

Identification of Known, New and Emerging Work-Related Diseases

Work-related exposures are preventable. Traditionally, many work-related diseases have taken long time to be identified, prevented and then recognized as compensable. Asbestos for example is a case in point. Effective prevention is a concern for policy makers globally as it has direct impact on productivity, compensation costs and work-related sickness absence. Despite identification of many occupational causes of diseases identifying work-related diseases and causal factors remains a challenge. Objective of the symposium is to provide better understanding of systems and methods for identification of known, new and emerging work-related diseases. Importantly, some known work-related disease might well be new or emerging because of new work-process or new products that are made with old known hazardous substances. Then you also have diseases that are attributed to completely new exposures at work that not have been documented before. In this symposium, we will be providing examples from different systems for identifying work-related diseases, both known, new and emerging. The expected outcome of the symposium would be to enhance the collective understanding of researchers, policy makers and practitioners on how we together could identify known, new and emerging work-related disease and prevent them in an efficient and timely manner.

Work-related Non-communicable and Communicable Diseases and Injuries in Asia and Globally

Jukka Takala (ICOH, Finland)

Identification of New and Emerging Diseases

Lode Godderis (University of Leuven, Belgium)

New technologies and their potential to create new hazards(or alleviate old ones)

Frank Hearl (National Institute for Occupational Safety Health, USA)

Identification of Known, New and Emerging Work-Related Diseases

Olivier Lo (Group Medical Director - International SOS, Singapore)

Trends in Occupational Diseases in Finland, 1975-2013: A Register Study

Riitta Sauni (University of Tampere, Finland)

MODERATORS



Yogindra Samant

Dr. Yogindra Samant is a trained physician and epidemiologist employed as a chief medical officer at the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority. He has Medical degree from University of Mumbai, India. A Master's in Public health from the University of Minnesota, USA and a PhD. from the Norwegian University of Science Technology (NTNU), Norway. Dr. Samant has been working in the fields of Occupational and Public Health for over 20 years as a researcher, practitioner and a policy-adviser. Dr. Samant represents the Norwegian government at the executive board of the European Agency for Occupational Safety and Health (EU OSHA), and also serves as an occupational health expert on several European, and Nordic Occupational Safety and Health initiatives. Dr. Samant is also an active member of the management board at the Norwegian Association of Occupational Medicine. A significant amount of his work at this time involves chairing the Nordic Group on the Future of Work and Occupational Safety and Health where issues such as digitalization, climate change and migration are being addressed. Dr. Samant continues to work as a part-time as public health doctor engaged in control and prevention of environmental exposures in the local communities.



Lode Godderis

Prof dr Lode Godderis is professor at the Centre for Environment and Health of the University of Leuven. He is also CEO at IDEWE (idewe.be), a Belgian External Service for Prevention and Protection at Work. He investigates the impact of work on health by unravelling the underlying mechanism and also the reverse how health can affect work (dis)ability. He is member of the expert group that advises the Belgian government on the measures and exit strategy in the Covid-19 crisis. Internationally, he is involved in a leading role in several international projects such as, EPHOR: Exposome Project for Health and Occupational Research (ephor-project.eu/) and HBM4EU Science and Policy for a Healthy Future (hbm4eu.eu/) and METEOR: MENtal Health: Focus On Retention of Healthcare Workers. He is the current chair of Modernet (modernet.info/); an international network for development of techniques for discovering trends in work-related diseases and tracing new and emerging risks. He is also management committee member of EU COST action Omega-Net. A full list of publications and projects is available: <https://lirias.kuleuven.be/cv?u=U0005874>

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SPEAKERS



Jukka Takala

Jukka Takala, Adj.Prof./TUNI, FFOM (Hon) President of the International Commission on Occupational Health, ICOH
Short CV of Jukka Takala

- President of ICOH 2015 -
- DSc, Adj. Professor, Tampere Universities, Finland, FFOM (Hon) ;
- Executive Director emeritus, Senior Consultant, WSH Institute/MOM, Singapore from 2011-2017
- 40+ years of global experience in Workplace Safety and Health (WSH), in six countries and three continents, in industry, and national/international civil service, UN, ILO, EU



Frank Hearl

Frank Hearl is the Chief of Staff for the U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), providing policy analysis, scientific and engineering support, and inter-agency coordination related to emerging occupational safety and health issues. During his 47-year career with NIOSH he has co-authored numerous publications and presentations on the effects of dust on the lungs (silicosis, coal workers pneumoconiosis), cumulative risk, robotics, and artificial intelligence. His experience includes quality assurance engineering, field industrial hygiene and epidemiology studies, and research management. He is a Fellow of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA), and has a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Purdue University and a masters degree in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



Olivier LO

Dr. Olivier LO is a French occupational health physician trained in France & UK but residing in Asia for the last 33 years. He is a Group Medical Director for Global Occupational Health Services at International SOS, the world's leading health & security services company. He contributed as expert to the revised GRI-403 (Global Reporting Initiative) on Occupational Health & Safety standard and ISO 45001 OHS Management Standard (ISO TC/283 member); he is also serving as a board member at the ICOH (Intl Commission on Occupational Health) and board member at the FCCS – French Chamber of Commerce Singapore, bringing him into closer to some of the OH&S challenges faced by employers/industries.

Riitta Sauni

1. Degrees
 - Title of Docent in Occupational Medicine, University of Turku, 28.5.2010
 - Specialist in occupational health, University of Tampere, 11.9.1997
 - Degree of PhD, University of Tampere, 29.8.1989
2. Other education and expertise
 - Examination in leadership and management (JET), May 2013
3. Current employment
 - Full-time professor in occupational health and occupational medicine, Tampere University, start 17.2.2020
4. Research output
 - Publications in journals with referee practice: 62. Articles in professional publications: 86. Books sections : 24. The topics have covered prevalence of occupational lung diseases and respiratory symptoms caused by silica dust, cobalt, moulds, or by exposures in construction industry, and quality assessment of the diagnostics of occupational diseases. We have studied the inflammatory markers as early signs of negative effects of inhalable occupational exposures. In addition, we have published studies on dose-response effect of hand-arm vibration, as well as the work ability and the health-related quality of life in hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS). We have also studied trends of occupational diseases in Finland. In the Modernet collaboration we have published an international study on comparison of the trends in occupational diseases in several countries.