

# EDITORIAL

At the beginning of the editorial I would like to bring the Readers' attention to one of the most important events for occupational medicine that have been organized this year, i.e. 30th ICOH Congress held in Cancun, Mexico, 18–23 March, 2012, with the motto "To build a bridge between research and practice in order to help developing countries to improve the level of workers' health protection". Some of the IJOMEH Editorial Board members, among them the Editor-in-Chief and myself, have attended the Congress to give lectures and to promote our Quarterly. Therefore, in one of the next issues we will be able to share our impressions with the Readers.

In this issue you will find ten papers. The first one, by M. Rutkowski and K. Grzegorzczak, reviews extensively the data on the adverse effects of antioxidative vitamins. The Authors conclude that high doses of synthetic A, E, C and B-carotene vitamins are usually administered on a long-term basis, and instead of preventive or therapeutic effect, it may lead to hypervitaminosis and even to intoxication. Hence, some principles of safety – while applying supplementation – should be abided by doctors and patients.

A very interesting article by H. Moshammer et al. is devoted to an experiment with levoglucosan as a marker of woodsmoke in air and urine. The recent climate change leads to the renaissance of wood burning and results in particulate exposures. The study proved that urinary levoglucosan may be used for biomonitoring woodsmoke exposure on the same day.

The next paper by D. Kaleta et al. reports on the prevalence and socio-demographic correlates of daily cigarette smoking in Poland. The presented results from a global adult tobacco survey (GATS) questionnaire have shown that over 33% of men and 21% of women smoke

cigarettes on a daily basis. It refers especially to males and females 20–59 years of age (compared to the population aged 60 and more) and the residents of urban areas as well as those with a lower educational level.

Our colleagues from the Czech Republic, H. Tomaskova et al., investigated cancer incidence in black coal miners in association with coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP) and found the increased lung cancer risk in coal miners with CWP, comparing with the general population. The study's results were used as the basis for the inclusion of lung cancer accompanied with CWP into a new list of occupational diseases.

A. Bortkiewicz et al., researchers from the Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, assessed the changes in tympanic temperature during the exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) generated by mobile phones. Their double-blind study on ten volunteering healthy young men with exposure emitted by mobile phones (frequency 900 MHz) and tympanic temperature monitored by a thermistor probe placed close to the tympanic membrane indicated that the physiological response to EMF exposure was mostly related to the continuous or intermittent type of exposure.

The relationship between health care organizational changes in Finland and employees' evaluations of their work ability was examined in 2429 respondents by L. Kokkinen and A. Konu. The risk of having decreased self-evaluated work ability was higher among the respondents who stated they could not understand the changes than among those who understood them. The findings also suggest that changes in social and health care may entail costs.

The next article, by D. Merez and A. Andysz, explored the relationship between person-organization (P-O) fit

and the objective and subjective health status. The results obtained by the Authors show that obtaining the optimal level of P-O fit can be beneficial not only for the organization (e.g., lower turnover, better work effectiveness and commitment), but also for the employees themselves.

F.-X. Lesage et al. studied the psychometric properties of the French version of the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS) including three variants (14, 10 or 4 items) in the sample of 501 workers of occupational health centers. The results concerning the effects of age, gender, marital and occupational statuses showed that the PSS-10 version had better discriminative sensitivity.

The next paper by A. Kilanowicz et al. presents an experimental study on the distribution and excretion of hexachloronaphthalene (HxCN) – a widespread environmental contaminant – in rats, following a single intraperitoneal or intragastrical administration. It was found that HxCN belongs to the compounds of a slow turnover rate that in the case of repeated exposure may accumulate in the rat body.

A curious case of contact blepharoconjunctivitis induced by para-phenylenediamine (PPD) with edema of the upper part of the face and concomitant increased eosinophilia in the tear fluid in a 48-year old female due to black henna used for dyeing eyelashes and eyebrows is reported by A. Pas-Wyroślak et al.

The last paper contained in this issue, by H. Hannerz et al., published in the section “Short communications”, concerns the time trend analysis of return to work (RTW) after stroke in Denmark in the light of legislative changes aimed at facilitating RTW. The study provides circumstantial evidence that the changes had an effect on the odds of RTW. Summing up, we hope that in the present issue of IJOMEH the Readers will find interesting reports and conclusions worthy of their attention.

We highly appreciate any and all contributions to the Journal and hope our further cooperation will be as successful as it has been so far.

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