

# Occupational and Environmental Medicine



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- 1 International Steering Committee of Medical Editors, Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *Br Med J* 1979;1:532-5.
- 2 Soter NA, Wasserman SI, Austen KF. Cold urticaria: release into the circulation of histamine and eosinophil chemotactic factor of anaphylaxis during cold challenge. *N Engl J Med* 1976;294:687-90.
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Logical recommendations would be employment of non-smokers, and continued reduction in concentration of platinum salts in the air of work areas. These measures, combined with prompt removal from exposure of all workers with a positive skin prick test to platinum salts should considerably reduce the incidence of sensitivity to platinum salt in refinery personnel.

We thank the refinery management and staff for their participation in the study. We are especially grateful to the refinery medical centre staff for their co-operation and meticulous data collection.

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## Correspondence and editorials

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latency period of 10 or 15 years was applied. The interpretation is complicated by lack of data on smoking.

### Conclusion

A slightly increased incidence of gastrointestinal malignancies in lead workers employed before 1970, as well as an increased mortality from ischaemic heart diseases, was indicated in this study. The risk estimates did not show a dose-response pattern and were not associated with latency time. The results must also be interpreted with caution because of limited numbers, and lack of information on dietary and smoking habits. Most epidemiological studies about the relation between exposure to inorganic lead and the development of malignancies have been negative. Small excess risks in some studies could be explained by confounding factors and are often difficult to evaluate because of lack of individual exposure data on cumulative lead exposure. The animal experimental findings and the increased risks indicated in some studies, especially for stomach, lung, and bladder cancer in a recent meta-analysis<sup>19</sup> still keeps the question of human carcinogenicity on the agenda.

This work was supported by grants from the Swedish Work Environment Fund, the Swedish Cancer Society, and the Medical Faculty, Lund University.

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- 31 Møller L, Kristensen TS. Blood lead as a cardiovascular risk factor. *Am J Epidemiol* 1992;136:1091-100.

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- 3 Bagdon RE, Hazen RE. Skin permeation and cutaneous hypersensitivity as a basis for making risk assessments of chromium as a soil contaminant. *Environ Health Perspect* 1991;92:111-9.
- 4 Horowitz SB, Finley BL. Using human sweat to extract chromium from chromite ore processing residue: applications to settings health-based cleanup levels. *J Toxicol Environ Health* 1993;40:525-99.
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and other health professionals involved in giving travel advice would also find this book beneficial.

The book shows the increased interest and awareness of health problems of travel, and reflects modern, up to date opinions. It is easy to read, concise, with useful summaries and reference lists at the end of each chapter. As well as covering the more commonly debated topics of malaria and traveller's diarrhoea, there are also chapters on less prominent, but equally important issues such as health in ethnic minority travellers and expatriates. As in all branches of medicine; some travel related problems have no ideal answers, or have answers that continue to be matter of opinion or subject to controversy, and this book attempts to consider this and encourages further debate.

In conclusion this book is a clear synopsis of various subjects in travel medicine; it contains up to date medical information, and would be of interest to a wide variety of health professionals, but perhaps would not be suitable for people from a non-medical background. Although slightly overpriced, it would certainly make a good library addition.

DIPTI PATEL

## NOTICES

## BOOK REVIEW

**Travel Associated Disease.** Edited by GORDON COOK (Pp 179, £15). 1995. London: RCP. ISBN 1860160123.

The hazards associated with travel have been well documented over the years. In the past, emphasis has been on infectious diseases, but with the rapid growth of travel medicine as a speciality, it has become increasingly obvious that these are not the only hazards encountered by the modern traveller.

This book covers various issues in travel medicine ranging from disease prevention to jet lag. It does not contain exhaustive information on all aspects of the speciality, but concentrates on various "hot topics" that would be useful for physicians in the travel medicine, tropical medicine, and other related fields. General practitioners

**The Second International Conference on the Health of Miners. November 11-13, 1995. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA.**

The second international conference on the health of miners will be held November 11-13, 1995 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA at the Pittsburgh Hyatt. The mining committee of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) is acting as co-sponsor along with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, Bureau of Mines, the International Labour Office, the United Steel Workers Union and such corporate sponsors as BHP Minerals and the National Mining Association. Proceedings from the conference will be published in a single peer reviewed edition.

For further information contact: Dr Michael McCawley, Division of Respiratory Disease Studies, 1095 Willowdale Road, Morgantown, WV 26505-2845, USA. Tel: (304) 285-5749; Fax: (304) 285-5861.

### IOSH '95

**Health and safety conference and exhibition. The route to excellence—a safe journey. 4-6 December 1995. Harrogate, Yorkshire.**

The United Kingdom's leading professional health and safety organisation's prestigious annual conference and exhibition is once more being held at the Harrogate International Centre, the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health's conference takes as its theme this year: *the route to excellence—a safe journey*.

A strong line up of high calibre speakers is now being finalised for IOSH '95. The keynote address will be delivered by Sir Neville Purvis, chief executive of the British Standards Institution. Presentations will be given by other senior figures such as David Giachardi, a director of Courtaulds plc, who will discuss competency in the profession, and Stansted Airport's managing director, Terry Morgan, who will talk about how the average health and safety practitioner influences his or her company's decisions.

Speakers will focus on a comprehensive range of subjects in both formal presentations and a series of concurrent workshop sessions. Topics will include:

- the recently announced NVQs/SVQs for occupational health and safety practice and the maintenance of competency standards
- the environment and the effects of packaging
- construction, design and management: the new regulations
- proactive planning for crisis management
- Leyland Truck case study: practical management of risk assessment
- advocacy skills for safety practitioners

For further details contact: Deborah Fisher, IOSH, The Grange, Highfield Drive, Wigston, Leicestershire LE18 1NN, UK.

### BRITISH OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE SOCIETY

**Occupational Hygiene 96: Promoting A Healthy Working Environment. 22-26 April 1996. University of Keele, Staffordshire.**

Final call for papers. Send title and one-page outline of material you wish to present, indicating if it is for:

- scientific session (10-40 minutes)
- professional development session (60-75 minutes)
- poster display

Students are particularly encouraged to offer papers, that may be presented in special sessions, or posters of their work.

Proposals must be sent by 29 September to Jerry Sherwood, Chairman of the 1996 Conference Committee, c/o BOHS, Suite 2, Georgian House, Great Northern Road, Derby DE1 1LT, UK. UK Fax: 01 332 298 099. International Fax: 441 332 298 099.