

International Commission on Occupational Health

ICOH

NEWSLETTER



CIST Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail

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# **Message from the President**



#### Dear ICOH colleagues,

Due to global warming, climate change affects the lives of workers worldwide, as well as the ordinary lives of people. In line with the ICOH Statement on migrant workers, these workers, who primarily come from low and middleincome countries to middle and highincome countries, are particularly

vulnerable to the environments of the host countries, where weather and living conditions often differ significantly from their home countries. Traditional occupational health has historically focused solely on the work environment. However, the living conditions, including housing, of migrant workers are equally important, along with providing a safe and conducive work environment. This echoes the well-being emphasis in many European countries, extending beyond a narrow view of occupational health.

The declaration by the ILO regarding workers' health as a human right underscores the importance of migrant workers' health, similar to that of domestic workers. Numerous African countries are sending their citizens as migrant workers to host countries. The upcoming ICOH2024 Marrakesh Congress presents an excellent platform to discuss the health of migrant workers as well as occupational health in low and middleincome countries.

#### Appointment of Chairs and Secretaries of SCs and National/Area Secretaries

This Triennium from 2022 to 2024 challenges an exceptional situation to appoint Chairs and Secretaries of Scientific Committees (SCs) and National/Area Secretaries (NSs) in terms of period and election

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process, although most officers of SCs and almost 70 NSs have been appointed. After a short period of Triennium of two years, each SC and country/area should elect a new Chair and Secretary of SCs and NS for the Triennium from 2024 to 2027. Because any officers can serve more than two terms, Chairs of Secretaries who served the 2nd term must elect new ones based on election by members of their SCs or Country/Area. Those who served one time can be reappointed, but it must be approved by members in good standing in their group. The election process also reminds members of the groups of the activities, international conferences, and other ICOH-related activities.

I do recommend that all Chairs, Secretaries, and NSs contact their group members to inform them about the election, their conferences, membership fee renewal, and participation in the General Congress.

#### ICOH Mid-Term Meeting in Angers, France in May

The ICOH Mid-Term Meeting took place in Angers, France, from May 14 to 17, 2023. This marked the first official in-person meeting since the previous Mid-Term Meeting in Rome, held in February 2020. While some participants joined virtually, the meeting primarily took place offline. Angers University supported the Mid-Term Meeting, and Professor Alexis D'escatha played a significant role in hosting the event regarding scientific and financial contributions. All participants of ICOH express their gratitude to Professor D'escatha for his heartfelt and practical organization of the Mid-Term Meeting.

The Mid-Term Meeting is essential as an intermediary gathering between two General Congresses. Typically, it draws 50 to 70 participants, including all Officers, Board members, Chairs or Secretaries of each SC, and Chairs of Working Groups. Notably, in this current Triennium, a novel approach was taken by inviting representatives of NSs from different continents (Africa, Asia, North and Central America, Europe, Oceania, and South America) to participate in the Mid-Term Meeting for the first time.

These representatives were selected based on their performance in recruiting new members within their respective countries or areas during the previous Triennium. In the Triennium spanning from 2018 to 2022, countries such as South Africa, India, the USA, Italy, Australia, and Brazil stood out for recruiting the highest number of new members in their respective regions. Consequently, the NSs of these countries were extended invitations to the meeting. The NSs of India, the USA, and Brazil participated in the meeting and shared the Officers' policies and plans. This collaborative exchange of ideas aims to further enhance the growth and impact of ICOH globally.

During the joint meeting, the ICOH Officers presented the activities conducted during the first half of the Triennium. This included the work plans, activities of SCs, NSs, and some Working Groups. Following the joint conference, participants engaged in a brainstorming breakout session divided into three fields: collaboration among SCs and with NSs, visibility of SCs' work, and optimization of management for SCs. On the second day, ICOH and Angers University co-organized a joint conference on "Translational Epidemiology in Occupational Health." The Board meeting was held over two half-days and involved reviewing and amending the activities. Each Working Group reported their activities.

Professor AbdelJalil El Kholti presented the preparations for the ICOH2024 Marrakesh Congress. Furthermore, ICOH has entered into a contract with the Indian organizers for the General Congress scheduled to be held in Mumbai in 2027. The exact dates for the congress will be determined during February, considering the weather conditions in Mumbai and the holiday seasons in East Asia, particularly the Lunar or Chinese New Year Day on February 8, 2027.

#### Collaboration with International Organization

As usual, the ILO invited ICOH to the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference held from June 5 to June 16 in Geneva. After reviewing the program, the Officers decided not to participate in the ILO-ILC, as there were no imminent issues related to occupational health in 2023. However, ICOH will be participating in the 2024 ILC, as there will be a discussion on biological hazards. The SC on Biohazards in Occupational Health is drafting the document for this purpose. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) invited ICOH for its Inauguration Ceremony for a new research building in Lyon, France, on May 13, 2023. Diana Gagliardi, the Secretary General, participated in the ceremony. ICOH members have actively participated in IARC activities, particularly in discussions about the carcinogenicity of occupational hazards. The IARC Director will deliver the Keynote address on occupational cancer during the opening of the 2024 Marrakesh Congress.

ICOH was established during the Milan 1906 EXPO to commemorate the successful prevention of occupational diseases during the construction of the Simplon tunnel between Italy and Switzerland. However, since its inception, ICOH has not had the opportunity to hold a conference during EXPO events. The Osaka EXPO 2025 has a special plan to host conferences focused on occupational safety, health, and well-being under the theme "Designing Future Society for Our Lives." Numerous international organizations will participate in the conference, scheduled for July 16th to 17th, 2025. These organizations include WHO, ILO, ICOH, IALI, ENETOSH, IOSH, and more. ICOH has proposed the topic of climate change and worker health, with a particular emphasis on migrant workers. Participating in the EXPO is, in a sense, a homecoming for ICOH. If any member is interested in attending the conference and the EXPO, please contact the Secretariat or me for further information.

# International and National conferences on occupational health/medicine

Many SCs plan to host international conferences in the latter half of this year. Even if you missed the opportunity to submit your abstracts to these conferences, you might still be able to attend them. Please refer to the events listed on the ICOH website.

Izmerov Research Institute of Occupational Health in the Russian Federation celebrated its centennial anniversary on June 20, 2023 (https://irioh.ru/en/ institute-history/). If there is no Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Institute might organize a significant international conference, attracting participants worldwide. The institute has made numerous efforts to improve workers' health not only in the Russian Federation but also in other parts of the world, especially in the field of basic science in occupational health. The Institute has actively participated in the work of WHO, ILO, and IARC. I sent a congratulatory message to the participants of the Centennial Moments of Occupational Health in Russia.

#### ICOH2024 Congress

The organization of the ICOH2024 Marrakesh Congress in Morocco is progressing smoothly. SCs, NSs, and the Board are organizing over 100 special sessions, and more than 1,000 free abstracts have been submitted for review by SCs for acceptance in presentations. A large number of abstracts are from non-members. I hope that members will take the opportunity to submit their abstracts in the final round. I anticipate that the ICOH2024 Congress will be a remarkable event, overcoming the obstacles posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

> Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang President of ICOH

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## News from the Secretary General

#### Dear ICOH members,

The ICOH activities for the current triennium are progressing well, and we would be pleased to share some updates with you.

On 15-17 May 2023, the ICOH Midterm meeting took place in Angers, France. As usual, the meeting was attended by the ICOH Officers, Board Members, and Scientific Committees Chairs to share and discuss the ongoing activities carried out by Scientific Committees, National Secretaries, Task Groups, and Working Groups according to the ICOH triennial work plan. Furthermore, the meeting invitation has been experimentally extended to selected National Secretaries, one for each region.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Midterm Meeting has been the first opportunity to meet in presence, still ensuring online participation for those who could not travel.

The University of Angers (UA) kindly accepted to support ICOH in organizing the Midterm Meeting, hosted in the Angers Congress Center, in conjunction with an international scientific event on the topic 'Translational Epidemiology in Occupational Health.'

Finally, the Chairs of the Organizing Committees delivered updates on the forthcoming ICOH Congresses, particularly regarding ICOH 2024 (Marrakesh, Morocco) and ICOH 2027 (Mumbai, India).

We are very satisfied with the outcomes of the ICOH Midterm meeting, and I wish to thank all participants for their contribution. Special thanks go to Professor Alexis Descatha and his team for their support and dedication in organizing the Midterm Meeting. There are a few months left until the ICOH2024 Congress, and the preparation of the scientific program is well underway. We have received many abstracts across all relevant topics in OH, making up the core of the scientific program of the Congress.

Registration for ICOH2024 is still open through the Congress website, www.icoh2024.ma, and early bird registration fees will be available through 15 December 2023.

As we approach the Congress dates, many events organized by the ICOH Scientific Committees are taking place in many parts of the world. We invite you to visit the ICOH events webpage on the ICOH website https://www.icohweb. org/site/events.asp to learn more.

Thank you for your contribution to ICOH activities. We look forward to meeting you at ICOH2024 in Marrakesh.

**Dr. Diana Gagliardi** ICOH Secretary General

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Picture taken at the ICOH Midterm meeting-Angers, France, 15-17 May 2023

#### Dear ICOH members,

This year has been particularly challenging for natural disasters and environmental changes. These global crises have also threatened the health and safety of workers. We need to connect to support the workers and ourselves. I hope that the ICOH Newsletter will help global colleagues understand and communicate with each other.

In this issue, you can find various information on the activities of the ICOH Officers, Scientific Committee members, international and regional news, including conferences or campaigns, and other interesting articles on the occupational safety and health fields.

Please enjoy the articles with colleagues, and share your stories next time!

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

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#### The editorial planning of the ICOH Newsletter

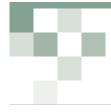
The editorial plans for 2023 are as follows:

- 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)

#### Updates from the organizer for ICOH2024 in Marrakech, Morocco

The organization process of ICOH 2024 did not suffer from major disruptions due to the earthquake.

- The earthquake seriously affected rural areas in the Great Atlas Mountains, the epicenter is located 70 km southeast of Marrakech.
- Marrakech, apart from the few districts of the old medina, presents no problems and life and activity have resumed their course.
- The airport is open and operating normally.
- The convention center "Palais des Congrès de Marrakech" and the three adjoining hotels are intact (Movenpick, Grand Menara and Labranda)
- The area of hotels and restaurants around the Congress area are also intact.
- Transport, banking, internet and telephone structures are operating normally.



**Translational Epidemiology in Occupational Health** 

## International Scientific Conference and ICOH Midterm Meeting

#### Prof. Alexis Descatha, University of Angers

The University of Angers and Hospital (CHU), France, and the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) co-organized the International Scientific Conference on "Translational Epidemiology in Occupational Health", which was held on 16 May 2023 at the Congress Center of Angers, France\*.

Epidemiology constitutes a very important aspect of occupational health, involving research and evaluation and allowing evidence-based recommendations. Translational aspects of epidemiology aim to transfer scientific responses brought by researchers, to field practitioners for the workers and decision-makers, and can be adapted to any workplace in the world. The Conference, organized as a side event of the ICOH Midterm Meeting (15-17 May 2023), gathered high profile international speakers. The first session included some presentations related to a specific project on translational epidemiology to illustrate some examples of tools that can be used (e.g. job exposure matrices, systematic reviews, cohorts, etc.). In the second session, selected ICOH Board members shared their knowledge on current issues in occupational health globally, presenting on different aspects of occupational risk management in different countries, thus illustrating the importance of the commitment of ICOH to improving working conditions for all.

\* Also funded by Pays de la Loire Region, Angers Loire Metropole



The following articles from the Scientific Committees are here.

SC Accident Prevention SC Biohazard and Occupational Health SC Cardiology in OH SC Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses & SC Radiation and Work SC Occupational Medicine SC OH in the Construction Industry

SC Work Organisation and Psychosocial Factors

## <SC Accident Prevention>

## Investigating work-related adverse health events: everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask

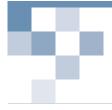
Joint ICOH SCAP / IOSH webinar Dr. Karen Michell, SC Chair

In 2021, the first World Health Organization (WHO) and International Labour Organization ILO) joint estimates of the work-related burden of disease and injury were published. According to these estimates, only 363,283 (19%) out of 1,879,890 global work-related deaths were due to injuries, while the majority, 1,516,607 (81%), were due to work-related diseases.

The disparity between injury and disease statistics clearly provides evidence of the need for increased efforts to decrease the burden of disease in the workplace. The Scientific Committee on Accident Prevention (SCAP) hosted a webinar in September 2022 exploring the investigation of work-related adverse health events (AHE). The term AHE was coined to encompass all health-related events in the workplace that potentially have a negative impact on workers overall health and not just occupational diseases. These include periods of stress which could lead to mental health disorders.

The webinar provided insights as to why these AHEs are not investigated, which included the lack of understanding of the approach to be taken when investigating a disease compared to an accident.

The intention of this second webinar, held on 21 June 2023, was to provide practitioners with insights on how to investigate an AHE.



In all, 714 delegates from 46 countries pre-registered for the event with 333 (47%) joining on the day. Two thirds (476) of pre-registered delegates were from low- and middle-income countries and a third (236) were ICOH members. Almost half (49%) have investigated an adverse health event in the past but only 21% (152) of the respondents had previously investigated a mental health complaint in the workplace.

The panel consisted of Dr Odette Volmink, an occupational medicine specialist based at the National Institute for Occupational Health, South Africa; Dr. Rajiv Kumar Jain, a highly-qualified medical specialist from India who is also the Chair of the Scientific Committee on Education and Training in Occupational Health (SCETOH); and Alex Wilson, an occupational hygienist who is also the current President of the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS). The panellists explored a number of key issues and addresses audience questions. The following reports key insights. The recording is available for those who wish to view the full webinar. (ICOH SCAP / IOSH webinar: Investigating adverse health events-YouTube or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmlSG7Fmlmk).

Panellists acknowledged that the identification of an AHE is far more complicated than an accident. This is due in part to there being no clear point in time when the event happens, the long latency of many diseases making it difficult to establish when the exposure occurred, as well as poor health/medical surveillance systems leading to an under-reporting of work-related ill health.

Other factors seen to complicate the investigation process include issues of confidentiality of personal data, lack of collaboration between disciplines within the occupational sector, scarcity of resources to make the link between the workplace and the identified symptoms, poor health risk management systems and organisational cultures that undermine psychological safety.

Emerging health issues such as the increase in psychosocial risk and mental health issues, as well as an increase in deaths associated with engineered stone confound the situation as professionals may not make the link between the exposure and health outcomes.

However, we are still seeing many of the traditional issues such as noise-induced hearing loss, musculoskeletal disorders and many respiratory complaints. The advice offered by the panel is for professionals to be aware of the conditions seen in their areas and to hold a high level of suspicion when faced with reports of ill health. For example, is this newly diagnosed case of asthma associated with the exposures in the workplace?

Despite these constraints some very practical advice was provided for occupational health and safety professionals to improve the investigation and prevention of AHEs.

• A high level of suspicion is needed when symptoms of ill health are reported.

Professionals should be alerted to the possible link to the symptoms and exposures.

• Always take a comprehensive occupational history and consider past exposures when symptoms present (i.e. think beyond what the current exposures are)

- Know what the common health conditions are in your local area and how they mimic occupational diseases. Understand what health outcomes are associated with the exposure.
- Address the psychological safety within your organisation. The inequitable dynamic between employer and worker often prevents the worker from raising their concerns. Create an environment where an employee feels empowered to discuss their health concerns with the occupational health and safety (OHS) team. Encourage people to talk about health in the workplace.
- Collaborate with the other OHS disciplines and draw on their insights and understanding.
- Feedback on the health surveillance findings. Use the pre-employment, preplacement and ongoing surveillance activities to identify early symptoms and then act on these.
- Look for links to the workplace such as symptoms improving during periods away from work, other workers complaining of the same symptoms and exacerbation of symptoms when near the causative agent.
- Exposure data is not personal data so review exposure data and understand what it is communicating.

#### What are the key take home messages?

- Prevention is key.
- Always have a high level of suspicion and be open to possible links to the workplace as the cause.
- The investigation of an AHE requires a multidisciplinary approach where practitioners make use of all available resources.
- · Early identification and investigation is necessary to limit suffering and to protect other workers.
- Have good referral pathways available to assist you when the need arises. Know what resources are available to you and how you can utilise them.

#### Conclusion

Diagnosing an occupational disease is too late as the damage is done. The prevention of adverse health events has to be the priority. This demands better collaboration between hygiene, safety, medicine and other disciplines for both the creation of safer and healthier workplaces, as well as early recognition of deviations in health allowing for effective interventions to prevent further deterioration. When systems have failed and a disease is diagnosed it is necessary to investigate why the disease has developed, to identify effective control measures and to implement these so we can protect other workers.





## <SC Biohazards and Occupational Health>

# Establishment and Progress of the Scientific Committee Biohazards and Occupational Health

Mary Ross, SC Chair Tanusha Singh, SC Secretary

The SCBOH progressed from the ICOH Working Group on Occupational Infectious Agents (WGOIA) that was established in 2003 to complement the Scientific Committee on Occupational Health of Health Workers. Following the COVID-19 pandemic and the realisation that biohazards affect a variety of workers, ICOH approved the conversion of the WGOIA to the Scientific Committee Biohazards and Occupational Health (SCBOH) to become the 38<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee and was initiated in September 2022 comprising the members of the WGOIA.

In 2017, the WGOIA conducted a survey on occupational infectious agents and diseases through the 53 ICOH National Secretaries (NSs). With a 74% response rate, NSs indicated that even developed countries lack reliable statistics, and may not record occupational infections as occupational diseases. Although, potentially, the survey covered 66% of the estimated global 3.5 billion workforce, data of varying quality were available for only 0.37 billion (10%) of the global workforce. Over 85% of responding countries recognised infections as occupational diseases and some countries had lists of recognised occupational infections, with an estimate of 3.6% of all occupational diseases reported being occupational infectious diseases. The most commonly affected groups were reported to be health workers, followed by agriculture or forestry workers, miners or construction workers, and veterinarians or livestock workers. Others included sanitary waste, teaching, child minding, fishing, marine, abattoirs, dairies, meat and fish packing, transport, public service, police and factory workers; the latter were even exposed to rabid dogs. Subsequently, in a collaboration between WGOIA and the International Labour Organization (ILO), WGOIA members were invited to join a task group to develop a guidance document for ILO technical guidelines on occupational exposures to biological hazards covering communicable and non-communicable conditions in the workplace, for both the public and occupational health context. In addition, other WGOIA members embarked on a systematic review of global infectious disease risks associated with occupational exposure among non-healthcare workers. The work of the task group (see photograph) and input from reviewers resulted in the International Labour Organization's Technical Guidelines on Biological Hazards in June 2022.

SCBOH has broadened the work accomplished by the WGOIA to cover additional issues such as toxins, sensitizers/ allergens, bio-pesticides and bio-stimulants impacting on occupational health. This includes the interaction between the workplace and the public environment since emerging infectious diseases such as COVID-19 are work-related. The remit of SCBOH is to:

• Provide updated evidence-based information to ICOH on the results of research, prevention and interventions related to priority work-related and public health-related biohazards and Occupational Health for all workers,

- Raise awareness in local, national and international contexts of biohazards affecting occupational health among policy-makers, employers and workers, and
- Collaborate with ICOH Scientific Committees on topics and groups of workers of mutual interest in promoting occupational health.

Since the transition from WGOIA to SCBOH and the 2022 ICOH Congress, in addition to members presentations and publications, there have been various achievements.

- We have negotiated an arrangement with Occupational Health Southern Africa (OHSA) for regular publication of
  research and short reports, in conjunction with clinical experts experienced in biohazards and occupational health.
  These contributions will cover case studies and the epidemiology, prevention and management on priority topics,
  initially relevant to southern Africa. The Editor of OHSA, has agreed that these articles can be made available
  through the SBCOH members and ICOH National Secretaries for potential translation and wider use by ICOH. The
  first of the series on African trypanosomiasis: lessons for occupational health practitioners was published in June
  2023.
- Five 'Moulds in the Workplace' videos were made by the National Institute for Occupational Diseases for Fungal Diseases Awareness Week in September 2022 as an awareness campaign to highlight fungi/moulds in the workplace, sources of mould, health effects, workplaces at risk, and laboratory testing.
- Access to free weekly infectious diseases zoom webinars has been organised for clinicians involved in managing infectious diseases. Although many are not occupational infectioins *per se*, the content presented by local and international experts covers important diseases and issues such as antibiotic resistance and up-to-date treatment.

Should any ICOH members be interested in any of these products, please contact Dr Tanusha Singh at (tanushas@nioh. ac.za).

There has been support for WGOIA and interaction with the SCs for Epidemiology and Health workers, both of which have hosted mid-term congress opportunities and we look forward to collaboration with the other SCs in the future. There is also ongoing collaboration between previous members of WGOIA who have been excluded from joining SCBOH by virtue of being members of three other SCs.

The SCBOH will be hosting its mid-term webinar congress in the latter part of the year and details will be communicated through the chair of the SCs. The congress will provide a platform for researchers, practitioners, policymakers and stakeholders to discuss and exchange knowledge on the latest developments in this critical field. The aim is to address the challenges and opportunities related to biohazards in occupational settings and explore strategies for promoting and maintaining workers' health and safety. We look forward to your participation in the congress.

Following the WGOIA survey, about 50 ICOH members and colleagues expressed an interest in joining a Scientific Committee once it was formed. Currently membership comprises previous WGOIA members but SCBOH welcomes new members. Interested ICOH members can submit applications and CVs to ICOH Secretariat for verification of



membership of other SCs and to the SCBOH Secretary. Further information on the background to biohazards in occupational health and the formation and activities of SCBOH can be found in the publication:

Ross MH, Singh T. Renewed focus on re-emerging occupational biohazards. Occup Health Southern Afr. 2023; 29(1):28-30.



Members of the ILO technical task team on biohazards at work in Geneva during the 2019 ILO centenary. From left to right: Dr Tanusha Singh (South Africa), Prof Jorge Wallach (Argentina), Prof Mary Ross (South Africa), Prof Stefano Porru (Italy), Dr Remko Houba (Netherlands).

## <SC Cardiology in OH>

#### Improving the "Occupational Cardiovascular Disease" Wikipedia Page

- A Joint Activity between the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Cancer, Reproductive, Cardiovascular, and Other Chronic Disease Prevention (CRC) Council CVD Workgroup at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Scientific Committee of Cardiology in Occupational Health at the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH).

Prof. Marco M Ferrario, SC Chair Prof. Jian Li, SC Vice-Chair

The CRC CVD Workgroup has made revising the Occupational Cardiovascular Disease Wikipedia page a priority in 2023 and has solicited help from the ICOH Scientific Committee of Cardiology in Occupational Health with this effort. Both groups have contributed additional content to strengthen the page, including sections on CVD trends in the U.S., work-related CVD risk factors, and primary prevention of occupational CVD. The page also includes 74 references

to important research on occupational CVD. Inserting references can help drive traffic to additional resources and manuscripts.

Overall Wikipedia Estimates:

- The average number of monthly Wikipedia page views is 263 million, with many Wikipedia pages getting more than 2,500 views per second.
- Over 46.4 million people access Wikipedia from their mobile devices daily and an additional 23.4 million from their desktop or laptop computers.
- Wikipedia ranks 14th on Alexa's global internet traffic and engagement list.
- The total number of Wikipedia page views in 2021 was 265 billion.

It's clear that Wikipedia presents a high-visibility opportunity to disseminate information on occupational CVD. This joint activity to revise and add information to the Occupational Cardiovascular Disease Wikipedia page remains an ongoing project. If anyone has ideas for new content or sections, please contact Dr. Taylor Shockey (tshockey@cdc.gov).

## <SC Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses & SC Radiation and Work>

ICOH Scientific Committees "Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses" and "Radiation and Work" collaborate in a national project in Portugal for the prevention of the solar radiation risk and UV-inflicted skin cancers in outdoor workers

Dr. José Hernan ALFONSO, SC Chair, Occupational and Environmental Deramtoses Prof. Swen M JOHN, SC Secretary, Occupational and Environmental Deramtoses Dr. Marc WITTLICH, SC Chair, Radiation and Work Dr. Alberto MODENESE, SC Secretary, Radiation and Work

ICOH Scientific Committees (SC) "Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses" (OED) and "Radiation and Work" (R&W) collaborate in several activities aimed at the prevention of the occupational solar radiation (SR) risk and UV-inflicted skin cancers for outdoor workers (OW) worldwide.

SR is the most significant occupational carcinogenic exposure in terms of several workers exposed in the world, and, consequently, solar UVR-inflicted skin cancers are, globally, among the most common forms of occupational malignancies. In many countries, UV-induced skin cancers are recognized occupational diseases, but there is a significant problem of under-reporting. One of the most important reasons is that SR exposure is not adequately perceived as an occupational risk, considering there are relevant gaps in the OHS norms for preventing this risk.



One of the Countries where there is an underestimation of the occupational solar-UV risk and a scant recognition of skin cancers is Portugal. For these reasons, the SC OED and SC R&W endorsed a national research project proposed by the NOVA University of Lisbon (PI: Dr. Marilia Silva Paulo), offering their collaboration in the study aimed at raising public awareness on the problems of occupational SR-related health risk and UV-inflicted skin cancers. The Project "Measuring solar ultraviolet radiation in outdoor workers in Lisbon: From measuring to assessing risks and developing a digital health platform for workers' guidance" (MEAOW@SolarUV) won a national call from the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) and has been launched in January 2023.



The team of the MEAOW@SolarUV project



Outdoor workers with UV dosimeters in Lisbon, project logo and graphical description

The Project includes the first phase of the UV-measurements campaign: 231 OW from Lisbon are currently wearing personal UV-dosimeters until October 2023: 70 gardeners, 70 gravediggers, 70 pavers, 10 sanitation workers, 8 street construction workers, and three sailors. The individual measurements are performed with GENESIS-UV dosimeters, worn on the upper left arm, and designed to be carried on for long periods with no interference with the usual job activity. A dermatological screening for skin lesions will be proposed to the same group of OW. Finally, the data collected will be made available through a web-based digital platform. The final results will be disseminated to the scientific community and interested stakeholders.

The digital platform is also accessible from workers' mobile phones, and the data collected will be made available in an understandable form to promote adequate risk perception and indications for prevention.

The final results of the study, with the collaboration of the ICOH SC OED and SC R&W, will allow a better estimate of the occupational risk related to solar-UV radiation for OW, leading to an adequate recognition and prevention of the problem. The SC hopes that the Portuguese experience will become a model for other countries where there is an underestimation of the risk of occupational SR-related skin cancers and a lack of preventive measures for the high-risk population of outdoor workers.

## <SC Occupational Medicine>

#### Workshop on Occupational Medicine in Kathmandu, Nepal

by ICOH SC OM, OHSSN & Kathmandu Medical College Pro. Dr. Sunil Kumar Joshi, ICOH Board Member Dr. Gogillan Sevaratnam, SC Chair

The International Commission on Occupational Health Scientific Committee on Occupational Medicine (ICOH SCOM) in association with the Occupational Health and Safety Society of Nepal (OHSSN) & Kathmandu Medical College (KMC) organised a workshop titled "Let's Practice Occupational Medicine" in Kathmandu, Nepal 22nd-24th March 2023.

As this was the 1st ever workshop on occupational diseases conducted in Nepal for Post-Graduate doctors, many MD Community Medicine resident doctors with an interest in occupational health from all over Nepal took part.

Besides the lectures on occupational diseases, participants were also exposed to the assessment of occupational hazards by visiting a textile factory and oral paper presentations by young researchers, and solving Occupational Medicine related Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs). The highlight of the workshop was the group work on case studies of occupational diseases. Each group was given four cases for them to identify and present the hazards and management of each case from the occupational health and relevant local OSH legislation point of view. Although it was a hectic workshop, the participants were very engaging until the last day. Prof Dr. Sunil Kumar Joshi, Dr. Gogillan Sevaratnam, and Dr. Anantha Rajendran were the trainers of the workshop.

We take this opportunity to thank Prof Dr. Sunil Kumar, the HOD for Community Medicine, KMC, and an ICOH Board Member for organizing the workshop.

Also, thanks to Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Occupational Physician, Indian Oil, another ICOH Board Member from India who delivered a keynote speech. Special thanks to all the alwaysenergetic Organising Committee for this workshop. We also thank the Director General and Technical Director of the Department of Labour and Occupational Safety for their gracious presence during the inaugural ceremony of the workshop.

May this effort from SCOM will be great meaning in its quest to elevate Occupational Health awareness around the world.





## <SC OH in the Construction Industry>

## 11th Professional Development Conference of ASSP India Chapter in collaboration with DAST & CIS-AC Tech Campus, Anna University and ICOH SC in Rural Health

Dr. Krishna Nirmalya Sen, SC Chair

ICOH Scientific Committee in the Construction Industry (SCOHICI) took lead to collaborate with ASSP India Chapter for their 11th Professional Development Conference (PDC) and facilitate to bring on board Department of Applied Science and Technology (DAST) & Centre for Industrial Safety (CIS), AC Tech Campus, Anna University and ICOH Scientific Committee on Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts. This Conference was held at AC Tech Campus of Anna University under the theme-"Promoting Safety and Well-being through Sustainable Initiatives and Technology".

Dr. Atul Anand, IAS, Principal Secretary/Commissioner of Labour; Mr. T Kumaresan, Executive Vice President & Head-Minerals & Metals Strategic Business Group, L&T; Mr. Antony Burchell: Team Leader NKAB G C to CMRL, Chennai; Dr. Sashikala Chandrasekar: Chair, ICOH SC on Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts; Prof. Koustuv Dalal, Senior Advisor ISCCC, Sweden; Dr. J Jayapriya, Head of the Department of DAST, Anna University and many members of various academic Institutions and corporate organizations participated in the conference.

Dr. Krishna Nirmalya Sen welcomed all the delegates and participants and highlighted the conference agenda and deliberated upon the theme of this year's conference. The inaugural address was followed by lighting lamp and addresses by the dignitaries present during the inaugural session.

Spread over two days this program, a combination of three special as well as seven technical sessions provided a great opportunity to practicing as well as budding Occupational Safety and Health professionals for knowledge update and to get familiarized with global occupational health and safety best practices across various industries and organizations. Eminent speakers from Academia and Industrial Institutions deliberated the various occupational health and safety aspects to enhance Occupational health standards across various industries.

In the second special session, panel discussion was conducted focusing on the theme of conference where Dr. Krishna Nirmalya Sen participated as one of the panelists. In the third special session, dedicated to ICOH Scientific Committee in the Construction Industry, Prof. Tirthankar Ghosh highlighted his views on Ergonomic Intervention to Improve Productivity, Health, and Safety of Unorganized Sectors at India; And Dr. Nikhil Bugalia/Kaushik Bhattacharjee elaborated System thinking-based design of safety governance structure for small, medium, and large construction firms in India.



In the technical session focused on OH in Construction Industry, Risk management through safety planning in the construction industry; Composite model for human factor analysis in process accidents; OSH risk assessment by HAZOP and behaviour-based safety in a medium enterprise in India; and Safety leadership and safety behaviour in the construction industry-exploring the linkage from past empirical studies etc. were discussed. During the proceedings of other technical sessions Mr. G. Muralidhar/Dr Krishna Nirmalya Sen presented a paper on Behaviour Based Safety (BBS) highlighting the need for clear understanding of BBS concept and issues with over reliance on Behavior Based Safety at workplaces, Mr. Yuyulsu Krishnan/Dr. Krishna Nirmalya Sen presented a paper on Ergonomic Assessment of Construction Activities highlighting the ergonomic risk among construction activities and possible solutions.







## <SC Work Organisation and Psychosocial Factors>

## Participating on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the ORP

Marie-Agnès Denis Denise Minnie, SC Secretary

The 23rd Congress of the ORP (Occupational Risk Prevention) International Foundation was held in Bilbao from 26-28 April 2023. The ORP is an international organization dedicated to fostering innovation and integral services through guidance, awareness, and dissemination of social, economic, and work-related knowledge.

The theme of the congress was: « At work: one life, one planet ».

Most delegates were occupational health and safety providers, practitioners, managers, researchers, policymakers, or insurance and workers' compensation providers.

These were some of the topics that were covered at the Congress:

- Digitalisation for prevention, opportunities, and challenges for digital work, artificial intelligence, research in improving safety, health, and wellbeing,
- · Complex management of safety and health at work and key competencies of the excellent leader,
- Research and technology for the prevention of ergonomic risks in the factories of the future: artificial intelligence, exoskeletons, virtual reality,
- Mental health, consequential or urgent damages, an international vision of workers' mental health, practices in mental health, and work performance,
- The impact of skills mismatches on occupational accidents,
- Sustainable prevention, the importance of preventive culture, and how to promote a culture of healthy work environments and the changing world of work,
- and of course, the many challenges for occupational medicine 2023-2030.

The President of ORP, Hans-Horst Konkolewsky, invited several ICOH leaders to participate in a symposium on mental health and well-being. The speakers were Seong-Kyu Kang - ICOH (Republic of Korea), Diana Gagliardi - ICOH (Italy), Marie-Agnes Denis - the University of Lyon, (France), and Ed Corbett from HSE Science Division, (UK).

Marie-Agnès Denis participated in the event on behalf of the ICOH-WOPS Scientific Committee. Her presentation focused on mental health and well-being in a global aspect with the view of the ICOH Scientific Committee on WOPS (Work Organization and Psychosocial Factors). The presentation zoomed on the participation and collaboration of ICOH-WOPS: development of key policies for the European Commission, the European Agency for Safety and Heath at Work

(EU-OSHA), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the International Labour Organization (ILO), and ICOH-WOPS webinars.



She also announced the next ICOH-WOPS congress, which is jointly organized with the Asia Pacific Academy for Psychosocial Factors at Work (APA-PFAW), in Tokyo from 19 to 22 September 2023.

Diana Gagliardi spoke about mental health and well-being in Italy and how to respond to workers who develop mental health problems, while Ed Corbett addressed delegates about mental health and well-being in the UK, and Seong-Kyu Kang addressed the audience on mental health and practice in Korea

All major international OSH organizations (ILO, WHO, EU OSHA, ISSA, IALI) contributed to the Congress by organizing sessions about sustainable prevention, mental health and well-being, and digitalization for prevention.

To conclude, health does not begin in hospitals and clinics but starts in our homes, streets, communities, and schools.... Healthy, safe, and resilient workplaces are places where everyone can work in good conditions. The pandemic has accelerated some of these changes. A holistic view is necessary for healthy workplaces: thinking outside the box, working with other professionals, and out of its comfort zone. Safe work is a fundamental right (in line with the ILO decision in 2022 to include « a safe and healthy work environment » as a fundamental principle and right at work (see https://www. ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/areasofwork/fundamental-principle/lang--en/index.htm)



#### The following articles from the National/Area Secretaries are here.

NS Argentina NS Brazil NS China NS Jamaica NS Kenya NS Uganda Additional information on the previous article

## Legal Framework in Occupational Medicine - Update 2023

#### Dr. Adolfo Hernandez, NS for Argentina

During the months of April, May and June 2023, the course 'Legal Framework in Occupational Medicine' was taught by Dr. Wanda Soraya Otero, and sponsored by the Occupational Medicine Society of the Province of Buenos Aires (Sociedad del Medicina del Trabajo de la Provincia de Buenos Aires [SMTBA]), Argentina.

The course is intended to provide occupational health teams with technical-legal knowledge and practical skills for common problems, namely: management of diseases and at-fault accidents; tools to reduce absenteeism; knowledge and update on the teleworking modality; all administrative and judicial processes before the work risk insurance; participation in medical commissions and other concepts of the occupational hazards system, among the many topics of interest.

The course was well attended with more than 250 professionals participating from Argentina and neighbouring countries. This made it necessary for the course to be

delivered in three separate sessions, each with six explanatory classes, two question fora, and another two meetings of an evaluative nature. These sessions were really reciprocally enriching, since the participants in general had recognized experience in occupational medicine, for which the most common problems could be addressed, with a valuable exchange of knowledge and ideas.

The presenter's contribution was based on her own experience as an advisor to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and multinational companies for the past 18 years, her knowledge as a specialist and litigator in labour law, in addition to her work as a university professor in the specialization of occupational medicine.

The academic offering was delivered as three welldefined modules, which included the typical problems that interest occupational medicine, safety and hygiene, and human resources; these are described below for a better understanding of the objective and context of the course.

The first module began with an exhaustive analysis of the system of at-fault Illnesses and accidents, with the aim of reflecting on the following questions:

- (i) How are simultaneous multiple at-fault diseases recorded?
- (ii) What happens when a sick or injured worker is dismissed?
- (iii) Can we intimidate employees to work when the doctor of the employer disputes the medical certificate granted by the doctor of the social work/others?
- (iv) Action before the presentation of medical certificates with doubtful authenticity, what evidence do we need?
- (v) Legal implications of the control of absenteeism video call, and digital prescription.

The second module, intended to provide a detailed analysis of the occupational hazards system, for comparison with the characteristic notes of the system presented in the first module. It was based on the following triggers:

- (i) How are multiple simultaneous occupational diseases treated?
- (ii) What happens when a worker is dismissed in the process by the insurance for occupational accidents and disease (Administradora del Riesgo del Trabajo [ART])?
- (iii) Can we intimidate employees to work when the ART rejects the claim?
- (iv) What happens when the employee is not able to work and is discharged from ART with rejection of re-entry?
- (v) Does the ART coverage proceed, in the event of an unpaid claim, or by an unregistered worker?
- (vi) Post-pandemic COVID coverage and corporate responsibility before claim of outsourced employee, or contractor, or professional, etc.

The third module was inspired by the impact of teleworking, with all the questions, reflections and projections of this new modality, namely:

(i) What must I prove to cover claims in the case of teleworking?

- (ii) How should I monitor compliance with occupational health, hygiene and safety, in the case of teleworking?
- (iii) How are absences managed and what happens before the provision of tasks in accident or illness processes?
- (iv) How to control the working day and the existence of over time?
- (v) How to modify the work modalities?, etc.

In 2023, SMTBA is pleased to present the refresher course "Prevention of problematic consumption in work environments: Policies and experiences" to members of occupational health teams. With more than 70 professionals registered to date, the course directors, Dr. Ernesto González (president of the Argentine Center for Occupational Prevention in Addictions-CAPLA) and Dr. Samanta Kameniecki (vice president of SMTBA), offer us this new proposal for training and learning, debate, and new agreements to lead towards a quality approach to this problem.

To this end, experts in their respective fields will provide multidisciplinary presentations based on their theoretical frameworks and own experiences.

The refresher course will have the participation of Dr. Mario Kameniecki, expert in problematic consumption and former head of the Carlos Gardel Day Center for Addiction Assistance, of the Program Area of the Ramos Mejía Hospital (Government of the City of Buenos Aires); Lic. Sebastián Holc, director of the Directorate of Promotion and Prevention in Mental Health and Problematic Consumption of the Ministry of Health of the Province of Buenos Aires; Dr. Gustavo Calderón, president of Construir Salud and medical director of the Franchín Sanatorium; Dr. Juan Cifre, president of Obra Social Ferroviaria; Dr. Roberto Canay, director of the International Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals (ISSUP Argentina); and Drs. Berenice Rabade, Josefina Serritella and Victoria Menéndez, of the Pavlovsky Device (center for the outpatient treatment of problematic substance use).

#### **New Forms of Interaction with ANAMT Members**

Ricardo Turenko Beça, NS for Brazil Francisco Cortes Fernandes

The COVID-19 pandemic has suddenly hit ANAMT and worldwide with the challenge of maintaining communication and interaction with our members. The decision taken by the association's board was to increase the use of digital resources.

The study of the Brazilian Occupational Physicians profile was essential to customize the products available on our channels. We could better understand the numbers for Brazilian Occupational Physicians described below through data obtained from the Federal Council of Medicine of Brazil.

We currently have almost 22,000 Occupational Physicians, with the seventh specialty in the number of doctors in Brazil. Approximately 70% are over 55 years old, 65% are male and live in metropolitan areas of Brazilian capitals. The most significant density of Occupational Physicians is in the Southeast region, the most industrialized in the country.

After internal debates in our association, we resolved to implement free learning support software (Moodle platform) and use audio-visual features on streaming platforms such as Spotify and videos using YouTube, as well as quick communications by WhatsApp, Instagram, and LinkedIn, among others.

The use of these resources began in 2020, and today, after completing three years, we present the access data to ANAMT products.

Spotify podcast dissemination aims to meet the younger

labor doctor with proper language in the format of podcasts with a duration of approximately 7 minutes, summarizing essential topics of the daily practice of the specialty. Eighty-nine episodes have already been published until May 2023, covering various topics, from occupational toxicology to ergonomics physical agents. The hearing ranges from 500 to 1000 reproductions, with the audience champion being the theme of dismissal medical examination, with 1093 reproductions. These episodes currently have 21,665 copies.

Another product we developed was the TV ANAMT, which has the shape of a video interaction of approximately 40 minutes, deepening the topics dealt with in podcasts, having as its target audience the work doctor of over 40 years, as it is a format to it. The audience counts more than 3,605 users and almost 30,000 visualizations so far.



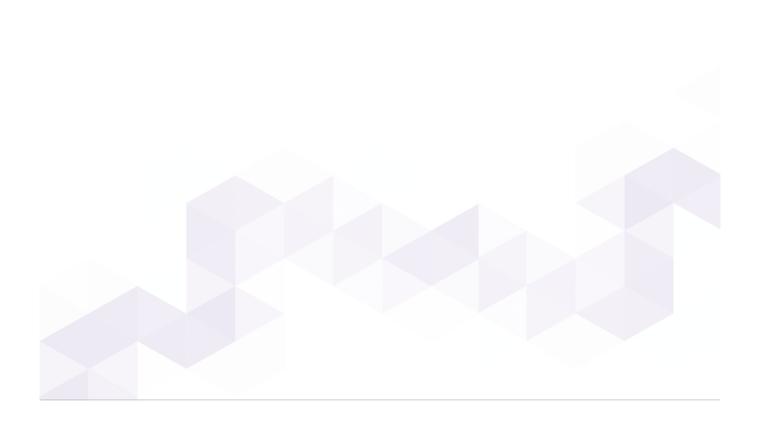
The third product is intended exclusively for ANAMT members' compliance with our entity. It is a more elaborate product, with video-recorded classes available for viewing at the time determined by the doctor, facilitating their access. These classes have a self-assessment questionnaire

and a chat to discuss with the teacher. In this platform, we also perform Webinars and Symposiums, such as the International Labor Medicine Symposium, held in May 2023, with the participation of ICOH doctors. We also conducted courses between 4 and 12 months covering updating on occupational medicine topics, health management, and work-related psychiatry.

Finally, ANAMT communication with Brazilian work doctors through WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn, intended for all doctors, has become a quick and effective communication channel for the association.

We believe that using these forms of communication democratized the update process for Brazilian occupational physicians by facilitating their access. The robust numbers associated with the positive feedback from doctors make us believe that we are on the right track and we should soon increase the range of products offered.





#### The 17th NAC-LHOD Concluded Successfully in Chongqing, China

Jin Wang Lap Ah Tse, NS for China

The 17th National Academic Conference of Labor Health and Occupational Diseases (NAC-LHOD) hosted by the Labor Health and Occupational Disease Branch of Chinese Preventive Medicine Association (LHODB-CPMA), and co-organized by Chongqing CDC, the First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical and Pharmaceutical College, and Chongqing Preventive Medicine Association, was successfully held in Chongqing of China, on April 13-14 of 2023. The theme of NAC-LHOD is "Protecting Worker's Health and Piloting New Journey of Occupational Health."

Xin SUN, the president of LHODB-CPMA and director of the National Institute of Occupational Health and Poison Control, China CDC, hosted the opening ceremony of NAC-LHOD. Liang YUAN, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Tao LI and Chengye SUN, chief experts of China CDC, Hongtao LIU, chief expert of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Military Medical Research Institute, and six other specialists from the occupational health field were invited to deliver keynote speeches at the conference. Besides, it sets 14 special sessions, such as occupational hazard protection, monitoring and evaluation, poisoning training and emergency rescue, workplace health promotion, and so forth, consisting of 150 panel reports.

The NAC-LHOD also celebrated 43 winners of "Outstanding Paper Award" and 13 winners of the "Wu Zhi Zhong Occupational Medicine Fund Award", selected from 429 candidates who submitted academic conference papers before.

With great concern and enthusiastic response, the NAC-LHOD attracted over eight hundred attendants from disease prevention and control agencies, occupational disease prevention and control institutions, universities, and colleges nationwide. By sharing the latest results and achievements, this conference actively promotes science and technology to better serve the high-quality development of occupational health in the new era.



The main site of the 17th National Academic Conference of Labor Health and Occupational Diseases



Outstanding Paper Awards Ceremony of the 17th National Academic Conference of Labor Health and Occupational Diseases

#### **Psychological Effects of COVID-19 on Generations**

Janice Green, NS for Jamaica

On May 10, 2023, the World Health Organization announced that "COVID-19 is now an established and ongoing health issue which no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC)."

We have further learnt that the WHO-led COVID-19 Emergency Committee met on May 4, 2023. The Committee acknowledged that uncertainties remain around potential evolution of the virus and advised that "it is time to transition to long-term management of the COVID-19 pandemic".

There are at least 5 different generations namely:

- Traditionalist (76 to 99 years old).
- Baby Boomer (57 to 75 years old)
- Generation X (41 to 56 years old)
- Millennial (26 to 40 years old)
- Generation Z (25 years old and younger).

The psychological effects of COVID-19 on the different generations will differ, or even fluctuate, and therefore requires creative and sustainable interventions.

Some of the more known psychological effects of COVID-19 varies from feeling uncomfortable or misunderstood; emotionally exhausted; feelings of lower life satisfaction, anxiety or social isolation.

In Jamaica there is SafeSpot, a targeted intervention for Generation Z. SafeSpot is an internationally recognized member of Child Helpline International, which is a global organization comprised of helplines from 135 countries and territories.



SafeSpot is a dedicated toll-free line that is available 24 hours daily, seven days per week and is staffed by intake officers, counsellors and counselling psychologists. It was established in Jamaica during COVID-19 to provide counselling to children and teenagers who require mental, emotional and social well-being assistance.

History has shown that at the end of a public health virus outbreak, or pandemic, health and safety systems improve over time. This improvement is due to science, coupled with new and emerging technologies.

In summary, the psychological effects of COVID-19 on the different generations are many and evolving, but medical interventions are being researched and implemented so that generations can remain resilient.

#### World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2023

Winnie R. Makokha, NS for Kenya

As has been a tradition for a number of years now, the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health Services (DOSHS), under the Ministry of Labour and Social protection spearheaded the celebration to mark World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28th April 2023. The day was marked in Kisumu, Kenya. Several stakeholders participated including the employer's representative and the workers representative officials.

One activity that has been a common feature of this day is awarding workplaces across different sectors on their levels of safety. A call to participation is put out, previsits are done by DOSHS representatives, and the best workplace is awarded on 28th April. This year the overall winner was Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, who were also winners in the health sector.

Social Liability Approach to Compensation-Kenya is Shifting direction on handling compensations for occupational injuries and diseases.

In addition, the Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Florence Bore

and the Principal Secretary, Hon. Geoffrey Kaituko highlighted both in print media and on 28th April that there are ongoing conversations on reviewing the occupational safety and health legal framework. One of the key things highlighted is review of the Work Injury Benefits Act of 2007 from employer liability-based system to a social liability approach. This envisions systems where workers are compensated from a common fund as opposed to by their specific employer as it is currently.





## Kenya Holds Its First Ever Virtual Meeting for ICOH members

Winnie R. Makokha, NS for Kenya

On 11th May, 2023 we held our first virtual meeting of this triennium. The key agendas discussed included sharing with members on the various benefits of being an ICOH member in good standing and the resources available to members to enrich their knowledge in OSH. The Secretary Occupational Safety and Health, Dr. Musa Nyandusi, who is also a long-standing member of ICOH provided more insights. He emphasized on the importance of joining and being active in ICOH scientific committees as a way of building knowledge and global networks in the OSH field.

Another virtual meeting was held on 31st May 2023. The agenda was to guide members on how to prepare conference abstracts and the different areas of research that members can look into. This session was facilitated by Prof Janvier Gasana and Mr. Pius Makhonge, MBS. Both speakers have a wealth of experience in their respective work, i.e. Prof Janvier an ICOH member and also widely published in the field of occupational health, while Mr. Makhonge an ICOH member since 2002 and a long serving public service officer in OSH in Kenya including being a Director at the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health Service (DOSHS). All this was in a bid to encourage members to submit abstracts for the upcoming ICOH 2024 congress in Marrakech, Morocco.





#### Uganda Holds Its First Mini-Symposium for ICOH members

Dr. Agaba Marianna Nyangire, NS for Uganda

Members of the ICOH community in Uganda convened to attend the first ever mini-symposium on 29th May 2023. The event was generously sponsored by the Mehta Group company, Sugar Corporation of Uganda Limited. In attendance were Occupational Health officers, members from the Department of Occupational Safety and Health in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, workers from different workplaces as well as students pursuing Undergraduate and Postgraduate studies inclusive of Occupational Health and Safety.

The theme for this event was 'Occupational Health: enabling a healthy and productive workforce' and we were privileged to have two ICOH members as speakers of the day. They were Dr. Sekimpi Deogratias, a senior Occupational Health practitioner from Uganda and Dr. (Maj) Paul Bishwadeep, the President, Indian Association of Occupational Health as our guest speaker. From the presentations shared by the speakers, we learnt that in Uganda, workplaces have embraced the importance of Occupational Health and Safety more however, a system to over the implementation set up by the National Authority is lacking; more focus is given to work accidents as these what can easily be seen and vet Occupational health involves holistic wellbeing of workers; We are still held back by the Industry revolution mindset of occupational health. Dr. Sekimpi also took the participants through the ILO Convention No. 187 and how it can be applied in our Ugandan setting.

The guest speaker, Dr. Paul talked about the following among others:-The importance of occupation is during history taking while managing sick workers; how the COVID 19 pandemic brought greater focus on health at the workplace and resulted in increase of challenges and need for OHPs to provide care and skills; Recent developments that relate to Occupational Health include UN SDGs and The ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) Agenda; The need to have a database so that governments should understand the burden of work-related injuries and diseases; an increase in psychosocial occupational risk factors e.g. people not getting good rest because of spending more time on social media; the need to include some pillars including Legal and Regulatory governance, corporate governance (company policies) and clinical governance (ethics) in Occupational safety and health system strategies and how Occupational health should be treated as a business enabler- "Healthy people, healthy business."

To crown this meeting, a group discussion was held and the following were emphasized:

- The need for collaborations between workplaces and the Occupational Safety and Health national authority in closing the knowledge gap and the implementation of the OSH Act 2006, No.9.
- Employers need to be part of the solution for Occupational Safety and Health challenges and not just the OSH officers and committees.
- It is important to have evidence and data during OSH awareness raising especially when there's poor buy in by management.
- The interaction between community and occupational health is important e.g. introducing a hospital for safety delivery in industrial areas would be a good

way to go about this.

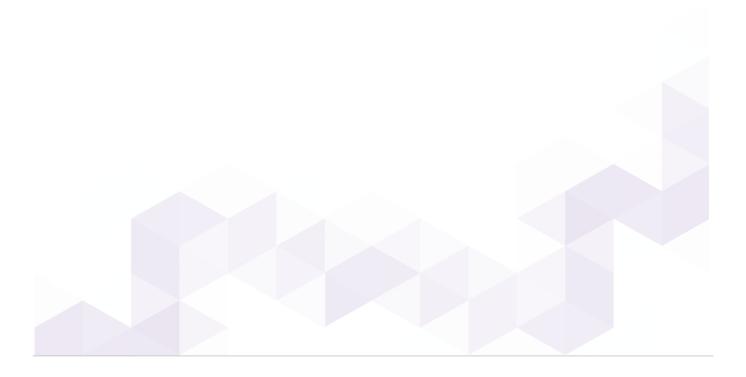
• In order to address occupational injuries and diseases, there is need for a up a system where workplaces capture these statistics and the national authority should make their license renewal dependent on having this information. Overall, this was a fruitful and successful mini-symposium and it is our hope as the 'ICOH Uganda Chapter' that the different participants benefitted and appreciated the role they can play to improve Occupational Safety and Health.

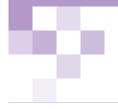


Group photo of the partcipants with the guest speaker, Dr. Paul Bishwadeep



The guest speaker Dr. Paul Bishwadeep (ICOH member and President, Indian Association of Occupational Health) sharing his presentation.





## Additional information on the previous article on ICOH Newsletter Vol 21 No 1

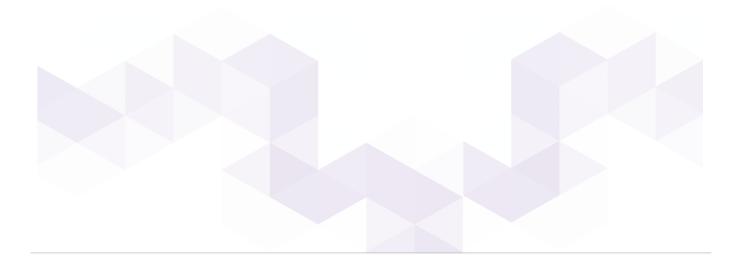
## COVID-19 PREVENTION UP UNTIL MAY 2022 AND EUROPEAN PREPAREDNESS FOR FUTURE PANDEMICS: A UEMS SUB-WORKING GROUP (SWG) REPORT

Please find the additional information on the previous article submitted by Dr. Theodore Bazas, who is the coordinator of the UEMS Sub-working Group on COVID-19 Prevention. You can find the update and report from the ad-hoc Working Group on COVID-19 SWG1 though the links.

A Report on "PREVENTION OF COVID-19" by the Sub-Working Group on COVID-19 Prevention of the ad hoc Working Group (WG) on COVID-19 of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), up to 27 April 2022, lead by Dr. Theodore Bazas

Dr. Theodore Bazas, the coordinator of UEMS Sub-working Group on COVID-19 Prevention

Update and Report from the ad-hoc Working Group on Covid-19 - SWG1 https://www.uems.eu/news-and-events/news/update-and-report-from-the-ad-hoc-working-group-on-covid-19 https://www.uems.eu/\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0006/163590/DrBAZAS\_COVIDSG1REPORT.pdf



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

Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) The Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM) Members' Activity in India and Nepal

## **Update from IOSH**

**Karen Michell** 

#### UN Special Status opens door to global stage

IOSH is delighted to have been granted Special Consultative Status by the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

ECOSOC enjoys far-reaching influence in the UN's drive towards sustainable development, whether that be economic, social or environmental. Fostering debate and innovative thinking, it oversees a complex ecosystem of bodies in this space, guiding and coordinating the work of organisations such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank Group (WBG), for example.

Special Consultative Status is reserved for NGOs with a special competence in and concern for specialised fields of activity covered by ECOSOC. IOSH will gain the opportunity to attend official meetings, submit written statements prior to sessions, request to make oral statements, meet official government delegations and other NGO representatives and take part in debates, panel discussions and informal meetings.

With the door to the UN now open, IOSH will have the

much-welcome opportunity to provide expert analysis on safety and health, serve as an early warning agent, raise awareness of OSH issues, present key information at UN events and play a key role in achieving UN goals and objectives.

IOSH Chief Executive Vanessa Harwood-Whitcher said: "This is a huge step forward for IOSH, giving us a recognised seat at the top table with international standardsetters and the opportunity to contribute and influence OSH matters at that level.

"With an even firmer platform on which to reach a worldwide audience and shape international agendas, IOSH can tell the world more of what our members do for organisations and societies at large, promoting the skills and talents of OSH professionals while projecting their voice on the full range of OSH issues," she added.

# Alliance formed to promote better safety, health and wellbeing for all

Prominent safety and health organisations have united to form the Occupational Safety & Health Stakeholder



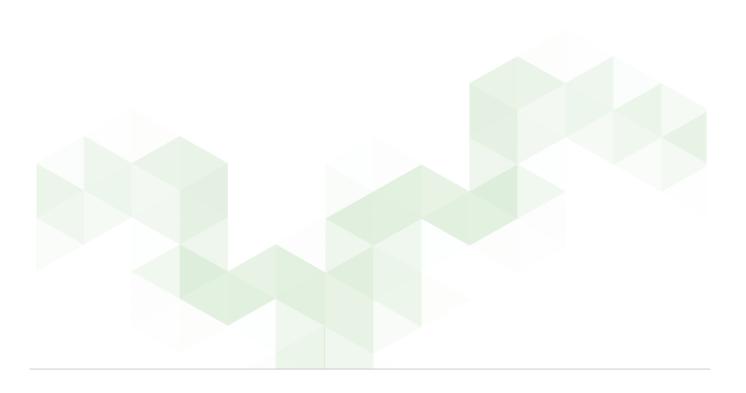
Alliance, which will offer a 360-degree perspective on critical safety and health issues for the first time.

IOSH, the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS), British Safety Council (BSC), British Safety Industry Federation (BSIF), Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), International Institute of Risk and Safety Management (IIRSM) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) signed a memorandum of understanding on 12 May to create the alliance.

Collectively, the members' competencies span the full spectrum of occupational safety and health (OSH) considerations, including education and regulation to policy creation, professional standards and thought leadership. It will provide a unified voice for the OSH industry, drawing on members' collective expertise to inform and support OSH decision-making at a government policy maker and corporate level.

The alliance members are delighted to be announcing its formation. This is a truly historic alliance with the potential to have a far-reaching positive impact on OSH management in the UK. It is a non-exclusive group that welcomes wider involvement in the delivery of its aims.

It is committed to supporting the good practice that already prevails in the OSH space and to developing and implementing programmes, initiatives and activities that enhance it. The group will leverage members' influence to deliver joint messaging and facilitate continuous progress on crucial OSH issues. They will also work to increase the visibility and value of the OSH profession and its wider set of disciplines and practices as well as highlighting its role in delivering OSH goals.



# **Members' Activity**



#### **Kate Jones**

Dear colleagues, participants, and occupational health professionals,

On behalf of the Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI) and the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS), we are pleased to invite you to actively participate in the **International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) 2024 annual conference.** 

The IOHA 2024 conference will take place from the  $9^{th}$  to the  $13^{th}$  of June 2024 in Dublin, Ireland! The conference theme is 'Protecting workers from health hazards: Advancing in this changing world'.



https://www.bohs.org/events-networking/events/ upcoming-events/detail/ioha-2024/

IOHA 2024 conference aims to bring together occupational hygienists, occupational health professionals, public bodies and policy-makers, academic scientists and researchers from all relevant associated sectors and fields to connect and exchange their ideas and experiences to promote worker health protection.

#### Dr Alison Connolly, the Chair of the Scientific Committee

I am delighted to Chair the Scientific Committee for IOHA 2024, and the whole committee is already working tirelessly to arrange a brilliant programme for the conference, including excellent keynote speakers, which I look forward to announcing over the coming months, and an engaging scientific programme. I encourage industry professionals with relevant case studies, scientists with novel research findings and policymakers with relevant updates on policies/guidance and legislation to consider submitting an abstract for the conference. Additionally, there are so many ways to get involved, including oral and poster presentations, workshops, or delivering a professional development course (PDC). I look forward to meeting everyone on the 'Emerald Isle'.

#### Nuala Flavin, Chair of the IOHA Organising Committee and Former President of the Occupational Hygiene Society of Ireland (OHSI)

It is a great privilege to chair the Conference Organising Committee for IOHA Dublin 2024. We plan to have an outstanding conference programme with excellent scientific content together with practical case studies from working, experienced occupational hygienists and realworkplace thematic workshops. I strongly recommend that you submit an abstract that fits into any of these groupings.



# **Members'** Activity

This conference is in Ireland so it would not be complete without many opportunities for networking with your global peers, including several social occasions. I look forward to seeing you in Ireland.

We look forward to welcoming you to Dublin!

Nurles Flain

Nuala Flavin Chair of Conference Organising Committee

Dr Alison Connolly Chair of the Scientific Committee





# **Members'** Activity



# New Report on Burnout in Healthcare from the Society of Occupational Medicine

**Nick Pahl** 

A new approach is needed to tackle high levels of burnout among healthcare workers, a new report has concluded.

Shocking figures recently showed that NHS England experienced an absence rate of 5.6 percent in 2022, the equivalent of losing nearly 75,000 staff to illness, often caused by burnout.

170,000 staff have also left, or are planning to leave, the NHS due to stress and workload pressures.

SOM has published "**Burnout in healthcare: risk factors and solutions**" which details the steps needed to help combat the condition, found to be rife in healthcare.

Drawing on research data from a wide variety of sources, the report found that those working in healthcare, such as doctors, nurses and care workers, are particularly prone to experiencing burnout.

According to the 2022 NHS workforce survey, more than a third of healthcare staff report feel burned-out at work, with staff in clinical roles found to be most vulnerable. Further data shows that 54 percent of doctors displayed signs of emotional exhaustion and nearly 40 percent of nurses 'often' or 'always' felt burned-out at work.

Burnout is not a medical condition, but a state of physical and emotional exhaustion caused by excessive, prolonged, and untreated interpersonal workplace stress. It occurs when individuals become emotionally exhausted, cynical, and disengaged from the job and feel a sense of ineffectiveness and loss of purpose. It can have wide-ranging damaging effects on workers' health, job performance and quality of life and is extremely costly for the healthcare sector.

The thoroughly evidenced report recommends **primary**, **secondary**, **and tertiary interventions** throughout the healthcare sector to protect employees against burnout and enable those returning from absence because of the condition to do so effectively and safely.

- Primary level interventions are those that tackle the root causes of burnout. It is crucial to ensure workload is manageable, adequate support is available, leadership is compassionate, inclusive, and ethical and staff are recognised and rewarded for their work and achievements. Training managers to support the wellbeing of their staff, identify early signs of burnout and encourage help-seeking are also particularly important.
- Secondary level interventions focus on improving people's ability to cope with the challenging aspects of their roles. Particularly effective strategies include enhancing opportunities for peer support, promoting selfcompassion and self-care, providing training in a range of stress management tools, and helping staff maintain a healthy balance between their work and personal life.
- Tertiary level interventions focus on treatment and encourage a safe and healthy return to work. These include taking a person-centred approach to identifying the factors that contributed to burnout and taking appropriate steps to address them.



With burnout being such a pressing issue in healthcare, occupational health, the specialist and expert field of health and wellbeing at work, will be a crucial part of the solution.

The UK is in a fortunate position, with specially trained occupational health professionals, but more investment is needed to expand this workforce through the newly announced workforce plan. SOM is calling for universal occupational health access and will continue to press for more provision until everyone, whether they work in healthcare or in other industries, has the coverage they need to be healthy and happy at work.

### SOM CEO Nick Pahl said:

"This new report outlines in detail why universal occupational health is so important infighting burnout in healthcare. The NHS workforce plan's aim is to reduce the overall leaver rate for NHS-employedstaff from 9.1% (2022) to between 7.4% and 8.2% over the next 15 years. This can only occur by investing in occupational health-reversing burnout, tackling root causes, so that NHS staff can return to work well. SOM is committed to working with Government and the NHS to meet these challenges head-on."

Professor Gail Kinman, the author of the report, said:

"Burnout is an extremely serious matter that impacts workplaces across Britain, but it is a particular problem in healthcare settings. We know that doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals are more likely than most to experience burnout and therefore it is vitally important that we take urgent action. There are compelling reasons for organisations to support the wellbeing of their employees. This report, which brings together a wealth of research and findings, recommends the real and practical steps that they can take in the fight against burnout to ensure healthcare staff remain healthy and motivated and that recruitment and retention are improved."

### Download the report here.

https://www.som.org.uk/sites/som.org.uk/files/Burnout\_ in\_healthcare\_risk\_factors\_and\_solutions\_July2023\_0.pdf

### SOM's Summer Magazine is out now - here

https://issuu.com/som.org.uk/docs/som\_summer\_magazine\_ 2023

The magazine is a compilation of news, resources and event information over the past few months for the wider occupational health community.





Dr. Sandeep Sharma, India Prof. Dr. Sunil Kumar Joshi, Nepal

Reiterates to take forward the 'Industry & Academia initiative' in collaboration with IndianOil & SCOPE

On 10th March 2023, at New Delhi, Prof. Dr. Sunil Kumar Joshi (ICOH Board member) and Dr. Sandeep Sharma (ICOH Board member) led the discussion with Mr. Atul Sobti, Director General SCOPE, and Mr. Ranjan Mehrotra, Executive Director, HSE, IndianOil, to take forward the "Industry & Academia Initiative for strengthening Occupational Health in the region."

Welcoming the ICOH Board Members DG SCOPE highlighted the importance and need of strong connection between Industry and Academia and knowledge management with a purpose of making the employees 'future ready', in context with the fast-changing global scenario wherein participation from developing countries is very important in capacity building of the stake holders with an aim, to foster the scientific progress, knowledge and development of occupational health and safety in all its aspects.

DG SCOPE reiterated the pivotal role of this 'Industry & Academia Initiative' which will boost the robust learning eco-system and shall effectively contribute, in further

strengthening Health and Safety across the region.

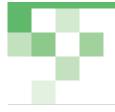
Prof. Dr. Sunil Kumar Joshi ICOH Board Member from Nepal extended his full support to take forward the 'Industry & Academia initiative launched in Jan 2020 at New Delhi India by Professor Seong Kyu Kang, current President ICOH.

Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) is an apex professional organization representing the Central Government Public Enterprises in India. It has also some state enterprises, banks and other institutions as its members. It is promoting excellence in organizations where public investment is involved, in order to enable them to be globally competitive.

SCOPE came into existence on April 10, 1973 and was formally given recognition as an apex body of Central Public Sector Enterprises in November 1976 by a decision of the Union Cabinet of India.

Association of Environmental & Occupational Health, Delhi, and Association of Environmental & Occupational Health, Haryana Felicitates the efforts to take forward the 'Industry & Academia initiative' in collaboration with





## **Members' Activity**

IndianOil & SCOPE. Association of Environmental & Occupational Health, Delhi (AEOHD) and Association of Environmental & Occupational Health, Haryana (AEOHH) are Delhi and Haryana state branches of Indian Association of Occupational Health (IAOH).



Dr. Sandeep Sharma and Dr. Sunil Kumar Joshi along with AEOHD and AEOHH Presidents, AEOHD Vice Presidents and AEOHD Treasurer

### Discussion with Prof K Srinath Reddy, Founder (Past) President, PHFI at India Habitat Centre New Delhi

Dr. Sandeep Sharma and Dr. Sunil Kumar Joshi held discussion on 10th March 2023 with Prof. K Srinath Reddy Honorary Distinguished Professor and Goodwill Ambassador of the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) for Public Health Partnerships to take forward the "Industry & Academia Initiative for strengthening Occupational Health in the region."

PHFI is a public private initiative that has collaboratively evolved through consultations with multiple constituencies including Indian and international academia, state and central governments, multi & bi-lateral agencies and civil society groups. PHFI is a response to redress the limited institutional capacity in India for strengthening training, research and policy development in the area of Public Health.

Structured as an independent foundation, PHFI adopts a broad, integrative approach to public health, tailoring its endeavors to Indian conditions and bearing relevance to countries facing similar challenges and concerns. The PHFI focuses on broad dimensions of public health that encompass promotive, preventive and therapeutic services, many of which are frequently lost sight of in policy planning as well as in popular understanding.

The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, launched PHFI on March 28, 2006 at New Delhi. PHFI recognizes the fact that meeting the shortfall of health professionals is imperative to a sustained and holistic response to the public health concerns in the country which in turn requires health care to be addressed not only from the scientific perspective of what works, but also from the social perspective of, who needs it the most.



## **Obituary**

### In Memory of Pro Memoriam Julietta Rodríguez-Guzmán



On behalf of the International Commission on Occupational Health Jukka Takala, Jorma Rantanen, and Diana Gagliardi

Julietta Rodríguez-Guzmán, MD MScA SOH

Julietta was a Regional Advisor on workers' and consumers' health at Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization. We know her as a trusted and highly respected friend, and an active member and Chair of the Scientific Committee on Women, Health and Work of ICOH from October 1997.

She had a convincing occupational and academic career from the Universidad El Bosque in Colombia for 31 years, Universidad del Rosario and to McGill University as an Associate Professor. She received her degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD) in 1981 from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.

Most of us active in occupational health and safety remember her as the Regional advisor on workers' and consumers' health at the Pan American Health Organization of WHO in Washington DC while starting from 2011 until her retirement at the end of 2021. However, her activity and reputation was global. From the very beginning, she represented her country and later the Pan American Region in the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres in Occupational Health. She promoted the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Occupational Health for All and the WHO Global Action Plan - Workers' Health in the Americas and globally.

She had an active institutional role in Colombian, Latin American and global bodies and associations in addition to her role at ICOH. Her contacts covered United Nations, World health Organisation, International Labour



## Obituary

Organisation, UNICEF and included both the Headquarters and Regional activities. She had a large network with institutions dealing with occupational health from United States and Canada to U.K and European countries.

As PAHO Regional Advisor for workers' health, she covered a broad agenda of working and employment conditions, including prevention of occupational cancer, pneumoconioses, chronic kidney disease of non-traditional origin, mental health and work, and preventing violence at the workplace. She contributed to decreasing workplace stress and building national outlooks and national plans for workers' health in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

She was seeking solutions to close the gaps of inequity for working people in several settings, including informal work, and critical economic sectors such as agriculture, mining and health, and addressing the COVID-19 pandemic issues at work. She was active in preventing unwanted injuries and fatalities affecting also children and the elderly.

With ILO, WHO and ICOH she contributed to the success of many programs and events, including the ICOH 2022 Global Congress Policy Forum. We recall her translating the English Powerpoint presentations in late evenings in order to have the maximum impact of the audience mostly for Spanish speaking audience due to the limited language capacity of the presenter.

She did not just concentrate at work, she was happily welcoming international experts in the cultural events in Latin America, such as those in Cartagena, Guatemala and Mexico.

Julietta's hospitality and cordiality was encompassing and heartening. She opened her home in Washington (see picture with Paul Demers and Jukka Takala, photo taken by her husband Denis Bernier). Her emails were ending with and expression "abrazos colombianos" or Colombian hugs.

We have lost an excellent professional and a great friend while she will not be forgotten!



Julietta at home in Washington with Paul Demers and Jukka Takala



Julietta in between friends from Latin America

The candidates must be eligible under Article 5, section 2 and 8 of the ICOH Constitution. The Officers and the members of the Board shall be elected as set forth in the Bye-Laws for the period separating sessions of the General Assembly. They may be re-elected to the same office for no more than one additional term, with exception of the Secretary-General, who may be elected for more than one additional term. The newly elected Officers take office at the General Assembly convened immediately after the ICOH 2024 Congress. A member of the ICOH can be a candidate for one post only at a time. The deadline for candidatures submission expired on July 28, 2023.

The election process will be held in electronic format.

ICOH members having the right of voting will be timely informed about the electronic voting procedure.

### **CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF ICOH PRESIDENT**

### Seong-Kyu KANG - REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### **Curriculum Vitae**

KANG, Seong-Kyu is Dean of School of Public Health and Chair of Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, College of Medicine and Gil Medical Center at Gachon University, Republic of Korea, and an occupational physician and epidemiologist.

Professor Kang is serving his 1st term Presidency of ICOH. He served two terms of Vice President and ICOH Board and was active in membership since 1992. He worked for Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA) for 27 years, where he served as Vice President and Director of Research Institute (OSHRI). He was the key responsible person of 31st ICOH Congress held in Seoul in 2015. He was an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) fellow at US CDC, NIOSH.

Professor Kang has been involved in many academic societies and government committees related to occupational safety and health. He is a fellow of Collegium Ramazzini and Editor-in-Chief of Safety and Health at Work (SH@W).

### Endorsers

A. Descatha (France), A. El Kholti (Morocco), A. Fajardo (Philippines), A. Tsutsumi (Japan), A.L. Fajardo Montiel (Mexico), C. Nogueira (South Africa), C. Yarborough (USA), D. Gagliardi (Italy), E. Yoshikawa (Japan), E. Shigan (Russian Federation), F.M. Fischer (Brazil), J. Takala (Finland), M. Hogan (Ireland), M. Sim (Australia), N. Chaiear (Thailand), N. Purwito Adi (Indonesia), Q. Durand-Moreau (Canada), R. Rocha (Brazil), S. Iavicoli (Italy), S. Mishra (India), S. Pingle (India).

### **CANDIDATES FOR THE POSTS OF ICOH VICE PRESIDENT**

### **Martin HOGAN – IRELAND**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Martin Hogan is an Occupational Physician working in Cork, Ireland. He is a past National Speciality Director and Past Dean of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He was President of the 32nd ICOH Congress which took place in Dublin, Ireland in 2018. He has been a member of



the Board of ICOH since from 2015 to 2022. He is currently Vice President of ICOH. He is a member of the Board of Medichem since 2015. His special interests include toxicology and education. He is committed to the role of ICOH in promoting a multi-disciplinary approach to protecting workers, health and safety, worldwide.

### Endorsers

A. Descatha (France), A. El Kholti (Morocco), C. Nogueira (South Africa), C. Yarborough (USA), D. Gagliardi (Italy), D. Mijakoski (Republic of North Macedonia), D. E. Cuervo-Díaz (Colombia), F.M. Fischer (Brazil), F. S. Violante (Italy), J. Rantanen (Finland), J. Takala (Finland), K. Addley (United Kingdom), K. Kogi (Japan), O. Lo (Singapore), P.A. Schulte (USA), R. El Kholti (Morocco), R. Turenko Beça (Brazil), R.S. Sauni (Finland), S. Iavicoli (Italy), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Leka (Ireland), S. Pingle (India), S. Sharma (India).

### Shyam PINGLE – INDIA

### **Curriculum Vitae**

### Dr. Shyam Pingle

Two terms ICOH Board Member from India (2018 – 2024), Chair of ICOH SC on OH & Development (2009 – 2015). Finance & Ethics committees, Future of Work Working Group at ICOH.

Senior Occupational Health Expert, 44 years+ experience in teaching and practice of occupational health, Currently, Adjunct Professor and Senior Occupational Health Specialist, Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar. Passionate about promotion and advocacy Occupational Health in India and globally.

Headed occupational health & medical services at manufacturing units of leading Indian corporates such as Reliance Industries, NOCIL, Grindwell Norton etc., and global knowledge industry leader, IBM Corporation.

Qualified medical graduate and post graduated in Preventive Medicine, Fellow in Industrial Health (AFIH) from India, Diploma in OSH and Development from Arbetslivesinstitutet, Sweden, trained at LMU Munich.

Fellow and past National President of Indian Association of Occupational Health. Delivered Orations, Plenary lectures in 100+ national & international occupational health conferences.

### Endorsers

A. Descatha (France), A. El Kholti (Morocco), A. Jain (United Kingdom), A. Mishra (India), A. Shimazu (Japan), A. Suraya (Indonesia), A. Tsutsumi (Japan), A.C. Olsson (France), A.L. Fajardo Montiel (Mexico), B. Joseph (India), B. Rogers (USA), B.M. Paul (India), C. Nogueira (South Africa), C. Colosio (Italy), C.T.J. Hulshof (The Netherlands), D. Gagliardi (Italy), D. Sharan (India), E.L. Enriquez (Mexico), F.G. Schaafsma (The Netherlands), F. M. Fischer (Brazil), G.O. Brachman (USA), H.M. Denny (Indonesia), J. Dai (P. R. China), J. Rantanen (Finland), J. Takala (Finland), K. Elgstrand (Sweden), E.A. Kim (Republic of Korea), M. Hagberg (Sweden), M. Hogan (Ireland), M. Mansyur (Indonesia), M. Sim (Australia), M.A. Fingerhut (USA), N. Chaiear (Thailand), O. Lo (Singapore), P.A. Schulte (USA), R. Rajesh (India), R.H. Parekh (India), R.K. Jain (India), R.S. Sauni (Finland), S. Chandrasekar (India), S. De Matteis (Italy), S. Iavicoli (Italy), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Leka (Ireland), S. Mishra (India), S. Sharma (India), T. Rajgopal (India), T.L. Guidotti (USA), V.C.W. Hoe (Malaysia), Z. Zhou (China).

### **Dingani MOYO - ZIMBABWE**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Dr Dingani Moyo is a Senior Consultant Occupational Physician from Zimbabwe. He is an Honorary Senior lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa and at the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe. Dr Moyo is serving a second term as an ICOH Board Member. He also served as ICOH National Secretary for Zimbabwe form 2012-2015 and as Co-Chair of the Artisanal and Small Scale Mining subcommittee of MinOSH, ICOH, 2018-2021. He is a Board member and Head of the Scientific Committee on Education and Capacity Improvement of OSHAfrica. He is an Executive Committee (EXCO) member of the South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM). He is a member of the Regional Expert Advisory Panel (REAP) of the Centre of Excellence in Occupational Health and Safety in Zambia. Dr Moyo has served as a consultant for several regional occupational health projects in southern Africa.

### Endorsers

A. Yassi (Canada), B. Moyo (Zimbabwe), P. Gottesfeld (USA), E. Jors (Denmark), K.E. Michell (United Kingdom), M. Makokha (Kenya), M. Mwanga (Tanzania), N. Ndlovu (South Africa), G. Nelson (South Africa), P.A. Schulte (USA), S. Sevaratnam (Malaysia), S. Sharma (India), S.K. Joshi (Nepal), T.M. Balfour-Kaipa (South Africa), V. Janardhanam (India).

### CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF ICOH SECRETARY GENERAL

### Diana GAGLIARDI – ITALY

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Dr. Diana Gagliardi has a degree in Medicine and is post-graduated in Forensic and Legal Medicine. Senior researcher at INAIL, she coordinates the Unit on International Research Networks and is the Director of the INAIL's WHO Collaborating Centre. ICOH member since 2009. She served as Secretary and then as Chair of the SC on Occupational Health and Development, organizing many workshops (hosted as side events in Meetings organized by IAOH, ICOH and FIOH) and joint conferences co-organized by larger groups of ICOH Scientific Committees.

Appointed Acting Secretary General in August 2021 to support the organization of the ICOH2022 Congress, she was then elected as Secretary General of ICOH for the tenure 2022-2024.

Her prevalent fields of interest are the protection of vulnerable workers and the development of knowledge based on accurate and reliable evidence synthesis.

She is involved in many different networks collaborating with diverse OH experts from all around the world.

### Endorsers

A. Descatha (France), A. Jain (United Kingdom), C. Nogueira (South Africa), F.G. Schaafsma (The Netherlands), F.M.
Fischer (Brazil), F.S. Violante (Italy), J. Rantanen (Finland), J. Takala (Finland), M. Hogan (Ireland), M. Seneviratne (Australia), M.A. Fingerhut (USA), M.A. Riva (Italy), O. Lo (Singapore), P.A. Schulte (USA), R. Rocha (Brazil), R.
Turenko Beca (Brazil), S. Chandrasekar (India), S. Fustinoni (Italy), S. Iavicoli (Italy), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Leka (Ireland), S. Pingle (India), S.A. Lehtinen (Finland), S.K. Joshi (Nepal), W.J. Choi (Republic of Korea).



### CANDIDATES FOR THE POSTS OF ICOH BOARD MEMBER

### **Naesinee CHAIEAR – THAILAND**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Professor Naesinee Chaiear has been a pioneer in occupational medicine in her region of northeastern Thailand. She works in the Department of Community, Family and Occupational Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, Thailand. She has established the occupational health and safety (OH&S) management and service for health workers for her teaching hospital. She has established annual training course of OH&S management for health workers for 18 years and received more than 3000 trainees from 800 hospitals. She has been appointed as an expert for Thailand Hospital Accreditation Institute. She also established occupational medicine service in hospital and workplace and has run the residency program in OM. She hosted the 10th International Joint Conference on Occupational Health for Healthcare Workers (28-30 Nov 2017) in Khon Kaen, Thailand, under ICOH-SC Occupational for Health Workers. Recently she received fellow status of ACOEM. She is also an editorial board of SH@W.

### Endorsers

A. Bandhukul (Thailand), A. El Kholti (Morocco), A. Mutti (Italy), C. Nogueira (South Africa), D. Gagliardi (Italy), G.O. Brachman (USA), H.M. Denny (Indonesia), K. Takahashi (Japan), M. Sim (Australia), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Pingle (India), W.G. Buchta (USA).

### Sashikala CHANDRASEKAR – INDIA

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Dr. Sashikala Chandrasekar Chair, ICOH Scientific Committee Rural Health, (SCRH), 2018-2024 Fellow, Indian Association of Occupational Health Former President, Association of Occupational Health Karnataka (AOHK) Board Member, International Social Security Association, (Agriculture) Member, American Industrial Hygiene Association Occupational Health and Medical Consultant Qualifications: MBBS, DLO, DIH, DPH Certificate courses: University of California SF, University of Brescia, LMU-Munich Work experience: Public and private sectors, Bangalore, India. Hindustan Aeronautics, Hindustan Unilever, Capgemini, Cypress, Motorola, CM Hospital. Contribution to SCRH: Collaborated with international organizations and scientific committees. Organized, participated in international conferences. Launched website www.icohrural.org Contribution to AOHK: Initiated and completed statutory requirements and website. Organized CME/seminars/conferences Arranged health programs for informal sector workers. Rural and Community health: Associated with NGOs for health programs for agricultural and cottage-industries workers. Awards/Recognitions: Presented in many international/national conferences. Received multiple awards and published papers. Fellow, World Congress Safety and Health, 2023.

### Endorsers

C. Nogueira (South Africa), D. Gagliardi (Italy), F.J.H. Van Dijk (The Netherlands), J. Takala (Finland), E. A. Kim (Republic of Korea), M.R. Lum (USA), O.Lo (Singapore), R.G. Lucchini (Italy), S. De Matteis (Italy), S. Fustinoni (Italy), S. K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Pingle (India), S.K. Joshi (Nepal), Y.A. Caraballo (Venezuela).

### Alexis DESCATHA – FRANCE

### **Curriculum Vitae**

I am MD and Professor of Occupational Health in France (Paris, now Angers). My research focuses on the epidemiology of work-related disorders, musculoskeletal and other chronic diseases. My interest is in exposure assessment using a job exposure matrix and long working hours (I was co-lead reviewer for the WHO/ILO joint burden of disease initiative), and translational epidemiology. I lead the Poison Control Center of Western France. I also conducted research on emergencies in occupational settings and I was the Chair of EPROH ICOH's scientific committee. I was involved in COVID preparedness, and work with ILO on biological hazards. I was elected for the 2022-24 Board of ICOH. I was honored by my President, as Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. I am the current Editor-in-Chief of Les Archives des Maladies Professionnelles et de l'Environnement. I am also appointed Clinical Professor of Occupational Medicine, Epidemiology and Prevention at Hofstra/ Northwell, USA.

### Endorsers

A. El Kholti (Morocco), C. Nogueira (South Africa), D. Gagliardi (Italy), M. Fadel (France), M. Hogan (Ireland), Q. Durand-Moreau (Canada), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Sharma (India), S. Schunder-Tatzber (Austria), Y. Roquelaure (France).

#### Quentin DURAND-MOREAU – CANADA

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Quentin Durand-Moreau MD is an Assistant Professor of Occupational Medicine in the Division of Preventive Medicine at the University of Alberta (Edmonton, Canada). He is the director of post-graduate occupational medicine programs (subspecialty residency, enhanced skills, fellowship). He has previously worked as an Occupational Medicine specialist in France, and now practices at the Kaye Edmonton Clinic. His research topics are work-related mental health issues, Covid and work, work-related cancers, and medical education. He is an associate editor for OEM and sits on the scientific councils of several organizations (ACOEM, French Society for Occupational Health). He has participated in international collaborations for research and educational projects in occupational medicine with Vietnam and Mexico.

He is involved with ICOH since 2015 and has held several leadership positions such as National Secretary for France, and Canada, and co-chair of the ICOH-WOPS scientific committee.

### Endorsers

A. Descatha (France), A. Shimazu (Japan), D. Lucas (France), F. Labrèche (Canada), H. Kromhout (The Netherlands), H. Tovalin (Mexico), J. Takala (Finland), J.S. Silva Jr. (Brazil), L. Patry (Canada), M. Baillargeon (Canada), M. Denis (France), M. Dollard (Australia), M. Ertel (Germany), M. Guillemin (Switzerland), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Leka (Ireland), T.L. Guidotti (USA).



### **Rim EL KHOLTI – MOROCCO**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

My choice for OHS is fruit of my associative commitment. Member of MOHA, which organizing the 34th ICOH2024 Marrakech and national secretary of Morocco since 2022. ICOH2024 is a unique opportunity that should be taken advantage to promote new OHS practices on the African continent. In line with my concerns for OHS promotion, the organizing committee entrusted me with the responsibility of working group on the participation of developing countries and young researchers. My experience as OHS advisor, in Montréal, has allowed me to acquire all the knowledge necessary for proper performance tasks in management and prevention of occupational risks. After developing my knowledge on OHS in industries, I pursued a PHD at University of Montréal to improve OHS research. My board candidacy would breathe new life for ICOH. I would like to bring my dynamism, my enthusiasm and my experience to propose and implement OHS solutions to help low- and middle-income countries. I am convinced that my place in the board will allow me to fully express my potential in OHS as a young researcher.

### Endorsers

A. Descatha (France), A. El Kholti (Morocco), C. Nogueira (South Africa), D. Gagliardi (Italy), F.M. Fischer (Brazil),
A. Mishra (India), I.J. Bello (Venezuela), K. Kinani (Morocco), K. Wifaq (Morocco), L. Patry (Canada), D. Moyo (Zimbabwe), M. Hogan (Ireland), O. Lo (Singapore), P.A. Schulte (USA), R. Rajesh (India), R.M. Orriols Ramos (Spain), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Leka (Ireland), S. Pingle (India), S. Sharma (India), S.K. Joshi (Nepal).

### Stefan ESSER – GERMANY

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Stefan Esser is an Occupational Physician working in Neu-Isenburg, Germany. He is the Regional Medical Director Central Europe of International SOS. He is a member of the German Chamber of Physicians, Arztekammer Nordrhein and qualified in General Medicine, Occupational Health, Sports Medicine and Travel Medicine. He was a board member of the German Society for Travel Medicine from 1997 until 2021. He is committed to the role of ICOH in promoting a multi-disciplinary approach to protecting workers, health and safety, worldwide. He has been a long-standing supporter of ICOH throughout the years as the representative & sustaining member via the Intl.SOS Foundation.

### Endorsers

A. Tsutsumi (Japan), D. Gagliardi (Italy), F.M. Fischer (Brazil), J. Takala (Finland), E. A. Kim (Republic of Korea),M. Hogan (Ireland), P. Angerer (Germany), R.S. Sauni (Finland), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Leka (Ireland),S. Pingle (India), S. Schunder-Tatzber (Austria), S.H. Hitzeroth (Germany), S.K. Joshi (Nepal).

### Aida Lucia FAJARDO MONTIEL – MEXICO

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Aida Lucia Fajardo Montiel Chemical Engineer from ITESO (Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Occidente), Master's Degree in Project Engineering and PhD in Engineering and Technology from the University

of Guadalajara. National and international experience in implementation of environmental and safety management systems with accreditation as lead and internal auditor. Certified by the National Commission for Nuclear Safety and Safeguards (CNSNS) as Radiological Safety Manager. Brigade Leader for Emergency Response with CONOCER recognition. Experience in design of treatment plants of sanitary and industrial wastewater. Since 2008 member of ICOH Currently National Secretary representing Mexico. Experience as a teacher at the University in matters related to health, safety and environment for bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. Author of some books regarding Health, Safety and Environmental at the Industry, and participation at international congress and as an author of more than 10 technical articles.

### Endorsers

C. De Hoyos (Argentina), C. Nogueira (South Africa), D. Gagliardi (Italy), D.E. Cuervo Diaz (Colombia), E.N. Cervantes Zambrano (Mexico), F. Araujo (Mexico), I.J. Bello (Venezuela), M. Fonseca (Colombia), M. Hogan (Ireland), S. Aguilar (Mexico), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Pingle (India).

### **Dongmug KANG - REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Professor Dongmug Kang is an Occupational Physician, President of the Korean Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and Vice President for Medical Affairs of Pusan National University, Korea. Dr. Kang has been a member of ICOH since 2005 and hosted PREMUS in 2013 in Busan, Korea. He served as President of the Scientific Committee on the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs) and is President of 23rd Asian Congress on Occupational Health (ACOH 2023) to be held in Daegu in November, Korea. He graduated from College of Medicine at Pusan National University and the Harvard Graduate School of Public Health.

Dr. Kang has operated a Workers' Health Center for small-size companies funded by Korean Occupational Safety and Health Agency, as well as Environmental Health Center on Asbestos funded by Ministry of Environment, Korea. He has conducted many studies on MSDs and respiratory disorders including asbestos-related diseases, pneumoconiosis, and lung cancer.

### Endorsers

A. Descatha (France), A. El Kholti (Morocco), A. Tsutsumi (Japan), A. Valenti (Italy), C. Nogueira (South Africa),G. Fortuna (Italy), J.W. Koo (Republic of Korea), E. A. Kim (Republic of Korea), M. Hogan (Ireland), R. Rocha (Brazil), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea).

### Ashish MISHRA - INDIA

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Dr Ashish Mishra is the Chief Health & Wellbeing Officer, South Asia at Hindustan Unilever and has over 25 years' experience as Occupational Health Physician. Dr Mishra is currently the National Secretary - ICOH, India (2022-24, 2nd term). In both terms as National Secretary, India has recorded the highest ICOH members around the world. He is the Organising Secretary for ICOH 2027 to be held in Mumbai, India. He was the organising secretary for



International Conclave on Occupational Health with participation of 8 Scientific committees of ICOH in 2020 and EPICOH 2023 where 5 Scientific committees participated in Mumbai. He is the Vice President (2023-25), Indian Association of Occupational Health (IAOH), and a board member, MEDICHEM. Dr Mishra holds a degree in Preventive Medicine (M.D) from Mumbai University and Associate Fellow in Industrial Health. Dr Mishra was awarded the Dr. C.K. Ramachandar Memorial Oration at the 68th National Conference of IAOH.

### Endorsers

A. El Kholti (Morocco), C. Nogueira (South Africa), C. Yarborough (USA), E. Yoshikawa (Japan), M. Hogan (Ireland), M. Seneviratne (Australia), M. Sim (Australia), N.A. Mera Chu (Peru), P.K. Sishodiya (India), R. Rajesh (India), S. De Matteis (Italy), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Mishra (India), S. Pingle (India), S.M. Shanbhag (India), T. Rajgopal (India).

### **Stephen POPKIN – USA**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Stephen Popkin, Ph.D. Executive Research Director with broad expertise in worker health and safety, spanning leadership and resource management, policy analysis and research, and information systems and technology. Strong coalition building and communications skills which enables oversight of a 300+ project portfolio spanning research, engineering, capacity building and policy projects that promote health, safety and equity of users and operators in the transportation sector. Doctorate in Industrial/Organizational Psychology with a focus on human factors, shiftwork and health. (Co)authored multiple articles, presentations and book chapters; oversaw several edited volumes, include a guest edition of the Journal of Human Ergology on shiftwork. Outside Appointments: ICOH SC Chair, Shiftwork and Working Time, 2017-Present Boston Children's Hospital, Patient Care Advisory Committee, 2022 - Present Departmental Safety Council Implementation Lead, 2009-2018 NIOSH National Occupational Research Agenda for the Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities Sector Council, 2006-Present National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, Safety IDEA Program Member, 2010-Present.

### Endorsers

C.M. Yarborough (USA), C.R. Moreno (Brazil), F.M. Fischer (Brazil), I. Wong (USA), J. Gärtner (Austria), N. Bobko (Ukraine), P.A. Schulte (USA), R.A. Turenko Beca (Brazil), S. Pingle (India), T. Yoshikawa (Japan).

### **R RAJESH – INDIA**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Dr Rajesh is the Group Head-Medical & Occupational Health Services of Reliance Industries Limited. He is the Chairperson of ICOH Scientific Committee-Occupational Health in the Chemical Industry (SCOHCI) and has represented India in ICOH as the National Secretary awarded for the best results in membership recruitment during the 2012-2015 & 2015-2018 triennium. He is enthusiastic about betterment of workplace health, safety and wellbeing winning the Duty of Care and Golden Peacock Awards and the Global Healthy Workplace certification. He has lead initiatives like Change Agents for Safety, Health & Environment (CASHE) and Task Based Health Risk Assessment

(TBHRA) in Refining and Petrochemical Industries published widely. His community service in the HIV/AIDS sector has been exemplary.

As President of the Indian Association of Occupational Health (IAOH) he has lead capacity building efforts for Basic Occupational Health in the country. He has been the recipient of prestigious orations at the National level.

### Endorsers

A. El Kholti (Morocco), A. Jain (United Kingdom), A. Mishra (India), C. Nogueira (South Africa), D. Gagliardi (Italy), D. Shah (India), F.J.H. Van Dijk (The Netherlands), J. Gasana (Kuwait), K.N. Sen (India), L. Braeckman (Belgium), M. Hogan (Ireland), O. Lo (Singapore), R.K. Jain (India), S. De Matteis (Italy), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Pingle (India), S.K. Joshi (Nepal), S.M. Moti (India), S.M. Shanbhag (India), T. Rajgopal (India).

### **Rosylane ROCHA – BRAZIL**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Present Position: Scientific Director

Organization: National Association on Occupational Medicine - ANAMT, Brazil

Professional experience: Graduated in Medicine from the University of Rio de Janeiro (UNI-RIO) -1994. Medical Residency in General Surgery from the University of Rio de Janeiro. Title of Specialist in Occupational Medicine and Forensic Medicine; PHD in Bioethics from University of Porto/Portugal; Post-graduation in Corporal Damage from University of Coimbra/Portugal.

I am currently a doctor at the Health State Secretariat, acting mainly in occupational health and safety for the public workers. As an Occupational Physician I am also the Supervisory of the Occupational Medicine Residence Program at the Superior School of Health Science. I am the 2nd Vice-President of the Federal Medicine Council in Brazil. I also have some publications of scientific papers in the annals of national and international medical congress and publications in national and international indexed journals.

### Endorsers

A. Descatha (France), A. Tsutsumi (Japan), D. Gagliardi (Italy), D.E. Cuervo Diaz (Colombia), F.M. Fischer (Brazil), R.A. Turenko Beca (Brazil), R.C. Facci (Brazil), R.S. Sauni (Finland), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Sharma (India).

### Sandeep SHARMA - INDIA

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Dr Sandeep Sharma MBBS MS AFIH is General Surgeon, Occupational Health Physician and Associate Fellow of Industrial Health. Present ICOH Board Member 2022-24. He is currently working as General Manager Corporate Health, Safety, Environment and Medical at Indian Oil Corporation, with over 33 years of rich experience in Occupational Health and Safety Management System. He is convener for the Health Committee of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) owned by Govt. of India. Dr Sharma is Immediate Past National Secretary for Indian Association of Occupational Health (2021-2023). He is member editorial advisory board of monthly



ENOCH Occuclave e Magazine and has published health manuals to promote physical & psychological health. He conceptualized and organized ENOCH Digiconnect Webinar Academic Platform to keep members updated on how to mitigate & safeguard work force from COVID-19. He has moderated more than 75 webinars, 40 weekly COVID Epidupdates and 15 monthly episodes of OccuHlthScapes.

### Endorsers

A. Descatha (France), A.V. Jain (India), C. Nogueira (South Africa), D. Gagliardi (Italy), F.M. Fischer (Brazil), J. Takala (Finland), K. Kogi (Japan), D. Moyo (Zimbabwe), M. Hogan (Ireland), O. Lo (Singapore), R. Turenko Beça (Brazil), R.K. Jain (India), R.K. Saha (India), S. Bhushan (India), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Leka (Ireland), S. Mishra (India), S.K. Joshi (Nepal), S. P. Chaudhry (India), Y.R. Bhatta (Nepal).

### Riitta Sinikka SAUNI – FINLAND

### **Curriculum Vitae**

I'm a medical doctor specialized in occupational health. Currently, I work as a professor in occupational health and occupational medicine at the Tampere University, Finland. Previously, I served as a senior ministerial adviser in the Ministry of Social affairs and Health, Department for OSH. I have ten years' experience from Finnish Institute of Occupational Health as a clinician, researcher, and teacher. I have been a member of ICOH since 2006 and a member of scientific committees Occupational Medicine and Effectiveness in Occupational Health Services. I have served as an ICOH Board Member this term since 2022. I acted as a chair of the OSH Expert Group in Nordic Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing (NDPHS) 2017-2022. I belong to the editorial board of Cochrane Work review group as well as to Modernet collaboration (Monitoring Trends in Occupational Diseases and Tracing New and Emerging Risks in a Network).

### Endorsers

C.A. Aschan (Finland), J. Rantanen (Finland), J. Takala (Finland), K.E. Reijula (Finland), K.J. Tarvainen (Finland), M. Antti-Poika (Finland), O. Lo (Singapore), S. Jungewelter (Finland), S. Pingle (India), T. Santonen (Finland).

### Mahinda SENEVIRATNE – AUSTRALIA

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Over 35 years' experience in Occupational Health (OH) involving research, teaching and regulatory application specialising in occupational hygiene and ergonomics.

Chaired ICOH Scientific Committee on small enterprises and informal sector (two trienniums) with collaboration across geographic regions to improve access to basic OH services for more vulnerable workers. Passionate commitment to support ICOH members in building capability to improve working conditions in less wealthy countries.

Specialist inspector at Australia's largest OHS regulator (SafeWork NSW) developing & leading intervention and preventive programs, incident and illness investigations (including recent epidemic of silicosis), technical advice on national standard reviews, policy setting and regulatory reform.

Research scientist in occupational medicine at the national institute Worksafe Australia (1990-96) and senior OH advisor and consultant for several industries and trade unions (1996-2000).

Trained in biological sciences with Masters degrees in OHS and in science & technology studies from the University of New South Wales, Sydney.

### Endorsers

A. Jain (United Kingdom), A. Mittal (India), B. Kistnasamy (South Africa), C. Nogueira (South Africa), D. Gagliardi (Italy), M. Hogan (Ireland), N.A. Mera Chu (Peru), R. Nicholas (USA), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S.K. Joshi (Nepal).

### **Giovanna SPATARI - ITALY**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Full Professor of Occupational Medicine, University of Messina. President of the Italian Society of Occupational Medicine. Vice Rector for Welfare and Gender Policies, University of Messina. Director of Integrated Activities Department of Services - Hospital "G. Martino", Messina. Member of INAIL scientific committee. Member of the Health and Safety Commission of the Ministry of Labor according to the Art. 6 Legislative Decree n. 81/08. Member of the Environmental and Health Commission at the Ministry of Health. Author of scientific publications published in national and international journals. Research topics: inflammatory mediators in chronic myeloma, lymphoproliferative disorders and in the pathogenesis of occupational oncological diseases; immunological techniques for the study of new biomarkers of inflammation and oxidative stress in workers exposed to carcinogens. Genetic screening as indicators of individual susceptibility in workers and residents of high industrial activity areas.

### Endorsers

A. Valenti (Italy), C. Nogueira (South Africa), D. Gagliardi (Italy), F.S. Violante (Italy), G. Fortuna (Italy), O. Lo (Singapore), P. Tomao (Italy), P.A. Schulte (USA), S. Iavicoli (Italy), S. Pingle (India).

### Akizumi TSUTSUMI – JAPAN

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Dr. Akizumi Tsutsumi is professor and chairperson of Department of Public Health, Kitasato University School of Medicine, Japan. He has long focused on occupational health and is extending his efforts to elucidate the mechanisms of social disparites in workers' health, and the health effects of occupational stress and its prevention.

He serves as Board Member of International commission on Occupational Health from Japan (2022-2024). He served as former Chair of the Scientific Committee on Cardiology in Occupational Health (terms of 2010-2015), and successfully held 6th International Conference on Work Environment and Cardiovascular Disease in 2013, Tokyo, Japan. He also served as the secretary general of the 2nd International Conference of ICOH-WOPS, which was held in 2005, Okayama, Japan.

He is an executive board member of Japan Society for Occupational Health, and the chairperson of the academic panel. He worked as the editor in chief of Journal of Occupational Health (2014-2019).



### Endorsers

D. Gagliardi (Italy), F.M. Fischer (Brazil), J. Li (USA), K. Kazutaka (Japan), M. Ertel (Germany), R.T. Lin (Taiwan, China), S. Chandrasekar (India), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Pingle (India), Z. Zhou (P. R. China).

### **Charles Milton YARBOROUGH - USA**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Charles Yarborough is an Occupational Physician working in Bethesda, Maryland, USA. He is completing a second term as ICOH National Secretary for the United States of America, and he was President of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Since 2009 he has been a member of Program Evaluation Committee of the Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency Program, Department of Environmental Health and Engineering, at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is book column editor of the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. He currently practices occupational medicine and consults in Maryland. His special interest is attaining continuous improvement of health and safety occupational health programs. He is committed to the aim of ICOH as an international forum dedicated to promoting workers' health and safety globally.

### Endorsers

B. Rogers (USA), J. Mckenzie (USA), G. Sevaratnam (Malaysia), G.A. Mishra (India), M. Hogan (Ireland), P. Blanc (USA), P.A. Schulte (USA), R.K. Mclellan (USA), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Pingle (India), S. Popkin (USA), T.L. Guidotti (USA), W. Buchta (USA).

### Kamal WIFAQ - MOROCCO

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Specialist in Occupational Medicine since 2006, I am, for 16 years, Professor of Occupational Health at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy - Hassan II University of Casablanca, and currently the Vice-Chair of the Department of Medicine. I work in the Occupational Health Department at the Ibn Rochd University Hospital Center in Casablanca, supervising the health management of approximately 4200 hospital staff, and coordinating vaccination against Covid-19. IRCA ISO 45001:2018, 9001:2015 and 14001:2015 Certified Lead Auditor, I have worked on several audit assignments for Moroccan companies.

Member of ICOH since 2006, I was part of Morocco's first bid committee for the ICOH Congress organization in Milan in 2006. I am the President of the Local Scientific Committee of the ICOH2024 Congress.

I am a founding member of the MOHA association which is the organizer of the ICOH2024 Congress, and an international member of the Society of Occupational Medicine (UK).

### Endorsers

A. El Kholti (Morocco), C. Nogueira (South Africa), D. Gagliardi (Italy), J. Takala (Finland), J.S. Silva Jr. (Brazil),M. Dingani (Zimbabwe), R. El Kholti (Morocco), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Pingle (India), S. Sharma (India).

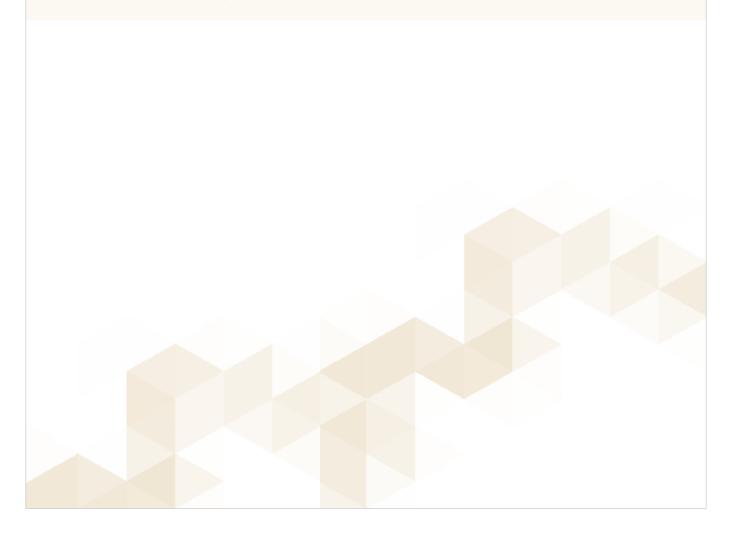
### Zhijun ZHOU - P. R. CHINA

#### **Curriculum Vitae**

Dr. Zhijun ZHOU is a professor and head of Department of Occupational Health and Toxicology, School of Public Health, Fudan University. He got his Medical Bachelor (1985) and Master (1988) degree in Shanghai Medical University (merged into Fudan University 2000), and Doctor of Medical Science (1996) in Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany. His main research area span health effects of occupational exposure to industrial chemicals, industrial toxicology, and management and control of occupational hazards. He held the special assignment from Chinese government agencies as Member of National Committee on Occupational Health Standard, the National Expert for Environmental Management of Chemicals and the National Expert for Occupational Health. He participates actively the international exchange of Occupational Health work and shares China's experience internationally and introduces modern trends into China. He once worked as the Chinese Secretary of ICOH and current as an editorial board member of JOH, IJOMEH and SH@W.

### Endorsers

A. Shimazu (Japan), G. Ichihara (Japan), J. Dai (P. R. China), S.K. Kang (Republic of Korea), S. Mishra (India), S. Pingle (India), S.K. Joshi (Nepal), S.LA Tse (P.R. China), T. Yang (P.R. China), T. Yoshikawa (Japan), W.V. Yue (P.R. China), X. Jian (P.R. China).s





### Message du Président

#### Chers membres de la CIST,

Dans le cadre du réchauffement de notre planète, le changement climatique affecte la vie des travailleurs dans le monde entier, ainsi que la vie quotidienne des personnes. Conformément à la déclaration de la CIST (Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail) sur le travail des migrants, ces travailleurs migrants, qui viennent principalement de pays à revenus faibles ou moyens vers des pays à revenus moyens ou élevés, sont particulièrement vulnérables à l'environnement des pays d'accueil, où les conditions climatiques et les conditions de vie diffèrent souvent de manière significative de celles de leur pays d'origine. La santé au travail traditionnelle s'est toujours concentrée sur l'environnement de travail. Cependant, les conditions de vie, y compris le logement, des travailleurs migrants sont tout aussi importantes que la fourniture d'un environnement de travail sûr et propice. Cela fait écho à l'accent mis sur le bien-être dans de nombreux pays européens, qui va au-delà d'une vision étroite de la santé au travail.

La déclaration de l'OIT (Organisation Internationale du Travail) sur la santé des travailleurs en tant que droit de l'homme souligne l'importance de la santé des travailleurs migrants, à l'instar de celle des travailleurs domestiques. De nombreux pays africains envoient leurs citoyens comme travailleurs migrants dans les pays d'accueil. Le prochain congrès ICOH2024 de Marrakech constitue une excellente plateforme pour discuter de la santé des travailleurs migrants et de la santé au travail dans les pays à faibles et moyens revenus.

### Nomination des présidents et secrétaires des comités scientifiques et des secrétaires nationaux/régionaux

Cette période triennale de 2022 à 2024 présente une situation

exceptionnelle pour la nomination des présidents et des secrétaires des comités scientifiques (CS) et des secrétaires nationaux/régionaux (SN) en termes de période et de processus d'élection, bien que la plupart des responsables des CS et près de 70 SN aient été nommés. Après une courte période triennale de deux ans, chaque CS et pays/zone devrait élire un nouveau président et un nouveau secrétaire de CS et de SN pour la période triennale de 2024 à 2027. Étant donné que tous les responsables ne peuvent exercer plus de deux mandats, les présidents et les secrétaires qui ont exercé leur deuxième mandat doivent en élire de nouveaux sur la base de l'élection par les membres de leur SC ou pays/zone. Ceux qui n'ont fait qu'un seul mandat peuvent être reconduits dans leurs fonctions, mais cette reconduction doit être approuvée par les membres en règle de leur groupe. Le processus d'élection rappelle également aux membres des groupes les activités, les conférences internationales et les autres activités liées à la CIST.

Je recommande à tous les présidents, secrétaires, et SN de contacter les membres de leur groupe pour les informer de l'élection, de leurs conférences, du renouvellement de leur cotisation et de leur participation au Congrès général.

### Réunion de mi-parcours de la CIST à Angers, France, en mai

La réunion de mi-parcours de la CIST s'est tenue à Angers, en France, du 14 au 17 mai 2023. Il s'agissait de la première réunion officielle en personne depuis la précédente réunion de mi-parcours qui s'est tenue à Rome en février 2020. Bien que certains participants se soient joints virtuellement, la réunion s'est principalement déroulée hors ligne. L'Université et le CHU d'Angers ont soutenu la réunion de mi-parcours, et le professeur Alexis Descatha a joué un rôle important dans l'accueil de l'événement en ce qui

concerne les contributions scientifiques et financières. Tous les participants de la CIST expriment leur gratitude au professeur Descatha pour son organisation sincère et pratique de la réunion de mi-parcours.

La réunion de mi-parcours est essentielle en tant que rassemblement intermédiaire entre deux congrès généraux. Elle attire généralement entre 50 et 70 participants, dont tous les membres du bureau, les membres du conseil d'administration, les présidents ou les secrétaires de chaque comité scientifique et les présidents des groupes de travail. En particulier, au cours de cette période triennale, une nouvelle approche a été adoptée en invitant des représentants des SN de différents continents (Afrique, Asie, Amérique du Nord et centrale, Europe, Océanie et Amérique du Sud) à participer pour la première fois à la réunion à mi-parcours.

Ces représentants ont été sélectionnés sur la base de leurs performances en matière de recrutement de nouveaux membres dans leurs pays ou régions respectifs au cours de la période triennale précédente. Au cours de la période triennale 2018-2022, des pays comme l'Afrique du Sud, l'Inde, les États-Unis, l'Italie, l'Australie et le Brésil se sont distingués en recrutant le plus grand nombre de nouveaux membres dans leurs régions respectives. Par conséquent, les représentants nationaux de ces pays ont été invités à la réunion. Les représentants nationaux de l'Inde, des États-Unis et du Brésil ont participé à la réunion et ont partagé les politiques et les plans de leurs responsables. Cet échange d'idées en collaboration vise à renforcer la croissance et l'impact de la CIST au niveau mondial.

Au cours de la réunion conjointe, les membres du Bureau de la CIST ont présenté les activités menées au cours de la première moitié de la période triennale. Cela comprenait les plans de travail, les activités des CS, des SN et de certains groupes de travail. Après la conférence conjointe, les participants se sont engagés dans une session de brainstorming divisée en trois domaines : la collaboration entre les SC et avec les SN, la visibilité du travail des SC, et l'optimisation de la gestion des SC. Le deuxième jour, la CIST et l'Université d'Angers ont organisé une conférence conjointe sur "l'épidémiologie translationnelle en santé au travail". La réunion du Conseil d'administration s'est déroulée sur deux demi-journées et a permis de revoir et d'amender les activités. Chaque groupe de travail a présenté ses activités.

Le Professeur AbdelJalil El Kholti a présenté les préparatifs du Congrès CIST 2024 de Marrakech. Par ailleurs, la CIST a conclu un contrat avec les organisateurs indiens pour le congrès général prévu à Mumbai en 2027. Les dates exactes du congrès seront déterminées au cours du mois de février, compte tenu des conditions météorologiques à Mumbai et des périodes de vacances en Asie de l'Est, en particulier le jour du Nouvel An lunaire ou chinois, le 8 février 2027.

### **Collaboration avec des organisations internationales**

Comme d'habitude, l'OIT a invité la CIST à la 111ème session de la Conférence internationale du travail qui s'est tenue du 5 au 16 juin à Genève. Après avoir examiné le programme, le Bureau a décidé de ne pas participer à la CIT (Conférence Internationale du Travail) de l'OIT, car il n'y avait pas de questions imminentes liées à la santé au travail en 2023. Cependant, la CIST participera à la CIT de 2024, car il y aura une discussion sur les risques biologiques. Le comité permanent sur les risques biologiques dans la santé au travail est en train de rédiger le document à cet effet.

Le Centre International de Recherche sur le Cancer (CIRC) a invité la CIST à sa cérémonie d'inauguration d'un nouveau bâtiment de recherche à Lyon, en France, le 13



mai 2023. Diana Gagliardi, la secrétaire générale, a participé à la cérémonie. Les membres de la CIST ont participé activement aux activités du CIRC, en particulier aux discussions sur la cancérogénicité des risques professionnels. Le Directeur du CIRC prononcera le discours principal sur le cancer professionnel lors de l'ouverture du Congrès de Marrakech 2024.

La CIST a été créée lors de l'EXPO de Milan 1906 pour commémorer la prévention réussie des maladies professionnelles lors de la construction du tunnel du Simplon entre l'Italie et la Suisse. Cependant, depuis sa création, la CIST n'a pas eu l'occasion d'organiser une conférence pendant les événements de l'EXPO. L'EXPO 2025 d'Osaka a un plan spécial pour accueillir des conférences axées sur la sécurité, la santé et le bien-être au travail sous le thème "Concevoir la société future pour nos vies". De nombreuses organisations internationales participeront à la conférence, prévue les 16 et 17 juillet 2025. Ces organisations comprennent l'OMS (Organisation Mondiale de la Santé), l'OIT, la CIST, IALI (Association Internationale de l'Inspection du Travail), l'ENETOSH (Réseau européen d'éducation et de formation en sécurité et santé au travail), l'IOSH (Institution de la sécurité et de la santé au travail), et bien d'autres encore. La CIST a proposé le thème du changement climatique et de la santé des travailleurs, en mettant l'accent sur les travailleurs migrants. La participation à l'EXPO est en quelque sorte un retour aux sources pour la CIST. Si un membre souhaite participer à la conférence et à l'EXPO, veuillez contacter le secrétariat ou moi-même pour de plus amples informations.

Conférences internationales et nationales sur la santé/médecine du travail

De nombreux comités de surveillance prévoient d'organiser

des conférences internationales au cours du second semestre de cette année. Même si vous n'avez pas eu l'occasion de soumettre vos résumés à ces conférences, vous pourrez peut-être y assister. Veuillez consulter la liste des événements sur le site web de la CIST.

L'Institut de recherche Izmerov sur la santé au travail de la Fédération de Russie a célébré son centenaire le 20 juin 2023 (https://irioh.ru/en/institute-history/). Si la Russie n'envahit pas l'Ukraine, l'Institut pourrait organiser une conférence internationale importante, attirant des participants du monde entier. L'Institut a déployé de nombreux efforts pour améliorer la santé des travailleurs non seulement dans la Fédération de Russie, mais aussi dans d'autres parties du monde, en particulier dans le domaine de la science fondamentale de la santé au travail. L'Institut a participé activement aux travaux de l'OMS, de l'OIT et du CIRC. J'ai envoyé un message de félicitations aux participants des Moments du centenaire de la santé au travail en Russie.

### Congrès ICOH2024

L'organisation du Congrès CIST2024 de Marrakech au Maroc se déroule sans encombre. Les CS, les SN et le Conseil d'administration organisent plus de 100 sessions spéciales, et plus de 1 000 résumés libres ont été soumis à l'examen des CS pour être acceptés dans les présentations. Un grand nombre de résumés proviennent de non-membres. J'espère que les membres profiteront de l'occasion pour soumettre leurs résumés lors de la phase finale. Je m'attends à ce que le congrès ICOH2024 soit un événement remarquable, surmontant les obstacles posés par la pandémie de COVID-19.

> Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang Président de la CIST



### Chers membres de la CIST,

Les activités de la CIST pour la période triennale en cours progressent bien, et nous serions heureux de partager quelques mises à jour avec vous.

Du 15 au 17 mai 2023, la réunion de mi-mandat de la CIST s'est tenue à Angers, en France. Comme d'habitude, les membres du bureau de la CIST, les membres du conseil d'administration et les présidents des comités scientifiques ont assisté à la réunion pour partager et discuter des activités en cours menées par les comités scientifiques, les secrétaires nationaux, les groupes d'action et les groupes de travail conformément au plan de travail triennal de la CIST. En outre, l'invitation à la réunion a été étendue à titre expérimental à certains secrétaires nationaux, un pour chaque région.

Depuis l'apparition de la pandémie de COVID-19, la réunion de mi-parcours a été la première occasion de se réunir en présence, tout en assurant une participation en ligne pour ceux qui ne pouvaient pas se déplacer.

L'Université d'Angers (UA) et son CHU a aimablement accepté de soutenir la CIST dans l'organisation de la réunion de mi-parcours, accueillie au Centre des congrès d'Angers, en conjonction avec un événement scientifique international sur le thème "Translational Epidemiology in Occupational Health" (épidémiologie translationnelle en santé au travail).

Enfin, les présidents des comités d'organisation ont fait le point sur les prochains congrès de la CIST, en particulier pour ICOH2024 (Marrakech, Maroc) et ICOH2027 (Mumbai, Inde). Nous sommes très satisfaits des résultats de la réunion de mi-parcours de la CIST et je souhaite remercier tous les participants pour leur contribution. Nous remercions tout particulièrement le professeur Alexis Descatha et son équipe pour leur soutien et leur dévouement dans l'organisation de la réunion de mi-parcours.

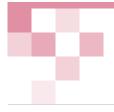
Il reste quelques mois avant le Congrès ICOH2024, et la préparation du programme scientifique est bien avancée. Nous avons reçu de nombreux résumés sur tous les thèmes pertinents de la santé au travail, qui constituent l'essentiel du programme scientifique du congrès.

L'inscription à ICOH2024 est toujours ouverte sur le site web du congrès, www.icoh2024.ma, et les frais d'inscription anticipée seront disponibles jusqu'au 15 décembre 2023.

Alors que nous approchons des dates du Congrès, de nombreux événements organisés par les comités scientifiques de la CIST se déroulent dans de nombreuses régions du monde. Nous vous invitons à visiter la page web des événements de la CIST sur le site web de l'ICOH https://www.icohweb.org/site/events.asp pour en savoir plus.

Nous vous remercions de votre contribution aux activités de la CIST. Nous nous réjouissons de vous rencontrer à CIST2024 à Marrakech.

Dr. Diana Gagliardi Secrétaire général de la CIST



### Message du rédacteur en chef

### Chers membres de la CIST,

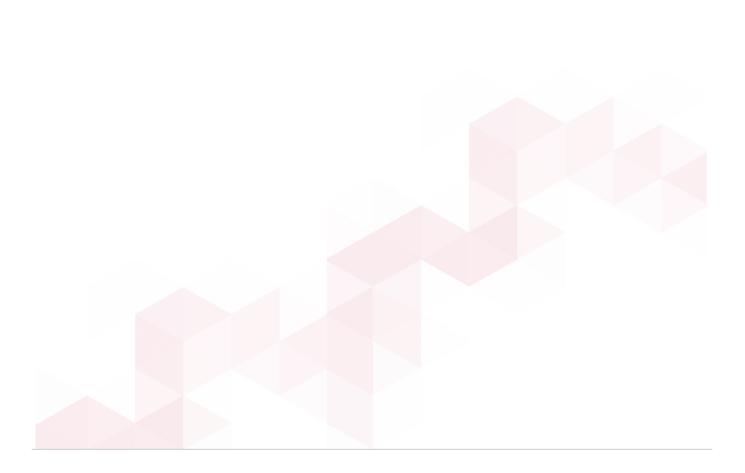
Cette année a été particulièrement difficile en ce qui concerne les catastrophes naturelles et les changements environnementaux. Ces crises mondiales ont également menacé la santé et la sécurité des travailleurs. Nous devons nous connecter pour soutenir les travailleurs et nous soutenir nous-mêmes. J'espère que la lettre d'information de la CIST aidera les collègues du monde entier à se comprendre et à communiquer entre eux.

Dans ce numéro, vous trouverez diverses informations

sur les activités des membres du Bureau de la CIST, des membres du Comité scientifique, des nouvelles internationales et régionales, y compris des conférences ou des campagnes, ainsi que d'autres articles intéressants sur les domaines de la sécurité et de la santé au travail.

N'hésitez pas à lire les articles avec vos collègues et à partager vos histoires la prochaine fois !

**Prof. Won-Jun Choi** Rédacteur en chef, Bulletin d'information de la CIST





L'université et le centre hospitalier d'Angers (CHU), France, et la Commission internationale de santé au travail (CIST) organisent la conférence scientifique internationale "Translational Epidemiology in Occupational Health" qui a eu lieu le 16 mai 2023 au Centre des congrès d'Angers, France.\*

L'épidémiologie constitue un aspect très important de la santé au travail, impliquant la recherche et l'évaluation et permettant des recommandations fondées sur des preuves. Les aspects translationnels de l'épidémiologie visent à transférer les réponses scientifiques apportées par les chercheurs aux praticiens de terrain, pour les travailleurs et les décideurs, et pour tous les endroits du monde. La conférence, organisée en marge de la réunion à miparcours de la CIST (15-17 mai 2023), rassemble des intervenants internationaux de haut niveau d'expertise.

La première session a compris des présentations liées au projet spécifique sur l'épidémiologie translationnelle afin d'illustrer quelques exemples d'outils qui peuvent être utilisés à cette fin (par exemple, les matrices d'exposition professionnelle, les revues systématiques, les cohortes, etc.). Lors de la deuxième session, des membres du conseil d'administration de la CIST ont partagé leurs connaissances sur les questions d'actualité en matière de santé au travail au niveau mondial, en présentant différents aspects de la gestion des risques professionnels dans différents pays, illustrant l'importance de l'engagement de la Commission internationale de la santé au travail pour l'amélioration des conditions de travail pour tous.

 \* également financé par la Région des Pays de la Loire, Angers Loire Métropole.





# ICOH Scientific Committee Officers for Triennium 2022-2024

**Text in black indicates the SC Officers who are already appointed for Triennium 2022-2024.** *Text in blue Italics indicates SC Officers who served for Triennium 2018-2021 (new officers to be appointed).* 

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

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