



NEWSLETTER



ICOH
International Commission on Occupational Health

CIST
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail

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Message from the President



Dear ICOH colleagues,

Due to global warming, climate change affects the lives of workers worldwide, as well as the ordinary lives of people. In line with the ICOH Statement on migrant workers, these workers, who primarily come from low and middle-income countries to middle and high-income countries, are particularly vulnerable to the environments of the host countries, where weather and living conditions often differ significantly from their home countries. Traditional occupational health has historically focused solely on the work environment. However, the living conditions, including housing, of migrant workers are equally important, along with providing a safe and conducive work environment. This echoes the well-being emphasis in many European countries, extending beyond a narrow view of occupational health.

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

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

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



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

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

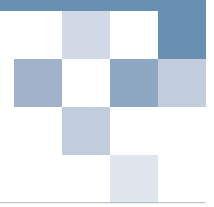
ICOH Mid-Term Meeting in Angers, France in May

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

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

These representatives were selected based on their performance in recruiting new members within their respective countries or areas during the previous Triennium. In the Triennium spanning from 2018 to 2022, countries such as South Africa, India, the USA, Italy, Australia, and Brazil stood out for recruiting the highest number of new members in their respective regions. Consequently, the NSs of these countries were extended invitations to the meeting. The NSs

Reports from the Scientific Committees



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

Overall Wikipedia Estimates:

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

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

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

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

Dr. José Hernan ALFONSO, SC Chair, Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses

Prof. Swen M JOHN, SC Secretary, Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses

Dr. Marc WITTLICH, SC Chair, Radiation and Work

Dr. Alberto MODENESE, SC Secretary, Radiation and Work

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

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

Reports from the Scientific Committees

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



The team of the MEAOW@SolarUV project



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

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

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

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



ICOH Scientific Committee Officers for Triennium 2022-2024

Text in black indicates the SC Officers who are already appointed for Triennium 2022-2024.

Text in blue Italics indicates SC Officers who served for Triennium 2018-2021 (new officers to be appointed).

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Text in blue Italics indicates the National/Area Secretaries who served for Triennium 2018-2021

(new secretaries to be appointed).

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