reducing stigmatisation, improving collaboration between professionals and implementing programmes for rehabilitation. Each speaker will give a short introductory presentation on their perspective on mental health in the workplace. This will be followed by a panel interview conducted by the session chair and include opportunity for questions to be asked from the audience.

**IOSH research** This session builds on recent research funded by IOSH into the ‘Barriers and facilitators of return to work after sick leave in workers with common mental health disorders’ (Joosen, et al). This study was completed in the Netherlands. Interviews were utilised to explore what occupational health professionals, mental health professionals, general practitioners, managers and workers saw as the barriers to and facilitators of work resumption by workers suffering from common mental disorders. The work includes reflection on the workers’ own perspectives on what had led to sickness absence.

The research identified four main areas for improvement:

- The need for different agencies and professionals to collaborate more closely with each other when dealing with each case.
- Personalise workers’ return to work support by focussing on their values, views and needs.
- Support workers in gaining self-awareness and regaining control.
- Improve manager’s skills and knowledge in guiding workers after suffering a common mental disorder.

This research embellished IOSH’s work in this area and is complimentary to its OH Toolkit, webinars and other information sources it has published. These tools are freely available and actively promoted to our members and wider audiences.

**A GLOBAL VIEW OF IMPACT OF PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS ON HEALTH, WORK AND WELLBEING**

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**Aim of special session** Global Impact on productivity and health of psychological factors such as fatigue, depression, sleep deprivation in a company population

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**GLOBAL VIEW OF IMPACT OF PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS ON HEALTH, WORK AND WELLBEING**

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**Introduction** Employers around the globe are being encouraged, recommended or legally mandated to consider the health of their employees beyond the scope of physical health. This broader scope of psychological health and safety in the workplace encompasses issues like depression, inadequate sleep, excessive job demands, low job satisfaction, extending their consideration into areas of direct and indirect business impact.

**Methods** Responses of 4 20 000 employees in 123 countries to an online health risk appraisal that included measures of psychological and organisational factors were used to compare and correlate the impact of these factors, stratified by level of severity, on health and work. Psychosocial factors included work-related sources of personal stress, depression, sleep and organisational stress, the imbalance of job satisfaction and job stress. Impact on work was measured based on self-reported limitations on performance of work functions and absence from work.

**Results** As the severity of psychosocial risk factors increases, so does the unfavourable impact on job performance limitations and absenteeism, directly and indirectly, through the interaction with worsening physical health risk. For example, for individuals screened for depression (PHQ-9), comparing those with no depression symptoms to those with severe depression, we see globally 3.6 times the prevalence of individuals with 4 or more lifestyle-related risk factors, 13.0 times prevalence of 4 or more chronic conditions, 7.2 times prevalence of severe sleep problems and 11.5 times prevalence individuals reporting more stress than satisfaction from their work. Globally, prevalence of psychosocial risks varies by region, country and site. (e.g. prevalence of mild to severe depression ranges from 16% for North America to 37% for Asia and 39% for Africa and Middle East).

**Discussion** When evaluating health risk, it is important to include psychosocial factors. More studies are required to investigate the impact of psychosocial factors on work and interaction between psychosocial factors and health.