

actual documentation and/or publication of their work. Thus, the extraordinary evolution and influence of history upon contemporary science and practice may not be fully appreciated and could potentially be lost to future generations of workplace health and safety researchers and practitioners.

Methods Join us as we explore this phenomenon and engage one another in identifying key resources and platforms for the selection, archival, and preservation of the essential historical resources connecting our past to the present day. In this workshop, we will reflect on the merits of establishing a centralised database for historical documents, share choices in personal archival methodology and technology, fully explore *The History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases* web archive project, and provide practical hand-on experience in the archival of one's own content. In preparation, workshop participants are urged to bring three pieces of informational content (i.e., paper documents or electronic publications) to contribute to the archive.

Results This workshop will highlight the significance of historical preservation and impart methodology, technology, and best practices for the archival of historical documents. Through practical experience in contributing content to a centralised platform, participants will learn the steps necessary to establish one's own strategy for archival.

Conclusion Our goal is to reintroduce historic research into the occupational safety and health community—saving valuable time and resources spent to rediscover historical significance. A concerted effort to preserve and share accrued knowledge will afford current and future generations with the opportunity to more fully explore historic 'windows of influence' and lessons learned, providing foundational elements upon which to discover future avenues for the reduction of harmful occupational exposures and improved worker protection across the U.S. and around the world.

1678 HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH IN IRELAND

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Aim of special session This session will address the Irish perspective on the history of occupational disease.

1678a THE LONG HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE IN IRELAND

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Since man arrived to Ireland agriculture has been integral to the political cultural and economic development of our society. Indeed our principal mythology involves a row over a prize bull. Early settlers probably came from northern Spain or southern France some 10,000 years ago and were hunter gatherers. Early evidence shows increased deforestation with

cereal growing mainly oats and barley. Although some settlements developed in proximity to Christian monasteries, urbanisation came with the Vikings in medieval times. Significant geopolitical change did not occur until the 18th century with the collapse of the Celtic society. With the plantations came the development of modern agriculture in Ireland. Industrialisation, with the exception of the northeast, did not occur in Ireland. Agricultural developments saw flax in Ulster, tillage in Leinster and dairying in Munster. However whether freehold or tenant 50% of holdings in the early 1800s were between one and five acres. With increasing need to sell product tenant, farmers became dependent on the potato for sustenance and on the 'lumper' in particular. By the 1840s, the population had increased to 8 million. The famine of the 1840s due to failure of the potato crop resulted in significant death and emigration. In the twentieth century holdings increased in size with the focus on dairy and beef. Agricultural related industries such as brewing, sugar production and flour production continued. The utilisation of peat for the development of turf-related industries occurred in the twentieth century. Currently, the emphasis on the whole island remains on dairy and beef production. Improvement in regulation through the European Union has resulted in fewer farm accidents, reduction in respiratory and dermatological conditions. The agrifood sector accounts for 10% of employment today. Holding remains small and part time farming is common.

1678b FLAX AND LINEN IN THE HISTORY OF IRISH INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

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Flax was once grown in every county of Ireland, when the production of linen was an entirely cottage industry. After the Williamite war of 1691 immigration to Ireland was encouraged and many who came were Huguenots from France. Notably Louis Crommellin came to Lisburn, in County Down, to establish a colony of Huguenot linen weavers. Just how much their arrival contributed to innovation is arguable but they enriched the range of linen idiom. Linen manufacture came to be concentrated in north-west Ulster. Ramazzini, in 1705, had noted respiratory problems associated with 'a foul mischievous powder' entering the lungs of flax hacklers, but it was not until production was mechanised in the 19th Century that it became a serious problem. In 1831 Thackrah described similar cases in Leeds; by 1860 Greenhow had employed the term 'Byssinosis' (from the Greek 'bussinos' – of linen) in an official document and recorded that the condition was exacerbated on Mondays, ie 'Monday Fever.' In 1856, Malcolm in Belfast, demonstrated that the condition was related to the initial, dustier phases of linen manufacture. Another Ulster doctor, Charles Nicholas Delacherois Purdon (who had Huguenot forebears), in the 1870s described diseases associated with linen manufacture: '...one of the most injurious, and in certain branches very fatal, is the effect induced by the inhaling of flax dust, called by the workers 'Pouce,' (from the French: 'poussif' – wheezy) which is produced, when the fibre is cleansed by machinery.' Those employed as 'doffers' (from the French: 'démonteurs' – dismantlers) who removed the spindles did not suffer from Pouce because they were exposed to heat and vapour rather than dust which rendered them more susceptible to bronchial