



**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.ichweb.org/scvo.

**Submitted by Scientific Committee: Rural Health
Date: December 1, 2007**

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Email address: claudio.colosio@unimi.it

From year: 2006

Secretary: Petar Bulat, MD, PhD
Email address: bulatp@eunet.yu

From year: 2006

SC Website URL:

Other SC Means of Communications: email and skype conversation

Focus and aim of Scientific Committee:

Health promotion of agriculture workers through health promotion of rural population and promotion of healthy environment. The vision statement of ICOH SC on Rural health “*Healthy agricultural workers producing healthy foods in a healthy environment*” describes our focus and aims.

**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: Naples (Italy)

Date: January 25th and 26th, 2007

Number of attendees: around 40

Date report sent to VP Fingerhut (Please use Business Report form in SC Virtual Office at <http://www.ichweb.org/scvo/>):

2) Business meeting:

Venue: Beijing (China)

Date: September 10th, 2007

Number of attendees: 16

Date report sent to VP Fingerhut (Please use Business Report form in SC Virtual Office at <http://www.icohweb.org/scvo/>):

Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, Courses, etc:

(please fill in the tables)

(1) Name of the event:					
Type of event:	Conference	Seminar	Workshop	Course	Other
	x				
Date: June 18 – 21, 2006.	The 16th International Congress of Agricultural Medicine & Rural Health. BUILDING NEW TOOLS FOR HEALTH PROMOTION IN RURAL AREAS				
Venue:	Lodi, Italy.				
Organizers:	The International Association of Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health.				
Co-organizers and Collaborators: Please describe roles.	The ICOH SC on Rural Health. General contribution at the organization of the activities, preparation of selected lectures, abstract vetting.				
Number of participants:	350				
Publication of proceedings:	Yes				
Book of abstracts:	See previous line				
Book of selected proceedings:	NO				
Special issue of peer reviewed journals:	NO				
Assessment of success:	Very successful event, ended with the approval of the “Lodi Declaration on Healthy Villages”.				

(2) Name of the event:					
Type of event:	Conference	Seminar	Workshop	Course	Other
	X				
Date: September 10 to 12, 2007.	The 7 th International Symposium on Biological Monitoring in Occupational and Environmental Health (ISBM'07) - Biological Monitoring in a Globalized World",				
Venue:	JiuHua Resort and Convention Center Hotel, Beijing, China.				
Organizers:	The Chinese Ministry of Health and the National Natural Science Foundation of China, and the University of Beijing.				
Co-organizers and	The Scientific Committees on Occupational Toxicology (SCOT),				

Collaborators: Please describe roles.	Toxicology of Metals (SCTM) and Rural Health (SCRH), under International Commission on Occupational Health
Number of participants:	150
Publication of proceedings:	YES
Book of abstracts:	See previous line
Book of selected proceedings:	NO
Special issue of peer reviewed journals:	Yes
Assessment of success:	The scientific background for the symposium was to present and discuss the state of the art research in occupational and environmental health biomarkers with the aim to improve the standardization of methodologies and the interpretation of biomonitoring results at the global level; to facilitate interaction and collaboration among eastern and western OH scientists and professionals, and to strengthen the institutional collaboration among the three ICOH Scientific Committees participating. ISBM '07 was the first event of this kind to be held in China. It was a very successful event.

(3) Name of the event:	XXVII Congreso Colombiano de Medicina del Trabajo y Salud Ocupacional. X congreso de la asociación latinoamericana de salud ocupacional also.				
Type of event:	Conference	Seminar	Workshop	Course	Other
	x				
Date: May 30th - June 1st 2007.					
Venue:	Cartagena das Indias (Colombia).				
Organizers:	Societad Colombiana de Medicina del Trabajo y Salud Ocupacional. Association Latinoamericana de Salud Ocupacionale (ALSO)				
Co-organizers and Collaborators: Please describe roles.					
Number of participants:	300				
Publication of proceedings:	Yes, in CD				
Book of abstracts:	See previous line				
Book of selected	NO				

proceedings:	
Special issue of peer reviewed journals:	NO
Assessment of success:	Very successful event. In the frame, approved the “Cartagena Declaration” addressed at training and education programmes. During the Congress period, the SC’s President visited local Universities and Institutions, participated in a 1-D seminar in Bogotá addressed at the development of ICOH activities in Colombia and in a second seminar in Cartagena addressed at training and education, in collaboration with PAHO.

(4) Name of the event:	CME: Health, Work & Environment:Adverse Health Effects Of Fine Particles				
Type of event:	Conference	Seminar	Workshop	Course	Other
				X	
Date: September 24-26, 2007,					
Venue:	Dubrovnik, Croatia.				
Organizers:	University of Vienna, University of Zagreb, University of Belgrade, EASOM, The ICOH SC on Rural Health				
Co-organizers and Collaborators: Please describe roles.	The ICOH SC on Rural Health has participated at the organization and distribution of information on the Course in Dubrovnik.				
Number of participants:	25				
Publication of proceedings:	CD				
Book of abstracts:	No				
Book of selected proceedings:	No				
Special issue of peer reviewed journals:	No				
Assessment of success:	Excellent course with fine experts.				

(5) Name of the event:	The 19th International Conference on Epidemiology in Occupational Health-EPICOH2007.				
Type of event:	Conference	Seminar	Workshop	Course	Other
	X			X	
Date: October 9-12, 2007,					
Venue:	Banff, Alberta, Canada.				

Organizers:	EPICOH, The ICOH SC on Epidemiology
Co-organizers and Collaborators: Please describe roles.	The ICOH SC on Rural Health has participated at the organization of the session “Wood dust”. Organizers: Paul Demers, Vivi Schlunssen.
Number of participants:	300
Publication of proceedings:	YES
Book of abstracts:	YES
Book of selected proceedings:	
Special issue of peer reviewed journals:	
Assessment of success:	People were interested, there were good presentations.

(6) Name of the event:	The 20th International Conference on Epidemiology in Occupational Health and the 10th International Symposium on Neurobehavioral Methods and Effects in Environmental and Occupational Health				
Type of event:	Conference	Seminar	Workshop	Course	Other
	X				
Date: June 9 th 13 th , 2008.					
Venue:	Costa Rica				
Organizers:	The Central American Institute for Studies on Toxic Substances, Universidad Nacional (IRET-UNA), Heredia, Costa Rica.				
Co-organizers and Collaborators: Please describe roles.	In collaboration with International Commission of Occupational Health (ICOH) Committees: The Scientific Committee on Epidemiology in Occupational Health and The Scientific Committee on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology Note: the SC on RH will participate with the organization of a minisymposium on neurotoxicity of pesticide and of a round table on experimental studies on pesticides on human volunteers.				
Number of participants:					
Publication of proceedings:					
Book of abstracts:					

Book of selected proceedings:	
Special issue of peer reviewed journals:	
Assessment of success:	

(7) Name of the event:	The 7th Panafrican Congress on Occupational Health (PACOH).				
Type of event:	Conference	Seminar	Workshop	Course	Other
	X			X	
Date: March 3 rd – 6 th , 2008.	International Training Course on Health and Safety in Agriculture.				
Venue:	Cotonou, Benin. Congress Palace.				
Organizers:	African Association of Occupational Health				
Co-organizers and Collaborators: Please describe roles.	The ICOH SC on Rural Health will participate at the organization of a training course delivered in two languages, that is English and French.				
Number of participants:					
Publication of proceedings:					
Book of abstracts:					
Book of selected proceedings:					
Special issue of peer reviewed journals:					
Assessment of success:					

(7) Name of the event:	Eurotox – 45th congress of the European societies of toxicology.				
Type of event:	Conference	Seminar	Workshop	Course	Other
	X				
Date: Sept 28-Oct1, 2008					
Venue:	Rhodi, Greece.				
Organizers:	The European Society of Toxicology				
Co-organizers and	The ICOH SC on Rural Health will participate at the organization of				

Collaborators: Please describe roles.	Organization of the Minisymposium “risk assessment and prevention of health effects from pesticide use in agriculture”. Chairpersons: Claudio Colosio and Petar Bulat.
Number of participants:	
Publication of proceedings:	
Book of abstracts:	
Book of selected proceedings:	
Special issue of peer reviewed journals:	
Assessment of success:	

**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.

Provided collaboration at the preparation of special issues on Agriculture on the Journals “African Newsletter” and “Asian-pacific Newsletter”.

The SC on Rural Health is working now at the preparation of a position document on ethical issues on experimental studies of pesticides on human volunteers.

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.)

The Scientific Committees on Occupational Toxicology (SCOT) and the SC on Toxicology of Metals (SCTM): organization of the 7th Biological Monitoring Symposium.

The Scientific Committee on Epidemiology in Occupational Health and The Scientific Committee on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology. Collaboration at the organization of EPICOH and Neurotox 2008 in Costa Rica.

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.)

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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.)

June 13-16, 2007, Horvátzsidány - Peresznye (Hungary).

Hungarian Academic Association of Rural Health - IV. Conference & IAAMRH European Chapter - I. Congress . In collaboration with the European Association of Rural and Isolated Practitioners (EURIPA).

Congress: Minorities Disadvantages beyond living in rural areas; – through minorities for healthy villages.

Presented a lecture on Seasonal and Migrant Agricultural Workers, by Dr. Chiara Somaruga.

Any other points of relevance:

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**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)

Next business meeting of the SC will be held in Costa Rica, during EPICOH – NEUROTOX 2008.

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.) EPICOH and Neurotox 2008 in Costa Rica, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee on Epidemiology in Occupational Health and The Scientific Committee on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology.

It is also planned a collaboration with the Scientific Committees on Occupational Toxicology (SCOT) and the SC on Toxicology of Metals (SCTM) at the organization of the 17th International Congress of Agricultural Medicine & Rural Health. FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: OHS FOR RURAL POPULATIONS.

The event will organized in collaboration with the (IAAMRH, see next box) on October 13 - 16, 2009. Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

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.)

In collaboration with the International Association on Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health:

Aurangabard, Marahastra, India: “The 11th Asian Congress of Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health”. 22nd – 24th February 2008.

The 17th International Congress of Agricultural Medicine & Rural Health. FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: OHS FOR RURAL POPULATIONS.

October 13 - 16, 2009. Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

The chair of the ICOH Scientific Committee on Rural Health is also vice president of the International Association of Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health and therefore participates in the Association's activities and at their organization.

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

Under discussion the preparation of the book "Health Surveillance of Pesticide Workers" (Updating of the text published by the former Scientific Committee on Pesticides" some years ago).

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

The SC members are willing to serve in the ICOH 2009 in the abstract evaluation process and, if necessary, the Author's tutorship, based on the expertise available in our SC .

Planned activities:

1. Collaboration with the SC on Neurotoxicity on the organization of a workshop on neurotoxic chronic effect of pesticides.

2. Organization of a round table or of a workshop, titled "Use of volunteer studies in pesticide registration procedures: the Position Document the Working Group of the SCRH".

Chairs: Leslie London and Claudio Colosio. Participants: David Coggon, Angelo Moretto, Martin Wilks, and Peter Westerholm.

3. Keynote or plenary session speakers: three proposals (we let the organizers free to decide). I) Prevention of Occupational Diseases and Injuries in Rural Settings: a challenge. Speakers: Claudio Colosio (Italy) and Petar Bulat (Serbia). ii) Microbiological cell wall agents and their receptors in occupational toxicology. Speaker: Torben Sigsgaard (Denmark). iii) Control of biological risk from animal breeding: the Asian experience of Avian Flue Prevention Speaker: Wilawan Jungpraesert (Thailand). Please note a slight change in the proposed title, highlighted in yellow.

Mini-symposia, Special Sessions and Workshops.

1) Agriculture in Developing and in Transition Countries. Chairs: Prof. Benjamin Fayumi; Prof. J. Bislimovska.

2) Occupational health services in rural settings (K Husman, D. Kelley)

3) Organic dust exposure- from farming to industry. Chair: Torben Sigsgaard (Denmark)

4) Asthma and COPD in organic dust exposed settings. Chair: Eva Andersson (Sweden)

5) Strategies for education and training on pesticide use. Martin Wilks (CH); Claudio Colosio (Italy).

6) New approaches for pesticide risk assessment and health surveillance. Angelo Moretto (Italy); Richard Glass (UK).

8) Biological risk in agricultural activities. Gert Van der Laan (The Netherlands), Chiara Somaruga (Italy).

Scientific Programme - Topics for Abstract Submission:

T4 Agricultural and Rural Health: Risks, Surveillance, and Solutions.

T42 Occupational Asthma.

T46 Organic Dusts: Exposures and Disease.

T48 Pesticides: Risk Assessment, Surveillance, and Educational Strategies

T63 (propose, it will be in alternative to the workshop n. 8. Sane chairs). Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Animal and Fish Breeding

Pre Congress Event

Fish and seafood processing industry, exposure and health effects. Contact person: Eva Andersson (eva.andersson@amm.gu.se).

Any other points of relevance:

None

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.

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.

This is a “new born” scientific committee, therefore the activities done prior than the current triennium are can be hardly evaluated. For sure, the educational and training activities and the participation in congresses and other scientific events gave the chance of disseminating information, with a particular attention for the developing and in transition world.

The Lodi Declaration on Healthy Villages, signed at the end of the Lodi Congress, is now a reference document for Rural Health. It has been published in international journals and discussed in some national parliament.

PART V – Evaluation of this Midterm Report form.

_____ This form is acceptable

This form should be changed. Please recommend changes.

It is complicated to put in the right blocks the activities planned but not already done. It is unclear were to put seminars and training activities.

Thank you!

PART VI – List of Members of Scientific Committee (provide full name and email address)

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Thank you for completing this form.