



ICOH
International Commission on Occupational Health

NEWSLETTER



CIST
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail

Volume 22 · Number 3
December 2024

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Message from the President



Dear ICOH colleagues,

The new leadership of the Scientific Committees (SCs) and countries/areas (countries) Secretaries is being appointed smoothly in most SCs and countries. In this newsletter, I would like to emphasize several points regarding the leadership of SCs and share information about the global festival on occupational safety and health.

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

The election of Chairs for the SCs and National Secretaries should be conducted by votes of members in good standing one year prior to the first day of the triennial congress. After the start of the new triennium, elected officers must remain in good standing by paying their membership fees. Elected officers in good standing may be appointed to their positions by the president after submitting the transparency form.

If SCs and countries fail to elect new Chairs or Secretaries, the election can be conducted in the new triennium. If the election takes place within six months of the new triennium, members in good standing from the previous triennium are eligible to be nominated or vote. After six months, only members in good standing in the current triennium will be eligible to be nominated or vote. In such cases, the election moderator should allow time for members who are not in good standing to renew their membership. Secretaries of SCs can be appointed by the elected Chairs of SCs.



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ICOH Newsletter

Published by the International Commission
on Occupational Health

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The ICOH Newsletter contents may freely be
translated into other languages and disseminated
among ICOH members.

All elections for nominations should be conducted through votes by members. Countries with fewer than 16 members may nominate candidates without a vote; however, in this case, a consensus among the members should be obtained. All communications among members are done via the email addresses listed on the ICOH website. Members can select up to three SCs on the website. For those who have not yet selected their SCs, please update your SCs (up to 3) so that the relevant Chairs and Secretaries can reach you. For better communication, members must frequently access the Private Area of the website and update their email address. Through the website, Chairs and Secretaries of SCs and National Secretaries can contact their members using the registered email addresses.

I hope that the Chairs and Secretaries always follow this process.

International Conferences

Many international conferences organized by SCs are planned to be held before the next triennial Congress. It is very important for SCs to hold their own international conferences to maintain their identity. When SCs decide to hold an international conference, Chairs and Secretaries should keep two things in mind: 1) announce it on the ICOH website by notifying the plan to the Secretariat, and 2) contact members of the Board and National Secretaries in the country to include them in the local organizing committee.

GISHW at EXPO Osaka 2025

The program for the Global Initiative for Safety, Health and Well-being (GISHW) at EXPO2025 and Beyond, to be held in Osaka, Japan, from 16 to 19 July 2025, is almost complete. ICOH's theme is Climate Change and Migrant Workers. ICOH is organizing a symposium and a workshop in collaboration with IOHA (International Occupational Health Association), our sister organization.

The health effects of climate variability on migrant workers are an important issue in global occupational health. In May 2022, ICOH published the Declaration on Migrant Workers, which addresses these challenges. The Scientific Committees on Thermal Factors and Construction are supporting this symposium and workshop.

The volunteer speakers for the ICOH Symposium and Workshop are

- Jason Lee Kai Wei (Singapore), Past Chair of the SC on Thermal Factors (SCTF)
- Jaime Lim (Singapore), Sustaining Member Representative
- Seichi Horie (Japan), Past Board Member
- Acran Salmen-Navarro (USA), Founder of the ICOH Declaration on Migrant Workers and Chair of the SC on Health Workers
- Vidhya Venugopal (India), Chair of the SCTF
- Mahinda Seneviratne (Australia), Board Member
- Jinha Yoon (Representative of Korea), Member
- Kyoungho Lee (Representative of Korea), Head of Health Planning Office, POSCO
- Together with other ICOH Officers

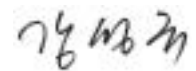
These distinguished speakers will cover topics ranging from the physiological effects of heat-related conditions to intervention strategies for managing the health impacts of climate change.

In addition to the symposium and workshop, there will be a wide variety of OSH-related programmes at the EXPO. An EXPO can be defined as an exhibition of innovative technologies aimed at improving human life. Among these exhibitions, there will be many innovations aimed at protecting and promoting workers' health and improving working life.

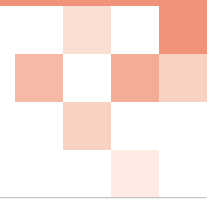
It is worth noting that the EXPO is also the birthplace of ICOH, as the first ICOH Congress was held during the **1906 Milan EXPO**. Looking back at the past with a modern lens often undervalues the significance of early achievements. At the time, the social concept of human rights, including occupational health, was groundbreaking. What was considered groundbreaking in the past may now seem commonplace. What we regard as special today may become routine in the future.

Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang

President of ICOH



News from the Secretary General



Dear ICOH members,

As we conclude another productive quarter, I would like to share with you all the key activities that the Secretariat has undertaken to further our mission in occupational health.

The membership campaign is progressing well. Additionally, we have been working on the finalization of the appointments for National Secretaries, as well as Chairs and Secretaries of our Scientific Committees. As you know, these roles are crucial to strengthening the structure of ICOH and ensuring the success of our initiatives.

One of the most notable achievements has been the launch of our first webinar of the ICOH webinar series. The webinar, with the title 'Connection from occupational practice to research and global evidence. An ICOH webinar for practitioners', attracted nearly 100 attendees.

This event marks the beginning of the ICOH webinar series that will be drawn up for the current triennium. This array of webinars is designed to explore occupational health across various applications and advance the professional knowledge of our community.

We are also focusing our attention on enhancing our digital presence. The Secretariat has reorganized the contents on the website, making them more accessible and up to date. As part of this effort, we have also developed new logos for the Scientific Committees that reflect our commitment to a cohesive brand identity. Furthermore, we are about to

launch dedicated webpages for our Scientific Committees, to facilitate information sharing and a fruitful engagement of our scientific community within and beyond ICOH.

Additionally, we are preparing our first site visit to Mumbai, where we will meet the local Organizing Committee with whom we will start setting the foundations for the ICOH2027 Congress, which will be held in Mumbai, India, on 14-19 February 2027. Following this initial step, we will start collecting topic and speakers proposals from our Sustaining and Affiliate members as well as from the 37 ICOH Scientific Committees to build together the scientific programme of what we anticipate will be an inspiring and globally impactful event.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

We look forward to your active participation in ICOH activities.

For further information, please contact the ICOH Secretariat at icoh@inail.it

Dr. Diana Gagliardi
ICOH Secretary General



Message from the Editor

Dear ICOH members,

The first year of the new Triennium of 2024-2027 is coming to a close. We wish you the best of luck for the rest of the year.

As the year comes to a close, it's natural to think about what went well and what didn't. We always want the good things to continue, but sometimes life doesn't work that way. A lot has also happened in the field of occupational health and safety, some good and some not so good. Hopefully, the good things will happen again, and the not-so-good things will be learned from and not repeated.

I appreciate the members' support and contribution to the publication of the ICOH Newsletter. The many articles in this issue will bring you closer together and share the issues of occupational safety and health around the world. I also look forward to your support in the coming year.

Happy New Year!

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



The editorial planning of the ICOH Newsletter

The editorial plans for 2025 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)

In Memoriam



Dr Max Lum

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Dr Max Lum on 19 November 2024. Dr Lum was a cherished colleague and friend, who dedicated his career to advancing communication in the field of occupational health. He was not only a skilled communicator but also a passionate advocate for the health and safety of workers. His ability to distil complex ideas into accessible and impactful messages helped bridge gaps and ensure vital information reached those who needed it most. His contributions have left an indelible mark on our field, inspiring all who worked alongside him.

For 15 years (1995 – 2010), Dr Lum was the International Team Lead for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Washington DC, USA, at the World Health Organization (WHO). His responsibilities included overseeing WHO-related activities and working collaboratively with 55 programmes of the WHO Collaborating Centres in Occupational Health. Max also represented the Institute concerning NIOSH-funded activities.

For 27 years (1997 to 2024) including post-retirement, Dr Lum was the Senior Advisor: e-Communication and Research Translation for the Office of the Director, NIOSH, CDC. His responsibilities included Wikipedia editing and analysis, altmetric analytics, social media design and evaluation, mobile integration, web design, and design and implementation of research translation pilot projects. More recently, in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, he concentrated his work of communications for pandemic, disaster and emergency preparedness and response. He continued with his extensive liaison work with global organizations such as WHO, International Labour Organization (ILO), International Social Security Agency (ISSA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

After earning his masters and doctoral degrees at the University of Southern California with an emphasis on communication and public management, and before joining NIOSH, Dr Lum served as Division Director at the CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in Atlanta, USA. Dr Lum's 40plus-year career includes public health service in the Peace Corps, Micronesia, Africa and the CDC.

In Memoriam

Dr Lum was a long-time member of, and very good friend, to the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), having become an ICOH member in 1996. Among other responsibilities, for many years he was actively and pro-actively involved as the Chair of the ICOH Task Group on Information and Communication, and introduced and raised the ICOH profile on social networking platforms like Twitter and Facebook. He organized various special sessions and workshops at ICOH international congresses, keeping ICOH members and congress participants abreast of the advances made in the fields of effective risk information and knowledge translation, and e-communications in occupational health and safety.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr Lum will be remembered for his witty sense of humour with a perpetual glint in his eyes, social aptitude, pleasant disposition, eloquence and charm, always being a good sport, and his unwavering commitment to mentoring and to making the workplace safer for everyone. He approached every challenge with grace and every conversation with genuine care, leaving behind a legacy of connection and compassion.

As we mourn the loss of such an extraordinary individual and lover of life, we celebrate his life, his work, and the countless lives he touched through his dedication. Our thoughts are with Max's family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

May your soul rest in peace, dear Max, you leave a huge gap in the global occupational health arena. You will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

For an interview with Dr Max Lum on his e-communication work and passion, by the ORP International Foundation (Occupational Risk Prevention) in August 2020, please access: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcVI6tLXsY>

Claudina Nogueira



Max Lum receiving a prize from Diana Gagliardi and Shyam Pingle at the International Conclave on Occupational Health, Mumbai, 28 January-1 February 2020

In Memoriam



Prof. Jean-François Caillard

Jean- François Caillard's initial encounter with occupational disease, namely silicosis, had a profound impact on his subsequent career trajectory and his commitment to the prevention of occupational illnesses. In 1976, he was appointed head of the clinic in Normandy, where he established a university hospital for occupational medicine. In 1980, he established the Chair of Occupational Medicine, which was accompanied by a position as a university professor.

His charisma earned him both national and international recognition. He subsequently joined the International Commission on Occupational Health, where he served as vice-chairman and then chairman, working to promote the development of occupational health teaching, research and practice in many countries and with organisations such as the International Labour Office and the World Health Organisation.

We have always been able to appreciate the sincerity of his convictions and his commitment to improving the occupational health of his patients. Despite the painful events of his personal life, his humanism, strength of conviction and optimism made him more than just a boss, but a friend.

Jean-François Gehanno



ICOH webinar series

Dr. Martin Hogan, ICOH Vice President
Dr. Diana Gagliardi, ICOH Secretary General
Prof. Alexis Descatha, ICOH Board member

The first ICOH webinar: 'Connection from occupational practice to research and global evidence. An ICOH webinar for practitioners'

We are excited to share with you the highlights from our first webinar, held on October 21, 2024, hosted on Zoom. This event has marked the beginning of a three-year webinar program (2024-2027) dedicated to the in-depth analysis on several aspects of the field of occupational health. As previously announced, the ICOH webinar series has been designed to offer an additional benefit to ICOH members, who have free access to the ICOH webinars. The ICOH webinar series aims to support the ongoing professional development of our members, offering CPD credits for full attendance.

This first webinar has been organized in collaboration with two ICOH Board members (Prof. Alexis Descatha from France and Prof. Quentin Durand-Moreau from Canada) and a sustaining member, the French National Research and Safety Institute for Prevention of Occupational Accidents, INRS.

The aim was to provide practitioners who are not very experienced in research with relevant and practical information on how to improve their communication, presentation and reporting skills. International speakers discussed key elements that need to be included in an abstract and how to use (and contribute to) reports for some agencies, social media databases, and networks. A lively Q&A session took place at the end of the webinar.

The webinar, which gathered nearly 100 attendees, lasted two hours and started with an introduction by the ICOH President, Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang.

The webinar included the following presentations:

- Prof. Alexis Descatha-ICOH Board member, Angers University-CHU Insem, France: NewsROEM to ICOH Abstract: from 'reading stimulation' to writing an ICOH abstract
- Dr. Agnes Aublet-Cuvelier and Dr Jean-Jacques Atain-Kouadio, INRS, France: French INRS translational network: the Exoskeleton example
- Dr. Christina Tikka, UEF, Finland and Dir. Emma Irvin, Institute for Work & Health, Canada, and Global Evidence network group: Global Evidence network: importance of translation
- Prof. Quentin Durand-Moreau, ICOH Board member, University of Alberta, Canada: "These were the days" - when Twitter boosted research in Occupational Health

The event has been recognized 2 CPD credits and all participants have received their attendance certificate and the CPD credits.

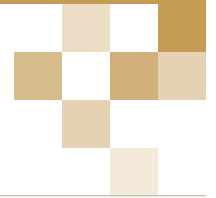
The success of this first webinar has been encouraging and convinced us to continue building a structured programme of webinars that will go through the entire triennium.

We are currently working to make the recording available to the ICOH members who could not join the event, and we are happy to inform that also watching the webinar on demand will allow the attribution of CPD credits.

In addition, given the interest for the initiative, during 2025 we will explore also the possibility of accreditation with the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) to provide credits to medical practitioners from Europe, North America and Canada.

We would like to thank all of you for your participation and support and we look forward to meeting many more of you at the next webinars.

Please visit the page <https://www.icohweb.org/site/webinars.asp> to learn more about the next year's programme and to discover more details about our upcoming ICOH webinars.



Assessing Physical Fitness for Night Shift Roles: Physiological Considerations and Practical Adaptations

SC OM

Moazzam Ali Zaidi

Gogillan Sevaratnam

Aiggan Kitila

Abstract

As workplaces increasingly rely on continuous operations, evaluating the physical fitness of night shift workers has gained new urgency. Traditional fitness assessments often overlook the physiological effects of circadian rhythm disruptions, altered sleep patterns, and increased fatigue, all of which can impact the health and performance of night shift workers. This article examines these factors and presents research showing how they influence cardiovascular responses and overall fitness levels. It then explores potential adaptations to standard fitness assessments that could ensure fair and accurate evaluations for night shift workers. By implementing tailored approaches that consider the unique demands of night work, organizations can support the health and safety of these essential employees while maintaining robust assessment standards.

Introduction

The demand for continuous operations in many industries has made the physical fitness of night shift workers a critical factor for productivity and safety. Night shift workers often include essential personnel like healthcare providers, firefighters, and security staff whose roles require high levels of physical and mental resilience. Standard fitness assessments typically occur during daytime hours, aligned with the natural peak physiological state of day-shift workers. However, night shift workers experience different physiological patterns

due to factors like circadian rhythm disruption, altered sleep schedules, and heightened fatigue.

The circadian rhythm, an internal 24-hour body clock, regulates vital bodily functions such as heart rate, blood pressure, and sleep-wake cycles. Night shift work misaligns this natural rhythm, potentially impacting workers' cardiovascular stability and mental alertness, both critical components in physical fitness evaluations. This article explores how these factors influence the physical assessment of night shift workers and discusses research-based adaptations that can improve the fairness and accuracy of fitness evaluations.

Literature Review

Circadian rhythm disruption and physiological impacts

Night shift workers are particularly affected by the disruption of circadian rhythms, which control key physiological functions. Circadian misalignment can alter cardiovascular responses, metabolic processes, and cognitive alertness, placing unique demands on night shift workers' bodies. Studies show that disrupted circadian rhythms are linked to fluctuations in heart rate and blood pressure, often reducing cardiovascular efficiency during night hours. For example, research indicates that daytime sleep among night shift workers has a distinct physiological impact compared to night time sleep, resulting in lower arterial blood pressure and heart rate variability. These changes, although subtle, may skew



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fitness results if assessments are conducted without accounting for the altered state of night shift workers.

The potential long-term health impacts of circadian disruption are also significant. Extended night shifts can lead to “social jetlag,” where workers experience chronic misalignment of their biological clock with external schedules. This misalignment is associated with increased risks of cardiovascular issues, metabolic disorders, and decreased physical endurance, all of which may influence fitness evaluation outcomes.

Fatigue and Its Effects on Physical Performance

Fatigue is an unavoidable aspect of night shift work, often intensified by irregular sleep cycles and extended wakefulness. It can significantly impact physical and cognitive performance, as well as cardiovascular health, making it an essential factor in fitness assessments. For example, studies on night shift nurses reveal that prolonged shifts exacerbate fatigue and reduce alertness, impairing both physical and mental performance. Similarly, research shows that industrial night shift workers face increased risks of cardiovascular conditions, such as atherosclerosis, due to inconsistent sleep and chronic fatigue, emphasizing the need for adjusted fitness evaluations.

Across other critical sectors, night shift work similarly impairs performance and health. In transportation, fatigue among night shift truck drivers is linked to higher accident rates and increased metabolic health risks. Law enforcement officers working night shifts are at increased risk for hypertension and impaired decision-making, with cumulative sleep deprivation adding to stress and mental health challenges. In aviation, pilots report compromised reaction times and cognitive function due to disrupted circadian rhythms, increasing the likelihood of errors during flights. Finally, paramedics and emergency responders face greater risks of fatigue-related mental health issues, such as anxiety and burnout, due to the

high-intensity demands of night shifts.

These findings underscore that fatigue from night shift work broadly impacts physical and mental health, reinforcing the need for tailored fitness assessments that consider the specific challenges faced by night shift workers. The table below summarizes the specific impacts of fatigue across different professions.

Practical Adaptations for Fitness Assessments

In response to the physiological and performance challenges faced by night shift workers, adapting fitness assessments to reflect these unique demands can improve accuracy and fairness. One proposed adjustment is to schedule fitness evaluations during the workers’ regular night shift hours, capturing performance in a state more representative of their typical work condition. This approach aligns with the natural rhythm disruptions experienced by night shift employees, providing a realistic measure of fitness and endurance.

Another practical adaptation is to integrate fatigue management strategies into fitness evaluations. Research suggests that controlled exposure to bright light can help counteract circadian misalignment, while strategic nap schedules may reduce fatigue and enhance alertness during shifts. Further, organizations can benefit from educating night shift workers on sleep hygiene and fatigue management techniques, thereby supporting their overall health and improving assessment outcomes. Accordingly, including such interventions as part of the fitness assessment process could ensure that night shift workers are evaluated under conditions that reflect their true physical capacity.

Conclusion

Evaluating the fitness of night shift workers requires consideration of circadian disruptions, altered sleep

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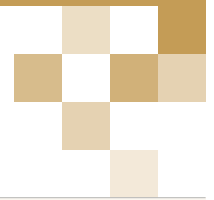


Table 1: Summary of fatigue-related impacts across professions for night shift workers

Profession	Fatigue-Related Impacts	Study/Source
Healthcare (Nurses)	Extended shifts increase fatigue and reduce alertness, impacting physical and cognitive performance.	Thompson, B.J., M.S. Stock, and V.K. Banuelas, Effects of Accumulating Work Shifts on Performance-Based Fatigue Using Multiple Strength Measurements in Day and Night Shift Nurses and Aides. <i>Human Factors</i> , 2017. 59(3): p. 346-356. Thompson, B.J., M.S. Stock, and V.K. Banuelas, Effects of Accumulating Work Shifts on Performance-Based Fatigue Using Multiple Strength Measurements in Day and Night Shift Nurses and Aides. <i>Human Factors</i> , 2017. 59(3): p. 346-356.
Transportation (Truck Drivers)	Night shifts impair sleep and alertness, leading to higher accident rates and metabolic health risks due to fatigue.	Di Milia, L., Shift work, sleepiness and long-distance driving. <i>Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour</i> , 2006. 9(4): p. 278-285. Kervezee, L., A. Kosmadopoulos, and D.B. Boivin, Metabolic and cardiovascular consequences of shift work: The role of circadian disruption and sleep disturbances. <i>European Journal of Neuroscience</i> , 2020. 51(1): p. 396-412.
Industrial Workers	Chronic fatigue from irregular shifts is linked to cardiovascular risks, such as atherosclerosis, and reduced reaction times.	Skogstad, M., et al., Shift Work Including Night Work and Long Working Hours in Industrial Plants Increases the Risk of Atherosclerosis. <i>International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health</i> , 2019. 16(3): p. 521. Chellappa, S.L., et al., Impact of Circadian Disruption on Cardiovascular Function and Disease. <i>Trends in Endocrinology & Metabolism</i> , 2019. 30(10): p. 767-779.
Law Enforcement Officers	Night shifts increase the risk of hypertension and impair decision-making, with sleep deprivation leading to increased stress and mental health issues.	Everding, B., et al., Association of Sleep Quality with Cardiovascular Disease Risk and Mental Health in Law Enforcement Officers. <i>Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine</i> , 2016. 58(8): p. e281-e286., Mumford, E.A., et al., A nationally representative study of law enforcement shiftwork and health outcomes. <i>Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene</i> , 2021. 18(4-5): p. 192-202.
Aviation (Pilots)	Circadian disruption from night shifts impairs cognitive function and reaction times, increasing error risks in flight operations.	Ariznavarreta, C., et al., Circadian rhythms in airline pilots submitted to long-haul transmeridian flights. <i>Aviat Space Environ Med</i> , 2002. 73(5): p. 445-55. Caldwell, J.A., et al., Fatigue countermeasures in aviation. <i>Aviat Space Environ Med</i> , 2009. 80(1): p. 29-59. Caldwell, J.A., Crew Schedules, Sleep Deprivation, and Aviation Performance. <i>Current Directions in Psychological Science</i> , 2012. 21(2): p. 85-89.
Emergency Services (Paramedics)	High-intensity night shifts increase fatigue, reducing endurance and elevating risks of anxiety and burnout.	Harris, R., et al., Mental health risk factors for shift work disorder in paramedics: A longitudinal study. <i>Sleep Health</i> , 2023. 9(1): p. 49-55. Khan, W.A.A., et al., The relationship between shift-work, sleep, and mental health among paramedics in Australia. <i>Sleep Health</i> , 2020. 6(3): p. 330-337. Yung, M., et al., Developing a Canadian fatigue risk management standard for first responders: Defining the scope. <i>Safety Science</i> , 2021. 134: p. 105044.

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patterns, and increased fatigue. Although traditional fitness assessments do not inherently disadvantage night shift workers, adjustments to address these unique physiological states can improve accuracy and fairness. By scheduling assessments in alignment with night shift hours and incorporating fatigue management strategies,

organizations can better support the health and safety of night shift workers. Adapting fitness assessments in this way ensures that evaluations are comprehensive and reflective of the demands faced by workers in essential night-time roles.

From the North of Perú to the North of Africa: a long journey full of learning, inspiration and memories from the 34th ICOH Congress

Norvil Mera Chú, NS for Peru

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) is still a challenge in Latin-America for all the professionals who work in prevention. Every year, physicians, engineers, lawyers, psychologists, and others in Perú are getting more involved but we still need to work more to make OHS a priority and a true fundamental right for everyone. To pursuit that goal, Education and Research in OHS is crucial. Not only at a regional level, but also at international level so we can learn from other contexts, exchange experiences and bring back new ideas for improving OHS systems in our home country. I found in 34th ICOH Congress a great opportunity for this, but during the process I got a lot more than that.

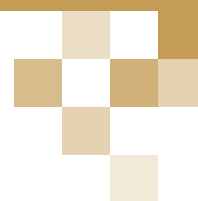
I had already participated in previous conferences organised by ICOH Scientific Committees (SC) and academic events supported by them. For example, the 23rd and 24th International Symposiums on Shiftwork and Working Time held in Ayers Rock, Australia (2017) and held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, USA (2019), both organised by the SC Shiftwork and Working Time. Also, I attended to the Understanding Small Enterprises Conference held in Denver, Colorado, USA in 2017 which was supported by the SC of Occupational Health for Small Scale Enterprises and Informal Sector

(SCOHSSEIS). The 29th Symposium on Epidemiology in Occupational Health, organised by SC of Epidemiology in Occupational Health (EPICOH), in Mumbai (2023) was also a very high academic level event I attended to.

I also participated at previous ICOH Congress in 2022 which was held virtually. But the 34th ICOH Congress was a magnificent event and life experience, at the same time. It was held in Marrakech, Morocco and offered a great opportunity to engage with international colleagues from around the world who work very hard to improve working conditions, safety and health of workers from different sectors. The 34th ICOH Congress included the participation of the 38 Scientific Committees, Institutes, Professional associations and specialists with different backgrounds and expertise.

In December 2023, I received great news with the results of my grant application, being awarded by the Fundraising Committee. I had already been working in my preparation for the congress (with my abstracts submission, the ILO master fellowship competition, and others) but the last months prior to the Congress would be even more demanding. And it was definitively worth it.

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I was glad of the opportunity to participate with 2 oral presentations for the session of “OSH in Low-and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)-Sharing Good Practices” and for having chaired the oral session “Occupational Health in Small-Scale Enterprises”. Also, I participated in the Business meetings of 3 SC: SC on Occupational Medicine (SCOM), SCOHSSSEIS and EPICOH. During the business meeting of SCOM, I made the formal announcement of the 2nd Conference on Occupational Medicine “Future and Opportunities for Occupational Medicine” which will be held in Lima, Perú in November 2025. During the business meeting of EPICOH, I met with the members of the EPICOH Early Career Conference-Organising Committee (which I am also part of the committee, too) to coordinate activities about this conference that will be held in Barcelona in November 2024. During the business meeting of SCOHSSSEIS, I shared information and invitation for both events, EPICOH Early Career Conference and the 2nd Conference on Occupational Medicine. In the ILO Master Fellowship 2024 Competition, I placed 5th. It was a very high-level competition and I met other OHS professionals and researchers from different regions around the world with the same desire, aspiration and inspiration just like mine.

Everyday it was a whole new exciting episode for me. I met again with colleagues and friends that I met at previous events, after at least 5 years ago. Friends from America (including Latin-America), Europe, Asia,

Oceania and Africa gathered at 34th ICOH Congress. Through all this time, the common fact between all of us, was our determination for continue working in favour of workers ‘health, safety and wellness. We exchanged our experiences in OHS during the last years and told each other the current projects we are currently working at. It was very inspiring.

The 34th ICOH Congress also provided an incredible networking, so I met new colleagues and made friends from different countries. The Congress program included social events such as the Opening Ceremony, the Cultural Night and the Gala Dinner. All of them were very well organised and created relaxed space for sharing with the attendees, speakers and ICOH Board members. Besides, Marrakech was so beautiful and offered art, culture, religion, food, etc which made our experience even more interesting.

Finally, the Congress provided a forum to researchers, occupational physicians and other professionals for the discussion, critical reviews, networking, collaborations and education on Occupational Health and Safety for closing the gaps and being up for the future challenges. I came back to Perú with a big baggage full of knowledge and research results of course, but also with nice memories I will never forget, and stronger motivation for contributing to OHS not only in Perú, but also around the world.

Thanks, 34th ICOH Congress.



Top 5 at ILO Master Fellowship Competition



Oral Presentation at the the session of "OSH in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)-Sharing Good Practices"



Business meeting of SC On Occupational Medicine (SC OM)

Wrap-up Article on the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024)

Claudina M. C. A. Nogueira

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

1. Proceedings – Done and dusted



Accepted abstracts were published in July 2024 as open access Proceedings of the 34th International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH2024) in an online supplement of Occupational Medicine, one of the key international journals in its field and part of the Oxford Academic, Oxford University Press (OUP) platform, with an impact factor of 5.1.

To view the published abstracts, please visit the following link:

https://academic.oup.com/ocmed/issue/74/Supplement_1

2. A new broom sweeps clean – ICOH ‘movers and shakers’ for the current triennium

The newly elected ICOH Officers and Board members for the current triennium (2024-2027) took up office at the end of the ICOH2024 Congress, holding their first meetings in Marrakesh. The South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM), the only affiliate ICOH member from Africa, wishes the newly elected incumbents all of the best for a healthy, safe, productive and rewarding tenure.



Newly elected ICOH Board members, standing, L to R: Charles Yarborough (USA), Akizumi Tsutsumi (Japan), Quentin Durand-Moreau (Canada), Rim El Kholti (Morocco), Stefan Esser (Germany), R Rajesh (India), Alexis Descatha (France), Riitta Sauni (Finland), Mahinda Seneviratne (Australia), Ashish Mishra (India), Kamal Wifaq (Morocco), and Dongmug Kang (Republic of Korea).

ICOH Officers, seated, L to R: Jukka Takala (Past President, Finland), Martin Hogan (Vice President for Scientific Committees, Ireland), Seong-Kyu Kang (President, Republic of Korea), Diana Gagliardi (Secretary General, Italy), and Shyam Pingle (Vice President for National Secretaries, India).

Absent ICOH Board members: Rosylane Rocha (Brazil), Giovanna Spatari (Italy),

Aida Fajardo Montiel (Mexico), and Naesine Chaiear (Thailand).

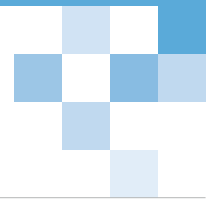
Photograph: courtesy of the ICOH Secretariat (Italy)

3. For posterity and the ICOH archives - ‘Postcards with an edge...’

A photographic account of the ICOH2024 Congress, which was first published in the Occupational Health Southern Africa journal, can be accessed here:

https://www.occhealth.co.za/pdf/ICOH2024_Congress.pdf

Reports from the Scientific Committees



The following articles from the Scientific Committees are here.

Collaborated Conference with SC Unemployment, Job Insecurity and Health and SC Thermal Factors

SC Accident Prevention

SC Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology

SC Occupational Medicine

SC Occupational Toxicology

SC Radiation and Work

SC Women Health and Work

<Binawan University in collaboration with SC Unemployment, Job Insecurity and Health and SC Thermal Factors>

2nd World Conference on Health and Social Science Highlights Emerging Global Health Challenges and Sustainable Solutions

Anna Suraya, Chair of SC Unemployment, Job Insecurity and Health
Vidhya Venugopal, Chair of SC Thermal Factors

The 2nd World Conference on Health and Social Science, held on October 23-24, 2024, at Binawan University in Jakarta, Indonesia, convened 590 participants, including distinguished speakers, researchers, and professionals from around the world. With 109 abstracts presented, the conference served as a critical platform for sharing insights and advancing discourse on pressing global health and social issues.

The conference featured presentations from internationally respected experts who addressed a range of timely and impactful topics. Vidhya Venugopal, representing the Scientific Committee of ICOH (International Commission on Occupational Health) on Thermal Factors, presented groundbreaking research on the effects of “Air pollution on public health and social life”. Highlighting the multifaceted

risks associated with air pollution, Venugopal discussed how deteriorating air quality not only impacts physical health but also disrupts social well-being and community cohesion.

Erwin Faller provided a forward-looking perspective on the tourism industry, reflecting on “Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic”. Faller explored the sector’s resilience and adaptability in the face of unprecedented challenges, offering insights into sustainable tourism practices that can withstand future disruptions.

The theme of occupational health and social protection was further emphasized by Anna Suraya, who represented the ICOH Scientific Committee on Unemployment, Job Insecurity, and Health. Suraya’s presentation, “Protecting

Reports from the Scientific Committees

People from Asbestos Exposure,” underscored the continuing global need for policies and practices that safeguard workers and communities from the harmful effects of asbestos.

Theo Bodin’s address on precarious employment highlighted “The growing concern over unstable job conditions”, illustrating how such employment arrangements can adversely affect both mental and physical health, contributing to economic insecurity and social disparities.

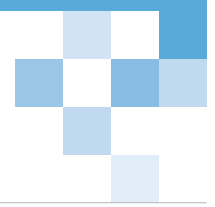
In a compelling session on technology and sustainability, Yaya Suryana presented the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in fostering sustainability. Suryana demonstrated “The potential of AI to drive sustainable solutions”, from resource management to environmental protection, emphasizing the critical need for ethical and responsible AI deployment in health and social science.

The conference underscored the interconnectedness of health, social well-being, and sustainable development, sparking important dialogues and fostering partnerships for future initiatives. Attendees from academia, industry, government, and non-governmental organizations had the opportunity to engage with innovative research, exchange ideas, and explore collaborative solutions for today’s most pressing health and social challenges.

The 2nd World Conference on Health and Social Science brought together global leaders to foster innovative, equitable approaches to health, focusing on social equity, and collaboration. In addition, this conference not only contributed valuable knowledge to the field but also reinforced the commitment of professionals worldwide to address complex issues through interdisciplinary collaboration and evidence-based solutions.



Reports from the Scientific Committees



<SC Accident Prevention>

How technology has brought a new dawn to worker safety

Karen Michell, SC Chair

Laura Bradshaw, IOSH

The adoption of emerging technologies, such as wearables, drones and robotics, are transforming workplace safety by offering new ways to monitor, predict and prevent accidents, injuries and occupational diseases.

This occupational safety and health (OSH) revolution was the focus of a webinar entitled *Emerging Technologies and Worker Safety: A New Era in Occupational Health*, staged on 16 October. Hosted by the International Commission of Occupational Health (ICOH), represented by the Scientific Committee on Accident Prevention (SCAP) and the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), a sustaining partner of ICOH, the event was one of the first in a series of ICOH hosted webinars. This event examined how emerging technologies enhance OSH, while also addressing the challenges around their implementation.



Tech-ing control of OSH in risk management

Emerging technologies are proving key to reducing workplace accidents. Cameron (Cam) Stevens brought a “technology-enabled hierarchy of risk controls” to the webinar showing

how technology is integrated into safety strategies. He highlighted how tools like wearables, Internet of Things (IoT) sensors and AI-driven systems can enhance health and safety by proactively identifying and managing risks.

For example, automation removes mundane picking tasks, robotics avoids humans having to enter high-risk environments, while drones are used to conduct inspections at height, reducing the risk of falls. While there are concerns that robots may replace human jobs, Cam placed the emphasis on how technology shifts focus away from hazardous tasks, thus creating a safer work environment for people. Digital twins enable virtual simulation of work environments, which allows safe testing to take place before real-world implementation.

Wearables can track worker health metrics, such as fatigue, in real-time, while IoT sensors monitor environmental hazards like dust and gas leaks. This enables early interventions to prevent accidents and adverse health outcomes. AI systems analyse data to predict risks, further enhancing safety protocols. Cam showcased examples of how these technologies have successfully reduced accidents in high-risk sectors, such as construction.

Wearable technology in occupational health

Dr. Cleo Varianou-Mikellidou explored how wearables and digital devices monitor vital signs to prevent accidents, especially in high-risk environments. However, she cautioned that while technology can monitor safety, it cannot replace



Reports from the Scientific Committees

human judgment entirely; workers are still needed to interpret data and take action.

Dr. Varianou also discussed the importance of considering ethical issues related to privacy and continuous monitoring of workers' health. Transparency in data usage and respectfully addressing employee concerns about surveillance are essential to building trust. Dr Varianou shared case studies that showed how wearables, robots and drones have been successfully deployed in industries like firefighting to reduce health risks. Ethical frameworks, transparency, and proper training are key to managing these technologies responsibly.

Overcoming barriers to digital integration

Andresa Hernandez highlighted the importance of digital literacy, training and overcoming barriers to technology adoption for its successful implementation. Emphasising how workers need technical skills to use these new tools effectively, yet many companies face challenges in integrating advanced technologies, due to a lack of infrastructure and high costs. Andresa emphasised how digital transformation should prioritise health and safety, with upskilling as a key component.

She also referenced Siemens' digital health and safety transformation, noting how trust is critical during this process. Workers and stakeholders must understand the change management process to ensure technology's successful adoption. Small businesses, in particular, may struggle with the costs of implementing new technologies like drones or AI, which makes strategic planning and workforce training essential.

The future of worker safety technologies

A following panel discussion explored the opportunities and risks associated with emerging safety technologies. Andresa noted that companies should focus on addressing specific

problems with suitable technology, rather than following tech trends. Organisations need to understand the problem they aim to solve, then select the right technology to address the problem most effectively.

Cleo stressed the importance of worker buy-in to the successful adoption of technology. Workers need to be involved in decision-making to feel safe and supported during the transition. Cleo also highlighted the need for more research funding on safety technologies, calling for additional resources to bridge this gap.

Cam discussed the importance of involving researchers in industry-based site research that can be applied by practitioners. This helps expedite the application of research findings to real-world practices.

Dr Karen Michell raised concerns about data privacy and confidentiality, especially when using smart technologies and advocated for both responsible data handling and open access to research findings so that OSH professionals can benefit from evidence-based practices.

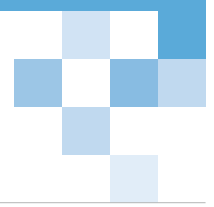
Implications for occupational health and safety professionals

While challenges remain in adopting emerging technologies in OSH, the benefits in terms of accident prevention and enhanced worker well-being are undeniable. OSH professionals will play a key role in bridging the gap between technological innovation and practical implementation, ensuring that these tools contribute to safer, healthier workplaces. The future of worker safety is increasingly digital, with significant advancements expected in the coming years.

The key take-aways

- Technology is here to stay, and OSH professionals must work with it to enhance the work experience.

Reports from the Scientific Committees



- Transformation will only happen in an atmosphere of trust and transparency so bring workers along by training and empowering them to embrace change.
- When engaging with technology, firstly understand the problem you want to solve, then find the technological solutions that address it.
- Dr. Cleo Varianou-Mikellidou, an Occupational Safety and Health Lecturer at European University Cyprus
- Andresa Hernandes, Global Vice President of Safety at Siemens Global
- Dr Karen Michell, Research Programme Lead Occupational Health, IOSH and ICOH SCAP Chair

Thank you to our speakers:

- Cam Stevens, CEO and Safety Innovation Consultant with Pocketknife Group in Australia

Special thanks also go to Stuart Hughes (IOSH President) and Dr. Martin Hogan (ICOH VP SC) for introducing their respective organisations to the audience.

<SC Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology>

New start “on the shoulders of the scientific giants”

Sibel Kiran, SC Chair

Sultan Pinar Cetintepe, SC Secretary

Prioritizing early prevention and assessment approaches of neurobehavioral methods in occupational health and safety. The new name reflects a broader perspective development aimed to enhance the contributions of the current and next generation of researchers and experts, to carry the legacy from the previous distinguished members of the committee.

Our committee is focused on building partnerships in neurobehavioral research to promote the awareness and knowledge of global occupational health, safety, and well-being, with a special interest in brain health. Key topics include developing and utilizing new and global tools and methods; capacity-building activities such as training, workshops, and webinars; and fostering international and regional communication and cooperation for research on neurobehavioral aspects.

For the upcoming term, we invited members of ICOH to encourage early career researchers to join our committee, and create sub-work groups on target populations, exposures, and outcome intervention aimed to produce scientific information in the field of neurobehavioral sciences. NEUROH will focus on different aspects such as aging, sleep, sensory functions, ADHD, memory, etc., and additional wellbeing indicators related to the work environment. Capacity-building and research based training activities hand-in-hand with colleagues from low- and middle-income countries will be one of our priorities, alongside integrating neurobehavioral methods with other health outcomes such as biomarkers and exposure measurements.

We will also identify opportunities for professional development, by enhancing communication within NEUROH,

Reports from the Scientific Committees

and by implementing training and research programs that highlight the importance of this field. Collaborative efforts with other scientific committees and organizations will be pursued to broaden our impact. We would like to invite scientists committed to our activities to learn from their

experiences and mutually enhance their impact.

We aimed to contribute to the support of distinguished members of ICOH in advancing neurobehavioral research in occupational health.

<SC Occupational Medicine>

9th SC OM Webinar - Occupational Skin Disorders

Gogillan Sevaratnam, SC Chair

Ade Mutiara, SC Secretary

Skin disorders comprise more than 35% of all occupational related diseases, approximately 1 in 1000 workers. Skin being the largest organ on human, is the most commonly injured organ in industry.

Almost 2000 substances are recognised as contact allergens and some workers bring to their work pre-existing diseases which can be aggravated by their work.

Contact dermatitis of the hands is the most common occupational skin disease and atopy is often an important cofactor. The main challenge faced by the Occupational Health Professionals is looking for the cause of the skin diseases, whether it is due to work or not. If it is contact dermatitis, can it be an allergic or irritant? Other challenges are, how are we going to manage it at the workplace in order to prevent it from recurring or affecting other workers?

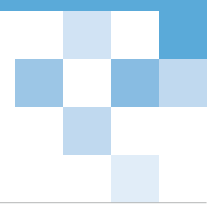
Hence, to address these matters, Scientific Committee on Occupational Medicine had organised a webinar on **Occupational Skin Disorders** on the 11th October 2024. Prof. Dr. Dragan Mijakovski from North Macedonia spoke on **Managing Work Related Dermatitis** and followed by

a topic in Spanish on **Is This Allergic or Irritant Contact Dermatitis?** by Prof. Dr. Juan Francisco Umeres Alvaro from Peru. The 3rd topic of the webinar was by Prof. Gail Todd, South Africa presented **Is This Occupational Skin Diseases?** by illustrating many pictures of work-related skin disorders.

More than 80 participants around the globe took part and gained a lot of knowledge during the webinar and at the discussion session. Heartful thanks to Dr Miriam Panduro and Dr. Tongai Mukwewa, the Steering Committee of SCOM for moderating this webinar.



Reports from the Scientific Committees



<SC Occupational Toxicology>

Scientific Committee for Occupational Toxicology in Marrakesh

Giovanna Tranfo, SC Chair

Sabrina Gravel, SC Secretary

The Scientific Committee for Occupational Toxicology (SCOT) was involved in the ICOH congress held in Marrakesh, bringing together experts from around the globe to discuss pressing issues in occupational health. The congress featured two significant symposia: “Occupational Toxicology, Human Biomonitoring, and Neurotoxicology” held April 29, and “Occupational Toxicology, Human Biomonitoring, and Neurotoxicology”, held May 1st in conjunction with the scientific committee for Nanomaterial Workers’ Health.

During the first session, chaired by Silvia Fustinoni and Giovanna Tranfo, diverse topics were presented. Highlights included Alberto Caban-Martinez from the USA discussing the effects of PFAS on firefighters’ metabolisms, while Ade Mutiara from Indonesia examined the correlation between blood lead levels and oxidative stress in lead-exposed workers. Other contributions came from Renaud Persoons and Ogier Hanser from France, addressing biomonitoring of exposure to fire combustion fumes and battery recycling, respectively. Additionally, researchers from Germany, Belgium, and China shared findings that emphasize the global nature of occupational toxicology research.

The second session, chaired by Ivo Iavicoli and Diane Rohlman, focused on the health implications of nanomaterials. Presentations included Frederic Deschamps from France on atmospheric dust containing nanomaterials and Fabio Boccuni from Italy, who shared insights on monitoring cytotoxic effects in graphene production.

The session also featured international perspectives from Germany, Israel, and Sweden, highlighting the collaborative efforts in addressing occupational exposures and health effects through biomonitoring.

New leadership was announced at the SCOT business meeting held during the congress, with Giovanna Tranfo (Italy) introduced as Chair and Sabrina Gravel (Canada) as Secretary. Their appointments signal a continued commitment to advancing research and practices in occupational toxicology. They are excited to introduce the 13th International Symposium on Biomonitoring (ISBM-13), which will take place 9-12 sept 2025 in Milan, Italy. The conference is organized by the SCOT in conjunction with the University of Milan, Italy, and chaired by Professor Fustinoni.

Website: <https://isbm13.studioprogress.it/>



Reports from the Scientific Committees

<SC Radiation and Work>

Scientific collaboration within the 4th Portuguese International Forum on Occupational Health

Alberto Modenese, SC Chair

Jorge Barroso Dias, NS Portugal

From the 28th to the 30th November 2024 the *Sociedade Portuguesa de Medicina do Trabalho (SPMT)*, i.e. Portuguese Society of Occupational Medicine, has organized, within its 18th National Congress of Occupational Medicine, the 4th Portuguese International Forum on Occupational Health (PIFOH). The Congress venue was the beautiful ISMAILI Centre in Lisbon, the capital of the Portuguese Country. SPMT President, dr. Jorge Barroso Dias, elected for the triennium 2024-27 as ICOH National Secretary for Portugal, involved in the scientific program of the conference the ICOH Scientific Committee Radiation and Work, and several topics of interest for the SC R&W have been addressed during the three days of the Congress,

and have been followed by the more than one hundred participants of the event.

In the afternoon of the 28th November a plenary talk entitled *Occupational Health Surveillance of workers exposed to nonionizing radiation: lessons learned and new challenges* was scheduled. The Lecture was given by Fabriziomaria Gobba, past-Chair of the ICOH SC R&W, and currently President of the Occupational Medicine section of the European Union of Medical Specialties.

Then, three different sessions of the Congress has involved some presentations related to the results of an important international project, lead by Dr. Marilia Silva Paulo from the NOVA National School of Public Health in Lisbon, aimed at the prevention of solar UV radiation risk for outdoor workers in Portugal, i.e. the “MEASuring solar ultraviolet radiation in Outdoor Workers in Lisbon: from measurements to risks and a digital health platform for workers” (MEAOW). The project concluded its activity in November 2024 after two years where the NOVA University of Lisbon, the SPMT and the ICOH SC R&W and the SC Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses have collaborated with the Municipality of Lisbon, as well as the with the Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), with the Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the German Social Accident Insurance (IFA-DGUV) and with the Universities of Dubai, Modena & Reggio Emilia, Osnabrueck and Toronto, to achieve a better prevention of



Fig. 1. Moments of 4th Portuguese International Forum on Occupational Health

Reports from the Scientific Committees

occupational solar UV risk for outdoor workers in Portugal. The project included individual dosimetric measurements for about 6 months in more than 200 workers in Lisbon, the construction of a specific electronic platform for prevention, i.e. SUNMETHIS, as well as of a model for the cancer risks estimates. Among all the Lectures on MEAOW project related topics at the PIFOH, we'd like to report here in particular the presentations of the ICOH SC R&W Chair, Alberto Modenese, entitled *The occupational risk related to solar UV radiation exposure: available interventions for an effective prevention*, and that of the ICOH SC R&W Secretary, Claudine Strehl, entitled *Analysis of the UVR data collected: Portugal and European Analysis*.

The two Lectures were given within a parallel session co-organized with the SC R&W and dedicated to the memory of Professor Thomas Tenkate, an ICOH SC R&W member and collaborator within the MEAOW project at the Ryerson University in Toronto. Professor Tenkate suddenly passed away in July 2024: he was an excellent OSH Researcher, an extremely nice and clever person and, among all the scientific activities he carried on during his too short career, it's worthwhile to be mentioned for the R&W community the SunSafety at Work project SunSafety At Work project in Canada. The ICOH SC R&W takes this occasion to deeply thank Thomas for everything he has done during his life for our community, and to send our most sincere and sorrowful condolences to his family.

Moving back to the topics of the Lisbon Congress, even if not directly organized in collaboration with the SC R&W, it is worthwhile to note here that during the Congress an extremely relevant presentation for R&W topics occurred: Professor Tom Loney, from the Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences in Dubai (UAE), gave a Lecture entitled *Electromagnetic radiation: The effect of exposure to radiofrequency in the general and working population*. Prof. Loney is one of the co-Authors of a recently published WHO-commissioned systematic



Fig. 2. Professor Thomas Tenkate with other collaborators of ICOH SC R&W

review and meta-analysis evaluating the evidence coming from observational epidemiologic studies on the possible carcinogenic effects of occupational and ambient exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields.

Finally, other important news related to ICOH activities, occurred during the three days of the Congress, are those related to the Lecture given by the ICOH past-Vice President for Scientific Committees Claudina Noguera entitled *Workplace Health Without Borders*, and, last but definitely not least, the thrilling announcement from Dr. Barroso Dias of the willingness of Lisbon and Portugal to propose as candidate for the venue of the ICOH 2033 World Congress, more than 80 years after the first ICOH world Congress in Portugal in 1951.

With this wonderful news, the ICOH SC R&W wants to deeply thank and congratulate with Dr. Jorge Barroso Dias, Dr. Marilia Silva Paulo and all the organizers of the Lisbon Congress for the high level scientific event, which has brought a fundamental stimulus to the occupational health prevention activities not only in Portugal, but for all the ICOH members and ICOH supporters worldwide.

Reports from the Scientific Committees

<SC Women Health and Work>

ICOH2024: More Gender Perspective at Work

Igor Bello, SC Chair

Marcela Henriquez, SC Secretary

The 34th ICOH International Congress in Marrakech, with the theme “Improving Research and Practices in Occupational Health: Closing the Gaps,” markedly emphasized the role of women in the workplace, equity, and the gender perspective in the management of occupational risks.

The Women, Health, and Work Committee had an intense and fruitful participation in the congress, collaborating with international institutions, universities, specialized institutes, and other ICOH scientific committees. The most recent advances in research on the health of working women were shared, and the networking that the scientific committee has been developing at a global level was expanded. The committee's activities during ICOH 2024 included:

- Participation in the Special Sessions “Effective Delivery of Occupational Health Services: Promoting Safety and Health as a Universal Fundamental Right at Work” and “Innovations in Occupational Health Policies and Practices: Promoting the Fundamental Right to a Safe and Healthy Working Environment, an Opportunity to Close Gender Gaps,” with the participation of the ILO and organized by the Scientific Committee on Occupational Health and Development.
- Participation in the Special Session “Gender Perspectives and Well-being at Work for Health Workers” in collaboration with OSHA-Europe and the Scientific Committee on Occupational Health for Health Workers.
- Organization of the Special Session “Women, Health, and Work in Post-Pandemic Times,” along with the co-organization of the poster session on WHW.

- Coordination of three successful oral sessions, during which 32 research papers were presented and discussed, contributing to our global network.
- The committee held its working meeting, where we presented the committee's achievements in the 2021-2024 triennium and the plans for the next triennium.

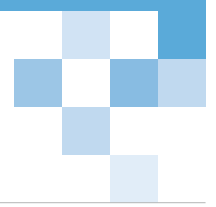
A very special moment for us was the session dedicated to honoring Dr. Julietta Rodríguez-Guzmán's memory, who was one of the leaders of the WHW Committee and its president for two trienniums, and who passed away in 2023.



Session dedicated to honouring Dr. Julietta Rodríguez-Guzmán, former leader of the Women, Health and Work Scientific Committee.

The gender approach was a transversal theme in this congress. In the Marrakech Declaration, several elements are crucial for women's equality and inclusion in the workplace, including a specific call for Inclusion and Equity at Work, which advocates for the inclusion of all workers, regardless of gender, promoting equity in occupational health, ensuring that women have equal access to safe and

Reports from the Scientific Committees



healthy working conditions while developing effective policies and strategies that consider the specific needs of working women, including work-life balance policies, equal pay, and protection from harassment and discrimination.

Our committee seeks to promote gender equity in occupational health by identifying and addressing the specific challenges faced by women in the workplace. The committee focuses on:

1. Researching occupational hazards that disproportionately affect women in different regions of the world, considering biological as well as social and cultural factors, and proposing mitigation measures.
2. Promoting fair labor policies and practices that improve working conditions for women and ensure equal opportunities in access to safe and healthy jobs.
3. Encouraging women's participation and leadership in occupational health by supporting the inclusion of women in decision-making roles and in the formulation of occupational health policies.
4. Raising awareness about the intersection between gender, health, and work by disseminating knowledge, organizing events, and collaborating with other organizations.

Not only do we work with other ICOH scientific committees, but we also collaborate with the ILO, PAHO, EU-OSHA, UN Women, universities, and OSH professional associations around the world.

Among our projects for the new triennium are webinars, a new website, joint congresses with other ICOH scientific committees (the next event is the Global Health Workforce Week in Barcelona, to be held in March 2025), and, to top it all off, the ICOH Congress in Mumbai, India, in 2027.

The committee ultimately seeks to contribute to the creation of more equitable, inclusive, and safe work environments for all women. We invite all those who are interested in joining this mission to become members of our committee through the private area of www.icohweb.org.





Reports from the National/Area Secretaries

The following articles from the Scientific Committees are here.

NS Combined

NS North Macedonia, Republic of

NS Peru

ICOH National Secretaries from the 'Global South' collaborate to host a webinar on 'OHS in Mining'

Diana Cuervo, NS for Colombia

Adolfo Hernández, NS for Argentina

Norvil Mera Chú, NS for Peru

Claudina Nogueira, NS for South Africa

The ICOH National Secretary (NS) for Colombia, Diana Cuervo, organised and hosted a webinar titled 'Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in Mining: An overview of management, legislation, and current challenges in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)', with the collaboration and support from the following ICOH NSs-Adolfo Hernández (current NS) and Claudio Taboada (past NS) from Argentina; Norvil Mera Chú from Peru; and Claudina Nogueira from South Africa.

The free webinar was held on Saturday 21 September 2024 as an ICOH collaboration from the 'Global South', with two presentations in English and two in Spanish. Approximately 70 participants attended the full webinar and the links to the recordings of the individual presentations are indicated below in the programme. The opening and closing messages of the webinar, as well as the introduction to the presenters, are captured in one recording.

The webinar programme is indicated below:

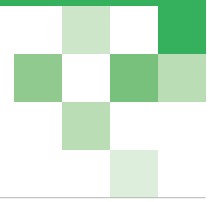
- Diana Cuervo - Welcome in English and Spanish and

introduction to the webinar and the NSs collaborating on the webinar

<https://youtu.be/TAkzQMk3t3Q>

- Adolfo Hernández - Brief introduction of each speaker, in English and Spanish
<https://youtu.be/TAkzQMk3t3Q>
- Speaker 1 - Claudina Nogueira-ICOH Scientific Committees in a nutshell, with a special focus on SC on Mining Occupational Safety and Health (SC MinOSH)
https://youtu.be/HIN24cl_Uws?si=rpuI3j5SsCHypAPR
- Speaker 2-Yolanda Beltrán (Colombia-Secretary of the National OHS Commission of the Mining Sector, Occupational Risk Directorate) - Advances in the mining sector in Colombia
<https://youtu.be/THgaj64PdiU?si=2yHwgBK5g8x59iRf>
- Speaker 3 - Thuthula Balfour (South Africa-public health and occupational medicine specialist working in mining)
- Prevention culture in the mining industry: A female

Reports from the National/Area Secretaries



perspective from the African region

<https://youtu.be/dPphyH9gfFU?si=zNno-mJq-1imF2f2>

- Speaker 4 - Mirella Bernal (Peru-lawyer and OHS expert in mining) - Mining in Latin America: Comparison between selected countries in the region, including informal mining
<https://youtu.be/K2pfKvGw6Vg?si=XwIDx5SFaPnTfJx>
- Norvil Mera Chú - Wrap-up with closing remarks, and vote of thanks
<https://youtu.be/TAkzQMk3t3Q>

The main take-home messages from the webinar are listed below:

- ILO Convention 176 has garnered positive impact on Latin American legislation. Despite recent improvements, current OHS legislation in Latin America still has challenges, especially in underground mining, such as defining working time, shift-work and resting time for workers, changing the safety culture, and eliminating restrictions on women working in mining.
- In Colombia, there is a National Committee of Safety and Health at Work for Mining which works towards developing new policies and national programmes in OHS along five strategic thrusts. Job accidents in underground mining are still a challenge and are mainly caused by the polluted atmosphere and geo-mechanical failures. Working in education and training has contributed to improving accident prevention and OHS management systems.
- In Peru, the main challenges in mining are the definition (medical and legal) of 'occupational disease', under-reporting of job accidents, gender (in)equality, informal sector workers, and OHS management in contracting companies and providers. The Ministry of Health is currently working on identifying carcinogenic agents in the work environment.
- In South Africa, mining is a significant contributor to the African GDP with big reserves of platinum, phosphate and manganese, among other resources. Rates of accidents are 6-7 times higher in small-scale mines when compared with formal mining. In artisanal mining, exposure to mercury, silica dust and cyanide poisoning have a strong impact on the development of occupational diseases. Prevention culture is a crucial aspect of OHS with a focus on critical controls for hazards and applying 'bow-tie' analysis (a simple but powerful risk management tool) in industries. With modernization, more women are entering the mining sector. They still have to deal with discrimination, violence, and other unfavourable working conditions and challenges, just like in Latin America, so ongoing changes in OHS policies and education programmes are needed.
- The ICOH SC MinOSH has made valuable contributions to global mining by organizing conferences, webinars, business meetings, and drafting regular newsletters to update their members on new information and publications in OHS in mining. In 2017, SC MinOSH





Reports from the National/Area Secretaries

members co-authored a comprehensive article titled ‘Safety and Health in Mining’ which was published in three parts in the Occupational Health Southern Africa journal. The publications are available from:

https://www.occhealth.co.za/_assets/articles/256/1787.pdf

https://www.occhealth.co.za/_assets/articles/257/1793.pdf

https://www.occhealth.co.za/_assets/articles/258/1807.pdf

Acknowledgement: The collaborators of this webinar would like to thank Diana Cuervo, NS for Colombia, for covering the costs associated with the recordings and translation transcripts of the presentations, from her personal funds.

Educational and training activities realized by the ICOH members in R. N. Macedonia

Dragan Mijakoski, NS for North Macedonia, Republic of

During October and November 2024, the main goal was to prepare and realize several educational and training activities in order to raise awareness about different occupational health and safety topics. The objective of these on-line and in-person meetings was, also, to communicate the mission of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and to disseminate the ICOH membership programme.

The on-line training entitled “It is time to Prioritize Mental Health in the Workplace” was held on the Microsoft Teams platform, on the 10th October, 2024 by the ICOH National Secretary for R. N. Macedonia Prof. Dr Dragan Mijakoski and ICOH member Prof. Dr Sasho Stoleski. The meeting aimed to celebrate the World Mental Health Day 2024 and 80 participants (health workers and other professionals) attended the event. Prof. Mijakoski and Prof. Stoleski discussed with the attendees certain topics related to psycho-social aspects of the work, including psycho-social workplace factors, job demands and job resources, job stress and burnout, as well as activities towards promotion of workplace mental health. Prof. Mijakoski additionally highlighted the importance of Researcher Mental Health (ReMO) COST Action for the improvement of wellbeing and mental health within academia which is

a theme of strategic importance for the European Research Area. During the meeting, the presenters promoted the Macedonian translation of ReMO Manifesto and the ReMO Policy Brief for R. N. Macedonia. Finally, Prof. Stoleski disseminated the key message of Mental Health Day 2024: “Mental health and work are closely linked.”

On 24th October 2024, Prof. Mijakoski was engaged to present the topic of digitalization and mental health at work during the professional training entitled “From digitalization of work processes - to safe and healthy work environment”. This in-person event was organized by the Association of Safety Engineers “Tutela”, Skopje, to celebrate the European Week for Safety and Health at Work. The event provided fruitful discussion with occupational safety engineers (over 100) on the challenges and opportunities posed by emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and digital labour platforms.

Prof. Stoleski and Prof. Mijakoski were also engaged as members of the Organizing Committee of the First International Congress of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, held in-person from 31st October to 2nd November 2024 in Struga, R. N. Macedonia. They presented their lectures on “COPD among a population of workers”

Reports from the National/Area Secretaries

(Prof. Stoleski) and “Development of research agenda in occupational health in R. N. Macedonia through international cooperation” (Prof. Mijakoski). The presentations were attended by about 100 participants each, who were mainly physicians - specialists in social medicine and organization of the health services, hygiene and environmental health, microbiology, epidemiology, and occupational medicine, as well as general practitioners.

Finally, the ICOH National Secretary for R. N. Macedonia Prof. Dr Dragan Mijakoski has an invited opening lecture at the 8th Croatian Congress on Occupational Health with International Participation, organized under the motto “Occupational Medicine - Coping with the Future” (7th-10th November, 2024 in Split, Croatia). Prof. Mijakoski

talked about the “Emerging topics in occupational medicine in south-eastern European (SEE) countries”, putting focus on occupational health system and policy, universal health coverage, verification and reporting of occupational diseases, vulnerable groups of workers (including persons with disabilities), health and well-being of health workers, mental health at work, occupational skin diseases, work-related musculo-skeletal disorders, new and emerging occupational risks, climate change and workers’ health, occupational carcinogens and occupational malignant diseases, and evidence syntheses in occupational health. The role of ICOH for the promotion of workers’ health and safety was highlighted during this event which was attended by about 180 participants.



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A multi-disciplinary and participative approach in Occupational Health and Safety to face the challenges related to emerging Diseases in workers

Norvil Mera Chú, NS for Peru

In the last decade, there have been many changes in statistics of job injuries and occupational diseases in LMICs from Latin-América. In Perú, even though new legislation and an increasing number of OHS professionals have contributed to improve working conditions and prevention of diseases in workers in some sectors, emerging diseases related to ergonomic, psychosocial, chemical, mechanical and other type of risk factors, still represent a challenge for companies and OHS professionals.

From the ICOH National Secretary (NS) for Perú, we have prioritized in Education in OHS, creating forums for occupational physicians, researchers, professors and other professionals for sharing experiences, for discussion of research results, for promoting the networking and collaboration between ICOH members from Perú, Latin-America and other regions, and for strengthening the cooperation between Perú NS and ICOH Scientific Committees too.

The 1st webinar organised and hosted by the NS for Perú, titled “Sleep Disorders, Chronic Diseases and Workers Health” focused on the general overview of working time and shiftwork in some sectors in Perú and Latin-America, the most prevalent sleep disorders in working population and their impact on cardiovascular, metabolic and other type of diseases. Finally, strategies and opportunities for improving programs of Prevention and Health Promotion at work were discussed between speakers and the attendees.

The free webinar was held on 11th September 2024. The speakers were Dr. Eduardo Bazan Lavanda, physician specialized in Sleep medicine and Internal Medicine, and dr.

Norvil Mera Chu, current ICOH NS for Perú and researcher in sleep disorders in workers. Dr. Shyam Pingle (ICOH Vice-President) and Dr. Mahinda Seneviratne (ICOH Board Member) welcomed over 100 Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) professionals from Latin-America, USA, Europe, Asia and Africa who connected and had a very active participation.



The NS of Perú then collaborate with the NS of Colombia (Dr. Diana Cuervo), South Africa (Dr. Claudina Nogueira) and Argentina (Dr. Adolfo Hernández-current NS and Dr. Claudio Taboadela-past NS) to organised and hosted a webinar titled “Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in Mining: An overview of management, legislation, and current challenges in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)”. This event allowed that 4 countries joined to analyse the legislation, OHS practices, statistics and results in terms of Job Accidents and Diseases, and to discuss about the need to improve OHS systems, policies and programs in Latin-America, Africa and other regions, proposing potential solutions according to each country context.

The free webinar was held on Saturday 21 September 2024

Reports from the National/Area Secretaries

with two presentations in English and two in Spanish. From the NS of Perú, Dr. Mirella Bernal (lawyer and Specialist in OH in Mining) presented “Mining in Latin America: Comparison between selected countries in the region, including informal mining”. Also, Dr. Norvil Mera Chu (occupational physician and current NS for Perú) was the responsible for the wrap-up with closing remarks, and vote of thanks.



For Perú, October is a very important month due to Occupational Medicine Day (4th October) and the National Day of Medicine (5th October). So the NS for Perú in collaboration with ICOH Scientific Committee (SC) on Occupational Medicine organised and hosted the 3rd webinar titled “Occupational Medicine: a look at the past for projecting the future”, which was held on 4 October 2024 and included the participation of 2 speakers: dr. Krishna Nirmalya Sen, from India, as Past Chair of ICOH SC on OH in the Construction Industry, and Dr. Denis Barnaby, from Perú, as Past NS of ICOH for Perú and 1st ICOH member in Perú.

The event offered a platform for occupational physicians and OHS Professionals to review the contribution of Dr. Bernardino Ramazzini to the field and the origins of Occupational Medicine in Perú and Latin-America. Speakers and attendees could exchange ideas of future potential cooperation between countries to organize and participate in academic activities and about the needs and challenges for ICOH members, especially in Latin-America.

Dr. Shyam Pingle (ICOH Vice-President) and Dr. Hosanna Rodríguez (Current Chair of the Latin-American Association of Occupational Health) welcomed all the attendees from North and Latin-America, Asia and Africa. Dr. Norvil Mera Chu (current NS for Perú) moderate the webinar and conducted the questions from the audience. Finally, Dr. Vishnumohan Janardhanam, in representation of the SC on Occupational Medicine, closed this academic event and encouraged participants to continue working for improving work environments and workers’ health and safety around the world.



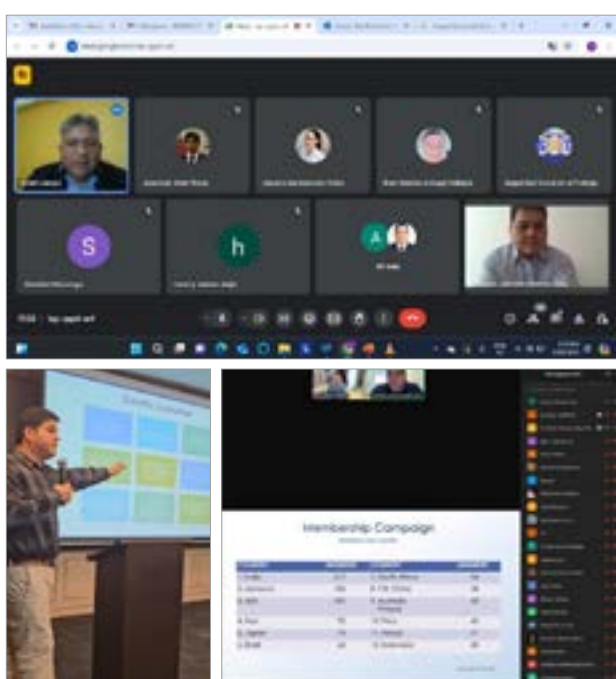
In October, the NS for Perú also participated in the International Diploma on Occupational Health organised by the Latin-American Association of Occupational Health, during the class held on 12 October in which Dr. Shyam Pingle was the main lecturer. Dr. Norvil Mera Chu was invited for the for the wrap-up with closing remarks, and vote of thanks.



Besides the webinars and collaborations, the NS for Perú

Reports from the National/Area Secretaries

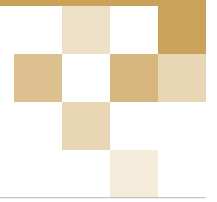
has been organising meetings (in person and online) with university students, post-graduated students and the Social Health Insurance from Perú, including provinces out of the capital, such as Piura and Puno. The objective of these meetings was to provide information about ICOH, the benefits of membership, the academic activities, etc to promote that more OHS professionals may affiliate.



The NS for Perú is currently working on future activities. One of them is the EPICOH Early Career Conference that will be held in Barcelona, in November 2024. In this event, Dr. Norvil Mera Chu is member of the Organising Committee which includes (for the very 1st time) Early Career Researchers in Occupational epidemiology and Occupational Health from different countries. He will also have an oral presentation and other activities during the conference.

For 2025, the NS for Perú has joined efforts to the SC on Occupational Medicine (SCOM) for organising the 2nd Conference on Occupational Medicine “Future and Opportunities for Occupational Medicine” which will be held in Lima, Perú from 27 to 29 November 2025. The objective is to update about emerging occupational diseases, their impact on the population, and their prevention with a holistic approach where there will be a medical, management and legal perspective. The aim is to obtain the participation of occupational doctors and other OSH professionals, of course from Peru, but also from neighbouring countries and other regions. The organising committee includes OHS experts from Perú, SCOM Staff and different regions.

Members' Activity



The following articles from the Members are here.

Janice Green (the former NS for Jamaica)
 Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)
 South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM)
 The Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM)

Jamaica Cancer Society-Jamaica Reach to Recovery

Janice Green (the former NS for Jamaica)



As stated on The World Health Organization (WHO) website, the WHO launched the Global Breast Cancer Initiative (GBCI) in 2021 to reduce mortality rates by 2.5% per year by 2040 to save 2.5 million lives through three key pillars of action on health promotion for early detection, timely diagnosis; and comprehensive breast cancer management. The breast cancer awareness month (BCAM) is celebrated globally every October to create awareness about breast cancer.

The Jamaica Cancer Society, which is a non-profit, non-governmental organization was established in 1955 with a mandate to fight and defeat cancer in all its form.

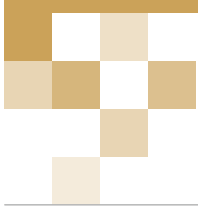
Through its mission “to eliminate cancer as a major health problem in Jamaica” the Jamaica Cancer Society provides the Jamaican public with a range of cancer control and prevention services which includes fixed and mobile screening for cancer of the breast, cervix uteri, and prostate at a highly subsidized user fee.

The Jamaica Cancer Society also commemorates breast cancer awareness month every October. Its theme for October 2024 was “Pink is an Action not just a colour...Schedule your mammogram appointment today!”

Every October there are a number of activities to raise funds for the Jamaica Reach to Recovery Limited; this is an affiliate arm of the Jamaica Cancer Society. The Jamaica Reach to Recovery Limited was founded in 1977. It is an organization of volunteers whose purpose is to provide educational, psychological, emotional and financial support for Breast Cancer patients.

In response to the need of the members of the Jamaica Reach to Recovery Limited who are facing financial challenges in accessing lifesaving tests and treatments; the organization stages an annual 5K Run/Walk known as the Pink Run. The money raised from corporate sponsors who participate in the Pink Run is used to help Jamaica Reach to Recovery Limited members with various tests and treatments, which can be very expensive.

According to data from the Jamaica Ministry of Health & Wellness website, cancer of the breast is the most common cancer among Jamaican women. There were 1208 new cases of Breast cancer in Jamaica in 2020.



Members' Activity

Monthly breast self-examination and annual mammograms which are X-ray images of one's breasts, are designed to detect cancers and other changes in breast tissue.

IOSH issues new call for research proposals

Karen Michell

The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) has launched its 2024-25 call for research proposals.

IOSH is inviting proposals for timely and original research that influences policy and practice in the field of occupational safety, health and wellbeing.

There are four different topic areas which are included in the call.

Firefighters' exposure to toxic chemicals: barriers and facilitators to adopting decontamination practices

With firefighters often exposed to various toxic agents through doing their duties, and research highlighting potential gaps in the cleaning and decontamination of their kit and personal protective equipment, IOSH is looking to understand more about this.

It is seeking research which explores and compares the barriers and facilitators to the implementation of effective decontamination protocols and practices for firefighters in the United Kingdom. As part of this, it would welcome comparisons with developed economies such as Canada, USA and Sweden.

Occupational health training for occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals: context, challenges, and opportunities

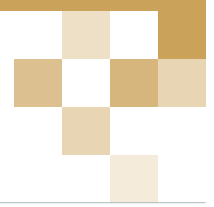
Despite OSH professionals playing a key role in supporting the health and work ability of employees, often their role is limited to a focus on safety matters. This part of the call is seeking to explore the aspects of existing occupational health training for OSH professionals in countries with sophisticated and mature regulatory frameworks.

This research should support the evaluation of a number of areas, including the knowledge of the health impacts of occupational hazards, the competencies required to prevent work-related diseases and ill health, and the role, type and content of education and training programmes designed to equip OSH practitioners with the skills and knowledge to prevent and address occupational disease.

Occupational safety and health and climate change - the impact of psychosocial factors in the agricultural sector

Climate change is increasingly becoming a factor that OSH professionals have to consider in their work. As well as the clear safety factors that it causes, there are many psychosocial risks that it brings about.

Members' Activity



This is why IOSH has included this in its list of research topics. There are two aspects to this call:

- To explore the impact of climate change on the mental health of agricultural workers in Africa and/or Asia and identify ways that these impacts can be mitigated to support good practice.
- To evaluate the work-related psychosocial impact of climate change on agricultural workers, contrasting those in low- and medium- income countries (i.e., those in Africa and/or Asia) with those in high income countries such as in Europe.

The robustness of national OSH statistics in the United Kingdom.

National statistics provide key insights into many different parts of a country's economy and society. Among them, OSH statistics are crucial when it comes to understanding trends in this area. It is crucial, therefore, that the data provided is accurate and a true reflection of the situation.

IOSH is looking for research which explores three aspects of the UK's OSH reporting structures and statistics. These are:

- The robustness and reliability of current reporting structures, available data sources, data collection mechanisms, and the categorisation for work-related disease, injury and ill-health to reflect the modern workplace.
- Identification of the strengths and weaknesses within the current recognised data sources at both national and local level.
- An analysis of national policy impacts on the reliability of national OSH statistics and OSH enforcement.

The IOSH research team

IOSH commissions a range of projects to establish evidence for health and safety policies and practice on many OSH topics. It often focuses on research that leads to the development of practical resources for the workplace, such as guidance, tools and case studies.

The IOSH research team includes subject-matter experts involved in:

- research monitoring and reporting
- attending conferences and events
- advising on the research activities of others.

The Institution's research is overseen by a panel of IOSH-appointed experts and OSH professionals who provide specialist research-related advice to uphold our rigorous process for the commissioning of research.

Find out more

The IOSH Research call involves a one-stage application process with a deadline of 11:59 GMT on Monday 13 January 2025. For more detailed information on this call, including accessing the application form, visit iosh.com/research24

Members' Activity



News from SASOM, the ICOH Affiliate Member in Africa

Claudina Nogueira

1. SASOM National Roadshow 2024

This year, the SASOM Congress was replaced by a SASOM National Roadshow. This initiative was aimed at addressing the challenges faced by occupational medicine practitioners (OMPs) and enhancing SASOM's visibility in the occupational health and medicine community after a 4-year absence of face-to-face scientific events. The Roadshow was organised in response to the multiple concerns raised by OMPs regarding service provision by non-OMPs, convoluted and illegal business settings, and unethical practices in the field of occupational medicine.

The theme of the 2024 Roadshow was 'Occupational Medicine is a highly specific discipline in workers' health' and its objectives were: 1) to address OMP challenges and provide solutions through interactive sessions, 2) to resume in-person visibility of SASOM and strengthen its presence in the occupational health community, 3) to offer Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for SASOM member OMPs, 4) to facilitate networking among attendees and engagement with key stakeholders, and 5) to provide community services aimed at improving occupational health services for employers and employees.

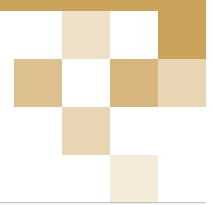
The SASOM Roadshow contributed to the enhancement of occupational health standards and practices. To this end, three sessions with individual sub-themes were held from July to October 2024, culminating in the SASOM Annual General Meeting (AGM) and associated academic day, in Cape Town on 9 November 2024, which was hosted by the SASOM Western Cape Chapter. Each Roadshow session was accredited by the South African Medical Association (SAMA) for four Ethical CPD points for full attendance.

Session 1: 'Occupational Medicine as a peer-based discipline'

The first session was held on Wednesday, 3 July 2024 (in hybrid format) in Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape province, and was chaired by Mrs Claudia Frost (SASOM National Office Coordinator). Three invited speakers delivered four presentations aligned with the session theme:

- Dr Jan Lapere (private practitioner in occupational medicine, medico-legal and social labour law, Gqeberha, South Africa) presented 'The employer's occupational health duty and South Africa's legal framework for occupational medicine', and 'The knowledge needed by the (non-medical) attendees to make the right decision in terms of occupational medical services and identify and deal with the perverse practices by unqualified service providers'.
- Dr Haidee Williams (specialist occupational medicine consultant and honorary senior lecturer at the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town, Western Cape province, South Africa) presented 'The role of OMPs in the chemical industry'.
- Dr Alex Govender (private occupational medicine practitioner, Uitenhage, Eastern Cape province, South Africa) presented 'Occupational health practice in China: What are the realities?'.

Members' Activity



Session 2: 'Peer-review networking of OMPs'

The second session was held on Wednesday, 14 August 2024 (in virtual format only), and was chaired by Ms Claudina Nogueira (SASOM ExCo member and ICOH National Secretary for South Africa). Four invited speakers delivered presentations aligned with the session's theme:

- Dr Jan Lapere presented 'The scope of profession of OMPs'
- Dr Jesne Kistan (specialist in public health medicine and palliative medicine at the Association of Palliative Care Practitioners of South Africa (PALPRAC) and Zazen Respite Care, Gauteng, South Africa) presented 'An overview of palliative care: Why does it matter to occupational health practitioners (OHPs)?'
- Dr Nicholas van der Water (lead physician at Medmark Occupational Healthcare, Galway, Ireland) presented 'Different but good: A tale of an OMP's journey to the Emerald Isle'. He explored the differences and similarities between occupational medicine practices in Ireland and South Africa through the lens of an occupational physician who trained in South Africa and transitioned to practice in Ireland during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Dr Geoffrey Tafaune (lecturer and occupational medicine specialist at the University of Pretoria and Gauteng Department of Health, Pretoria, South Africa) presented 'Lower back pain evaluation by the OMP: Remember the red and yellow flags'.

Session 3: 'Duties and responsibilities of occupational medicine practitioners'

The third session was presented in hybrid format in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa, on Wednesday 16 October 2024, and was hosted by the SASOM KwaZulu-Natal Chapter. Three invited speakers delivered presentations aligned with the session's theme:

- Dr Jan Lapere presented 'The occupational medicine practitioners' (OMPs) competency, functions and duties assisting employees and employers with occupational health matters'
- Dr Sujatha Hariparsad (consultant/lecturer-Discipline of Occupational and Environmental Health, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa) presented 'Mercury toxicity: A burden to bear in the struggle to maintain duties and responsibilities of OMPs'
- Dr Christel T Nagoorsamy (sessional lecturer-Discipline of Occupational and Environmental Health, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa) presented 'The effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection on occupational functional status: Optimising return to work programmes in the post-COVID-19 era).

2. Hot off the press-A new book on occupational lung diseases in the South African mining industry

SASOM is proud to congratulate Dr Vanessa Govender, member of ICOH and the South African Mine Medical Professionals Association (MMPA), on the publication and official launch of her book titled 'From suspicion to submission: Occupational lung diseases in the South African Mining Industry' – a handbook for occupational medicine practitioners in South Africa and beyond. Her book is 'dedicated to all workers who mine – past, present, and future', and will benefit mineworkers (current, former, and deceased) and occupational health professionals globally.

Members' Activity

Dr Govender is a specialist in occupational medicine with more than 30 years of experience in the mining industry, where she advises, diagnoses, treats, and manages cases of occupational lung disease for compensation claims. The diseases covered in the book include the pneumoconioses (silicosis, asbestosis, coal workers' pneumoconiosis, mixed dust pneumoconiosis); tuberculosis (TB), including TB complications and post-TB lung disease; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); systemic sclerosis; work-related asthma; lung cancer; and asbestos-related disease.

Dr Govender is currently the Director of Masakhane Strategic Health Consulting (Pty) Ltd, an honorary lecturer in the Wits School of Public Health, an associate member of the Colleges of Public Health Medicine of South Africa, and a member of the Tshiamiso Trust's Medical Advisory Panel. The Tshiamiso Trust manages thousands of claims for mine workers eligible for compensation due to contracting tuberculosis or silicosis from working in certain gold mines.

The book is published by MettaMedia Publishing (Pty) Ltd and was edited by Professor Gill Nelson, editor of the Occupational Health Southern Africa journal and Head of the Occupational Health Division, Wits School of Public Health, Johannesburg, Gauteng province, South Africa. The book is available for purchase on the Takealot online platform. For further information, or to purchase the book, please contact Dr Vanessa Govender at vanessa@masakhanehealth.co.za



Photograph: Courtesy of Dr Vanessa Govender

SOM Publications Catalogue 2024

Nick Pahl

Please find the new guidelines from SOM.

Driving and Occupational Health – An essential guide

Direct link:

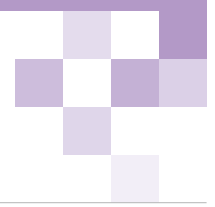
https://www.som.org.uk/sites/som.org.uk/files/Driving_and_Occupational_Health_August_2024.pdf

Suicide Prevention in the Workplace – Supporting Organisations and Employees

Direct link:

[https://www.som.org.uk/sites/som.org.uk/files/Suicide Postvention in the Workplace Supporting Organisations and Employees_2024.pdf](https://www.som.org.uk/sites/som.org.uk/files/Suicide%20Prevention%20in%20the%20Workplace%20Supporting%20Organisations%20and%20Employees%202024.pdf)

Résumé en français



Message du Président

Chers collègues de la l'ICOH/CIST,

La nomination des nouveaux dirigeants des comités scientifiques (CS) et des pays/zones (pays) s'est déroulée sans heurts dans la plupart des CS et des pays. Dans cette lettre d'information, j'aimerais souligner plusieurs points concernant la direction des comités scientifiques et partager des informations sur l'Initiative mondiale pour la sécurité, la santé et le bien-être (GISHW en anglais).

Élection des nouveaux membres du bureau de l'ICOH/CIST pour les comités scientifiques (CS) et les secrétaires nationaux/régionaux (SN)

L'élection des responsables des CS et des SN doit se faire par le vote des membres en règle un an avant le premier jour du congrès triennal. Après le début de la nouvelle période triennale, les membres élus doivent rester en règle en payant leur cotisation. Les responsables élus en règle peuvent être nommés à leur poste par le président après avoir soumis le formulaire de transparence.

Si les SC et les membres des pays ne parviennent pas à élire de nouveaux responsables ou secrétaires, l'élection peut avoir lieu au cours de la nouvelle période triennale. Si l'élection a lieu dans les six mois suivant la nouvelle période triennale, les membres en règle de la période triennale précédente peuvent être choisis. Après six mois, seuls les membres en règle de la période triennale en cours pourront être choisis. Dans ce cas, le modérateur de l'élection doit laisser le temps aux membres qui ne sont pas en règle de renouveler leur adhésion. Les secrétaires des SN sont nommés par les responsables des CS.

Toutes les élections pour les nominations doivent se dérouler par le biais d'un vote des membres. Les pays comptant moins de 16 membres peuvent proposer des candidats sans vote ; toutefois, dans ce cas, il convient d'obtenir un consensus parmi les membres. Toutes les communications entre les membres se font par l'intermédiaire des adresses électroniques figurant sur le site web de l'ICOH/CIST. Les membres peuvent sélectionner jusqu'à trois CS sur le site web. Pour ceux qui n'ont pas encore sélectionné leur CS, veuillez mettre à jour vos CS (jusqu'à 3) afin que les présidents et secrétaires concernés puissent vous joindre. Pour une meilleure communication, les membres doivent fréquemment accéder à la zone privée du site web et mettre à jour leur adresse électronique. Grâce au site web, les responsables et secrétaires des CS et les SN peuvent contacter leurs membres en utilisant les adresses électroniques enregistrées.

J'espère que les responsables et les secrétaires suivront toujours ce processus.

Conférences internationales

De nombreuses conférences internationales organisées par les SC sont prévues avant le prochain congrès triennal. Il est très important que les comités de surveillance organisent leurs propres conférences internationales afin de préserver leur identité. Lorsque les CS décident d'organiser une conférence internationale, les responsables et les secrétaires doivent garder deux choses à l'esprit : 1) l'annoncer sur le site web de l'ICOH/CIST en notifiant le plan au Secrétariat, et 2) contacter les membres du Conseil d'administration et les SN dans le pays pour les inclure dans le comité d'organisation local.

Résumé en français

GISHW à l'EXPO Osaka 2025

Le programme de la GISHW à EXPO2025 et au-delà, qui se tiendra à Osaka au Japon du 16 au 19 juillet 2025, est presque achevé. Le thème de l'ICOH/CIST est le changement climatique et les travailleurs migrants. L'ICOH/CIST organise un symposium et un atelier en collaboration avec l'IOHA (International Occupational Health Association), notre organisation partenaire.

Les effets de la variabilité du climat sur la santé des travailleurs migrants sont une question importante pour la santé au travail dans le monde. En mai, l'ICOH/CIST a publié la Déclaration sur les travailleurs migrants, qui aborde ces défis. Les CS sur les facteurs thermiques et la construction soutiennent ce symposium et cet atelier.

Les orateurs volontaires pour le symposium et l'atelier de l'ICOH/CIST sont les suivants

- Jason Lee Kai Wei (Singapour), ancien responsable du comité scientifique sur les facteurs thermiques (SCTF)
- Jaime Lim (Singapour), Représentant des membres de soutien
- Seichi Horie (Japon), Ancien membre du conseil d'administration
- Acran Salmen-Navarro (USA), Fondatrice de la Déclaration de l'ICOH/CIST sur les travailleurs migrants et responsable du SC sur les travailleurs de la santé
- Vidhya Venugopal (Inde), président du SCTF
- Mahinda Seneviratne (Australie), membre du conseil d'administration
- Jinha Yoon (représentant de la Corée), membre
- Kyoungho Lee (représentant de la Corée), Chef du bureau de planification de la santé, POSCO

- En collaboration avec d'autres officiers de l'ICOH/CIST.

Ces éminents orateurs aborderont des sujets allant des effets physiologiques des conditions liées à la chaleur aux stratégies d'intervention pour gérer les effets du changement climatique sur la santé.

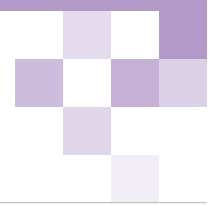
Outre le symposium et l'atelier, l'EXPO2025 proposera un large éventail de programmes liés à la sécurité et à la santé au travail. Une "Expo" peut être définie comme une exposition de technologies innovantes visant à améliorer la vie humaine. Parmi ces "Expo", il y aura de nombreuses innovations visant à protéger et à promouvoir la santé des travailleurs et à améliorer la vie professionnelle.

Il convient de noter que l'EXPO est également le lieu de naissance de l'ICOH/CIST, puisque le premier congrès de l'ICOH/CIST s'est tenu lors de l'EXPO de Milan en 1906. En regardant le passé avec un regard moderne, on sous-estime souvent l'importance des premières réalisations. À l'époque, le concept social des droits de l'homme, y compris la santé au travail, était révolutionnaire. Ce qui était considéré comme révolutionnaire dans le passé peut aujourd'hui sembler banal. Ce que nous considérons comme spécial aujourd'hui peut devenir une routine à l'avenir.

Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang

Président de la CIST

Résumé en français



Nouvelles du Secrétaire général

Chers membres de l'ICOH/CIST,

Au terme d'un nouveau trimestre productif, je voudrais partager avec vous toutes les activités clés que le Secrétariat a entreprises pour faire avancer notre mission dans le domaine de la santé au travail.

La campagne d'adhésion progresse bien. En outre, nous avons travaillé à la finalisation des nominations des secrétaires nationaux, ainsi que des responsables et des secrétaires de nos comités scientifiques. Comme vous le savez, ces rôles sont cruciaux pour renforcer la structure de l'ICOH/CIST et assurer le succès de nos initiatives.

L'une des réalisations les plus remarquables a été le lancement de notre premier webinaire dans le cadre de la série de webinaires de l'ICOH/CIST. Ce webinaire, intitulé "Connexion entre pratique professionnelle, recherche et niveau de preuve global : un webinaire de l'ICOH/CIST pour les praticiens", a attiré près de 100 participants.

Cet événement marque le début de la série de webinaires de l'ICOH/CIST qui sera élaborée pour la période triennale en cours. Cette série de webinaires est conçue pour explorer la santé au travail à travers diverses applications et faire progresser les connaissances professionnelles de notre communauté.

Nous concentrons également notre attention sur l'amélioration de notre présence numérique. Le secrétariat a réorganisé le contenu du site web, le rendant plus accessible et plus actuel. Dans le cadre de cet effort, nous avons également développé de nouveaux logos pour les comités scientifiques, qui reflètent notre engagement en faveur d'une identité de

marque cohérente. En outre, nous sommes sur le point de lancer des pages web dédiées à nos comités scientifiques, afin de faciliter le partage d'informations et un engagement fructueux de notre communauté scientifique au sein et au-delà de l'ICOH/CIST.

En outre, nous préparons notre première visite à Mumbai, où nous rencontrerons le comité organisateur local avec lequel nous commencerons à jeter les bases du congrès ICOH/CIST2027, qui se tiendra à Mumbai, en Inde, du 14 au 19 février 2027. Après cette première étape, nous commencerons à recueillir des propositions de sujets et de conférenciers auprès de nos membres bienfaiteurs et affiliés, ainsi que des 37 comités scientifiques de l'ICOH/CIST, afin d'élaborer le programme scientifique de ce qui sera, nous l'espérons, un événement inspirant et ayant un impact mondial.

Nous vous remercions pour votre soutien et votre dévouement continus.

Nous nous réjouissons de votre participation active aux activités de l'ICOH/CIST.

Pour de plus amples informations, veuillez contacter le secrétariat de l'ICOH/CIST à l'adresse suivante : ICOH/CIST@inail.it

Dr. Diana Gagliardi
Secrétaire général de la CIST





Résumé en français

Message du rédacteur en chef

Chers membres de l'ICOH/CIST,

La première année du nouveau triennat 2024-2027 s'achève. Nous vous souhaitons bonne chance pour le reste de l'année.

Lorsque l'année s'achève, il est naturel de penser à ce qui s'est bien passé et à ce qui n'a pas marché. Nous souhaitons toujours que les bonnes choses se poursuivent, mais parfois la vie ne fonctionne pas de cette manière. Beaucoup de choses se sont produites dans le domaine de la santé et de la sécurité au travail, certaines bonnes et d'autres moins bonnes. Il faut espérer que les bonnes choses se reproduiront et que les moins bonnes seront apprises et ne se répéteront pas.

J'apprécie le soutien et la contribution des membres à la publication de la lettre d'information de l'ICOH/CIST. Les nombreux articles de ce numéro vous rapprocheront les uns des autres et vous permettront de partager les questions de sécurité et de santé au travail dans le monde entier. Je me réjouis également de votre soutien pour l'année à venir.

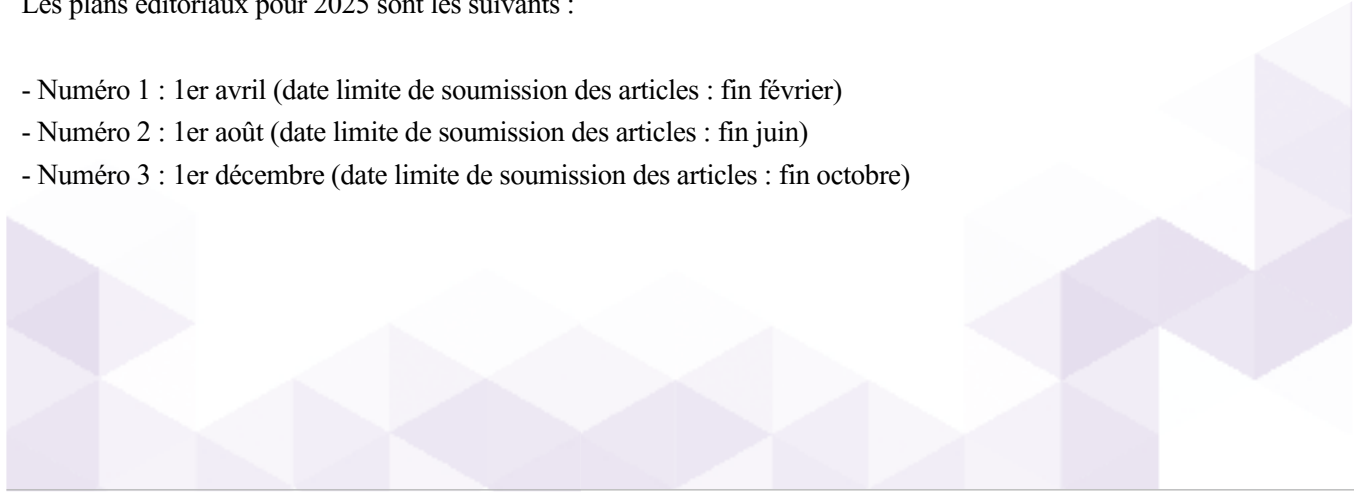
Bonne année !

Prof. Won-Jun Choi

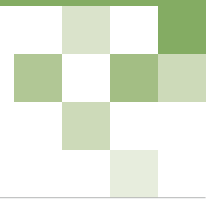
Rédacteur en chef, Bulletin d'information de l'ICOH/CIST

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

Les plans éditoriaux pour 2025 sont les suivants :

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

ICOH Scientific Committee Officers for Triennium 2024-2027



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

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

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Radiation and Work

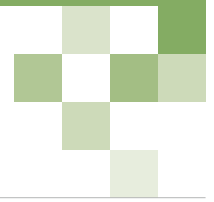
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ICOH Scientific Committee Officers for Triennium 2024-2027



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Email: kurtburak@msn.com

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Secretary: to be appointed
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Work Organisation and Psychosocial Factors

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National/Area Secretaries Triennium 2024-2027

Text in black indicates the National/Area Secretaries who are already appointed for Triennium 2024-2027.
Text in blue Italics indicates the National/Area Secretaries who served for Triennium 2018-2021 or 2022-2024 (new secretaries to be appointed).

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Croatia	To be appointed	
Czech Republic	To be appointed	
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VICE PRESIDENT

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Italian Workers' Compensation
Authority
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PAST SECRETARY GENERAL

Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy)

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*Season's
Greetings*



ICOH Secretary General and Staff