

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers, Contributors and Friends,

At the beginning it is worth to briefly inform our Readers and Contributors on the past meeting of Editorial Board headed by the Editor-in-Chief, Professor Konrad Rydzyński.

The main concern was the rate of implementation of the Journal Development Plan (JDP) in 2012.

The analysis of data for 2012 showed that the number of publications of Polish authors comprised 41.9% of all publications vs. 58.1% were publications from other countries. The original papers predominated (79.25%) in comparison with review papers (7.55%), case reports (11.31%) and short communications (1.89%).

Summing up, it was concluded that generally IJOMEH goes on in a right direction, and – according to JDP – in the nearest future, increase in yearly number of the issues, from 4 to 6 is anticipated.

This spring, in the thick issue of the Journal we may find as many as 14 articles.

Let me please summarize it shortly.

The issue is commenced with an extensive review by J. Jurwicz et al. of epidemiological studies on exposure to widespread toxicants and children development over the last eleven years identified by carrying out a search of the PubMed, Medline, Ebsco and Toxnet databases.

The results suggest that the developing nervous system is particularly vulnerable to adverse effects of low levels of exposure to such environmental contaminants as phthalates, bisphenol-A, brominated flame retardants, as well as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and cooking gas.

The series of original papers starts with the study of J. Khoubi et al. who interviewed 300 patients suffering

from bladder cancer and 500 controls, in search of association of the disease with their occupations. A significantly increased risk was indicated among truck and bus drivers (OR = 11.3), skilled agricultural, forestry and metal industry workers (OR = 6.0).

The pulmonary function impairment and airway allergy among Egyptian bakers was assessed by A.E. Fahim and M. El-Prince. The results pointed out that occupational exposure to flour dust may affect respiratory irritation and sensitization as well as reduce pulmonary function tests such as FVC, FEV₁, FEV₁/FVC and FEF_{25–75}.

M. Järvelä et al. investigated inflammatory response in male workers following exposure to welding fumes and airborne particles during the working day. They found a slight, acute inflammatory effect estimated based on the increased values of leukocytes and neutrophils in blood and a decrease in the interleukin 1 β and E-selectin values. The next paper, by S. Battakova and B. Shraimanov, concerns the impact of job conditions on the state of the afferent part of the somatosensory system. Using the somatosensory stimulated potential (SSP) in 148 miners with vertebrogenic spine pain syndrome they proved that even a mild pain syndrome may cause neurophysiological changes.

S.A. Meo and K.A. Ruberaan studied the effect of the long-term exposure to electromagnetic field radiation (EMFR) generated by activated mobile phone on fasting blood glucose. The results obtained using Wistar Albino rats showed the increase in fasting blood glucose and serum insulin.

Another article by J. Zajdel et al. is aimed at evaluating the knowledge of medical law in the group of 328 allergists and/or pulmonologists. The questionnaire survey revealed

being insufficiently conversant with legal regulations, among others, in the physicians awareness of a patient's right to a consent or refusal before undertaking a medical procedure.

The next paper, by A. Garus-Pakowska et al., is a continuation of the paper on the observance of hand washing procedures performed by the medical personnel, published in the former issue. The present report is devoted to the procedures after contact with a patient. And again the findings turned out to be alarming (the mean time of hand washing was 9.2 s for physicians and 6.7 s for nurses) and in need of the educational programs.

Occupational accidents in artisanal mining in Katanga are described by M.M. Elenge et al. Three hundred ninety two accidents occurred during 12 months preceding the study, affecting 72.2% of miners; tools handling was a main cause (in 51.5%) of accidents. Therefore, tools improvement and an adequate training seem to comprise the basis of prevention.

In the paper by G.A. Chitra et al. the prevalence of household pesticides in rural community of South India is reported. Out of 143 households 95% used at least one pesticide; nearly a half of the users of rat traps, mosquito coils, moth balls did not know that pesticides were harmful to their health.

The problem of sharp injuries as occupational hazard in hospital environment is brought up by N. Osazuwa-Peters et al. Their self-administered questionnaire study performed among the newly graduated medical and dental students practicing in governmental hospitals in Nigeria

revealed the prevalence of percutaneous injury in 56.9% of the subjects, and needlestick hurt to be a one-third of all injuries.

M. Nasiadek et al. investigated the effect of cadmium, a widespread environmental pollutant, on the coagulation and fibrynolysis in female patients with uterine endometrial cancer or myoma. The disturbances in coagulation and fibrynolysis parameters leading to hypercoagulability were detected, hence it appears that exposure to cadmium may induce these changes.

The last but not least original paper, by R. Brodzka et al., discusses a practical application of multi-element analysis of urine by means of Dynamic Reaction Cell Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-DRC-MS). The developed method allows to determine, with low detection limits, simultaneously eleven trace elements in the urine. The section of short communications, which closes the issue, is represented by paper of M. Szumska et al. devoted to exposure of medicine students to tobacco smoke, based on the analyses of main nicotine metabolites. The study confirmed that medicine students are highly exposed both actively and passively, and that ELISA screening, followed by TLC densitometry are appropriate methods for the assessment of such an exposure.

We hope that the contents of this issue will prove interesting to our Readers.

*Prof. Wiesław J. Sułkowski
on behalf of the Editorial Board*