



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



Minutes of the Joint Meeting

March 13, 2017

Florence, Italy

Time: Monday, March 13 2017, 9:00-18:10

Venue: Villa Lemmi Tornabuoni, Florence, Italy

Participants:

Dr. Jukka Takala (Singapore) – ICOH President
Dr. Marilyn Fingerhut (USA) – ICOH Vice President
Prof. Seong Kyu-Kang (Rep.of Korea) – ICOH Vice President
Prof. Sergio Iavicoli (Italy) – ICOH Secretary General
Dr. Kazutaka Kogi (Japan) – ICOH Past President
Prof. Jorma Rantanen (Finland) – ICOH Former President
Dr. Minha Rajput-Ray (UK) – Chair of Unemployment, Job Insecurity and Health
Dr. Dingani Moyo (Zimbabwe) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Shrinivas Murlidhar Shanbhag (India) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Monique Frings-Dresen (The Netherlands) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Frida Marina Fischer (Brazil) – Chair of Shiftwork and Working Time
Prof. Swen Malte John (Germany) – Chair of Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses
Dr. Gert Van der Laan (The Netherlands) – Chair of Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts
Dr. Erik Jors (Denmark) – Chair of Mining Occupational Safety and Health
Ms. Marija Bubas (Croatia) – Secretary of Education and Training in OH
Prof. Mary Ross (South Africa) – Representative of Accident Prevention
Ms. Claudina Nogueira (South Africa) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Alicja Bortkiewicz (Poland) – Chair of Cardiology in OH
Dr. Rosa Maria Orriols Ramos (Spain) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Ruddy Facci (Brazil) – Chair of OH for Health Care Workers
Dr. Agueda Rossangella Muñoz del Carpio Toia (Peru) – Chair of Work and Vision
Dr. Edoardo Santino (Brazil) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Fabriziomaria Gobba (Italy) – Chair of Radiation and Work
Dr. Renata Sisto (Italy) – Chair of Vibration and Noise
Prof. Mats Hagberg (Sweden) – ICOH Board Member

Prof. Kari Reijula (Finland) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Seichi Horie (Japan) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Robert Orford (USA) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Martin Hogan (Ireland) – ICOH Board Member and President of ICOH 2018 Congress
Dr. Elia Enriquez (Mexico) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Maria Luisa Tupia Gonzales (Peru) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Kent Anger (USA) - Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology
Prof. Paolo Carrer (Italy) - Indoor Air Quality and Health
Ms. Lena Andresson (Sweden) - Industrial Hygiene
Ms. Susan Randolph (USA) – Chair of Occupational Health Nursing
Prof. Hannu Rintamäki (Finland) – Chair of Thermal Factors
Prof. Clas-Håkan Nygard (Finland) – Chair of Aging and Work
Dr. Paul Schulte (USA) – Chair of Nanomaterial Workers’ Health
Dr. Stefano Mattioli (Italy) – Chair of Health Services Research and Evaluation in OH
Ms. Kate Jones (UK) – Chair of Occupational Toxicology
Prof. Andrew Curran (UK) – ICOH Board Member
Prof. Stavroula Leka (UK) – Chair of Work Organisation and Psychosocial Factors
Prof. Malcolm Sim (Australia) – ICOH Board Member and President of ICOH 2021 Congress
Mr. Mahinda Seneviratne (Australia) – Secretary of Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector
Dr. Natalia Pawlas (Poland) – Secretary of Toxicology of Metals
Dr. Dag Ellingsen (Norway) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Christophe Paris (France) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Alexis Descatha (France) – Chair of Emergency Preparedness and Response in Occupational Health
Dr. Leslie Nickels (USA) – Chair of History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases
Prof. Timothy Driscoll (Australia) – Chair of Occupational Medicine
Dr. Pau-Chung Chen (Taiwan) – Chair of Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace
Prof. Jukka Vuori (Finland) – ICOH Board Member
Dr. Diana Gagliardi (Italy) - Chair of OH and Development
Dr. Rafael de la Hoz (USA) – Chair of Respiratory Disorders

Invited participants on specific items:

Prof. Ken Addley (Ireland) – ICOH 2018 Organizing Committee
Dr. Eun- A Kim (Republic of Korea) – Editor in Chief of ICOH Newsletter

ICOH Staff:

Mr. Pierluca Dionisi (Italy) – ICOH Staff
Mrs. Antonella Oliverio (Italy) – ICOH Staff
Mr. Carlo Petyx (Italy) – ICOH Staff

Apologies:

Dr. Claudia Petrarca (Italy) – Secretary of Allergy and Immunotoxicology

Dr. Su Wang (UK) – Chair of Accident Prevention

Dr. Knut Ringen (USA) – Chair of OH in the Construction Industry

Dr. Julietta Rodriguez Guzman (USA) – Chair of Women, Health and Work

Dr. Johannes Regnerus ANEMA (The Netherlands) – Chair of Work Disability Prevention and Integration

1. Opening

The ICOH President, Dr. Jukka Takala, welcomed all the participants to the Joint Meeting of the ICOH Officers, Board and Scientific Committees' Officers, and then gave the floor to Prof. Sergio Iavicoli, ICOH Secretary General, who gave to the participants practical information about the procedure for registering to one of the three Breakout sessions of their interest, the social dinner, and the Workshop on "Active Aging. From research to action oriented policies." To be held on March 14 in Palazzo Vecchio, Florence. Then, Prof. Iavicoli invited the participants to introduce themselves.

2. President's Report

Dr. Jukka Takala informed the participants about the progress reached concerning the ICOH strategic goals and priorities since ICOH 2015 Congress in Seoul (Republic of Korea) to today. The agreed strategies include Evidence, Ethics and Engagement while the accomplishments are related to priorities and items in the plan of action. The ICOH President highlighted the key points of the ICOH priorities: Global Burden at Work and the measures for solving the today's problems at work. Dr. Takala started his report by taking into consideration some figures about communicable diseases caused by working conditions such as musculoskeletal and mental disorders, cardiovascular disorders at different ages. The ICOH President highlighted the discrepancy among the data from WHO, ILO and GBD caused by the fact that GBD data do not include all the "occupational risks" considered by WHO and ILO. Dr. Takala affirmed that one of the ICOH priorities is to fulfil the WHO request of joint collaboration in order to face problems following the same path. He referred that one possibility to increase collaboration between WHO and ILO could be the creation of a Joint WHO/ILO committee on occupational health.

Dr. Takala, also referred to the Seoul Statement on Occupational Health for all as example of important achievement and common effort but he stressed the need to identify new solutions for funding and supporting global action in the near future as well.

Furthermore, President Takala explained also that the G7 nations pledged to drive down unsafe and poor working conditions. They also committed to support a "Vision Zero Fund", to be established in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Dr. Takala affirmed that ICOH is making a big progress in, India, Peru and Qatar as well.

Dr. Rajput-Ray, Chair of ICOH SC on Unemployment and Job Insecurity and Health, asked to Dr. Takala if ICOH SCs Chairs and Secretaries and ICOH Board can proactively do something between now and the ICOH 2018 Congress to move forward. Dr. Takala stressed that ICOH has a strong link with ISSA and IALI as well. All together, can combining their efforts and move forward.

Prof. Rantanen took the floor and expressed his congratulations to ICOH for the progress done until now. He affirmed that a joint WHO/ILO Committee on Occupational Health would be an extremely important tool for the global occupational health and safety. He talked about the importance to collaborate in order to reach important goals, and invited Dr. Takala to take further actions on this.

3. Report on Scientific Committees

Dr. Fingerhut expressed her appreciation for being in the Joint Meeting. She affirmed that 36 of the 37 are moving along very well. There is one missing chair yet. Dr. Fingerhut talked about the accomplishments of SCs for the first half of triennium. She started out by thanking the ICOH Secretariat for the support given in the process of update of the Virtual Office of SCs on the ICOH website. Successively, the Vice President of ICOH Scientific Committees showed some examples of major projects and focus areas of Scientific Committees held from June 2015 to January 2017. Among all, SC on Cardiology in Occupational Health published the major number of scientific papers, 63. Then Dr. Fingerhut, together with Dr. Mattioli, informed all the participants about the decision to change the name of the SC on Health Services Research and Evaluation in OH in “Effectiveness in Occupational Health Services (EOHS)”.

Furthermore, the ICOH SC on Occupational Health for Health Care Workers signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration with the Technical Committee on Healthcare Ergonomics of the International Ergonomics Association (IEA), another important NGO. Dr. Fingerhut presented the three breakout sessions and their chairs and rapporteurs:

- 1) **A: Integration and collaboration among SCs**
Co-Chairs, Elia Enriquez, ICOH Board and Mary Ross, Chair WGOIA
Rapporteur, Gert Van der Laan SC Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts
- 2) **B: Outputs from SCs**
Chair, Claudina Nogueira, ICOH Board
Rapporteur, Leslie Nickels, SC History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases
- 3) **C: Continuity and resource management for SCs**
Chair, Malcolm Sim, ICOH Board
Rapporteur, Mahinda Seneviratne, SC Small Scale Enterprises and Informal Sector

The breakout sessions started right after the coffee break with groups reporting to the assembly on the outputs produced after the lunch break.

Finally, Dr. Fingerhut thanked all the SCs for their contribution to ICOH 2018 as regards plenary and semi-plenary speakers, special sessions and the review of abstract submission.

At the end of the report on ICOH SCs. Dr. Facci, Chair of the SC on OH for Health Care Workers, proposed a change in the name of the committee he chairs since, according to WHO recommendation, the expression “health care workers” mainly refers to doctors and nurses while “health workers” would involve all people working in hospital. The proposals of Dr. Facci and Dr. Mattioli about the change of name of their SC will be discussed in future Board meetings.

4. Report on Activities of National /Area Secretaries

Prof. Seong-Kyu Kang, ICOH Vice President in charge of ICOH National/Area Secretaries, opened his report by thanking all those who participated in the ICOH 2015 Congress and those who did not participate, but supported it as well. Thanks to ICOH 2015 Congress in Seoul, occupational health in Korea has become an important issue to face. Then Prof. Kang talked about the role of ICOH NSs and reminded their main tasks: recruitment of new members and advertising ICOH during the national congresses. Prof. Kang informed all the participants about the appointment process of ICOH NSs. Vice President Kang highlighted that ICOH has 55 NSs already appointed (30 new and 25 existing). Then he explained the main problems of the appointment process which gets slower and sometimes remains incomplete. He talked about the crucial role of NSs concerning the membership campaign arguing that NSs could more actively participate in the International

Conferences organized by SCs and could collaborate with the National OH Societies and Associations in order to have more participants and recruit new members. Then Prof. Kang, talked about the importance to maintain a multidirectional communication, with ICOH Officers, ICOH Secretariat, ICOH Newsletter, SCs, and among NSs in order to keep all NSs informed and updated. Finally, Prof. Kang talked about the numerous Joint Regional Meetings held by NSs in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europa.

5. Report of the ICOH Secretary General

Prof. Sergio Iavicoli, ICOH Secretary General, started his report presenting the ICOH Staff. Then he explained that ICOH Membership is a crucial point, since although the massive renewal campaign and the several reminders there are still members not in good standing. ICOH Secretariat will find a way to speed up this process. Then Prof. Iavicoli showed some figures about the membership results achieved in comparison with the previous triennia: ICOH Members in good standing have reached the 81% compared with the data of the previous triennium as of February 2017 but with respect to the past triennia, membership is going well. ICOH Secretary General, showed to participants ICOH members from countries, highlighting the progress made by Peru that today is one of the country with more active members. Based on the data deriving from a geographical distribution of ICOH members, Europe is the continent with most ICOH members. Prof. Iavicoli gave an overview of ICOH Membership: gender balance, profession, a general improved GDP per capita and average age showing that new members are above all young people.

Prof. Iavicoli showed the number of new applications from ICOH 2015, explaining that National Congresses and SCs events are a great opportunity to recruit new members. With respect to this, Prof. Iavicoli mentioned his trip to Arequipa, Peru, in occasion of the International Workshop on Work and Vision that has been an occasion to recruit many members from Peru. Later the Secretary General talked about his experience in Katmandu, Nepal. No member from Nepal was in good standing before his visit, but thanks to the Noro Fund, nine Nepalese members reactivated their ICOH membership and there is an interest from the Labor department to become a collective member. Also in the view of ICOH 2018, Prof. Iavicoli's strategy to help ICOH members from the poorest countries to reactivate their ICOH Membership through the Noro fund, in order to give them the possibility to apply for the developing country grants as well. Then Prof. Iavicoli gave an update on Qatar statement and follow up from 2015 to today. In March 2016, also an ILO delegation visited Qatar. There have been some innovations but there still are some critical points related to working conditions. Talking about his experience in Nepal, he put the attention on the fact that every day almost three dead bodies come back from Qatar to Nepal. Prof. Iavicoli explained that this is not a problem regarding just Qatar but other countries, above all in South East Asia.

Prof. Iavicoli reported about ICOH income and expenditure. In addition to the main incomes, deriving from ICOH congresses and ICOH membership fees, there are some in-kind resources from Sustaining members and ILO as well, which finances the Master Program at the ILO of Turin. Investments and donors are no longer sources of income for ICOH. Then Prof. Iavicoli talked about ICOH expenditures, which cover different aspects of ICOH activities, among which is the support to SCs activities. ICOH Secretary General concluded his report talking about the ICOH planned activities for the future, among all: the survey on ICOH members, the issue of the voting procedure and the relevant evaluation of the electronic vote.

At the end of the report of the Secretary General, Dr. Kogi, ICOH Past President, and Ms. Tupia Gonzales, ICOH Board member, expressed their congratulations to Prof. Iavicoli for the work done. Comments focused on how to promote ICOH in order to recruit new members. Therefore, Prof. Iavicoli suggested downloading the presentation about ICOH (downloadable on the ICOH Virtual Office) in order to briefly present ICOH when needed. Dr. Frings-Dresen congratulated with the ICOH Secretary General for the work done in Qatar highlighting that this is a problem existing in different poor countries. Prof. Iavicoli commented that it would be interesting to have a session on Migration and Globalization during ICOH2018.

6. Reports from the Breakout Sessions

A: Integration and collaboration among SCs Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts

The first breakout session was co-chaired by Dr. Elia Enriquez, ICOH Board member, and Dr. Mary Ross, Chair of WGOIA. The rapporteur was Dr. Gert Van der Laan, chair of SC on Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts.

Participants to this breakout session talked about collaboration considering the following aspects:

Collaboration between SCs in organizing conferences, plans, active attraction of other SCs in future activities especially of interest for smaller SCs; and collaboration with non ICOH organizations at Regional level with ICOH banner, as for the case of India, and through workshops with practical issues.

They talked about logistic, financial, practical and other approaches to attract a wider audience, to be more attractive for participants, and to attract young persons and participants from less developed countries. Referring to the theme of integration among SCs, they identified the following aspects: Rural Health: Agriculture, Pesticides and Organic Dusts is an example of an integrated SC, but there are problems concerning small SCs, as for Radiation whose chair fears it could disappear. Another aspect that Dr. Van der Laan presented was the theme of the overlapping of issues between SCs, making the example of the SCs who deal with chemical issue: MEDICHEM, Nanomaterial Healthcare Workers, Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology, Toxicology of Metals. Dr. Van der Laan talked about some success factors deriving from the SCs collaboration and integration, among all the summer school activities in OHS, like the one organized in Brescia, continuity, global e-contacts, webinars, dedicated leadership with broad network making links between SCs and beyond. Participants to this breakout session gave to other participants some suggestions in order to reach a more active collaboration and integration among ICOH SCs through promotional activities, using new media, tweets and WhatsApp of the conference of their interest. They also talked about the possible strategy to recruit membership in SCs by promoting ICOH during regional OH conferences, above all attracting young professionals.

B: Outputs from SCs

The chair of this breakout session was Ms. Claudina Nogueira, ICOH Board member, while the rapporteur was Dr. Leslie Nickels, Chair of SC on History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases. This breakout session has been divided in two sessions:

- 1a) During introductions, each participant was asked to discuss an experience in publishing with ICOH. Many reported that they have a list of peer review publications in their SC Reports, they sometimes report on their work in the ICOH Newsletter. With respect to the Statement on Qatar they agreed that Officers provided the leadership and guidance required. Some other have acknowledged ICOH in external, peer-reviewed accredited publications while most had not published in ICOH.
- 1b) Each participant was then asked to give his/her impressions on what role they see ICOH playing in publications, what should ICOH publish and how. Among all, Dr. Nickels talked about ICOH Statements, also referring to hot topics and highlight emerging issues, and ICOH Leadership position papers, practical materials (booklets, brochures, factsheets, and guidelines). Furthermore, Dr. Nickels clarified the position of SCs on this issue: SCs could publish reports and proceedings from ICOH meetings and conferences; SCs could publish peer-reviewed articles and proceedings (in line with requirements of particular journal).
- 2) During the second session, participants discussed about the possibility to create a WG on ICOH Publications. Dr. Nickels expressed the need to define a process for publishing an ICOH document: define publication types, define ICOH publications and ICOH SCs publications, trying to acknowledge ICOH in outside publications, post guidelines for SCs publications on their respective websites, write a disclaimer to be used

on all publications. Dr. Nickels also proposed to redraft Article 8 “Publications and Websites” in order to simplify the process and make it feasible to be sustainable.

C: Continuity and resource management for SCs

Prof. Malcom Sim, ICOH Board member, was the Chair of this breakout session while Mr. Mahinda Seneviratne, Chair of the SC on Small Scale Enterprises and Informal Sector was the rapporteur. During this breakout session, participants talked about some issues related to SCs resource management. In particular they faced the following aspects: ICOH has very limited financial resources mainly derived from membership and Congress; the funding available for SCs events (conference, workshop, symposium etc) are therefore limited (CHF 2000= available from ICOH on request); event funds do not go from organisers to the SC involved ; a SC Bank account is not practical; Diversity of SC goals, membership and activities and need to have Equity; Hosting SC websites. Then they faced themes referring to SCs officers continuity: variability in nominations and electing; commitment of SC Chair and Secretary candidates to be ICOH members in good standing; practicality of early elections (pre-ICOH Congress) to enable a Continuity Session and Handover; ICOH administration cannot centrally conduct elections. Dr. Seneviratne presented the possible actions to follow as regards the SCs resource management: using social media for better communication and promotion among younger professionals; make Spanish language translations of material; greater promotion of multidisciplinary role in ICOH; develop links with journals and mentor / build capability of researchers. He also presented the possible actions to follow referring to SC Officers continuity: create a checklist and an induction guide for new chairs and secretaries; assistance in setting up SC website with own webmaster; show benefits and tools of ICOH members, explaining who an ICOH member is, concluding that the biggest resource is the knowledge and skills that SCs Officers have.

Prof. Sergio Iavicoli invited again all participants to download the presentation about ICOH published on the ICOH Virtual Office in order to sponsor ICOH during other meetings and events. With respect to publications, Prof. Iavicoli highlighted the importance of following a careful process of approval from ICOH before they are published, and complying the ICOH Good Practice Association Guidelines as well. Prof. Jorma Rantanen endorsed Prof. Iavicoli on this.

7. Enhancing the future of the Scientific Committees

Vice President Dr. Fingerhut, reported on the future of the ICOH SCs considering the following issues:

Upcoming Actions for ICOH2018: Abstract Review and Acceptance, Special Sessions Preliminary List of 82 Sessions (Final Commitments due August 1), and the Student Poster Competition. Then Dr. Fingerhut showed the list of the themes and titles of the 82 Special Sessions'. Later Dr. Fingerhut presented a brief history of student poster competition and invited the participants willing to be judges in the student poster competition during ICOH 2018 to sign up for that. Then Dr. Fingerhut showed the amounts that the winners of student poster competition of ICOH2018 will receive (First place winner: CHF700; Second place winner: CHF500; Third place winner: CHF300; Five runners-up: CHF100 each). Furthermore, during ICOH2018 three more prizes will be given to the winners students: the Irish Faculty of Occupational Medicine Doughty Prize (300euros) will be awarded to the best poster on the theme of “Work Organisation and Psychosocial Factors”; the International Institute of Risk and Safety Management Prize (250pounds) will be awarded to the Most Popular Poster voted by the participating students; The Cardinus Risk Management Prize (500pounds) will be awarded to the Most Popular Student Poster voted by attendees of ICOH2018. Dr. Fingerhut talked about the Concrete Actions to Enhance Future of SCs by ICOH Officers, Board Members and SCs Leaders above all

to face the themes raised up during the breakout sessions. To this purpose, Dr. Schulte took the floor and argued that the Student Poster Competition is a good opportunity for facilitating collaboration and integration of SCs (theme of breakout session A). With respect to the possible action to increase the outputs of SCs (Breakout session B) Prof. John suggested, together with the endorsement of Prof. Gobba, to have an educational focus of scientific sessions.

As regards the measure to adopt in order to increase Continuity and Resource Management of SCs (Breakout Session C), Dr. Fingerhut proposed to conduct SCs Chair/Sec elections before Triennial Congress to enable a Continuity Session where old and new SC Leaders meet and share information. Prof. Iavicoli explained that this would not be possible because the appointment process takes time since the candidates have to fill in the Transparency Declaration Form, be in good standing and be formally appointed by the ICOH President. He referred to the example of Musculoskeletal Disorders SC that has been an inactive SC without any chair. Dr. Fingerhut's presentation concluded with an interactive discussion among participants referring to ICOH 2018 meetings, trying to find the best compromise to organize at best the different meetings where SCs chairs and secretaries, the ICOH Board members and ICOH Officers will take part.

8. ICOH 2018

Dr. Ken Addley, staff member of the organizing committee for ICOH 2018 Congress in Dublin, Ireland, gave a general overview of the organizing process of the next ICOH Congress: opening keynote speaker, Dr. Kurt Straif, 10 plenary speakers, 32 semi-plenary speakers invited (20 of them already accepted, 10 to be followed up, 5 alternates and 2 declined), themes of the presentations, 157 Special, Abstract and Workshop Sessions already scheduled. Dr. Addley explained to participants that three Worksite visits will be held at the Dublin Port, the Guinness Brewery and Tesco Distribution Centre. Dr. Addley gave some important dates to participants:

- **Call for abstract: 6th February 2017**
- **Registration Opening: 6th February 2017**
- **Closing of Abstract submission: extended to 14th July 2017**
- **Notification of Abstract Acceptance: 15th October 2017**
- **Accepted Presenter Deadline to confirm attendance: 8th December 2017**
- **Reviewer Period Begins 24th July 2017 & Closes 22nd September 2017**
- **Special Sessions to be confirmed by 1st August 2017**
- **Draft of final programme by 31st December 2017**

Dr. Addley concluded the first part of his presentation by thanking ICOH Officers and Dr. Martin Hogan, ICOH Board Member and President of ICOH 2018, for the great job done so far. In the second part of his presentation, Dr. Addley explained the difference between the general abstract system and the organized session system. Three main steps compose the first one: submission stage, review stage, notification, and author acceptance stage. During the abstract review process, the responsible person proposed by Scientific Committee will be sent a unique link to the Workflow Portal; he/she has to monitor the reviewers and make the final decision regarding whether each abstract will be accepted as oral, as poster or rejected by the deadline of October 2nd. Participants concentrated their comments on practical information on this issue, for instance how an abstract can be submitted and the format to follow in order to write it.