International Collaborations

1029 BRINGING TOGETHER OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE SPECIALISTS – DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE SOCIETY COLLABORATIVE (IOMSC)

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Introduction In 2013, ACOEM and SOM convened leaders from national occupational medical societies to discuss mutual issues in global occupational and environmental medicine (OEM) and established the International Occupational Medicine Society Collaborative (IOMSC). IOMSC's mission is to improve workers' health and workplace safety on a global scale. It provides OEM societies opportunities to gain the knowledge and expertise required of OEM physicians; tools/resources to educate their members; practices by what has been proven to work; and the ability to reach all global regions with more effective OEM care. Its active participants are delegates appointed by occupational medical organisations, world over, and currently includes 40 societies in 36 countries.

Methods IOMSC conducted a member survey (July 2015) to quantify the reach of IOMSC globally and identify common modes of OEM practice and key changes in the workplace. IOMSC plans to develop projects to address challenges identified (e.g., assist with education/training of physicians to share best practices; summarise scope of OEM practice in a position paper; develop guidebook on how to establish and promote the role of the society).

Result Survey results (n=21) indicated that OEM practitioners encounter similar challenges including the growing complexity of diseases/illnesses; rapid change in workforce and population trends; and shifting legislative and economic policies that impact the profession. Scope and delivery mode of OEM services varies widely among countries, being influenced by governmental/regulatory structures.

Discussion With IOMSC, OEM societies can create a strong case to explain the value of OEM to employers, workers, the medical community, and governments. IOMSC can help increase awareness of OEM in terms of using its preventive strategies and risk assessments to prevent injury/illness and helping employers understand the value of good health in enhancing productivity and profit. IOMSC is well positioned to address professional issues and advance OEM through education, sharing best practices, and advocacy.

1212 WHAT IS THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF THE NEW (2016) OSHA SILICA DUST STANDARD?

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Introduction In 2016 the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) completed a new standard for

workplace crystalline silica. We are trying to understand what this will mean outside the U.S.

Methods/current situation On March 24, 2016 OSHA issued a revised silica dust rule setting levels in construction and general industry at 50 ug/m³ for 8 hour workday—1/2 of the 100 ug/m³ previous standard. More information available <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/03/25/2016-04800/occupational-exposure-to-respirable-crystalline-silica>.

OSHA is now labelling respirable silica a known human carcinogen, as it has been judged by IARC since 1996. In addition to silica being known to cause silicosis, it is now judged to be linked with auto-immune and kidney diseases. The new rule expected to save 600 lives and 900 cases of silicosis annually in U.S.

Results The World Health Organisation (WHO) is leading efforts to document the numbers of silicosis cases worldwide. Although the rates of silicosis have declined in most industrialised nations, they appear to be steady or rising in Asia, Africa, South America and the former Soviet Union. In South Africa, there is a strong effort to control silica dust because it is linked with excess silico-tuberculosis (silicoTB), especially in migrant gold miners. OSHA is likely to be asked by other global regulatory agencies to share their work, though we do not expect the new administration to be very supportive. There may be some collaboration to study nonsilicosis lung diseases, lung cancer and other cancer endpoints in countries such as South Africa, China and Chile. In the Philippines there have not been any published research, but there should be a focus on education of miners and construction workers.

Discussion The new OSHA silica rule may spur other nations to adopt the new 50 ug/m³ standard, to undertake novel research studies, and to offer education to alert workers to silica's health risks.

1757 FUTURE OF WORK AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH: AN OVERSIGHT OF THE NORDIC FUTURE OF WORK AND OSH REPORT

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Introduction In 2016 representatives from different state organisations working with OSH in the Nordic countries joined up to identify challenges in work and work life – today and tomorrow. The principal aim after that was to formulate ideas on how to tackle these challenges – and present recommendations to the national labour inspectorates based on this. The report is entitled Diversity of the future workforce and work tasks – challenges to OSH.

Results Pace of change within the work market in the Nordic countries is fast, it brings a high degree of complexity, and the identified challenges begs the attention of the labour inspections to prepare in advance. The report states that there is a need to look more closely on (amongst others): the changing nature of work and its location – safety

management, the increasing sick leaves, level of work ability and occupational diseases, and

Discussion We are moving more and more towards an on demand economy, and the global supply chains disrupts and enhances national challenges. Newness require from the employees more diverse and constantly shifting qualifications and continuous updating and upgrading of skills. A higher level of own initiative and (self) management is needed – and to some extent there has been a transferring of risk assessment to the employee. The digitalisation and globalisation provides access to a broader labour force market, which bring more intense competition, and on-going automatization and robotics puts even more pressure on the work force to adapt. Even more, there is a blurring of the role and duties in-between the employer and employees – and the physical work place is disappearing more and more.

Regulatory authorities need therefore to devise new methodologies and regimes for OSH regulation, with a holistic approach, and in close collaboration with all interested parties. It is by working together that we can really make a difference for all workers and in fact society as a whole.

1757a

FUTURE OF WORK, AND STRATEGIC RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES FROM THE NORDIC OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTES

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Introduction Emerging risks, and constantly changing technologies which have an impact on the world of work require a continuously updated knowledgebase for policy makers and practitioners. The Nordic research institutes have a unique position in this effort where they attempt to provide strategic research inputs to the Future of Work initiative.

Methods Discussions in the group, Nordic research institutes inputs on strategic research perspectives looking in to the Future.

Results Perspectives Reports provides insights in to the strategic needs, with regard to Future of Work and occupational health.

Discussion The current perspectives report provided by the Nordic Future of Work Group, set up in 2016 as an initiative by the Director Generals of the Nordic Labour Inspectorates, has provided a basis upon which both the Nordic inspectorates and the Nordic institutes of occupational health have seen a need for building the knowledge base.

The broad mandate of the group includes the potential for recommending areas of research and research activities, and may as well include both continuous research within existing areas as well as potential new areas of research. Recommendations expected to come together with the research strategies of the Nordic institutes of occupational health in each Nordic country.

This presentation will provide some of the background for the strategic research perspectives from the Nordic countries aligned with the perspectives report and ongoing research on Future of Work.

1757b

WORKING ANYTIME, ANYWHERE: THE EFFECTS ON THE WORLD OF WORK

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Introduction New information and communications technologies (ICT) have revolutionised everyday work and life in the 21 st century. They enable people to connect with friends and family – as well as with work colleagues and supervisors – at any point in time; however, they also facilitate the encroachment of paid work into the spaces and times normally reserved for personal life. The uncoupling of paid work from traditional office spaces has been a crucial factor in this development. Today's office work and, more broadly, knowledge work, is supported by the internet, and can be carried out from practically any location and at any time. This new spatial independence has transformed the role of technology in the work environment, offering both new opportunities and new challenges.

This report considers the impact of telework/ICT-mobile work (T/ICTM) on the world of work. T/ICTM can be defined as the use of ICT – such as smartphones, tablets, laptops and desktop computers – for the purposes of work outside the employer's premises. The report synthesises research carried out by Eurofound's network of European correspondents in 10 EU Member States – Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the UK – and by ILO country experts in Argentina, Brazil, India, Japan and the US. These contributors were asked to review and summarise the findings of data and research literature on the subject of T/ICTM in their respective countries.

The report classifies T/ICTM employees in relation to their place of work (home, office or another location) and the intensity and frequency of their work using ICT outside the employer's premises. The following groups were identified: regular home-based teleworkers; occasional T/ICTM workers, with mid-to-low mobility and frequency of work outside the employer's premises; and high mobile T/ICTM, with high frequency of working in various places, including working from home.

The extent of the adoption of T/ICTM across different countries, and its effects on working time, performance, work-life balance, and health and well-being are analysed using information from the national studies, supplemented by data from the sixth European Working Conditions Survey.

The report also reviews policy initiatives by governments, social partners and companies in relation to T/ICTM. The findings can contribute to the development of effective policies in the areas of digitalisation, fair working conditions and decent work in Europe and other regions of the world.

Methods A standard expert questionnaire on T/ICTM and its effects was jointly developed by Eurofound and the ILO in 2015. The questionnaire was used to structure and compile the data on T/ICTM available in each country analysed in this report. The breadth and depth of available data on T/ICTM vary substantially across the 15 countries observed. Data sources in all the national studies include large-scale surveys with individuals, while some include surveys with households and companies. Other information sources include research studies, in-depth interviews with experts and employers, white papers,