



**ICOH 2006-2008 TRIENNIUM
MIDTERM SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MIDTERM REPORT
Covering June 2006 – October 2007**

Note: We are using an identical format for the SC Midterm and Final Reports. Each covers a specified timeframe. **The SC Midterm Report covers June 2006 – October 31, 2007. Please return it no later than December 1, 2007 to:**

Vice President Marilyn Fingerhut mfingerhut@cdc.gov and
Secretary General Sergio Iavicoli sergio.iavicoli@ispesl.it

The SC Midterm Report will be maintained on the ICOH Scientific Committee Virtual Office at www.icohweb.org/scvo.

Submitted by Scientific Committee: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Date: 2007-12-01

Chairman: Hans Martin Hasselhorn From year: 2006
Email address: hasselho@uni-wuppertal.de

Secretary: Lotta Dellve From year: 2006
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SC Website URL: www.arbmed.uni-wuppertal.de/icoh

Other SC Means of Communications: Mail, Newsletter “ICOH COMMITTEE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS –THE NEWSLETTER“ – APPROX 3 TIMES A YEAR

Focus and aim of Scientific Committee:

- To improve and promote health for health care workers by disseminating the latest research findings and practice to the occupational health community
- To encourage research and courses in the area of OH for HCWs
- To identify research needs in the area of OH for HCWs
- To organize scientific and consensus meetings on OH for HCWs
- To inspire transitions from research to practice and from practice to research

**PART I – ACTIVITIES: Business meetings, Conferences, Seminars and Workshops
Midterm Report: June 2006-September 30, 2007**

Please note collaborations with other SCs, WHO, ILO and NGOs.

1) **Business meeting:**

Venue: Venice, Italy

Date: Wednesday, June 14, 13.00 to 14.30, Milan

Number of attendees: 29, of which 20 committee members

Date report sent to VP Fingerhut: by the end of June 2006?

Name of the event:	ICOH 2006 Satellite Symposium "Shiftwork and Ageing in Health Care Workers"				
Type of event:	Conference	Seminar	Workshop	Course	Other
	Pre-conference				
Date:	8-10 June 2006 - Venice				
Venue:	Venice, Italy				
Organizers:	Giovanni Costa, Donatella Camerino, Paul Conway and more colleagues from Milan, Italy				
Co-organizers and Collaborators: Please describe roles.	A joint satellite symposium with the ICOH Committees: Ageing Work and Occupational Health for Health Care Workers				
Number of participants:	About 100				
Publication of proceedings:	No				
Book of abstracts:	Yes				
Book of selected proceedings:	No				
Special issue of peer reviewed journals:	No				
Assessment of success:	No				

(3) Name of the event:	Musculoskeletal Diseases in the Health Care Sector: Patients Handling Chair: E Occhipinti (IT)				
Type of event:	Conference	Seminar	Workshop	Course	Other
		X			
Date:	Wednesday, June 14, 2006 14.30 - 16.00				
Venue:	28th International Congress on Occupational Health, Milan, June 11-16, 2006				
Organizers:	ICOH Committee OH for HCW				
Co-organizers and Collaborators: Please describe roles.					
Number of participants:	About 50				
Publication of proceedings:	None				
Book of abstracts:	Within ICOH abstracts				
Book of selected proceedings:	-				

Special issue of peer reviewed journals:	-
Assessment of success:	Not done

**PART II Midterm Report: SC Products and Collaborations June 2006 – September 30, 2007
Publications, Guidelines*, Position Papers*, etc**

Publications, Proceedings, Guidelines*, Position Papers*, etc. Provide title, authors, full citation. SCs are encouraged to produce ICOH Guidelines* and Position Papers*. *Guidelines and Position Papers must be approved by the ICOH SC Vice Presidents, Secretary General and President.

None

Cooperation with other Scientific Committees: (If cooperation in a Conference not listed above, provide title, dates, location and role of each SC. Provide relevant details of other collaborations with SCs.)

Yes, ICOH SC “Shiftwork and Working Time”, “Ageing at Work” and “Health Care Workers”

Participation and support to WHO – ILO meetings and or publications: (If cooperation in a Conference not listed above, provide title, dates, location and role of each. Provide relevant details of other collaborations with WHO and/or ILO.)

No

Cooperation with non-ICOH organizations: (If cooperation in a Conference not listed above, provide title, dates, location and role of each. Provide relevant details of collaborations other than conferences.)

With ISSA, International Social Security Association, Health Services Section.
ICOH Guest presentation at the ISSA International Colloquium “Risks for Health Care Workers – Prevention challenges” of the Health Care Section of the International Social Security Association, Athens, June 2006

Any other points of relevance:

None

**PART III Midterm Report: SC PLANS for second half of Triennium and for ICOH 2009:
October 1, 2007 – March 30, 2009**

Planned business meetings, conferences, seminars: (provide title, location, date if possible)

Committee meeting at the 7th International Conference on OH for HCW in Vancouver, Canada, October 2007, 27th October, approx 35 members participated

Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, Courses, etc:

(please fill in the tables)

Name of the event:	7th International Conference on OH for HCW in Vancouver, Canada, October 2007, 27 th October				
	Work shops: Workshop on Occupational Infectious Agents and Diseases Workshop on Occupational Health Care for Health Care Workers in Developing Countries				
Type of event:	Conference	Seminar	Workshop	Course	Other
	X		Also		
Date:	25-28 October 2007				
Venue:	Vancouver, Canada				
Organizers:	Robert Orford (Scottsdale, Arizona, USA) was organising the conference in close cooperation with the committee members William Buchta (Rochester, Maine, USA) and Annalee Yassi (Vancouver) with the additional organisations (see next paragraph).				
Co-organizers and Collaborators: Please describe roles.	The scientific conference was developed jointly by the SOTAC Planning Committee of American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), the ICOH Health Care Worker Occupational Health Committee, and the Medical Center Occupational Health Section of ACOEM				
Number of participants:	About 250				
Publication of proceedings:	http://www.acoem.org/				
Book of abstracts:	Yes, available in paper and CD				
Book of selected proceedings:	No				
Special issue of peer reviewed journals:	No				
Assessment of success:	By evaluation form				

Planned collaborative activities with other ICOH Scientific Committees: (Provide Conference title, dates, location and role of each SC. Provide relevant details of other collaborations with SCs.)

None currently

Planned collaborative Activities with other (Non-ICOH) Organizations: (Provide Conference title, dates, location and role of the SC. Provide relevant details of collaborations other than conferences.)

Pre-conference at the ICOH -Cap Town Conference in collaboration with **WHO**, Susan Wilburn

The committee will be cooperating more closely than before with the Health Care Section of the **International Social Security Association, ISSA**. One aim is to organise a joint conference "OH for HCW" in 2010 in Morocco.

Planned Publications, Position papers, etc.: (Provide title, authors, timeframe, publication, if known)

No – only our Newsletter distributed to our members (approx 3 times a year)

Planned Scientific Contributions to ICOH 2009: (Be specific: List title of scientific sessions, speakers, abstract reviewers, business meeting, etc.)

The proposals from our committee:

Free paper sessions

Occupational Health for Health Care Workers (1,5 hour, responsible Hans-Martin Hasselhorn and Lotta Dellve)

Infectious diseases among health care workers (1,5 hour, responsible Susan Wilburn, Annalee Yassi, William Buchta)

Occupational Health and Safety for Health Care Workers in Developing Countries (1,5 hour, responsible not yet assigned)

Mini-symposiums

Leadership and organizational impact on health for health care workers (1,5 hour, responsible Lotta Dellve and Gunnar Ahlborg)

Preventing air and blood-borne occupational exposure among health care workers (1,5 hour, responsible Susan Wilburn, Annalee Yassi, William Buchta)

Pre-conference

Preventing air and blood-borne occupational exposure among health care workers (responsible **Susan Wilburn/WHO in cooperation with** Annalee Yassi and Bill Buchta)

Two business meeting

Reviewers:

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Any other points of relevance:

We have to accept that membership in the committee most often is passive and that activation requires pro-active steering. Therefore, we wish to focus our committee's activities to those where we believe that we can have maximum impact with minimum input of the committee's manpower.

One central aspect of our past work has been - and is - the improvement of the committee's web-site so that it can be helpful for OH professionals working within OH for HCW. We intend to provide the visitor with references to the most useful publications for different topics within the area of "OH for HCW" such as infections, skin, chemical hazards, musculoskeletal aspects, mental health /stress, respiration/allergy, noise, violence, occupational groups – health care settings, organisation and leadership, working time, ageing. Members of the committee shall be "coaches" for single topics.

PART IV – Assessment of Success of SC and Impact on Global Occupational Health

We want to understand and share widely the value and impact of the work of the Scientific Committees on improving global occupational health. Please look back into the past and provide an assessment.

We believe that our most important way of work is to share knowledge and to define guidelines and thereby to globally support the development of occupational health for health care workers. The joint declaration "Recommendations for Protecting Health Care Workers' Health" developed in 2004 together with ISSA – was developed in this purpose and is still finding international attention.

One main contribution our committee can make is to increase international communication and networking of professionals working in the same area within OH. While having been a mostly "European" committee for a decade, international linkage beyond Europe of the committee has increased a lot in the past years. The Kitakyushu conference in 2004 has opened and intensified the sustainable contact with Asian OH Professionals and Scientists and with Asian networks. In the past year, the same has happened with North America, where in the course of the joint 7th international ICOH conference on OH for HCW in Vancouver collaboration with the OH professional of ACOEM has intensified – and hopefully will go on. Where international collaboration is only marginal is the contact to Africa, maybe the South Africa 2009 and committee's Morocco 2010 conferences will change this.

The role of the committee for “finding research partners” shall not be underestimated. A current example is a European group that is developing guidelines for Needlestick and Sharps Prevention in the European Union, two of four partners are members of the committee.

In our work, we also see our committee’s and our personal limits. We acknowledge that our committee work needs to be done besides our regular work and private obligations. We know that activities in theory could be many more and much more influential if they were professionally organised. However, we are pleased with what we can do and have done.

Midterm Report: Please assess the success of the SC and its influence in improving global occupational health as a result of the work *prior to* the current Triennium. Give examples where possible.

See above

PART V – Evaluation of this Midterm Report form.

This form is acceptable

This form should be changed. Please recommend changes.
