

EDITORIAL

Dear Friends of IJOMEH,

This May–June issue includes as many as 14 original papers, 1 short communication and 1 case report.

The first article by E. Casimirri et al. (Italy) discusses relationship between the prevalence of chronic diseases and sickness absence. Examining the representation of Italian public employees it was found that gastrointestinal and psychiatric diseases were the most frequently reported ones in the sick-listed sample, and the latter were strongly associated with the sickness absence days.

The cross-sectional study comparing health status among self-employed craftsmen joiners and paid joiners was conducted by F.-X. Lesage et al. (France). More dermatologic pathologies, ear/nose/throat symptoms, pulmonary and musculoskeletal disorders were identified in craftsmen.

M. Pawlaczyk-Łuszczynska et al. (Poland) evaluated annoyance from the wind turbine noise (WTN). The questionnaire pilot study showed that WTN at the calculated A-weighted SPL of 30–48 dB was perceived as annoying outdoors by 33.3% of the respondents, and indoors by 20.5% of them.

Next paper by Y. Yao et al. (China) is aimed at investigating associations between general self-efficacy (GSE), workplace violence and doctors' work-related attitudes. The results of their cross-sectional questionnaire survey suggest that GSE can modify effects of workplace violence on health care workers' stress and job satisfaction.

The effect of gender on satisfaction with life and burnout among active physiotherapists is the subject of interest of Z. Śliwiński et al. (Poland). The study revealed that women who are satisfied with their children, health, free time and contacts with friends are less prone to burnout, while men reported that these were mainly satisfaction

with children, marriage and partnership, with one's work and occupation that contributed to reduction of burnout.

B. Das (India) explored occupational health problems among the brick field workers. The most common findings were musculoskeletal disorders i.e. pain especially in the lower back, hands, knees, wrists, shoulders, neck and symptoms of physiological stress.

The relationship between job stress, temperament types and depressive symptoms in female nurses is described by Y. Kikuchi et al. (Japan). Based on the results of the self-report survey the authors came up with a conclusion that health professionals should consider temperament, especially depressive and cyclothymic types, in order to help employees cope with job stress factors better.

The paper by M.D. Braquehais et al. (Spain) is devoted to promoting voluntary help-seeking among doctors with mental disorders. Analysing the data from the Barcelona Integral Care Program for Doctors with Mental Disorders (PAIMM) they conclude that sick physicians may feel encouraged to seek help in non-punitive programs where treatment becomes mandatory only if there is a risk of malpractice.

The results of experimental study evaluating discomfort glare are presented by A. Wolska and D. Sawicki (Poland). It was shown that discomfort glare sensation changes with age and that the younger subjects seem to be more sensitive and demanding comparing with the older ones.

The topic of work-related respiratory symptoms among cleaners of health centres is brought up by A. Lipińska-Ojrzanowska et al. (Poland). The cross-sectional survey indicated that nearly 60% of all the subjects declared occurrence of at least 1 symptom suggesting allergic ailment during cleaning activities. However, skin prick tests and specific serum IgE antibodies were negative, and only in

single cases wheezing in auscultation and obstructive pattern in rest spirometry were found. Therefore, in this group of cleaning service workers, mainly the non-specific irritant impact of chemicals should be taken into consideration.

P. Kłuciński et al. (Poland) have assessed the influence of long-term low levels of ionizing radiation (LLIR) on the selected B cells populations in the workers of X-ray units. The study suggests association between suppressive influence of LLIR on circulating in peripheral blood, especially of B1 cells as well as memory B cells, which is adverse in relation to microbiological threat.

The question of association between pesticide consumption and infant mortality rates due to central nervous system (CNS) and cardiovascular (CVS) congenital malformations is raised by C. Cremonese et al. (Brazil). Using the data on pesticide expenditure in rural areas of Brazil with intense agricultural activity and deaths caused by CNS and CVS malformations in infants under 1 year of age, the authors suppose that possibly, such a prenatal exposure may be related with the occurrence of certain congenital defects. The next paper by D. Jurakic et al. (Croatia, Slovenia, Australia) concerns the patterns and correlates of physical activity among middle-aged employees. The analysis of the relationship between physical activity (PA) and potential socio-demographic, lifestyle and work-related

correlates indicated that PA promotional activities should be primarily focused on males, employees living in smaller settlements and those with higher educational levels.

Physical activity is also the subject of the study performed by A. Soroka and B. Sawicki (Poland). This time, in police officers and cadets. It turned out that the policemen present high physical activity levels within work domain, which are developed from initial training at a police academy and then throughout their police career.

E. Korzeniowska et al. (Poland) present short communication in the matter of health education methodology addressed to low-educated employees (LEEs). The findings collected from Latvia, Poland, Slovenia and Spain prove the need for specific health education guidelines which, among others, will encourage the LEEs to participate in training concerning health.

Closing the issue the case report by P. Krawczyk-Szulc et al. (Poland) describes the first documented case of occupational asthma and rhinitis due to samba wood dust in a wooden airplanes model maker in Poland.

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

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