Abstracts

1748 THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKERS’ HEALTH TO ADVANCE THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

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Introduction The 2030 Agenda embraces the three dimensions of sustainability – economic, social and environmental. It was adopted by world leaders at the United Nations in September 2015. The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development puts people and planet at its centre and gives the international community the impetus it needs to work together to tackle the formidable challenges confronting humanity, including those in the world of work and for improved health for all.

Discussion WHO has recognised that addressing social determinants of health – the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life- are key for the creation of health; employment conditions are essential in this context.

When examining the situation and role of workers’ health in the SDGs, we see that over the last years limited progress has been made; The latest ILO figures show that work-related fatal injuries and diseases have increased from 2.3 million to 2.78 million per year, increasing the global cost of the failure to adequately address occupational safety and health concerns to an estimated 3.94% of global GDP per year, or 2.99 trillion US dollars. Roughly half the world’s population still lives on the equivalent of about US$2 a day, and in many places, having a job does not guarantee the ability to escape from poverty. This slow and uneven progress requires us to rethink and rettool our economic and social policies aimed at eradicating poverty.

The 2030 agenda seeks to reduce poverty and to increasing equity. Some specific SDG objectives are achieving Universal Health Coverage (still only 15% of workers worldwide have access to specialised occupational health services) and achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men.

These are very ambitious goals; but they are essential and they are feasible. But in order to meet those goals, the world needs to focus on people, by implementing public policies that improve employment conditions and health of workers, through a very close coordination among government agencies responsible for health, labour, social security and economic development, together with employers and workers’ organisations.

1749 CONNECTED WORKPLACE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING IN AN IRISH CONTEXT

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Ireland’s industrial heritage is often overlooked. Though not of the same scale as our closest neighbour Ireland has a significant industrial past. The famine not only led to depopulation particularly of rural areas but also to urban drift and the growth of factory labour. Early health and safety legislation focused on extractive, manufacturing and transport industries. Modern Irish legislation has encompassed the terms health, safety and welfare from its inception in 1989. The practical focus has been on the safety component, a reflection of preceding legislation. Over the last 10 years there has been an increased focus on health and welfare and a move toward the concept of wellness. The concept of Total Worker Health though more established overseas and particularly in the United States, is a new arrival in Ireland. This approach attempts to integrate the functions of occupational health, health promotion, and health protection programs with the aim of improving employee health, minimising work-related injuries and illnesses, and reducing employee health care-related costs. It has been embraced to varying degrees by different organisations and with varying levels of success. Prof Gallagher will discuss the reasons behind this and will look at some recent evidence and case examples in Ireland. He will address where occupational medicine fits into the concept of total worker health and how this may develop in the future. This has implications for the discipline of occupational medicine which he will also address. Finally he will look at the challenges and opportunities of connected health approaches.

1683 PSYCHOSOCIAL CONDITIONS AFTER OCCUPATIONAL INJURY

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Introduction Annually in the world, more than 300 million nonfatal occupational accidents occur requiring at least 4 days of absence from work. Elevated psychiatric disorders and psychological symptoms are reported after occupational injuries. In addition, those with poorer psychological conditions had lower probability of returning to work, and those who with a disability of the upper or lower extremity tended to have higher mortality from self-harm in later life than did the general population. In cases of severe injury, a proportion of workers spent the rest of their life suffering from psychological ailments.

Methods Using the available information on incidence rates of occupational injuries, and related psychological and psychiatric ailments after occupational injuries, overall psychosocial...