
    - Past President - Dr Jukka Takala (Finland)
  - ICOH Board members:
    - Naesinee Chaiear (Thailand), Alexis Descatha (France), Quentin Durand-Moreau (Canada), Rim El Kholti



# Report on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)

(Morocco), Stefan Esser (Germany), Dongmug Kang (Republic of Korea), Ashish Mishra (India), Aida Fajardo Montiel (Mexico), R Rajesh (India), Rosylane Rocha (Brazil), Riitta Sauni (Finland), Mahinda Seneviratne (Australia), Giovanna Spatari (Italy), Akizumi Tsutsumi (Japan), Kamal Wifaq (Morocco), and Charles Yarborough (USA)

- President's address and strategy for 2024-2027
- Bid results of the vote for the venue of the ICOH2030 Congress: Congratulations to Rome, Italy, for winning the bid to host the ICOH Congress in 2030!

## ICOH Board and other meetings associated with the ICOH2024 Congress

The meetings of the ICOH Officers and Board members from the previous triennium (2022-2024) were held prior to the ICOH2024 Congress - on 27 and 28 April 2024. The newly appointed Officers and Board members met for the first time after the Congress, on 4 May 2024, in Marrakesh, Morocco.

The 13th Meeting of the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centers for Occupational Health was held in hybrid format before the Congress, from 25 to 26 April 2024, at the Grand Mogador Menara Hotel, Marrakesh, Morocco.

*Congress statistics, approval for the use of the ICOH and ICOH2024 Congress logos, and photographs: Courtesy of ICOH and the ICOH2024 Congress Organizers (Morocco), unless stated otherwise*



ICOH Officers and Board members of the 2022-2024 triennium met for one last time

L to R, standing: Akizumi Tsutsumi (Japan), Sandeep Sharma (India), Maureen Dollard (Australia), Alexis Descatha (France), Riitta Sauni (Finland), Olivier Lo (Singapore), Stavroula Leka (UK), Sergio Iavicoli (Italy), Dingani Moyo (Zimbabwe), Shyam Pingle (India), Paul Schulte (USA)

L to R, seated: Jukka Takala (Finland), Claudina Nogueira (South Africa), Seong-Kyu Kang (Republic of Korea), Diana Gagliardi (Italy), Martin Hogan (Ireland), Frida Marina Fischer (Brazil)



# ICOH2024 Summary Reports on the Special Sessions

## Core Values at Work – Everyday tools for the workplace (SS27)

**Presented by the Interest Group – Core Values at Work**

**Scientific Committee for Education and Training in Occupational Health**

Prof. Michel Guillemin opened the session and chaired it together with Mr. Robin Nicholas  
(Max Lum was originally scheduled as session Chair but was unable to attend the Conference.)

### Scope and Objectives of this Special Session



**Michel Guillemin, Prof. emeritus, University of Lausanne, Switzerland**  
(Michel.Guillemin@unil.ch)

This session explored the nature and importance of the values that give meaning to people's lives and their work. Speakers from different countries presented how core values can be brought to everyday work to promote worker well-being. The presenters described specific practices that support formal and informal workers across different cultures and societies, with specific examples in mental health, training, SMEs, and work culture.

Session participants were offered an overall awareness and knowledge of core values to better understand the roots and factors that contribute to a positive and healthy work environment. Different perspectives provided practices that can be brought to the worksite for "closing the gaps" in worker health emphasized in this ICOH Conference. Participants were introduced to this field within occupational health which has not been fully developed up to now. They learned why core values at work are fundamental for large and small companies to support their workers and fulfill their social responsibilities, thus building a sound foundation for each organization. By using these tools, professionals in occupational health have a key role to play in developing these measures and applying core values to protect workers' health and promote their well-being.

### Using Core Values Strategies to Safeguard and Advance the Mental Health of Workers by Using the *Total Worker Health Approach*



**Casey Chosewood, Office of Total Worker Health, NIOSH, Atlanta, GA, USA**  
(AHX6@CDC.GOV)

The NIOSH Total Worker Health® (TWH) program represents a new academic and applied discipline that is reshaping occupational safety and health (OSH). TWH's core values strategy seeks to assure workers have agency, flexibility, participation, respect, adequate wages and fair treatment. These values help build rapport amongst team

# ICOH2024 Summary Reports on the Special Sessions

members, increase social connections, advance participation and engagement, and encourage meaningful work to safeguard workers and advance their mental and overall health.

NIOSH moves evidence-based research to practice, by encouraging adoption of TWH core values. Centers of Excellence for TWH conduct research, many focused on psychosocial risks and mental health. NIOSH partners with TWH Affiliates, industry, labor, and educational organizations. A new Society for Total Worker Health Professionals now connects a community of professionals dedicated to TWH research, education, and sharing real-world solutions.

The TWH program publishes >50 peer-reviewed publications annually, funds ten Centers, has 58 TWH Affiliates, and six degree/certificate programs to train professionals. Communication products reach ~45,000 subscribers; 29 webinars boast 12,000 registrations, awarding 2,200 hours of continuing education.

To effectively protect workers, TWH expands traditional OSH strategies to embrace core values, recognizing workers want safe, fulfilling, and engaging work with purpose, fair wages, good benefits, and respect. Shared commitment between labor and management, participation, healthier work design, and supervision support safer and more meaningful work. The core values approach prioritizes worker-centered interventions that advance the overall health and well-being of workers.

## Successful Small Businesses – Contribution of core values



**Ashish Mittal, CEO, Occupational Health & Safety Management Consultancy Services,  
New Delhi, India ([info@ohs-mcs.org](mailto:info@ohs-mcs.org))**

(Dr Ashish Mittal was unable to attend the Conference but submitted a summary of his paper, presented here.)

Small businesses (micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, or MSMEs) with limited resources, need robust systems to prevent any damages to people, property and environment and be successful, competitive, and profitable. These systems are essentially the outcome of core values, which are a set of guiding principles and fundamental beliefs of business, helping all the members to work toward a common business goal.

A secondary literature review was combined with limited personal conversations with employees and employers of MSME's from different geographical locations and various economic activities in India.

Core values, such as respect for human beings and the fundamental human rights of trust, justice, integrity, responsibility, growth and resilience, when ingrained in a business makes it inclusive, sustainable, acceptable and successful. A safe and preventive work culture nurtures a healthy and safe workplace. Over 75 percent of employees

## ICOH2024 Summary Reports on the Special Sessions

consider it “very important” to work for a company with defined core values. Companies with highly aligned cultures see 30% higher growth and 17% higher profit growth. 26% of employees would forego a fancy title and 65% would accept lower pay rather than deal with a poor workplace environment.

Businesses do run with the convictions of a basic culture and values perceived, developed and refined over the growth path of the business. Further research on the formal focus and adoption of the core values to make the business unique, aspirational and sought after is warranted, especially for small businesses and their value or supply chains.

### The Human Dimension of Work – Work as a metaphor for life



**Giovanni De Vito, School of Specialization of Occupational Medicine, Insubria University, Varese, Italy (giovanni.devito@uninsubria.it)**

When does work help keeping in good health? When analysing the human dimension, any approach addressing the positive effects of work must consider cultural and historical roots.

An anthropological and artistic path, marked by art works, were presented as a way of highlighting the evolution of human work throughout the centuries.

Aristotle stated that, “Happiness is the highest human good.”

The ancient Greek wording for happiness means the success of the vocation. People therefore must expand life to the fullest by committing themselves.

Work became an important commitment only after abolition of slavery. The comparison between Greek caryatids (slaves) and medieval telamons (free men) gives a clear picture of different approaches to the meaning of work fatigue through the centuries.

Symbolism in the Renaissance arts and craft panels on the Giotto’s bell tower in Florence, show that dignity of work is in its meaning, motive and purpose, and not in the matter.

Macchiaioli and Divisionism art movements in Italy as well as Realism in France, started showing the workers. The content of the work, and its meaning for the worker, the family and society, were represented. The worker started scrutinizing the destiny of which he hoped to be the creator.

Modern work is full of rapid changes that could lead to lacking knowledge and fear of facing the unknown.

Knowing the meaning and strength of different cultural roots will be of great help in keeping up the pace and understanding their role at work and maybe at life.

# ICOH2024 Summary Reports on the Special Sessions

## A Work Culture of Core Values – Tearing down walls, building relationships



**Robin Nicholas, Director, Robin Nicholas Communications / Health – Safety – Wellbeing,  
Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA (robin.m.nicholas@gamil.com)**

Work culture is personal. It is about how people experience their work, and ideally, how people can flourish in their work. Each person defines this culture with their own core values, relationships, and commitment.

Interviews with over 100 workers revealed how they experienced their work culture. As people told their stories, they described what works, what does not, and what could work better. Further examples illustrated how core values can tear down walls that obstruct good work, while building relationships that support our work.

Because work culture is experienced, it is personal – it includes the whole person. The objective programs, protections, and regulations of work are important. However, the subjective, less-structured elements of being human are equally important. Neuroscience has revealed that we are not thinking machines – we are feeling machines that happen to think, and that we are motivated by our internal values and emotional commitments that are based upon our core values. This is the strength of being human at work.

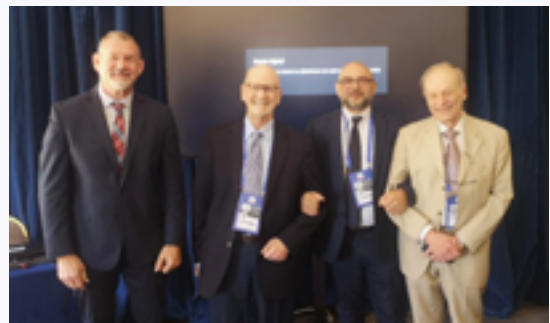
However, the systems originally created to help protect us at work can also create walls and obstacles. Some mindsets prevent us from examining our own systems, mindsets such as maintaining a system without question, pleasing authority, or over-thinking an issue. The solution to tearing down these walls lies within each of us as human beings – our core values, motivations, and commitments.

A healthy work culture celebrates people as whole human beings. We all share a balance of objective and subjective qualities, of human strengths and weaknesses. Ultimately, our core values provide the tools to balance and support our work culture.

## Conclusion of the Session

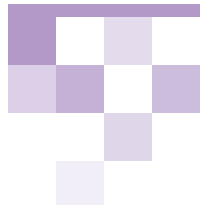
Robin Nicholas led the final discussion amongst everyone at the session. Insightful questions and a lively discussion explored the role of core values further as well as potential new directions.

People were invited to participate in the Interest Group – Core Values at Work. This group was created in 2021 as part of the Education and Training Committee. It published its first Newsletter in April 2021, which can be found



**Speakers of the Special Session on Core Values at Work**

From left to right : Casey Chosewood, Robin Nicholas, Giovanni De Vito and Michel Guillemin



## ICOH2024 Summary Reports on the Special Sessions

at [www.robinnicholas.com/corevaluesatwork](http://www.robinnicholas.com/corevaluesatwork). The group is also preparing a website (pending approval) with a working URL of [www.corevaluesatwork.org](http://www.corevaluesatwork.org), where resources will be available for everyone. People who are interested in joining this work are invited to contact the group at: [welcome@corevaluesatwork.org](mailto:welcome@corevaluesatwork.org).

***Note from the ICOH Secretariat:** on September 3rd, 2024, we were informed that Robin Nicholas passed away in August.*

*Robin Nicholas, founder of 'Robin Nicholas Communications: Health-Safety-Wellbeing', promoted worker health, safety, and wellbeing by celebrating people's values, community, and culture. His work looked at the human side of safety and wellbeing, emphasizing the quality of life, dignity, and personal excellence.*

*Working with government agencies, NGOs, and other organizations, he developed comprehensive communication projects of video, animation, print, and the Internet, to serve workers with wide-ranging occupations, ages, cultures, and learning styles – in Robin's words, 'tools for thriving at work'.*

*He also conducted workshops to assist leaders and groups in exploring the creative process and new directions in safety communication. Robin combined 30 years of experience in health and safety, environmental science, education, and multimedia to develop communication tools for a variety of organizations.*

*Robin was affiliated to the Department of Health-Safety-Wellbeing in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA and most recently, he was consulting for Berkeley.*

*Robin was a long time friend, colleague and member of ICOH, and an active member of two ICOH Scientific Committees: Education and Training in Occupational Health and Accident Prevention.*

*ICOH extends deepest sympathies on his sudden passing to his family, friends and colleagues in their time of grief. May his soul rest in eternal peace in a far better place.*

### Crisis Communication in the Pandemic Era – Lessons learned from four countries

**Presented by the former ICOH Task Group on Information and Communication, ICOH Scientific Committee on Education and Training in Occupational Health, and MEDICHEM**

During the ICOH 2024 Conference in Marrakech, a Special Session was held to consider — Crisis Communication in the Pandemic Era: Lessons learned from four countries. The session explored communication strategies and digital technologies used to manage the COVID-19 pandemic for workers and OSH staff. Max Lum developed the session, with Robin Nicholas as acting Chair.

# ICOH2024 Summary Reports on the Special Sessions

## Session Overview



**Max Lum, Senior Advisor, eCommunication and Research Translation,  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), USA (mrl1@cdc.gov)**

Mr. Lum assembled the panel of speakers to present the case studies and initiatives of four countries – Brazil, USA, South Korea, and Singapore. This approach helped illustrate the importance of multi-country, collaborative presentations, by looking at a single issue but finding different responses in different countries, thus giving a broader context to the topic.

The session explored communication and digital strategies that showed the most promise, as well as the key threats to successful strategies. It also helped identify the unique role that OSH professionals play in crisis communication for workers, workplaces and our community of practice.

As an introduction, Max Lum created opening slides to help set the tone and background of the session, comparing how individual countries were affected differently by the Covid pandemic, looking at what efforts did and did not do well. Though previous epidemics, such as SARS and MERS, demonstrated the need for pre-crisis planning, some countries, including the United States and Brazil, experienced high death rates per capita. While other countries, including Singapore and South Korea, had relatively, very low fatality rates, some as low as 0.1%. The challenge here was to learn why.

## The Covid Work Culture – Talking to each other through our confusion and caring



**Robin Nicholas, Director, Robin Nicholas Communications / Health – Safety – Wellbeing,  
Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA (robin.m.nicholas@gmail.com)**

The Covid pandemic challenged us not only physically, but in all aspects of who we are and how we work. This placed an added emotional and psychological layer on workers and their daily work culture. Work culture is about how people experience their work. So whatever the work culture was before Covid was likely the work culture during Covid.

To understand our response to Covid, we can use the same methods we use to reflect on ourselves in life, including our life at work. Here are three perspectives to consider: (1) the whole person and how each worker responded physically, emotionally, and psychologically to the pandemic; (2) a constantly changing work environment and the uncertainties it created; and (3) workers' need for continual, open conversations to meet their concerns.

During the pandemic it became evident how key values and emotions underly our good work – dignity, respect, commitment, and motivation. The potential traps within our responses to the pandemic also became evident – the limits of digital-only communication, a work culture of just-do-what-I-tell-you, and people's emotional multitasking



## ICOH2024 Summary Reports on the Special Sessions

and the distractions it created.

This pandemic pulled people in many directions. It was not simply a matter of focusing on work; for many that was not possible due to the fear and stress that accompanied these uncertain times – fear of Covid itself, job insecurity, economic uncertainties, and a potential inability to take care of one's family. And through all of these challenges, workers supported each other with compassion and caring.

During these scary times, each of us responded as a whole person – physically, emotionally, and culturally. Regardless of which media we used to respond to the pandemic, this was the human background we all shared as we worked. As we now enter our post-Covid new normal at work, questions remain – Will we remember that all workers are essential – that we are all co-workers? Will we grow into a new perspective about work? The opportunity is here to reconfirm just how much we are all connected and depend upon each other.

### Singapore's COVID-19 Strategies to Safeguard Workforce Health



**Jaime LIM, Director, Major Hazards Department and OSH Specialist Department,  
Ministry of Manpower, Singapore (Jaime\_Lim@mom.gov.sg)**

COVID-19 demanded a whole-of-nation response from the government, partners from the public, private and people sectors. To safeguard safety, health and welfare of workers, the government worked with employers and the labor movement, to develop reasonably practicable requirements to tackle workplace transmissions.

The Ministry of Manpower rolled out a system to tackle COVID-19 at workplaces – Take care of your workers; Take care of the workplace; Take care of workers who become unwell; and Implement a Safe Management Measures system. National vaccination campaign, contact tracing technology, vaccination tracking efforts, tough enforcement actions, and supporting the financial, social and mental well-being of the vulnerable were introduced. By February 2023, the situation became stable, and Singapore transited towards an endemic COVID-19 new norm.

Singapore had done well in protecting lives and livelihoods. Singapore's overall case fatality rate is one of the lowest globally, standing at less than 0.1%, as of 13 February 2023. COVID-19 requirements were well implemented across workplaces and COVID-19 workplace clusters were also investigated to ensure lapses were addressed and errant employers were taken to task. Employees had also benefited as workers' occupational safety and health and mental well-being were prioritized.

As Singapore transits towards becoming a COVID-19 resilient nation and moves away from a "Covid-zero" approach, businesses should be better prepared to minimize the risks posed to the health and safety of employees, for the continuity of business operations. It is an opportunity for Singapore's workforce to enhance its resilience by leveraging momentum and lessons learnt from COVID-19 to prepare for the next pandemic.

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## COVID-19 Communication Outreach Lessons – Brazil



**João Silvestre da Silva-Junior, University of São Paulo Medical School, Brazil; São Camilo University Center, Brazil (joao.junior@fm.usp.br)**

The COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 introduced an unparalleled global crisis. Brazil was one of the most affected nations. Over 37.7 million individuals were infected (679 cases per 100,000 inhabitants), resulting in 705,170 deaths (mortality rate of 5.39/100,000 inhabitants).

The Brazilian government's response to the crisis was marred by conflicting statements from diverse officials, causing bewilderment and eroding public trust. Inconsistent and discordant communication, political conflicts, and delayed responses from various government representatives sparked concerns regarding effective crisis management. Despite some initiatives, the overarching strategy lacked cohesion, transparency, and a resolute dedication to evidence-based decision-making. The nation's profound socio-economic disparities and cultural variations underscored the necessity for tailored messaging that resonated with distinct populations.

Digital technologies emerged as a linchpin in Brazil's communication outreach endeavors during the pandemic through online platforms, social media channels, and mobile applications. This digital approach facilitated rapid information diffusion, enabling authorities to promptly reach a broad audience. However, this dissemination was not without drawbacks, as misinformation and fabricated news propagated with equal rapidity, necessitating proactive debunking, fact-checking initiatives and the endorsement of trustworthy sources. Collaboration among stakeholders, from government agencies to non-governmental organizations and the private sector, has synergized efforts and tried to create a more united response.

The absence of an intricately planned and proficient government strategy promoted socioeconomic burdens, mental health strains, and lasting consequences of COVID-19 in Brazilian society. If an effective plan prioritizing transparent communication, early interventions, and targeted support for vulnerable populations had been implemented, it might have mitigated the pandemic's profound and multifaceted impacts.

## COVID-19 Experience of Korea



**Won-Jun CHOI, Gachon University College of Medicine, Gil Medical Center, Incheon, Republic of Korea (wjchoi@gachon.ac.kr)**

During the pandemic, various strategies and programs were implemented worldwide to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This presentation focused on the effective management of the epidemic, lessons learned from previous infectious disease outbreaks, and public health and workplace strategies against COVID-19 in Korea.

## ICOH2024 Summary Reports on the Special Sessions

We summarized statistics regarding COVID-19 and the quarantine measures implemented during the pandemic. We reviewed past outbreaks of contagious diseases in Korea and the lessons learned from those epidemics, which have informed the strategies implemented for the COVID-19 quarantine.

As of June 2023, there were about 32 million COVID-19 cases and 35 thousand deaths in Korea, with a fatality of 0.1%. Although social distancing and wearing a mask were mandatory measures, no lockdowns or curfews were imposed during the pandemic. The most important issues for the quarantine were raised during the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) epidemic in 2015. Measures such as identifying transmission routes, expedited testing, financial support for isolation, and training in medical facilities were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic. The response against COVID-19 in Korea included social distancing, a set of testing, tracing, and isolating those infected, as well as wearing masks. These measures were also applied in workplaces to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In Korea, preventing the transmission of COVID-19 was successful, especially when the most severe variant was spreading. The knowledge and experience gained from the MERS epidemic were beneficial in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Discussion

During the last half-hour of the session, a robust and informative discussion followed amongst the audience and presenters. A free-flowing exchange of questions and ideas explored the possible reasons for the different responses to Covid found in different countries. The audience offered insights, and the panel asked probing questions of each other, as well.

One observation, in particular, was proposed and is worth exploring further. Both Singapore and South Korea had proactive responses and lessons learned from previous epidemics. Practices such as wearing masks and social distancing were already part of the culture and readily engaged. However, both Brazil and the United States are geographically much larger countries with multiple regions, each with their own culture and traditions. This created greater difficulties in a single communication, message and strategy that could be applied to the entire country. In addition, practices such as wearing masks and social distancing were relatively new concepts and met with some resistance. Thus, cultural differences may have played a key role in different countries' responses.



Speakers: João Silvestre da Silva-Junior, Robin Nicholas, Won-Jun CHOI, and Jaime LIM

# ICOH2024 Summary Reports on the Special Sessions

## Report of the Special Session on 'Bottlenecks and Solutions in Starting and Progressing Basic Occupational Health Services (BOHS)' at the ICOH Congress 2024 in Morocco

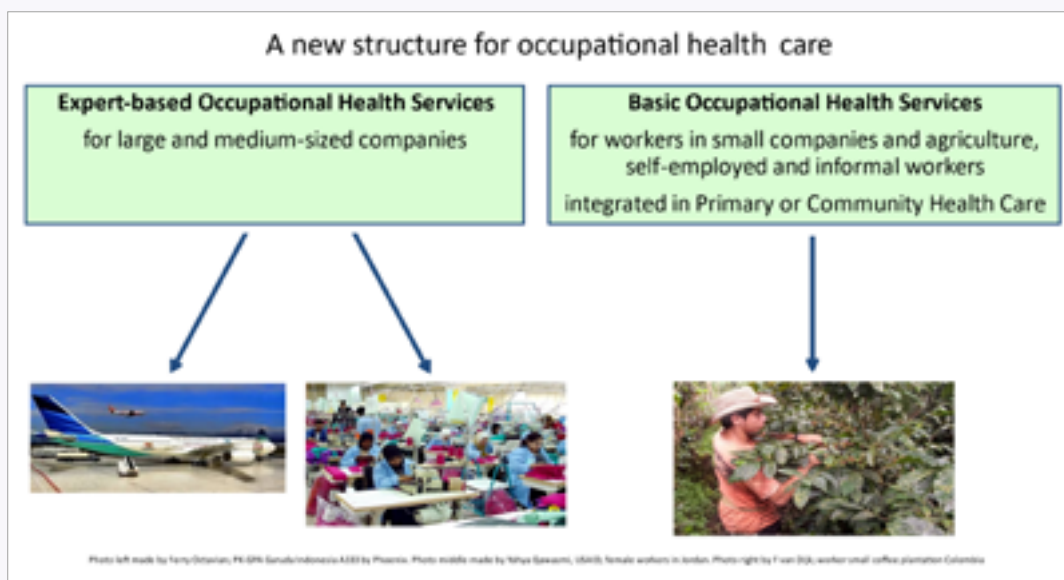
Suvarna Moti, Frank van Dijk

Email addresses: pathare\_suvarna@outlook.com and v.dijk.workandhealth@gmail.com

*This report includes citations from the abstracts and presentations of the presenters.*

### Introduction

**Frank van Dijk and Suvarna Moti** opened the special session showing, in a global view, the opportunities in Basic Occupational Health Services (BOHS) rooted in primary or community health care. The need to improve the poor coverage of occupational health care in the world is high. BOHS has good access for informal workers, employees in small enterprises, unemployed, future and retired workers.



**Figure 1. A new structure for occupational health care: expert-based occupational health services are supplemented by basic occupational health services operating in primary or community health care.**

So, BOHS is supplementing expert-based occupational health services in general focused on large and medium-sized companies. Sufficient backing of primary and community health care by occupational safety and health (OSH) experts often located in regional support centers is essential for a good functioning. Another crucial infrastructure is the creation of referral options e.g. to specialized occupational health care in hospitals. Support to enterprises and

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workers from the labor side needs to be strengthened as well. The sectors of health care and labor would take profit of a more intensive collaboration.

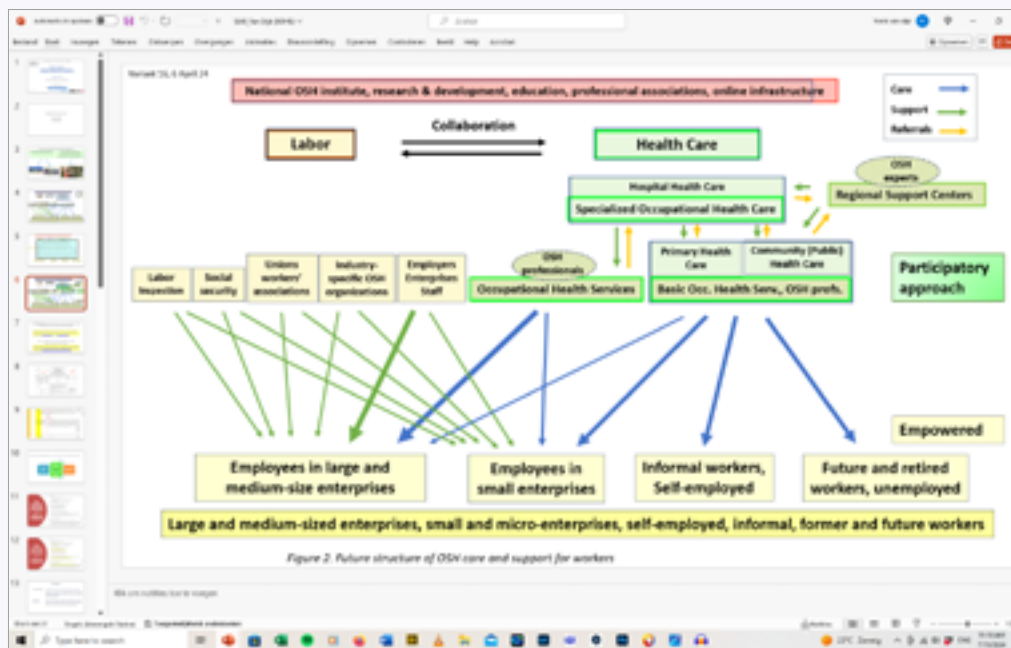


Figure 2. A new structure for occupational health care after innovations showing both expert-based occupational health services and basic occupational health services providing health care and support to different groups of workers and enterprises.

An online database has been developed referring to 189 publications on BOHS (2000-2023). In the presentation, literature highlighted existing experiments in BOHS in Thailand, China, India, Chili and Peru, Southern Africa, and Bangladesh. Next, examples were discussed regarding legislation needed, impact of regional support centers and the need for competent occupational health nurses as elaborated in studies from Türkiye, Thailand and Latin-American countries. Finally, recommendations were given for the start of BOHS, the (infra)structure needed, and the quality of the services delivered.

**Dingani Moyo** highlighted the challenges in southern Africa where access levels to occupational health services are below 20%. None of the countries in southern Africa have implemented BOHS. New disciplines such as occupational medicine are slowly initiating. A systematic literature review was complemented with personal experiences in regional projects. Occupational health services are usually provided by general medical practitioners. Key problems are the fragmentation of the legal frameworks in all the southern African countries and shortage of qualified human resources. Occupational health services are not included in the countries' national health strategic plans. There is an urgent need to build the necessary human resources with competencies in Occupational Medicine and in occupational safety and health. Infrastructure must be developed utilizing best practices as examples. There are pressing requests for legal frameworks and financial resources for implementation of BOHS. Occupational health services need to be integrated in primary health.

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**Suvarna Moti** showed as a background, that the informal sector in India employs more than 80 % of the workforce perpetuating low-quality employment, low productivity and lack of workplace occupational safety and health (OSH) facilities, due to scant regulatory and legal frameworks. She completed a scoping literature review on the question if Basic Occupational Health Services in India are progressing beyond general medical care at the workplace.

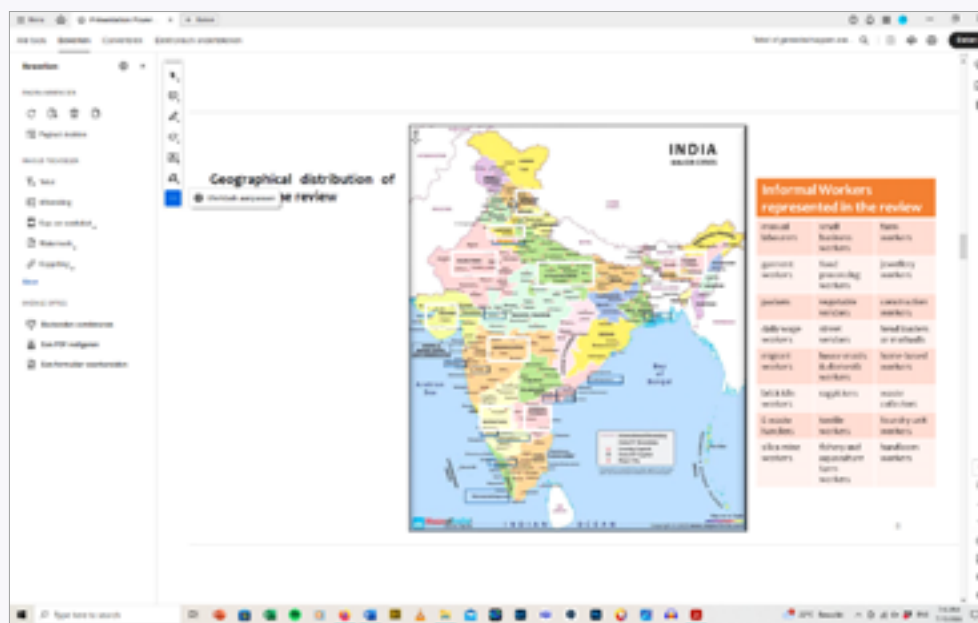


Figure 3. Geographical distribution of studies in a review of studies in India (Suvarna Moti, slide)

She presented the results for 18 studies in narrative form since meta-analysis was not possible given the heterogeneity in outcomes. Preventive and promotive care are missing elements in the care provided, with a preference for private, not public medical facilities. Alternatively, in a SEWA study, grassroot level health workers were trained in occupational health. Lack of medical subsidies or healthcare financing schemes hinder progress. The results demonstrate that primarily, availability and affordability of general medical care were prioritized, followed by work equipment modifications, use of PPE and practice of safe work behavior. Especially women faced issues in BOHS and lack of social security. Significant barriers to occupational healthcare were affordability and availability of healthcare resources, and acceptability of healthcare services. Education of health care professionals in occupational health, and implementation of social protection schemes and health insurance can improve the accessibility. The findings address the need at policy, enterprise and employee levels in mainstreaming minimization of hazards at work and promotion of safe work behavior as key elements.

**Min Zhang** mentioned that China is accounting for 30% of the global manufacturing output in 2021. She discussed the challenges and opportunities of Basic Occupational Health Services in China, against the backdrop of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030, especially the aim of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and the Healthy China 2030 strategy. Occupational Health has been prioritized as one of the 15 major health special campaigns. An interpretive approach is used to analyze the evidence and policy progress in China, using both desk



## ICOH2024 Summary Reports on the Special Sessions

and field research in several studies. National regulation on occupational health has been strengthened in China, including governmental system reform, adoption and amendment of laws, and the Action of Occupational Health Protection under the Healthy China Action Plan (2019-2030). Demographic changes in the working population reflects in a small decline of the working population, and aging effects in the next few years. The responsibility for OSH from the health sector and the work safety sector are merged in the National Health Commission. BOHS has played an important role of occupational health protection in China, however, the strategies of BOHS need to be adapted to the Chinese social economic development.

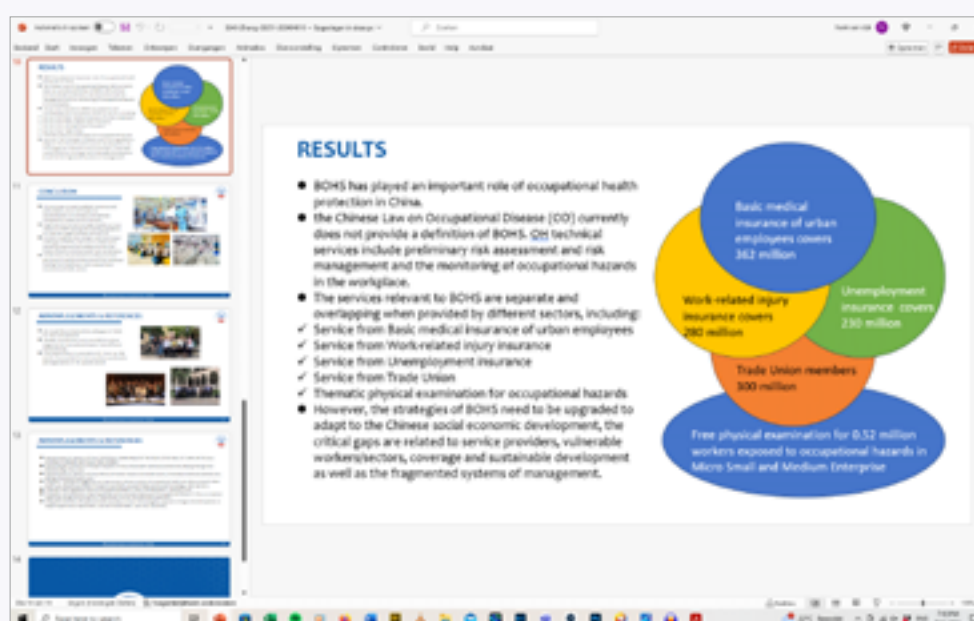


Figure 4. Results of the study by Min Zhang (China, slide)

Multi-sector collaboration should be improved by breaking the silos that hinder communication and coordination. Investment in occupational disease prevention and control could be enhanced combining funding from healthcare, injury insurance and trade unions. Public services relevant for BOHS are now covering between 50-70 % of the working population. Critical gaps are related to service providers, vulnerable workers/sectors, coverage and sustainable development, and fragmented management systems. Zhang recommended to reach a global consensus and a common definition of BOHS.

Coverage in agriculture was the focus of **Claudio Colosio** presenting recent progress in Italy. Health hazards in agriculture are manifold. Many workers live in poverty. Lack of access to health surveillance at the workplace of workers is a key problem. Family subsistence agriculture, small-size enterprises, seasonal, migrant, family and self-employed workers, and child laborers (most informal sector workers) suffer the lowest levels of coverage and are not considered in the national laws, even in countries where the coverage is good like Italy. Better registration systems are urgently needed as a basis for preventive efforts. The increase in figure 5 does not indicate a worsening of working conditions but an increasing awareness of agricultural workers' right to Safe Work, a fair

# ICOH2024 Summary Reports on the Special Sessions

compensation of occupational diseases and a better access to OSH surveillance.

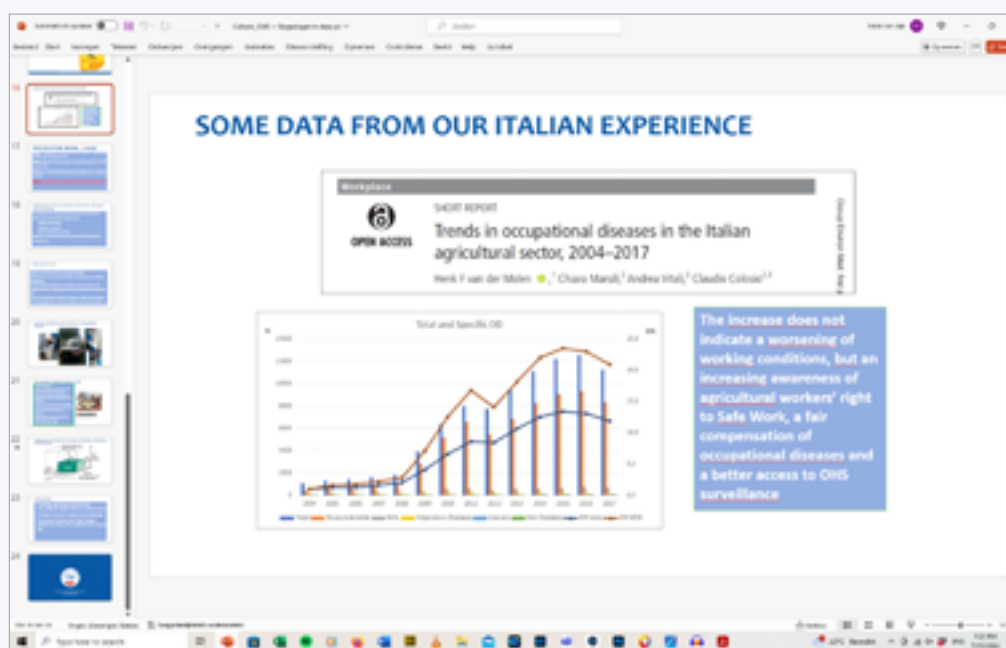


Figure 5. Absolute number (N) and incidence rate ratio (IRR) of reported occupational diseases (ODs) in the Italian agricultural sector in 2004-2017 [Van der Molen HF, Marsili C, Vitali A, Colosio C. Trends in occupational diseases in the Italian agricultural sector, 2004-2017. *Occup Environ Med.* 2020;77:340-343. PMID 31996472].

To increase the levels of coverage, a specific law decree has been promulgated in Italy, addressed at seasonal workers. So, a tripartite working group (trade unions, employers' associations, academia/public health care) was created by the Region of Lombardy to create a "Territorial Integrated Prevention System" (TIPS), bringing health care close to the places where rural people live and work. All the relevant actors and stakeholders should be involved. The objectives are to carry out health surveillance of workers, to organize meetings and training activities, and to set up prevention strategies. The focus should be on the most disadvantaged groups. Colosio recommended that public health must be the engine of the occupational health care in agriculture, but those who create the risk should pay.

The final contribution was by **Marcia Bandini** presenting the lecture prepared by **Elizabeth Costa Días** and **Márcia da Silva Anunciação Lazarino**, who could not be present. The working population in Brazil includes about 38 million formal and 39 million informal workers. The BOHS provision with Primary Health Care (PHC) as the gateway and coordinator within the Unified Health System (SUS) is guaranteed in the Federal Constitution (1988). BOHS can reach formal and informal workers with no access to expert-based occupational health services. Loss of social protection and increasing informality underline the importance of Primary Health Care (PHC) to guarantee Universal Occupational Health Coverage. She highlighted the need to organize good support for BOHS. Permanent training, and technical and pedagogical support (matrix training) are essential for the so-called Family Health Teams in PHC. Such support is provided by regional Reference Centers for Worker's Health (CEREST).

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The CEREST center in the municipality of Betim in the State of Minas Gerais covers 13 municipalities (732,000 inhabitants). Large industries are prevalent in this area, but also micro and small companies, and work at home. Matrix support to Primary Health Care professionals began in 2006 with a broad training program and the organization of Occupational Health reference units for workers' health problems in each municipality. In a Municipal Decree in 2016 several programs were implemented on surveillance of work-related injuries and of working conditions. Assistance actions covered the health care network with meetings, online contacts, education, and bimonthly face-to-face meetings at PHC units. In 2019-2022 the focus was on workplace inspections. Occupational Health Matrix Support was available in all SUS health centers in the regio. The number of activities increased over the years (Table 1).

Table 1. Occupational health matrix support to Primary Health Care delivered in 2012-2022 by the CEREST center in Betim, Brazil (Elizabeth Costa Días and Márcia da Silva Anunciação Lazarino, slide)

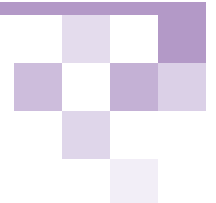
YEAR	# MEETINGS (CEREST/PHC)	# CASES/WORKERS	# EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES	# TECHNICAL ADVICE SESSIONS
2012	14	28	5	
2013	20	23	15	
2014	25	25	12	
2015	86	182	74	
2016	74	110	62	
2017	78	183	49	29
2018	93	309	67	16
2019	159	311	164	32
2020	61	92	20	53
2021	146	477	105	325
2022	322	714	291	647
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1078</b>	<b>2.679</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>1102</b>

The number of reported occupational diseases and accidents in the regio increased dramatically from 2007 to the years 2011 – 2017 presumably because of the increased awareness activities. The number of cases decreased in the period 2018-2022. Developing personal relationships between CEREST and PHC professionals is regarded critical to sustain the matrix system. The possibilities are exciting. However, challenges remain in the support of municipal management, insufficient CEREST centers, a high turnover of professionals, and a not optimal availability of health teams given the high demands in PHC.

### Panel discussion about past and future activities

**Participants:** all presenters, Shengli Niu (ILO), Ivan Ivanov (WHO), Mahinda Seneviratne (ICOH SC Occupational Health in Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector) and the audience.

## ICOH2024 Summary Reports on the Special Sessions



Marcia Bandini, Brazil, mentioned that nowadays about 50 % of PHC is covered by a CEREST center using problem-based learning techniques. Good legislation and matrix support are crucial. Financial contributions by the municipalities are needed. Min Zhang, China mentioned the presence of about 4500 health checkup facilities for workers. In Chinese law no definition of BOHS exist. Global consensus is needed on the definition of BOHS. BOHS in China should be upgraded to newest socio-economic developments. The dimensions of BOHS and what appears to be relevant must be prioritized. Claudio Colosio explained that about 800.000 workers in Italy are working in agriculture. The new TIPS system first caused an increase in registrations of occupational diseases through better coverage. Later, we see a decrease as the 'buffer' effect is fading out. Fines related to unsafe practices are used to finance preventive activities. This financing system was discussed. A dialog on the role of OSH experts in BOHS included the statement that more OSH experts will be needed in the future for referrals and support of primary and community health care.

Ivanov (WHO) queried did we learn anything specific from the BOHS concept? Since health resources are scant can we think about services beyond the health care system? Would universal occupational health care ask for facilities beyond health systems? Or is the way forward to strive for universalisation of existing occupational health services? He referred to the WHO Compendium to list interventions that are cost effective, asking for more evidence to support the Compendium. He referenced the Hague Conference (WHO, 2011) throwing options for occupational health care and mentioned costing of systemwide care. WHO Collaborating Centres have shown case studies on Occupational Health for informal economy and gig workers through (extramural) health care systems suggesting health priorities for underserved populations. The ICOH expert committee on BOHS can consider ideas that could be country specific. Shengli Niu (ILO) suggested that the BOHS expert committee could set up Core Members for networking with agencies and institutions interested in this topic and identify the countries and individuals willing to join the group. Mahinda Seneviratne (ICOH) recommended to look beyond the health care systems by involving civil society organisations and nongovernmental agencies.

### Final

The session began with a discussion about the BOHS Working Group rephrased by ICOH vice president Claudina Nogueira as a Scientific Committee Expert Group on BOHS in her triennial report at the Congress. At the Special Session, 13 of the about 40 attendees expressed an interest to participate actively. Frank van Dijk mentioned the idea of quarterly webinars that was supported by Claudio Colosio who indicated that the SC on Rural Health could help in the organization. Sheng Li supported the idea of such a group and mentioned sorting of tasks to be undertaken by the group. BOHS being the focus, the group can mention achievements and gaps in implementation, lessons learnt, synergy with resources or tools to develop an inventory, access and sharing of resources through the group. Suvarna Moti talked about access for the group activities through the ICOH website as indicated by the Secretary General, Diana Gagliardi in her report. Frank van Dijk mentioned the development of the repository on BOHS further as a primary activity for such a group.

# International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI) Annual Congress and 17th triennial General Assembly

**Geneva, Switzerland on 13-14 June 2024**

**Mahinda Seneviratne, ICOH Board Member and former Chair of SC Occupational Health in Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector**

Leaders of several national Labour Inspectorates from each of the different continents, participated at the Annual Congress and General Assembly of the International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI) held on 13-14 June in Geneva. IALI is the global professional organisation for labour inspection and has over 100 member organisations worldwide (<https://www.iali-aiit.org/>).

The Congress sessions, which included speakers from International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM), addressed topics ranging from effects of climate change on OSH, labour inspectorates' role in mental health and workplace violence and efforts to ban asbestos. Labour inspection practices from Brazil, Hong Kong, Switzerland and Norway including innovative advisory service programs and products were shared. Mr. Zhao Li from the US Labor Department described its programs on underserved worker populations and efforts to increase diversity in inspector recruitment. International Benchmarking on OSH Regulation (IBOR) tool is an IALI initiative that is now offered to its members to assess and improve labour system arrangements, in the context of changes to working patterns, technology and risks.

In a session on mental health and roles of labour inspectorates, I outlined the growth of international migrant workers with globalization and the post-pandemic labour market changes. Mental health risks are a 24/7 concern for many migrant workers who work in so-called 3-D jobs (dirty, dangerous and demanding). Inadequate accommodation and transport, limited access to basic health care services, as well as facing gender and race-



With IALI Technical Adviser Martyn Campbell (Australia), Secretary-General Ana Ercoreca de la Ruz (Spain) and President Ho Siong Hin (Singapore) at IALI Congress (Geneva Hilton, 13/6/24)

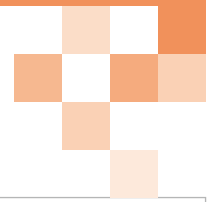


IALI Executive at its General Assembly (ILO Head Office, Geneva 14/6/24)



With Scandinavian labour inspectorate colleagues

## International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI) Annual Congress and 17th triennial General Assembly



based discrimination in host countries contribute to the inequities in migrant worker health.

The ILO strategy focusing on occupational health as a fundamental principle and rights at work (FPRW) is a loud call for labour inspectorates to give greater attention to prevent occupational diseases & illness. With our priority on global responsibility for OH and the multidisciplinary skills within the global membership, ICOH is in an excellent position to make an active contribution to build the much-needed capability for these efforts.

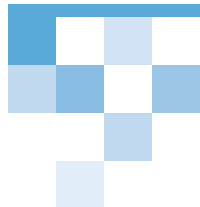
IALI Secretary-General Ms. Ana Ercoreca de la Ruz (Spain), recognised the diverse expertise on occupational health in the ICOH membership, noting the excellent networking and learning she experienced at the ICOH Congress in Marrakesh.

IALI President Mr. Ho Siong Hin (Singapore) concluded that “the international community, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic, has recognised the importance of labour inspection in promoting decent work. The proper application of labour legislation depends on an effective labour inspectorate.”

The IALI leadership is keen to foster the renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ICOH and IALI. Several national inspectorates, particularly from Africa and Asia, are interested in collaborating to develop their regulatory skills in areas of occupational health.







## Reports from the Scientific Committees

The following articles from the Scientific Committees are here.

SC Biohazards and Occupational Health

SC History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases

SC Occupational Medicine

SC Radiation and Work

SC Shiftwork and Working time

SC Work Organisation and Psychosocial Factors

### <SC Biohazards and Occupational Health>

#### ICOH2024 Congress Report: Advancements and Future Directions

Albert Nienhaus, SC Chair

Tanusha Singh, SC Secretary

Mary Ross, Member

The ICOH2024 Congress in Marrakesh, Morocco, from April 28 to May 3, 2024, marked a significant milestone for the recently established (2022) ICOH Scientific Committee for Biohazards and Occupational Health (SC BOH). As the Chair, Secretary, and members of SC BOH, we are excited to share our experiences, the committee's achievements, and our future plans, including the upcoming launch of our future plans.

#### Focus on Biohazards and Occupational Health

The congress highlighted the committee's aims to address a wide range of biohazards affecting workers in both healthcare and non-healthcare settings globally. It also provided an excellent platform for uniting experts, researchers, and practitioners to discuss the latest trends, challenges, and advancements in occupational biohazards.

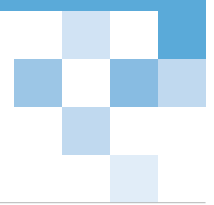
#### SC BOH Special Sessions

SC BOH organised a special session, free paper sessions, and poster presentations at the congress, each highlighting the complex nature of biohazards and the multifaceted strategies needed to address them effectively. The sessions featured presenters from 12 countries: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, South Africa, Taiwan, and Tunisia.

#### Special session

The special session opened with a presentation on "Emerging and Continuing Biohazards in the Workplace" by the chair, Prof. Mary Ross, which focused on the evolving landscape of occupational biohazards, emphasising the importance of addressing these hazards and implementing robust risk

## Reports from the Scientific Committees



management strategies. Presentations offered valuable historical insights and addressed current challenges, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Key presentations included:

- Prof. Stefano Porru: Discussed COVID-19's impact on occupational health, vaccination significance, and risk assessment, drawing data from the European ORCHESTRA study.
- Prof. Albert Nienhaus: Highlighted the occupational health risks faced by hairdressers during the pandemic and the role of effective workplace regulations.
- Prof. Tanusha Singh: Presented findings on mould exposure across diverse occupational settings, emphasising the importance of preventive measures.

### *Free Sessions and Poster Presentations*

The free sessions covered diverse research topics, including rubella immunity, influenza vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic, surface disinfection against ESKAPE organisms, bioaerosol exposure among recycling workers, and the risk of sexually transmitted infections among hotel workers. These sessions enriched our understanding of occupational health challenges and interventions.

The poster presentations showcased various research endeavours, including studies on chikungunya disease, histoplasmosis, hepatitis B vaccinations, SARS-CoV-2 infection, drug-resistant bacteria, and COVID-19 vaccine acceptance. These studies highlighted the breadth of global occupational health research related to biohazards. Further details of the ICOH2024 SC BOH activities are covered in a recent publication.

### *Business Meeting*

The SC BOH Business Meeting, attended by eight members,

the ICOH Vice President for Scientific Committees, and four visitors, was a key event at the congress. Discussions centred around the scope and strategy of SC BOH, achievements since ICOH2022, and efforts to increase awareness about workplace biohazards. Notable contributions included inputs on the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Technical guidelines on biological hazards in the working environment adopted in November 2022.<sup>3</sup>

A key topic was the increased focus on biohazards at work due to COVID-19, which spurred interest in post-pandemic health and workplace safety measures.<sup>1</sup> Research on post-COVID-19 was proposed, particularly in non-healthcare settings. The discussion highlighted the need for SC BOH to set priorities, considering both infectious and non-infectious biohazards. The One Health approach was identified as an ideal strategy to identify biohazards and relevant preventive measures, complementing research on occupational diseases.

### *Membership*

Prof. Mary Ross, after serving as Chair of WGOIA for four triennia and SC BOH for its first triennium, handed the Chair to Prof Albert Nienhaus. The committee thanks Prof Ross for her unwavering commitment and enormous contribution to the Working Group of Occupational Infectious Agents, which transitioned to the SCBOH. Her passion, dedication and expertise from Africa underscored the committee's achievements and successes under her leadership. The committee welcomed her continued membership and support for the incoming chair. We are also excited to welcome new members: Dr. Agustina Puspitasari (Indonesia), Dr. Ai Hori (Japan), Dr. Gianluca Spiteri (Italy), Prof. Gwen Brachman (USA), Itumeleng Ntamatlala (South Africa), Dr. Kankan Mukhopadhyay (India), and Dr. Marcella Mauro (Italy).

## Reports from the Scientific Committees



Prof. Stefano Porru handing over a certificate of appreciation to Prof. Mary Ross.

### Future Directions

The incoming Chair, Prof. Nienhaus, an occupational physician and epidemiologist from Germany, outlined plans for SC BOH's administration, emphasising institutional support and strategies for increasing visibility. Future activities include a post-pandemic survey of ICOH national secretaries regarding various aspects of occupational diseases caused by biohazard exposure. The second mid-term meeting of the committee is planned for October 2025 in Hamburg, Germany. We welcome ICOH members to join us on our mission to reduce biohazardous risks in formal and informal economies and healthcare and non-healthcare settings. Through its members, the committee will organise workshops, webinars, and training sessions to educate workers, employers, and health professionals on biohazard risks and prevention strategies. We will continue to support educational programmes focusing on biohazard management in the workplace. And assist in the implementation of existing guidelines and recommendations through practical toolkits and resources. In addition, we plan to conduct extensive research on the long-term health impacts of COVID-19 on workers in various sectors.

### Collaborative Efforts

SC BOH will continue collaborating with relevant organisations,

such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the ILO, to address workplace biohazards. Notably, SC BOH will monitor developments within the WHO, especially those related to pandemics and the workplace. We welcome joint projects and initiatives with other ICOH committees and external stakeholders to address global occupational health challenges pertaining to biohazards. This will enable us to foster interdisciplinary research and collaboration to tackle biohazards from multiple perspectives, including occupational, environmental and public health.

### Conclusion

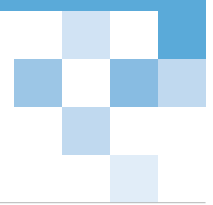
The ICOH2024 Congress was a successful event that showcased SC BOH's commitment to addressing biohazards in occupational health. We look forward to continued collaboration and research efforts to improve workplace health and safety.

For further information or to express interest in joining SC BOH, please contact Tanusha Singh at [tanushas@uj.ac.za](mailto:tanushas@uj.ac.za).



Front row (left to right): Prof. Albert Nienhaus, Ms. Claudina Nogueira (Past ICOH VP SCs), Dr. Bill Buchta; Middle row (left to right): Dr. Itumeleng Ntamatamala, Dr. Marcella Mauro, Prof. Tanusha Singh; Back row (left to right): Prof. Toru Yoshikawa, Ms. Dikeledi Mutaka (non-member), Prof. Stefano Porru, Prof. Mary Ross

# Reports from the Scientific Committees



## <SC History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases>

### Notification of Next International Conference

**Rajen Naidoo**

The ICOH Scientific Committee for the History of the Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases met at the ICOH Triennium in Marrakesh, Morocco. The meeting was convened by the outgoing Chair, Paul Blanc (University of California San Francisco) and Secretary, Kjell Toren (University of Gothenburg). The meeting elected the new officers for the next triennium, with Jason Glaser (La Isla Network) as chair and Rajen Naidoo (University of KwaZulu-Natal) as secretary. Following

its successful international conference in Durban, South Africa in November 2023 ([icohhistory.ukzn.ac.za](http://icohhistory.ukzn.ac.za)), the SC also decided that its 8th International Conference on the History of Occupational Health will be held in Leuven, Belgium from 15-17 April 2026. The Conference Chair will be Steven Ronsmans (University of Leuven). Included in the plans is a webinar in 2025, and the possibilities of research training in worker health history for emerging researchers.

## <SC Occupational Medicine>

### Occupational Heat Disorders - A Foresight Report

**Brett Shannon, Steering Committee**

With an increase of 1.1°C in global average temperature compared to pre-industrial times and nineteen out of the twenty warmest years on record occurring since the year 2000, workers worldwide are becoming increasingly vulnerable to impacts of climate change. Increasing temperatures due to climate change is predicted to result in increased occupational injuries and deaths related to heat stress. Other environmental concerns for workers from climate change include increased air pollutants, UV radiation, extreme weather events and vector borne and zoonotic disease.

The International Labour Organisation recently published

report titled “Ensuring Safety and Health at Work in A Changing Climate” highlighting the increasing impact each of these hazards will have on workers linked to climate change.

The Scientific Committee on Occupational Medicine (SCOM) chaired a session on Indigenous and Migrant Workers Opportunities and Challenges in Marrakesh at ICOH2024. Vulnerable worker populations are at increased risk of the hazards related to climate change due to (1) Regulations - Most countries do not have a standard related to heat that sets exposure limits, acclimatisation protocols and safety programs. (2) Nature of employment - Many migrant

## Reports from the Scientific Committees

and Indigenous workforces are paid based on ‘piece rate’ which disincentivizes breaks and also limits reporting of injuries and illnesses and appropriate treatment. (3) Language and cultural barriers - These groups of workers and transient workforces, with further communication barriers related to identification of illnesses and administrative controls such as appropriate training and education.

As Occupational Health professionals we have a role to not only treat and prevent, but to ensure advocacy for our most vulnerable workers in future policy development to combat

the growing health impacts of climate change.



### <SC Radiation and Work>

#### Report of the ICOH Scientific Committee “Radiation and Work” scientific activities at the 34th ICOH Congress and at the 2024 Conference of Italian Medical Radiation Protection Association

Alberto Modenese, SC Chair

Marc Wittlich, the former SC Chair

The ICOH Scientific Committee “Radiation and Work” actively participated in the scientific activities of our 34th ICOH Congress, held in Marrakesh (Morocco) from 28th April to 3rd May 2024.

On Monday 29th April we organized the Special Session “Prevention of exposure to radiation risks: Current updates and implications for workers’ health”. The session received relevant interest with about one hundred of participants and



Figure 1. ICOH SC R&W sessions at the 34th ICOH Congress in Marrakesh



## Reports from the Scientific Committees

outstanding speakers as Emilie Van Deventer from World Health Organization and Shengli Niu from the International Labour Organization. During the session there were presentations on current WHO and ILO perspectives on the prevention of the ionizing and non-ionizing radiation exposure risks in workers, and other presentations from international experts on the topics of indications for health surveillance of workers exposed to ionizing and non-ionizing radiations, and for a proper UV risk evaluation for outdoor workers exposed to solar radiation. On Monday 29th the Scientific Committee had also a further parallel session based on the abstracts received from the Congress subscribers and selected for oral presentation, and at the end of the same day the Business Meeting of the SC R&W took place.

Moreover, on Thursday 2nd May 2024 a further Special Session was organized by our Scientific Committee in collaboration with the Scientific Committee “Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses”. The Session was entitled “Solar UV radiation exposure and occupational skin cancers” and was an occasion for interested ICOH Congress participants to follow an up-to-date high level scientific summary on the main types of occupational skin cancers related to solar UV radiation exposure, on the possibility to perform individual dosimetric measurements in outdoor workers, and on the topics of occupational health surveillance, emerging of under-reported UV-induced occupational skin diseases and effective interventions to reduce solar UV risk at work. Finally, it was a honour for the Scientific Committee “Radiation and Work” to see our member and past Chair Professor Fabriziomaria Gobba from Univeristy of Modena & Reggio Emilia (Italy) giving a semi-pleantry lecture on Thursday 2nd June at the Marrakesh ICOH World Congress, in front of an audience of about 250 participants interested in receiving evidence based indications for a proper health surveillance of workers exposed to non-ionizing radiation risks. After the Congress, as every year in June (this year



Figure 2. The ICOH SC R&W International Symposium at the 2024 Italian AIRM conference

from the 11th to the 13th) the ICOH SC R&W participated to the International Advisory Committees (IAC) meeting organized by the “Radiation and health” unit of the Department of Environment, Climate change and Health of the World Health Organization on the topics of electromagnetic fields (EMF) and optical radiation-related health risks in Geneva (Switzerland). At the WHO IAC meeting the ICOH SC “R&W” was invited to report on its activities carried on during the last year for the prevention of the occupational health risks related to EMF and optical radiation exposure, and two presentations mainly focused on the scientific sessions occurred at our 34th ICOH World Congress have been provided to the about 100 hundred participants.



## Reports from the Scientific Committees

Finally, it has to be mentioned that a few days after the 34th ICOH Congress, the ICOH SC Radiation and Work collaborated in the 2024 national conference of the Italian Medical Radiation Protection Association (AIRM), held in Reggio Emilia, in the north of Italy, on the 20 and 21 May 2024. For the first time in the history of this Italian national conference, an international symposium in collaboration with the ICOH SC has been organized in the morning of Monday 20th May. The session captured the attention of the 120 residential participants and has been recorded, in order to be provided to interested ICOH members. During

the Session, opened by an introduction to the ICOH Scientific Committee Radiation and Work provided by Alberto Modenese, there was the occasion to learn from three outstanding speakers, i.e. Evgenia Ostroumova from IARC, Shengli Niu from ILO and Bernard Le Guen from IRPA. They respectively discussed on the epidemiology of long-term effects related to low-dose ionizing radiation exposure, on the ILO perspectives on occupational health surveillance of radiation workers and on the point of view of the radiation protection professionals on the current practices for risk prevention at the workplaces.

### <SC Shiftwork and Working Time>

### Join us at the 25th International Symposium on Shiftwork and Working Time!

**Claudia Moreno, SC Member, Organizing Committee**

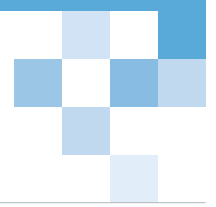
**Imelda Wong, SC Chair**

After a hiatus during COVID-19, we are pleased to announce that the 25th edition of the International Symposium on Shiftwork and Working Time will return to beautiful São Paulo, Brazil from November 11-14, 2025.

Since 1969, this biennial event has gathered an international group of researchers, industry representatives, policy makers and labor organizations across various continents to discuss recent scientific evidence on nonstandard work



# Reports from the Scientific Committees



schedules and effective solutions to promote worker safety, health and wellbeing. The theme for the 2025 symposium is “Basic-to-Translational Science for Preventing and Managing Chronic Diseases in Nonstandard Work Schedules: Challenges and Barriers Hindering Progress.” The focus will be on innovative approaches and perspectives to enhance the lives of workers in nonstandard schedules (e.g., night/shift work, precarious work, extended work hours, gig/temp/casual employment), and practical solutions to prevent and manage chronic diseases.

We are also dedicated to supporting early career researchers in advancing the science and will feature workshops for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows with opportunities for collaboration with other ICOH Scientific

Committee members. Travel grants will be available for early career researchers.

We look forward to welcoming you to Brazil in 2025 to discuss and help build strategies to improve the of those in nonstandard work schedules worldwide! Please visit our Working Time Society website ([workingtime.org](http://workingtime.org)) for more information, and follow us at [@worktimesociety](https://twitter.com/worktimesociety) on X for updates.

Organizing Committee

Claudia RC Moreno

Patrícia Nehme

Cibele Crispim

Frida Fischer

Elaine Marqueze

## <SC Work Organisation and Psychosocial Factors>

### Report on the business meeting

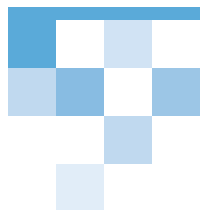
Michael Ertel, SC Chair

#### SC WOPS Business Meeting on May 1st, 2024

The SC WOPS business meeting was opened by the chairperson, Akihito Shimazu. The Chairperson was pleased to meet WOPS members once again in person at the ICOH Conference in Marrakech - Morocco. Altogether 26 members participated, three of them online. Currently, the Scientific Committee has 125 members from 47 countries. Akihito gave an overview of the SC WOPS activities over the last three years, of the collaboration with other organizations, of the joint Congress in Tokyo 2023, and of the activities of SC WOPS at the current ICOH Congress including the handover to the next chairperson.

Webinars organized by the Board members in 2021 and 2022 to continue and facilitate communication among members during the pandemic.

1. Working from home in times of COVID-19: Line care in the workplace under COVID-19 in Japan.
2. The SARS-CoV2 pandemic: Exponential inequality in the social determination of a global disaster.
3. Psychosocial health risks and policy responses during the COVID-19 pandemic: the case of Taiwan.
4. Beyond burnout: Moral injury and the mental health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in healthcare workers



## Reports from the Scientific Committees

5. Update of compensation scales for occupational diseases in France: proposal of the working group in charge of work-related mental diseases.

### Collaboration with Non-ICOH Organizations

1. The European Policy Stakeholder Workshop on Regulation and Policy for the Prevention of Psychosocial Risks in Europe (5 May 2023)
  - Stavroula Leka (previous chair) and Michael Ertel (Co-Chair)
2. The 1st meeting of the G7 Employment Working group “Investing in Human Capital”
  - Akihito Shimazu (chair)
3. ORP Congress 2023, Special session on mental health and well-being
  - Marie-Agnes Denis (Co-chair)
4. National Taiwan University (Yawen Cheng), two presentations (“Advances in regulating psychosocial work hazards in Europe and in Germany and in recognizing work-related mental disorders” and “European approaches to regulate work in digital labour platforms”), 25 and 26 September 2023
  - Michael Ertel (co-chair)
5. WHO guidelines on mental health at work
  - Norito Kawakami, Inah Kim, Akihito Shimazu, Akizumi Tsutsumi

### Reflection on Joint Congress 2023 in Tokyo

The Joint Congress (ICOH-WOPS & APA-PFAW) took place on September 19–22, 2023 at Hitotsubashi Hall, Tokyo, Japan, and the theme was “Imagine” Decent Work Beyond COVID-19. There were 302 delegates in person from 34 different countries/regions with five keynote speakers, fifteen symposia, six special sessions, and two Roundtable discussions. Selected peer-reviewed papers will be published in a special issue of Industrial Health.

Reports on the Joint Congress of ICOH-WOPS and APA-PFAW 2023 in Tokyo were published in diverse media.

### Contributions to ICOH 2024 in Marrakesh

#### *Plenary session*

João Silvestre da Silva Junior: Mental health of frontline healthcare workers during the Covid-19 pandemic

#### *Semi-plenary session*

Marie-Agnès Denis: Mental health and occupational health  
4 ICOH WOPS BUSINESS MEETING-01 MAY 2024

#### *Special session*

Off-job experiences and well-being (Akihito Shimazu), collaboration with Shift work and Working Time Scientific Committee

#### *Free paper sessions*

Substance use, addictive disorders, doping, and work (Quentin Durand-Moreau)

Qualitative and micro-level interventions to improve work organizations (Quentin Durand-Moreau)

Psychosocial risks - regulation and policies from an international comparative perspective (Michael Ertel) \

Positive mental health, work engagement, and well-being (Akihito Shimazu) \

### Next term Chairperson, Secretary, Co-chairs

The former Chairperson, Akihito Shimazu, has completed his two terms of office and will be assisting the new chairperson in an advisory capacity. An email was sent by WOPS Secretary, Denise Minnie, requesting nominations for the Chairperson. There was only one candidate, Michael Ertel for the position of Scientific Committee Chair for the

## Reports from the Scientific Committees

term 2024-2027. All formal requirements were met and so Michael was formally confirmed as new Chair. Michael thanked everyone for their trust and emphasized that it is important to work well together as a team.

The team also thanked Akihito for his support, leadership, and dedication to the WOPS Scientific Committee. The secretary Denise Minnie also accepted her position for the second term of officer. Board members Tania and Marie Agnes will remain in their positions and a call for

additional board members will be sent out in due course.

The next SC WOPS Congress will take place in 2026. Preparations will start as soon as the new team has been formed.

Last, but not least, Quentin Durand-Moreau and Akizumi Tsutsumi were both elected as ICOH Board members for the period 2024-2027 where they will advocate the issue of psychosocial factors at work.



## Members' Activity

**The following articles from the Members are here.**

Prof. Dingani Moyo (the former NS for Zimbabwe)

Janice Green (former NS for Jamaica)

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine (ANZSOM)

Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)

Malaysian Society of Occupational Health Doctors (MSOHD)

The Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM)

## A Journey of a Thousand Miles Starts with One Step. My two-decade Journey in ICOH and Lessons Learnt

**Professor Dingani Moyo, the former NS for Zimbabwe**

I am an Occupational Medicine Specialist and a Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (FFOM), Ireland and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP), Ireland. My earliest experiences in Occupational Health began when I joined one of the largest Chrome Mining Companies in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe in 2001. I attended the 2009 ICOH Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. The 2009 ICOH Congress was a turning point for me in my professional career. It was the realization of belonging to an authoritative body of knowledge at a global level. It gave me access to an immense body of knowledge in occupational health through the different scientific committees, information repository on the website, and the global professional network of ICOH members. This presented an invaluable resource of knowledge and was catalytic to my interest and trajectory in Occupational Health. Having learnt a lot about ICOH, I was very much convinced that this was the

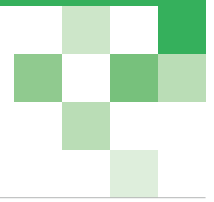


rightful professional association to belong to. Coming from Africa, where occupational health (OH) was at its infancy stage then, the macro-strategic trajectory of ICOH, especially the Basic Occupational Health Services Model as espoused by Professor Jorma Rantanen resonated heavily with my career vision. It was this contagious enthusiasm within ICOH

that would see me rising up through the Membership of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (MFOM) Ireland, through FFOM to FRCP, Ireland. I am extremely grateful to ICOH for playing a crucial role in the genesis of my career and to the extensive contribution to Africa, specifically southern Africa where I have shared my knowledge and experiences through several local and regional occupational health initiatives by international organizations such as the World Bank, African Union Development Agency - NEPAD, East, Central and southern African Health Community (ECSA-HC), and



## Members' Activity



the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) projects to mention but just a few.

To date I have diligently and religiously served on all the key facets of ICOH. At the Cancun, Congress in 2012, I advocated for the establishment of an ICOH Chapter in Zimbabwe that saw me serving as the inaugural National Secretary for the triennium 2012-2015. It was during this time that I embarked on a massive recruitment drive that would see over 44 members joining ICOH in Zimbabwe during the triennium. Driven by a strong passion to contribute positively to OH, I was elected as an ICOH Board Member at the Seoul, South Korea ICOH Congress in 2015 for the triennium 2015-2018. It was at the same Seoul Congress that I served as an International Judge for the poster sessions. During the same year, I was selected by the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Ireland, to promote the 2018 Dublin Congress during the Seoul congress. I am very glad to have been part of the promotion of the successful ICOH Congress in Dublin, Ireland 2018.

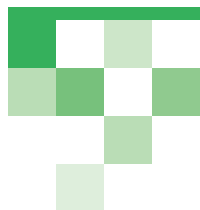
During the triennium 2018-2021, I served on the MINOSH Scientific Committee as co-chair of the artisanal and small-scale mining sub-committee. This saw me presenting on MINOSH Webinars and contributing to the scientific committee. I was elected for a second term as an ICOH Board Member for the triennium 2022-2024. I have and are still contributing to the scientific body of knowledge in a great way. Enthused by the splendid work of MINOSH, I have been involved in research in ASM and I have over eight publications in international peer reviewed journals. This has added immensely to my over 45 publications in occupational Health journals.

I am greatly indebted to ICOH that has shaped my

professional career and transformed my approach to local, regional and continental perspectives of occupational health practice. There has been immense learning and experience acquisition during the years I have served in various positions in ICOH. I am truly grateful to ICOH and I strongly believe that it has contributed greatly to my professional growth and impact on the African continent. This has led me to advocate and impart knowledge at national, regional and continental levels in the field of Occupational Health and Safety. I have been part of the transformative initiatives that have revolutionarized occupational health and safety practice in Africa. Such welcome developments in the southern African region have included the development of regional strategic frameworks on Occupational Health Services by the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD and the Regional Mine Health and Safety Standard Operating Procedures by the East Central and Southern Africa Health Community, among many other positive developments. I have also been part of the USAID Project intervention screening artisanal and small scale miners for tuberculosis and Occupational Lung Diseases. The works of the different scientific committees in ICOH together with resource materials have been incredible in shaping knowledge domains in the occupational health space.

To crown it all, I am truly grateful to ICOH that has transformed my professional career in occupational health. ICOH serves as a very important international occupational health professional body that has contributed immensely to the development of occupational health globally. The first step of my journey of a thousand miles in Occupational Health was becoming an ICOH member. I implore all ICOH members to actively advance the occupational health agenda and embark on an aggressive recruitment drive of new members.





## Members' Activity

### Healthy Workplaces for Vulnerable Workers and Users of Public Health Facilities Being Achieved in Jamaica

Janice Green, former NS for Jamaica

At the recent International Commission on Occupational Health Congress held in Marrakesh Morocco, April 28, 2024 - May 3, 2024, I was one of the speakers in the ICOH2024 Special Session. The Special Session was titled - SDG 8 Decent Work: Healthy Workplaces for Vulnerable Workers.

My presentation was from the Caribbean perspective and was titled - Reducing social inequalities - Improving access to health treatment and care for vulnerable workers living and working in developing countries.

The focus of my presentation was on social protection programs inequalities, limited access to health treatment and care for vulnerable workers living and working in developing countries.

Despite Developing countries having established policies and legislations to support their social protection systems and programs, there exists real problem with gaps, that can be closed. One of the main problems for vulnerable workers who are users of public health hospitals, is the long wait time.

At this special session I made a CALL TO ACTION on how to close the gaps. The call was for sustainable commitment from UN & WHO International Donor Agencies for Developing Countries public health hospitals. The specific areas that require commitment were listed as follows:

1. Long term financial commitment for physical infrastructure layout & Design

2. Equipment & Facilities retooling, Improved technology to digitalize records
3. Capacity strengthening support (R&D)
4. Training & Development - Specialist Doctors and associated nurses to treat with increase of patients with non-communicable diseases
5. Free access to all aspect of health care and all prescribed medication at public hospitals for vulnerable groups.

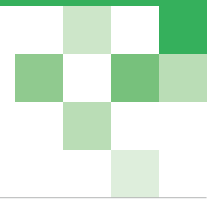
The intention of the Special Session workshop was to deliver at least three practical actions that can be taken by participants, beyond ICOH2024, back to their countries, organizations, workplaces and communities towards achieving healthy workplaces in SMEs and informal sectors.

I am now happy to share that in Jamaica, several facilities, including the pharmacy building and other areas, have been improved at the Spanish Town Hospital in St. Catherine, from a \$32-million infrastructure project. This was reported by the Jamaica Information Service (JIS) on May 19, 2024.

As shared in the news report, the work included renovation of the outpatient waiting area, repurposing of the hospital storage facility, relocation of the laboratory, as well as construction of the covered waiting area, which has the capacity to accommodate 300 outpatients.

The JIS further shared that the upgrading of the hospital is part of the Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP), from which the institution is being positioned

## Members' Activity



to be a modern six-story facility spread across more than 17,000 square metres and will include several access points for staff and patients, as well as a skywalk that links the wards.

The Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Tufton, explained in the same news report, that improvements to the information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure also formed part of the works, which will

improve access to medical services, providing, among other things, electronic access to patients' medical records.

As it relates to SDG 8 Decent Work. I can say the goal is achievable. For Developing Countries, healthy workplaces for vulnerable workers and users of public health facilities can be achieved, with International Donor Agencies commitment and sustainable funding.



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (right), and Member of Parliament for St. Catherine Eastern, Denise Daley (second right), cut the ribbon for the official opening of the upgraded waiting area at the Spanish Town Hospital in St. Catherine on Wednesday, May 15.



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (left), addresses patients at the upgraded pharmacy at the Spanish Town Hospital in St. Catherine on Wednesday, May 15.



## Members' Activity

### Annual Scientific Meeting - ANZSOM

Jessie Murray



#### Don't miss Australia's premier occupational medicine educational event

Coming up this October in Perth is the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine (ANZSOM) - a must for health professionals working in occupational medicine, including medical practitioners, nurses and allied health professionals. The event will cover a wide range of contemporary workplace health issues as we look to "Innovate, Integrate and Inspire", to shape the evolving future of occupational medicine.

#### Can't make it to Perth?

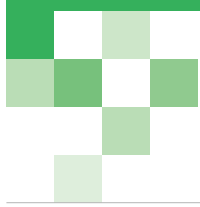
Don't worry! ASM2024 is a hybrid event, giving delegates

the choice of attending in person or virtually from wherever they find themselves.

Virtual registration includes:

- **Full access to all 3 days of the technical program** - sessions will be broadcast live via our online conference portal where you'll be able to chat to your fellow virtual delegates and join in the discussion.
- **On-demand access to recordings and learning material** - all technical sessions will be recorded, with access for 6 months post-event.

For more information or to register, visit the Conference website at <http://www.anzsomasm2024.com.au/>



## Members' Activity

### News from IOSH

Karen Michell

#### IOSH joins inaugural Global Coalition for Social Justice forum

The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) joined the inaugural forum of the Global Coalition for Social Justice, held during the International Labour Conference.

More than 250 coalition partners joined the session in Geneva, Switzerland, on Thursday 13 June, which was aimed at continuing the ongoing collaborative efforts towards actions to support social justice around the world.

IOSH's Chief Executive Vanessa Harwood-Whitcher and Strategic Engagement Manager Marijana Zivkovic Mtegha were among them, as they were joined by country ministers, worker groups, businesses, academics and other non-governmental organisations.

The Institution is well positioned to lead and contribute towards joint efforts that align with realising labour rights as human rights, ensuring human dignity and meeting basic needs, as well as strengthening just transitions and the social dimension of sustainable development, trade and investment.

#### IOSH opens research call

IOSH is opening its research fund this Autumn, with an international call for research proposals. It will be calling for research proposals from experienced researchers to explore four topics that will contribute to a safe and healthy world of work.

The call involves a one-stage application process. For more details and information on how to apply visit the IOSH website where the announcement will be published: <https://iosh.com/research>

#### Future of work report launched

IOSH launched a new report highlighting the uncertain future facing workers, with advances in technology, climate change and adaptations to ways of working potentially posing risks to people's health, safety and wellbeing.

Towards a safe and healthy future of work, published jointly with sustainable development experts Arup, looks at how the world of work is set to change in the coming years. With an estimated 7,500 people dying every day from unsafe or unhealthy working conditions, the report poses a number of 'what-if' questions designed to highlight to governments, businesses and the health and safety profession that IOSH represents how action is required to ensure people are protected in and out of work.

Visit [read.iosh.com](https://read.iosh.com) for more information.



## Members' Activity

### Malaysian Guidelines for Health Workers Immunisation

Dr. Melvyn Chin and Dr. Gogillan Sevaratnam

Malaysian Society of Occupational Health Doctors (MSOHD) organised the Hybrid Launching & Workshop on Malaysian Guidelines for Health Workers Immunisation.

Officiated by Dato Dr Azman bin Yacob, President of MSOHD and Director for the Medical Development Division of the Ministry of Health Malaysia, a concurrent workshop was also held for over 50 hospital directors, deputy hospital directors and representatives from state and district health offices from Klang Valley on the importance of immunisation for health workers.

This momentous achievement comes after overcoming numerous obstacles and delays, as our dedicated team worked tirelessly to ensure the utmost precision and relevance of these guidelines.

From the very beginning, our team recognised the significance of this endeavour. We meticulously conducted research, collaborated with esteemed medical professionals, and incorporated valuable insights from various stakeholders to ensure the guidelines are evidence-based, practical, and tailored to the Malaysian and many other countries' healthcare landscape.

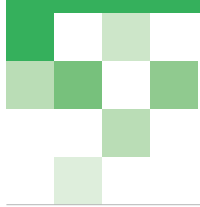
The Malaysian Guidelines for Health Workers Immunisation cover a wide range of crucial topics, including:

1. The significance of health workers immunisation.
2. Detailed information on available vaccines and their administration.
3. Safe handling and storage protocols
4. Monitoring and management of potential adverse reactions.
5. Strategies to enhance vaccine acceptance and compliance among health workers
6. Data-driven insights on vaccine efficacy and long-term benefits

Strongly encourage all healthcare professionals, policymakers, and organisations to embrace these guidelines and integrate them into their immunisation strategies. Let's work hand in hand to safeguard the health and safety of our frontline heroes, who tirelessly serve the nation.

More on these guidelines can be obtained at <https://lnkd.in/gcyb87vM>





## Members' Activity

### SOM Publications Catalogue 2024

Nick Pahl

SOM publications, covering key guidelines and reports on Occupational and Workplace Health, including neurodiversity, burnout, skin, MSK and mental health issues, can be found at [www.som.org.uk](http://www.som.org.uk)

Direct link:

[https://www.som.org.uk/sites/som.org.uk/files/SOM\\_Publications\\_Catalogue\\_2024\\_0.pdf](https://www.som.org.uk/sites/som.org.uk/files/SOM_Publications_Catalogue_2024_0.pdf)

### A Manager's Guide for Long COVID by SOM

Nick Pahl

SOM has produced a new guide for managers covering supporting people with Long COVID ([link here](#)).

The guide states that:

1. Managers can have a significant impact on successful return to work.
2. COVID-19 causes a wide range of health problems. Symptoms vary over time and can be unpredictable and fluctuate.
3. Removing or reducing obstacles to return to work helps staff retention and helps avoid discrimination claims under the Equality Act 2010. Reasonable adjustment
4. Following these steps produce the best chance of getting employees back to work safely and staying at work:
  - Step 1: Early-stay in touch while the worker is absent from work
  - Step 2: Regular meetings
  - Step 3: Plan the worker's return
  - Step 4: Provide support during the early days of the return to work
  - Step 5: Regular review and ongoing support.
5. The most effective workplace adjustments for achieving a safe and sustained return to work after COVID-19 are:
  - preventing re-infections at work

- a prolonged phased return (returning to work tasks and hours gradually)
- a Return-to-Work (RTW) Plan detailing the job adjustments, which consider day-to-day variations in symptoms
- not working beyond energy capacity as this can cause deterioration.

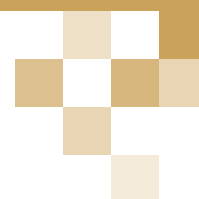
6. Most people with Long COVID need an extended period of RTW.
7. Advice should be taken from a human resources professional. Referral to occupational health services is often helpful.

An infographic and myth buster also help highlight these issues.

Dr Clare Rayner, our 2023 award winner for Global Contribution to the Development of Occupational Health, for work on Post-COVID conditions says, "I am delighted that SOM has produced this timely package of advice and guidance on what can help people with Post-COVID conditions get safely back to work and stay at work. In my mind, the key factors are early healthcare and workplace interventions, an individualised Return-to-Work Plan, and prevention of reinfection."



# Résumé en français



## Message du Président

**Chers collègues de la CIST/ICOH,**

Il s'agit de la première lettre d'information depuis le début de la nouvelle période triennale, après la conclusion réussie du Congrès *ICOH2024* de Marrakech, le 3 mai 2024. Au nom du bureau nouvellement élu, j'exprime ma gratitude à tous les membres pour nous avoir confié la responsabilité de servir la CIST/ICOH pour le triennat en cours, de 2024 à 2026. En outre, nous apprécions votre participation active à l'élection des nouveaux membres du bureau et du conseil d'administration, ainsi qu'au choix de Rome comme lieu du Congrès de 2030.

Nous, les membres du bureau-moi-même (président), Martin Hogan et Shyam Pingle (vice-présidents), et Diana Gagliardi (secrétaire générale)-ferons de notre mieux pour promouvoir les activités de la CIST/ICOH, améliorer la communication entre les membres et faciliter la collaboration avec d'autres organisations et associations.

### Congrès ICOH2024

Le Congrès de Marrakech 2024 s'est achevé avec succès grâce à votre soutien. Environ 1,300 participants ont profité d'un congrès d'une semaine dans la ville historique nord-africaine de Marrakech, au Maroc. Tout d'abord, je tiens à remercier le Président du Congrès, le Professeur Abduljalil El Kholti, Professeur à l'Université Casablanca Hassan II, et son équipe pour leur travail sans relâche et leur sincérité lors de la préparation et de la gestion du Congrès. Bien que le nombre de participants ait été inférieur à celui des congrès précédents, l'événement a été une merveilleuse occasion de rassembler des membres et des professionnels

de la santé - sécurité au travail du monde entier.

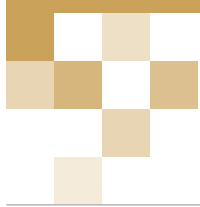
Lorsque la ville de Marrakech a remporté l'appel d'offres pour le Congrès *ICOH2024* à la quatrième tentative lors du Congrès de Dublin en 2018, les membres se sont interrogés sur leur capacité à gérer l'événement. Cependant, grâce à six années de préparation et au soutien du Secrétariat à Rome, le Congrès a pu être mené à bien malgré l'obstacle que représentait la pandémie de COVID-19 pendant deux à trois ans.

Les informations détaillées sur le Congrès sont rapportées par Mme Claudina Nogueira, la vice-présidente pour le triennat 2018-2023 dans l'article suivant. Elle a si bien résumé le Congrès que même les membres qui n'ont pas pu y assister en personne peuvent avoir l'impression d'y être. Claudina a fait un excellent travail en tant que vice-présidente lors des deux précédents triennats.

Il est maintenant temps de commencer à préparer le prochain congrès, qui se tiendra à Mumbai, en Inde du 14 au 19 février 2027. Cette période est idéale pour visiter l'Inde avant que la chaleur ne s'installe.

### Assemblée générale et réunions du conseil d'administration

Conformément à la Constitution, aux Règlements et à la tradition, l'Assemblée générale, le Conseil d'administration et les réunions du Bureau se sont tenus avant et après le Congrès. Le Bureau pour la période triennale précédente s'est réuni avant le Congrès pour approuver les rapports, traiter d'autres questions et examiner les offres pour le lieu du Congrès de 2030. La réunion des membres



## Résumé en français

nouvellement élus s'est tenue le lendemain du Congrès afin d'approuver le plan de travail pour la période triennale en cours.

La première assemblée générale s'est tenue avant l'ouverture, dans l'après-midi du premier jour du congrès. Le Dr Marilyn Fingerhut, qui était vice-présidente, s'est vu décerner un prix pour l'ensemble de sa carrière, en reconnaissance de sa contribution de longue date. Elle a prononcé un discours inspirant sur sa passion pour la santé au travail dans le monde, en ligne, car elle ne pouvait pas assister au congrès en personne.

La deuxième assemblée générale s'est tenue dans l'après-midi du dernier jour du congrès. Les nouveaux membres du bureau et du conseil d'administration, élus par vote en ligne, ont été présentés, et Rome (Italie) a été annoncée comme le lieu du Congrès 2030, conformément à la décision prise lors du vote au cours du Congrès.

La réunion [des centres collaborateurs de l'OMS](#) s'est tenue avant le Congrès, comme le veut la tradition. Les centres collaborateurs de l'OMS est une organisation désignée par l'OMS pour collaborer avec elle dans le domaine de la santé au travail.

### Actes du congrès de l'ICOH

[Les actes du congrès](#) ont été publiés en tant que supplément à Occupational Medicine-Oxford (2022 Impact Factor : 5.1), conformément à la tradition de publication dans une revue de la Science Citation Index-Expanded (note du traducteur : liste de journaux scientifiques à portée internationale). Les actes du congrès de Mumbai

*ICOH2027* seront également publiés dans l'une des principales revues professionnelles.

### Déclaration de Marrakech de la CIST/ICOH

Au cours du Congrès, [la Déclaration de Marrakech de la CIST/ICOH sur la santé au travail](#) a été adoptée en tant que produit du Forum politique. Jorma Rantanen, l'ancien président, a rédigé un projet qui a été revu par les membres du bureau et approuvé par le conseil d'administration. La Déclaration exprime l'engagement de l'ICOH à agir pour le développement de la santé au travail, du bien-être, de la capacité de travail et d'un travail et d'une vie décentes pour tous les travailleurs du monde. La déclaration a été publiée dans la revue Safety and Health at Work (SH@W) (2023 Impact Factor : 3.5).

### Nouveaux membres du bureau de la CIST pour les comités scientifiques (S) et les secrétaires nationaux/régionaux (SN).

De nombreux CS procèdent actuellement à l'élection de nouveaux responsables : Présidents et Secrétaires. Les SN sont en cours d'élection dans chaque pays/région. Comme les membres le savent, l'élection doit se dérouler de manière démocratique, comme le prévoient les statuts. Tous les membres des CS ou des pays/régions peuvent participer au processus d'élection, et le processus doit être communiqué à tous les membres, même s'il n'y a pas d'élection parce qu'il n'y a qu'un seul candidat ou qu'il s'agit d'un deuxième mandat.

Le rôle principal des responsables des CS est d'organiser

## Résumé en français

des conférences scientifiques internationales. Pour maintenir les CS, au moins une conférence internationale doit être organisée. Celle-ci sera évaluée par le groupe de travail en vue de l'adhésion.

Je voudrais demander aux CS de contacter les SN et le Conseil d'administration du pays/de la région concerné(e) lorsqu'ils organisent une conférence internationale. Cette collaboration renforcera les activités des comités de surveillance avec le soutien du pays/de la région.

### Conférence internationale du travail

La CIST/ICOH est une organisation internationale non gouvernementale (ONG), officiellement désignée par l'OIT et l'OMS. La CIST/ICOH a été invitée à prononcer une allocution lors [de la séance plénière. J'ai prononcé un discours de 5 minutes](#) sur la responsabilité mondiale en matière de santé des travailleurs, intitulé "[Le chemin vers le travail décent avec des travailleurs en bonne santé.](#)" Jukka Takala, ancien président, [a donné une conférence au Comité des risques biologiques](#), car lui et son équipe ont rédigé un projet de convention de l'OIT sur les risques biologiques.

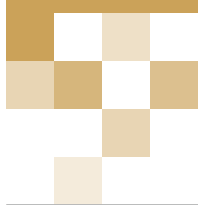
### GISHW2025 à l'EXPO d'OSAKA

L'Initiative mondiale pour la sécurité, la santé et le bien-être à l'EXPO2025 et au-delà ([GISHW](#)) est organisée du 16 au 19 juillet 2025 à Osaka, au Japon. La plupart des organisations liées à la santé et à la sécurité au travail, y compris l'OIT et l'OMS, participeront à la GISHW. La CIST/ICOH a proposé une conférence internationale sur le thème "Changement climatique et santé des travailleurs : Construction et travailleurs migrants" le 18 juillet 2025. Les membres de la CIST/ICOH bénéficieront d'une réduction de 30 % sur les frais d'inscription, qui comprend l'accès à toutes les expositions de l'EXPO.

L'ICOH a été créé lors de l'EXPO de Milan en 1906 ; cependant, depuis lors, il n'y a pas eu de relation entre la communauté de santé et sécurité au travail et l'EXPO. Cet événement est une bonne occasion pour les communautés de santé et sécurité au travail de s'engager auprès du public. Si vous prévoyez de visiter l'EXPO2025 à Osaka, au Japon, veuillez-vous tenir au courant des nouvelles sur le site web (CIST/ICOH ou GISHW).

1er août 2024

**Seong-Kyu Kang**, Président



## Résumé en français

### Nouvelles de la Secrétaire généralé

#### Chers membres de la CIST/ICOH,

Le 34e Congrès de la CIST/ICOH s'est tenu au Palais des Congrès de Marrakech, au Maroc, du 28 avril au 3 mai 2024. Il s'agissait de la première occasion de se réunir en présence depuis l'éclatement de la pandémie de COVID-19, avec un événement très exigeant et stimulant dont l'organisation a nécessité un engagement et un travail considérable. Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour remercier tous les membres de la CIST/ICOH qui ont assisté au congrès ICOH2024 et contribué à son succès, en explorant les dernières tendances en matière de santé au travail et en participant activement aux discussions et aux sessions.

Le congrès ICOH2024 a représenté une excellente occasion de s'engager dans les activités menées par la CIST/ICOH et a présenté un programme exceptionnel avec un discours d'ouverture d'Elisabete Widerpass (directrice du Centre International de Recherche sur le Cancer), 10 sessions plénières, 32 sessions semi-plénières et une riche variété de sujets présentés dans des sessions spéciales et des sessions de présentations orales et de poster. Les participants ont également été invités à participer, discuter et réfléchir davantage sur le thème du Forum politique mondial intitulé « Stratégies pour améliorer les politiques de santé et de sécurité au travail et leur mise en œuvre dans les pays à faibles et moyens revenus ».

Deux bourses ont été attribuées à deux membres de la CIST/ICOH originaires de pays à revenus faibles et moyens pour leur permettre d'assister au Master de l'OIT de sécurité et santé au travail au Centre international de technologie de l'information de l'OIT à Turin, en Italie. Les

deux lauréats de la bourse du Master de l'OIT attribuée en lien avec le Congrès ICOH2024 ont été récompensés lors de la cérémonie de clôture le 3 mai 2024.

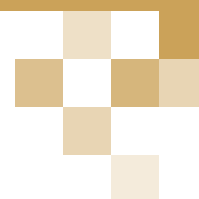
En outre, un jury composé de membres seniors de la CIST/ICOH a récompensé les lauréats du concours de posters pour les étudiants ayant un résumé accepté, afin de promouvoir le développement de carrière et la visibilité des travaux réalisés par les jeunes chercheurs et les chercheurs en début de carrière. Un prix en argent a été décerné aux trois meilleurs étudiants suivants du classement. En outre, les huit lauréats ont bénéficié d'une dispense de cotisation à la CIST/ICOH pour la période triennale 2024-2026.

Les résultats des élections des membres du Bureau et du Conseil d'administration pour la période triennale 2024-2027 ont été annoncés lors de la deuxième Assemblée générale le 3 mai 2024. Le nouveau Conseil d'administration et les membres du Bureau ont tenu leur première réunion le 4 mai à Marrakech afin de discuter de la nouvelle stratégie et des actions pour la période triennale.

La nomination des nouveaux présidents et secrétaires des comités scientifiques et des secrétaires nationaux/régionaux progresse bien.

En outre, alors que nous commencerons bientôt à travailler avec le Comité local d'organisation d'ICOH2027 pour la préparation du Congrès ICOH de Mumbai, nous sommes heureux d'annoncer que, suite à la préférence exprimée avec leur vote par les participants au Congrès ICOH de Marrakech, le 36ème Congrès international CIST/ICOH (ICOH2030) se tiendra en 2030 à Rome, en Italie. Nous espérons pouvoir continuer à compter sur votre soutien

## Résumé en français



pour relever le défi de faire de chaque congrès de la CIST/ICOH un événement unique.

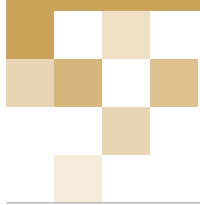
Je saisis cette occasion pour attirer votre attention sur le lancement récent de la campagne de renouvellement des membres de la CIST/ICOH. Les membres reçoivent des communications individuelles du Secrétariat de la CIST/ICOH avec toutes les instructions et les formulaires pour le paiement de leur cotisation pour la période 2024-2026. Des options de paiement en ligne sont également disponibles dans l'espace privé du site web de la CIST/ICOH.

Nous nous réjouissons de votre participation aux activités de la CIST/ICOH.

Pour de plus amples informations, veuillez contacter le Secrétariat de la CIST/ICOH à l'adresse suivante : [icoh@inail.it](mailto:icoh@inail.it)

**Dr. Diana Gagliardi**  
Secrétaire général de la CIST





## Résumé en français

### Message du rédacteur en chef

**Chers membres de la CIST/ICOH,**

Bienvenue dans la première lettre d'information de la nouvelle période triennale 2024-2027. J'apprécie tous les membres qui contribuent et s'intéressent à la Newsletter.

Le résumé du congrès *ICOH2024* (grâce à l'ancienne vice-présidente, Mme Claudina Nogueira) est une ressource précieuse pour les participants ainsi que pour ceux qui n'ont pas pu y assister. Vous y trouverez également de nombreuses nouvelles intéressantes, notamment le nouveau programme de lancement-la série de webinaires de la CIST/ICOH, les salutations et les présentations des nouveaux membres du Bureau, des responsables des comités scientifiques et de secrétaires nationaux, l'activité des membres, etc. Vous trouverez les informations sur les nouveaux membres du bureau et du conseil d'administration à la fin de la lettre d'information.

Nous continuerons à avoir des nouvelles passionnantes à partager - restez à l'écoute !

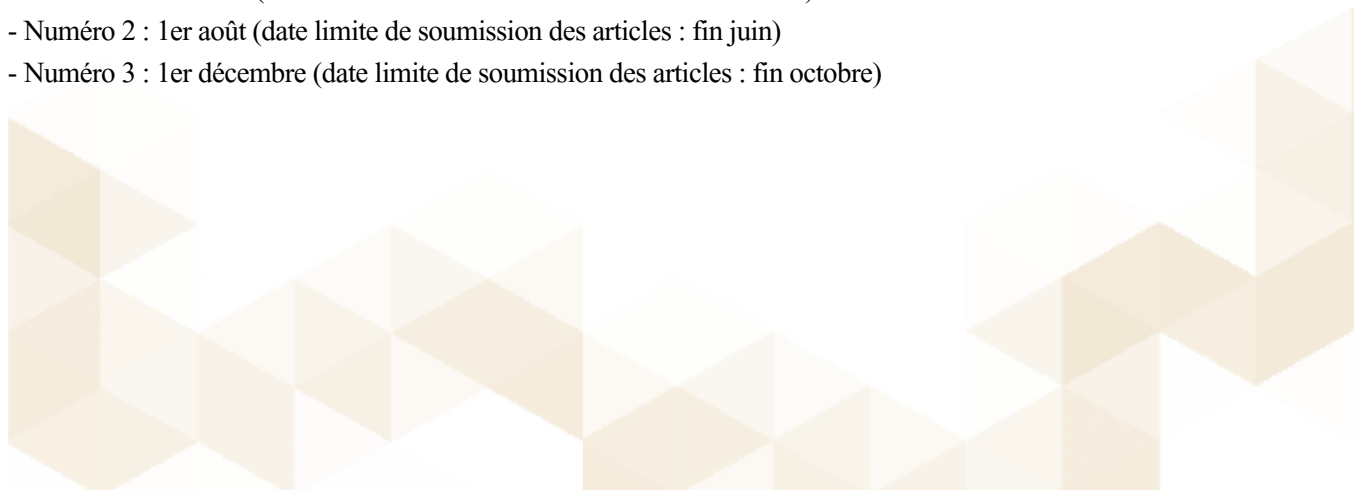
**Prof. Won-Jun Choi**

Rédacteur en chef, ICOH Newsletter

### La planification éditoriale de la lettre d'information de la CIST/ICOH

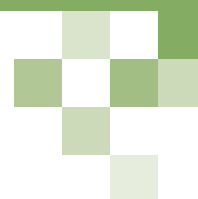
Les plans éditoriaux pour 2024 sont les suivants :

- Numéro 1 : 1er avril (date limite de soumission des articles : fin février)
- Numéro 2 : 1er août (date limite de soumission des articles : fin juin)
- Numéro 3 : 1er décembre (date limite de soumission des articles : fin octobre)





# ICOH Scientific Committee Officers for Triennium 2024-2027



**Text in black indicates the Scientific Committee Officers who are already appointed for Triennium 2024-2027.**

*Text in blue Italics indicates the Scientific Committee Officers who served for Triennium 2022-2024 (new officers to be appointed).*

## **Accident Prevention**

Chair: Dr. Karen Elizabeth MICHELL

Email: Karen.Michell@iosh.com

Secretary: Mr. Jayandran MOHAN

Email: jayandranhse@gmail.com

## **Aging and Work**

Chair: Dr. Karin PROPER

Email: karin.proper@rivm.nl

Secretary: Prof. Mr. Hans-Martin HASSELHORN

Email: hasselhorn@uni-wuppertal.de

## **Allergy and Immunotoxicology**

*Chair: Dr. Claudia PETRARCA*

*Email: c.petrarca@unich.it*

*Secretary: Prof. Hiroo WADA*

*Email: h-wada@juntendo.ac.jp*

## **Biohazards and Occupational Health**

*Chair: Prof. Mary ROSS*

*Email: profmaryross@yahoo.com*

*Secretary: Dr. Tanusha SINGH*

*Email: TanushaS@nioh.ac.za*

## **Cardiology in OH**

Chair: Dr. Jian LI

Email: lijian1974@hotmail.com

Secretary: Dr. Franca BARBIC

Email: franca.barbic@humanitas.it

## **Education and Training in OH**

*Chair: Dr. Rajiv Kumar JAIN*

*Email: rajivkjain57@rediffmail.com*

*Secretary: Mrs. Michelle BESTER*

*Email: besterm@tut.ac.za*

## **Effectiveness in Occupational Health Services (EOHS)**

Chair: Dr. Frederieke SCHAAFSMA

Email: f.schaafsma@amsterdamumc.nl

*Secretary: Prof. Carel HULSHOF*

*Email: c.t.hulshof@amsterdamumc.nl*

## **Emergency Preparedness and Response in Occupational Health**

*Chair: Dr. Susanne SCHUNDER-TATZBER*

*Email: susanne@schunder.at*

*Secretary: Dr. Anli ZHOU*

*Email: anli.zhou@manchester.ac.uk*

## **Epidemiology in OH**

Chair: Dr. Laura BEANE-FREEMAN

Email: freemala@mail.nih.gov

Secretary: Prof. Sara DE MATTEIS

Email: sara.dem@unica.it

## **History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases**

*Chair: Prof. Paul BLANC*

*Email: Paul.Blanc@ucsf.edu*

*Secretary: Prof. Kjell TORÉN*

*Email: kjell.toren@amm.gu.se*

## **Indoor Air Quality and Health**

Chair: Prof. Heidi SALONEN

Email: heidi.salonen@aalto.fi

Secretary: Kenichi AZUMA

Email: kenazuma@med.kindai.ac.jp

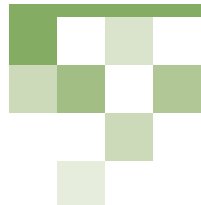
## **Industrial Hygiene**

*Chair: Dr. Rosa Maria ORRIOLS*

*Email: rosemarieorriols@gmail.com*

*Secretary: Dr. Steven VERPAELE*

*Email: SVerpaele@nickelinstitute.org*



# ICOH Scientific Committee Officers for Triennium 2024-2027

## Mining Occupational Safety and Health

Chair: Prof. Jinky leilanie del Prado LU

Email: jinky\_lu@yahoo.com

Secretary: Dr. Jen Fuk LIEM

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## Musculoskeletal Disorders

Chair: Dr. Deepak SHARAN

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Secretary: Prof. Ravilumar MODALI

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## Nanomaterial Workers' Health

Chair: Dr. Veruska LESO

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## Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology

Chair: Dr. Sibel KIRAN

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## Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses

*Chair: Dr. Jose Hernan ALFONSO*

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*Secretary: Prof. Swen Malte JOHN*

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## Occupational Health Nursing

*Chair: Ms. Kim DAVIES*

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*Secretary: Mrs. Florence MOYO*

*Email: flormoyo@iwayafrica.co.zw*

## Occupational Medicine

Chair: Dr. Gogillan SEVARATNAM

Email: gogillan@gmail.com

Secretary: Dr. Ade MUTIARA

Email: sabrina.gravel@irsst.qc.ca

## Occupational Toxicology

Chair: Dr. Giovanna Tranfo

Email: giovanna.tranfo@gmail.com

Secretary: Dr. Sabrina GRAVEL

Email: Radu.DUCA@lns.etat.lu

## OH and Development

*Chair: Dr. Aditya JAIN*

*Email: Aditya.Jain@nottingham.ac.uk*

*Secretary: Dr. Divyang SHAH*

*Email: divyangas@gmail.com*

## OH for Health Workers

Chair: Dr. Acran Salmen-Navarro

Email: Acran.SalmenNavarro@nyulangone.org

Secretary: Dr. Claudia Maria DE HOYOS

Email: dradehoyos@gmail.com

## OH in Small-scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector

Chair: Dr. Somnath GANGOPADHYAY

Email: ganguly1961@gmail.com

*Secretary: to be appointed*

*Email:*

## OH in the Chemical Industry

Chair: Dr. Nikunj Kumar Ashokbhai DESAI

Email: nikunj.desai@ril.com

Secretary: Dr. Dharmesh vinod PAREKH

Email: drdparekh@gmail.com

## OH in the Construction Industry

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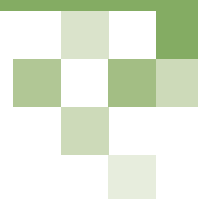
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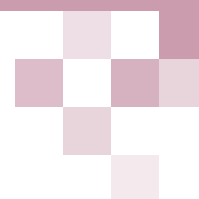
## National/Area Secretaries Triennium 2024-2027

**Text in black indicates the National/Area Secretaries who are already appointed for Triennium 2024-2027.**

*Text in blue Italics indicates the National/Area Secretaries who served for Triennium 2018-2021 or 2022-2024 (new secretaries to be appointed).*

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