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NOTICES

Occupational Disorders of Vibration (all aspects) 15-16 September 1995. Ohrid, Macedonia.

The Symposium is organised by the Macedonian Society of Occupational Health founded in 1992.

The Symposium will comprise:

- physical characteristics of vibration;
- epidemiology;
- clinical aspects;
- treatment;
- prevention.

For further information contact: Macedonian Society of Occupational Health, Institut za medicina na trudot, II Makedonska brigada 43, 91000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. Tel/fax +389 91 26 48 05.

Third Annual ICOE Intensive Course in Occupational Epidemiology. 28 May-2 June 1995. Wermelskirchen, Germany.

Purpose: The ICOE offers five days of practical instruction in designing, analysing and interpreting occupational epidemiological research. Specifically developed for occupational physicians, industrial health and safety managers, and other health professionals, the ICOE uniquely combines lectures with workshops, hands on microcomputer data analysis exercises, and seminars on recent epidemiological research in Europe.

Topics: Planning occupational cohort, case-control and other studies; strategies for controlling confounding and preventing bias; how to analyse occupational health data: criticising epidemiological research; conducting epidemiological surveillance in the workplace.

Faculty: Professors Harvey Checkoway (author of ICOE text, *Research Methods in Occupational Epidemiology*), Carol Bigelow (Biostatistician and data analyst) Kenneth Mundt (Epidemiologist and ICOE Director), and several noted seminar speakers.

Fees: Programme: DM 1600,—(includes tuition, texts, materials, computer use and software), DM 1000,—for students. Accommodation (single room with bath and full board): DM 700,—Scholarships may be available.

The course is presented jointly by: Institut für Epidemiologie und Sozialmedizin, University of Münster; Applied Epidemiology, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA; Akademie für öffentliche Gesundheit, University of Bochum.

Note: Early registration is recommended, as space is limited. Future ICOEs are scheduled for 9-14 June, 1996 and 1-6 June, 1997 in Wermelskirchen, and 13-17 January, 1997 in Paris.

For further information, contact: Walter Dieckmann, Dipl rer soc, Akademie für öffentliche Gesundheit, D-44780 Bochum, Germany. Phone: 49 (0)234 700-5162; Fax: 49 (0)234 709-4325.

BOOK REVIEW

Book review editor: R L Maynard

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Cellular and molecular effects of UVA and UVB. NA CRIDLAND, RD SAUNDERS (Pp 95; price £10). 1994. Chilton, Oxford: National Radiobiological Protection Board. ISBN 0-85951-3742.

Recent years have seen a substantial increase in the incidence of both melanoma and non-melana skin cancer, both of which

have been associated with exposure to sunlight. At the same time it has become apparent that progressive depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer is occurring, most obviously in the southern hemisphere, with an increasing potential for ultraviolet radiation between 280 and 315 nm (UVB) to reach the surface of the earth. Ultraviolet of slightly shorter wavelength (100-280 nm, UVC) has been widely used in DNA repair and mutation studies and through its use there have been recent breakthroughs in our understanding of the dual role of several human gene products in both DNA repair complexes and transcription complexes. The UVC from the sun, however, fails to reach the earth's surface and attention has perforce turned to UVB and UVA that produce a different spectrum of photoproducts from UVC. In sunlight there is more UVA than UVB, but the UVB is much more biologically potent for a given radiant exposure. Both are less potent than UVC and although a great deal is known about UVC, the photoproducts it gives rise to in DNA, and the mutations that may ensue, this information cannot be directly extrapolated to UVB and UVA.

This small monograph comprehensively reviews what is known about the effects of UVA and UVB on cells and the molecules within them. The information is set in the context of the accumulating evidence that UV(A + B) is a complete carcinogen. A role in initiation was predictable from our current understanding of the effects of UVC photoproducts in DNA, many of which are also generated by UVA and UVB. There is a chapter devoted to mutagenesis, including effects on oncogenes and tumour suppressor genes, as well as chapters on DNA damage and DNA repair. For tumour promotion, the most relevant data concern a complex stress response the effects of which may include an increased rate of cellular proliferation that would allow clonal expansion of initiated cells. This is admirably covered in a chapter on gene expression that covers effects on expression of proto-oncogenes and tumour suppressor genes, and genes involved in intercellular signalling, DNA repair and specific protective functions, and activation of viruses and genes associated with tissue proliferation.

Tumour progression may be influenced in several ways, but it is clear that effects of UV on immune cell function, well summarised in chapter 7, may be crucial, along with further mutational changes that enhance the invasiveness and metastatic potential of a tumour.

The depth of discussion in the monograph is sufficient to allow a reasonably accurate grasp of the area without obfuscating detail. As a concise primer it is to be recommended. At £10 for 95 A4 pages including a glossary, it is also fair value for money.

BRYN BRIDGES