

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers, Contributors and Friends,

Do you know that our journal has already existed for a quarter of a century? It was founded in 1988 and was initially called “Polish Journal of Occupational Medicine”, then in 1994 it was transformed into “International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health”. Celebrating this pleasant anniversary we may boast about the impact factor which is still increasing and for 2011 it amounted to 1.227. Such a good result is certainly a merit of our Contributors who submit interesting papers to us and Reviewers responsible for their in-depth evaluation. Editorial Board may promise that they will constantly take care of the maintenance of high scientific level of the Quarterly.

In the present, thick issue closing the yearly volume of 2012 you will find as many as 14 original papers, 2 review articles, 3 case reports and 1 bibliographic review.

M. Pawełczyk et al. comes up with an analysis of inner ear potassium recycling genes as potential factors associated with tinnitus; the study included 128 noise-induced tinnitus workers vs. 498 workers without tinnitus. Nominally significant associations were obtained for 2 variants in *KCNE1* and *SLC12A2* genes out of which, the first gene contributed to tinnitus regardless of the occurrence of the noise-induced hearing loss.

The next paper by Czech-Polish team i.e. I.M. Hlaváčová and I. Mulicka is focused on the risk assessment of the high-energy liquid jet technology using Failure Mode and Effect Analysis; the authors discuss the risk identification, estimation and evaluation of health and safety.

The prevalence of the risk factors of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in the normotensive, pre-hypertensive and

hypertensive South African colliery executives is reported by J. Grace and S. Semple; the executives with pre-hypertension and hypertension exhibited higher prevalence of workplace CVD risk factors as compared to normotensive subjects.

I. Mohebbi et al. examined the effect of working schedule patterns on developing the metabolic syndrome in night-shift drivers vs. daytime drivers without shift work. The study showed that metabolic syndrome (central adiposity, hypertension and other components) was more common among the shift workers.

The next two articles concern toxicological animal experiments using rats.

E. Bruchajzer et al. studied porphyrogenicity after repeated administration of octabromodiphenyl ether (OctaBDE). The investigation revealed that such exposure affects biosynthesis of heme and levels of porphyrins. Fertility and developmental toxicity studies of diethylene glycol monobutyl ether (DGBE) are presented by K. Sitarek et al. The results indicate that the substance administered for 9–10 weeks at a limit dose of 1000 mg/kg did not impair fertility or variability of the offspring during the first 3 weeks of life.

A. Lipińska-Grobelny and E. Papińska compared the readiness for change and job satisfaction of workers employed in 2 enterprises: the first, with lean production and the second, with mass production. The study indicated that the lean production positively affected the attitudes of human resources of the company.

Another original article is presented by G. Cevenini et al., who propose a new method for quantitative measurement of subjectively perceived occupational stress enabling precise prevention and improvement of work quality.

A. Bortkiewicz et al. carried out the heart rate variability (HRV) analysis in the workers of radio and tv broadcasting stations and proved that exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields may affect the neurovegetative regulation.

The work-related health emergency cases involving hydrofluoric acid are the subject of a report by M.B. Forrester; the patients were mostly male adults and majority of exposures occurred by dermal contact followed by inhalation.

The prospective study by B. Kręcisz et al. is devoted to evaluation of the allergenic properties of the orthopedic metal knee or hip joint implants conducted 24 months after the surgery. The authors demonstrated that metal orthopedic implants may be the primary cause of allergies resulting in implant failure, therefore patch-test screening should be obligatory before surgery.

The results of the questionnaire study on the relationship between antibiotic therapy in early childhood and symptoms of allergy are presented by F. Raciborski et al.; a direct relationship between antibiotic use in the first 3 years of life and asthma and allergy symptoms in children aged 6–8 years was found.

The problem of progression of small pulmonary interstitial changes in chest radiographs of former asbestos workers is addressed by B. Świątkowska et al. The analysis of radiographs of 5144 individuals showed that the risk of progression of interstitial fibrotic processes was higher in smokers, blue-collar workers involved directly in production and employees of the asbestos cement or textile industries.

The next paper by D. Świerczyńska-Machura et al. reports on immunological determinants in a murine model (on 50 female mice) of toluene diisocyanate (TDI)-induced asthma. The developed model caused the influx of inflammatory cells like eosinophils and neutrophils in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid.

The present issue also includes two review papers. The first one by A. Haschke et al. depicts a meta-analysis of

indirect costs in patients with coronary artery disease (CAD) and mental disorders, based on literature search (4962 relevant studies). A strong evidence for diminished odds of return to work in CAD patients with comorbid depression was identified, highlighting the need for integrated CAD and depression care.

The next paper by K. Polańska et al. reviews the epidemiological studies on exposure to environmental and lifestyle factors and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children, based on Medline, PubMed and Ebsco search. The majority of the studies focused on exposure to tobacco smoke and found association between the exposure and ADHD. The impact of phthalates, bisphenol, aromatic hydrocarbons and alcohol was investigated less frequently.

In the section of case reports there are three interesting papers. The first one by K. Basista deals with airborne contact dermatitis in a beekeeper, the second by Y. Wang et al. describes chronic manganese exposure-induced neurasthenia syndrome, and the last (but not least) by F. Gobba and C. Abbacchini presents the case of anosmia due to acute exposure to pyrethrin-based insecticide.

The issue comes to an end with the letters to the editor, concerning the article “Occupational risk assessment of oxidative stress and genotoxicity in workers exposed to paints during a working week” by C. Cassini et al. (published in 2011, 24 vol., no 3, pp. 308–19).

In the end, it is worth drawing your attention to the extensive bibliographic review of Polish occupational medicine journals prepared by G. Kowalczyk.

We wish you a good time reading *in extenso* the papers shortly summarized in the Editorial.

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