

EDITORIAL

The current, quite extensive, issue which tops our editorial activity in 2011, includes 8 original papers, 2 case reports, a letter to the editor and a Polish bibliography review of occupational medicine articles published throughout 2010. The first paper, written by E. Boberg, L. Lessner and D.O. Carpenter, tries to assess the potential association between residence near hazardous waste sites containing benzene and hospitalization discharge rates for people suffering from hematologic cancers in New York State. A statistically significant increase was found — after controlling for major confounders — in the rates for several hematologic cancers (e.g., chronic lymphatic leukemia, lymphoma) in persons living near waste sites containing benzene.

The next paper, by P. Salameh, G. Khayat and M. Waked, is devoted to the evaluation of the validity of respiratory toxic exposure score (RTES) with the use of exhaled carbon monoxide as a marker of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in the absence of spirometry. The findings show that RTES could be a good low-cost tool for screening COPD when spirometry is unavailable.

Another problem was brought up by W. Wąsowicz et al., namely the cyto- and genotoxicity of nanocomposites (NCs) and a generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) as a result of particle-cell interactions. The study proved that the examined silver-coated nanocomposites (both TiO₂-Ag and Res-Ag) may cause genotoxic effects in murine macrophages J774A.1 and that Res-Ag increased the generation of ROS.

The paper by M. Talebi-Taher et al. examines the prevalence of latent tuberculosis infections (LTBi) in Iranian health-care workers (HCW). As it turned out, a QuantiFERON-TB Gold test was more effective for LTBi diagnosis than the tuberculin skin test (TST).

M. Biernacki and A. Tarnowski evaluated the effect of age and personality on cognitive abilities in drivers. They examined 160 professional drivers using special questionnaires and concluded that, in the context of driving safety, age (besides the intelligence level) is the best predictor of the cognitive functioning level.

The paper by M.R. Naghii et al. reports the possible association between activity and inactivity and non-lipid cardiovascular disease (CVD) in healthy military recruits. The findings confirm that by reducing the risk factors of developing CVD (such as homocysteine and interleukin-6) and increasing free testosterone it is possible to underscore the beneficial properties of physical activity.

The methodology of follow-up of the children examined is presented by K. Polańska et al. in their Polish Mother and Child Cohort Study aimed at evaluation of the impact of exposure to different factors during pregnancy and after birth on the pregnancy outcome, children's health and neurodevelopment. The results will become available within the next few years.

The paper by R. Świercz et al. describes the results of 4-week inhalation exposure to 2-methylnaphthalene in rats. The exposure on the level of 10 mg/m³ appeared to represent the lowest-observed-effect level.

Another problem in the area of toxicity, this time in humans, is reported by G. Epping, J. van Baarlen and P. van der Valk who present the case of acute pneumonitis following inhalation of a fluorocarbon polymer-based rain-proofing spray in woman treated in emergency department.

The next case report drafted by S. Tonini et al. concerns a caprometacarpal subchondrial cyst occurring due to repetitive movements in a shoemaker. It proves that

repetitive movements may cause bone cysts, even if the subject does not use vibrating tools.

A still up-to-date topic, namely asbestos, is moved by the letter to the editor written by J. Lange, G. Mastrangelo and L. Cegolon concerning the paper by N. Szeszenia-Dąbrowska, B. Świątkowska, Z. Szubert and U. Wilczyńska entitled “Asbestos in Poland: occupational health problems” and published in IJOMEH 2011, vol. 24, No 2. The reply to the letter is included in the current issue as well.

Finally, the issue contains a detailed review of the articles on occupational medicine published in 2011 in

Polish-language journals which has been prepared by G. Kowalczyk.

Issue 4/2011 is closed, as always, by the calendar of scientific events in 2011–2013 and the authors and key words indexes for 2011.

Since the current year is slowly coming to its end, the Editors would like to thank the Authors, Reviewers, and Readers for their significant contribution in the development and promotion of our Journal, and also to wish them all the best in the year 2012.

Wiesław J. Sułkowski
Deputy Editor