

Minutes of the Joint Meeting  
of the ICOH Officers, Board and Scientific Committees  
on Friday, 28 January, 2005 at 8.30–19.00  
House of Estates - Helsinki, Finland

RELEASE 19/04/2005

**1. Joint Meeting of ICOH Officers, Board Members and Scientific Committee Officers**

ICOH President, Professor Jorma Rantanen, opened the meeting and welcomed all the Chairs and Secretaries of the Scientific Committees (SC), as well as Board Members and Officers of ICOH warmly welcome to the meeting. He informed that all the participants had received the meeting materials in advance, and the meeting would proceed according to the agenda. The aim of the Mid-term Meeting of the Scientific Committees was to monitor the situation of the work of the Committees, provide information among the Committee Officers, Board Members and the ICOH Officers. This information would allow also more active collaboration among the Scientific Committees. He also informed that reports and questions regarding specific Scientific Committees whose Officers were not attending the meeting, will be answered by the Board member assigned as a liaison to that SC, and the first question in discussion will be allocated on request to the Board Member assigned to the SC in concern. He also announced that Dr. Kristiina Alanko was invited to attend on behalf of the SC on Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses.

The agenda of the Mid-term Meeting is attached as Annex 1 and the List of Participants as Annex 2 to these Minutes. The Reports of the Scientific Committees were distributed in advance to the Board Members and the SC Officers.

In order to give a framework for the reports of the Scientific Committees, the President's Report was discussed first. In his overview of the ICOH activities during the first half of the triennium 2003–2006, the President focused his report on the following six topics which were adopted as priorities in the Iguassu Meeting.

1. **ICOH being structured as an organization:** The President pointed out that after the Iguassu Congress it has been extremely difficult to update and complete the SC's details and contact information. He thanked the Secretary General for the efforts spent on this task. He continued highlighting that the transition of ICOH Secretariat from Singapore to Rome was another huge effort which was most successfully completed by the Secretary General and his team in collaboration with our Singapore Colleagues. It turned out to be a complex task as the information on e.g. Scientific Committee meetings in Iguassu was not available to Officers. Similarly, the collection of reports for the Mid-Term Meeting was a lengthy process due to the slow responses and poor communication of a part of actors.

Altogether 60 different decentralized activities (35 SCs, 8 Committees and Task Groups, 3 Networks, 2 Working Groups and 12 liaisons with other organizations) were organized, chairs and secretaries were appointed, objectives and tasks with outputs and deadlines were set. There is a strong need for improving internal communication and reporting practices within ICOH.

Finally, ICOH President warmly acknowledged ISPESL, the Italian National Institute for Occupational Safety and Prevention for supporting and hosting the ICOH Secretariat General.

2. **Strengthening of alliances with ILO and WHO for global action on Basic Occupational Health Services:** The President reminded the participants of the Mid-term Meeting on the status of ICOH as a non-political, scientifically independent organization, officially recognized as NGO by ILO and WHO, with a formal position in their meetings. The formal and operational links with the International Organisations were strengthened also via a

number of joint meetings, and concrete achievements were reached through making inputs to the policies of the Organizations (FCTC, BOHS, ILO new strategy, Dresden Declaration, etc). This work will continue also in the future.

3. **Increasing ICOH membership:** The President stressed the fact that the average age of ICOH members is becoming rather high (57 years) and the recruitment of young members turns out to be of major importance. Hence, a proposal of a reduced membership fee for people less than 36 years old and for members from developing countries has been made. As regards benefits for members, discounts were negotiated for ILO and WHO publications, while new ICOH web and the renewed Newsletter were specially developed as further benefits to Members. The President strongly recommended to SC Chairs not to encourage the practice of having associate members not being ICOH Members and reminded that National Secretaries should actively mobilize membership campaigns. Secretary General and the Task Group on Membership deserve our thanks for their most successful activity in membership issues.
4. **Internal and external information activities:** ICOH President made an overview of the communication tools developed in order to improve internal and external communication. Five issues of the Newsletter were published at four-month intervals and circulated to all Members; it is the maximum achievable outcome with the present financial resources, while the web was renewed twice. Furthermore, stands have been arranged during various symposia and exhibitions and ICOH slideshows were made available for Officers and National Secretaries to facilitate the promotion of ICOH and membership recruitment.
5. **Preparation of centennial events:** The President summed up that four key events are planned, namely an opening event with launching a centennial declaration, a historical exhibition and a thesaurus of all ICOH Congresses from the beginning, a plenary session and a celebration of ICOH 100-year anniversary (June 13, 2006). Also special awards are planned for distinguished services of ICOH Members.
6. **Support to and coordination of SCs activities:** approx. 50% of SC showed a high level of activity, 40% a reasonable one and 10% are dormant. ICOH President pointed out that reporting did not work very well in spite of several reminders by the ICOH President and Vice-President. Finally, he reminded that a limited amount of financial support to SCs is available on request as allocated on ICOH budget. Unfortunately, the available resources do not permit more allocations and not for each Committee. This should, however, be an objective in the future.

Vice-President Alain Cantineau, in charge of the Scientific Committees, gave a general overview on the Scientific Committee activities and reminded that their role as the backbone of ICOH, and highlighted that SCs should have more visibility also on account of the huge amount of scientific activity and knowledge they produce. He continued to encourage joint activities among SCs and the improvement of common output production. The general overview of SCs reports submitted is as follows: 28 out of 35 had held at least one meeting after 2003, 11 SCs issued proceedings, 10 published newsletter or alike, and a dozen have an active website. He informed that 19 SCs provided the member list and the average of members in good standing is 54%. Major goals for SCs are strengthening of SC administration and further development of interdisciplinary activity with other SCs. He continued pointing out that three SCs did not submit a report, namely: OH in Agriculture, OH and Dermatoses, and Vibration and noise.

## 2. Report of the Scientific Committees

According to the agenda, each of SCs' Officers or representatives briefly reported on the activities as follows:

- **Accident prevention (Chair: Tore Larsson)**

The Committee has 17 members and it has a strong preventive approach in its activities, including promotion of workplace level activities. SC main objective is promotion of occupational trauma prevention and its focus is in strengthening the network on prevention of accidents and trauma at work, promoting the participation of several social and economic organizations (EU, OSHA, INRS, etc.). The SC edits a newsletter as an integrated part of the *Safety Science Monitor*. The SC is highly committed in ICOH 2006 organization.

- **Aging and Work (Chair: Willem Goedhard)**

The Committee aims at studying the influence of aging on work ability; it is very active in organizing and co-organizing conferences. One of the most relevant and successful conferences was the one held in Verona (October 18-20) with the participation of approximately 200 participants from all over the world and whose proceedings are being published by Elsevier. Congratulations on the Verona conference were delivered, There is a clear emphasis on this topic that affects all of us (aged people are considered over 45 years).

In the occasion of the ICOH 2006 Congress, the SC plans to cooperate with ICOH SC Shiftwork and SC Health Care Workers.

- **Allergy and Immunotoxicology (liaison officer: Petter Kristensen)**

The Officers of this SC could not attend the Mid-term Meeting. The Committee has no members' list available and the website is not yet operating. The main future activity regards the organization of the "International Symposium on Occupational and Environmental Allergy and Immune Diseases IV ISOEAD 05". Collaboration is planned with SC Pesticides, SC Indoor Air Quality, SC Work and Vision, SC Organic Dusts and SC Respiratory Disorders.

- **Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses**

Alain Cantineau reported that this SC is not working at present because of the lack of both Chair and Secretary of the Committee. He asked to support the SC in order to activate some initiatives. It was informed that the President will invite Kristiina Alanko to serve as Secretary while a candidate for the Chair of the Committee is still missing. Max Lum informed that the NORA project is particularly interested in this area and attempts will be made to find a chair within that Programme. This proposal was welcomed.

- **Cardiology in Occupational Health (Chair: Tage S. Kristensen)**

Though the SC is very small, the tasks concerning Cardiology in OH are huge considering that many cardiovascular diseases may also have a fraction in relation to work. Referring to the major interest of this area, Tage Kristensen was invited to produce a position paper, possibly in collaboration with the SC Psychosocial Factors. Collaboration was established with Psychosocial Factors and Shift Work SCs for ICOH 2003. Congratulations came from Martin H. Hasselhorn for the well-organized Düsseldorf Conference in 2002.

- **Education and Training in Occupational Health (Chair: Bonnie Rogers)**

A very successful meeting was held in 2002 in Baltimore with 350 people from all over the world. In that Conference, also the registration could be kept low. The preparation of the "7<sup>th</sup> Conference on Occupational Education and Training for Everyone Everywhere", to be held in Strasbourg, September 15–17, 2005 is well under way. Abstracts are due by June 15, 2005. The SC collaborates with the Network on Communication and Information Technology for co-sponsorship of symposia at the ICOH 2006 in Milan.

- **EPICOH - Epidemiology in Occupational Health (Chair: Hilkka Riihimäki)**

The SC includes 71 members but it wishes to recruit more members from developing countries. The Committee is very active. A close collaboration was established with ICOH SC on Musculoskeletal Disorders for the organization of PREMUS 1998 in Helsinki. An official association with the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine has also been established. Ken Takahashi (liaison officer) confirmed the well-working liaison between SC and himself: After his appointment as a liaison, he was invited to the Business Meeting of the Committee held within the Melbourne Conference.

- **Fibres (liaison officer: Martha Waters)**

The Officers of the SC were not able to attend the Mid-term Meeting. The SC has 49 members. A collaboration with other ICOH SCs (Indoor Air Quality and Respiratory Disorders) is suggested. A symposium is planned within ICOH 2006 and a Seminar “emission of fibrous dust” will be organized in 2007.

- **Handicap at work (liaison officer: Richard Ennals)**

The Officers of the SC were not able to attend the Mid-term Meeting. The SC intends to rename itself “Work disability prevention” better fitting to the ICOH profile. More members are encouraged to participate. Other experts in the same area are preparing meetings within ICOH 2006 (Pier Alberto Bertazzi).

Regarding the questions asked by Kaj Husman on how the link between research and policy can be made more effective and whether ICOH can contribute to improving the policy and practice, the President replied that ICOH is a non-political organization, and thus it is most appropriate to make an impact by providing scientific data for policy-makers. He strongly invited SC to implement joint actions in view of a higher visibility at ICOH 2006. Goedhard (Aging and Work) suggested to join the efforts.

- **Health Services Research and Evaluation in Occupational Health (Chair: Kaj Husman)**

Kaj Husman referred to the successful OHS2005 Conference organized in Helsinki in connection of the Mid-Term Meeting, and reported on the different activities including the five mini-symposia that are planned for ICOH 2006. He also reported that the officers of the Committee will change in 2006.

- **Occupational Health in Agriculture (Secretary: Kaj Husman)**

As Secretary of the SC Occupational Health in Agriculture, Kaj Husman stated that the SC is dormant and on the basis of the difficulties for meeting and operating, he suggested to be taken into consideration the merging of the SC with another one. Proposals for merging came from Marco Maroni (with SC Pesticides) and Torben Sigsgaard (SC Organic Dusts). Alain Cantineau stated that the merging will be considered. Close links with the International Association of Agricultural Medicine & Rural Health should be established.

- **History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases (Chair: Pier Alberto Bertazzi)**

Main achievements of this SC are a website dedicated to the SC and publication of the Book “Origins of Occupational Health Associations in the World”, Elsevier, 2003. A Thesaurus including the bibliography of all the ICOH conferences along the century of its life and a booklet on the ICOH centennial will be made available to all ICOH 2006 participants. The third Conference on History is planned in Birmingham in spring 2007. The impact of history and the importance of keeping original sources is the approach that inspired Antonio Grieco, the founder of this SC.

- **Indoor Air Quality and Health (Secretary: Giacomo Muzi)**

Poor indoor air quality is a risk for health and a source of discomfort for workers: promotion of studies in this area is essential. The Committee collaborates with SC Allergy and Immunotoxicology also in view of the “International Symposium on Occupational and Environmental Allergy and Immune Diseases”, to be held in Kumamoto, September 17-19, 2005.

It was reported that several companies ask for support in their indoor air problems and in this regard ICOH guidelines concerning support to enterprises would be extremely useful and appreciated (Giovanni Costa). The President stated that SCs should respond to the needs of constituents by keeping simultaneously in mind the ICOH position as an independent scientific organization.

- **Industrial Hygiene (Secretary: Antti Tossavainen)**

Because of its specific character, this SC is a link between ICOH and occupational hygienists. The Committee collaborates actively with the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA),

also for the organization of scientific conferences (Utrecht in 2004 and Pilanesberg in 2005). It was proposed to try to recruit some new members in order to enlarge the size of the Committee.

- **Musculoskeletal Disorders (Chair: Thomas Läubli)**

The main achievement of the Committee is the organization of triennial scientific conferences on “Prevention of Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders PREMUS”, starting from 1992. The sixth one will be held in Boston with Laura Punnett as the main organizer. The success of the 4th PREMUS, held in Zurich in 2004, with 400 participants was acknowledged by Alain Cantineau. The problem of ICOH 2006 (June) and IEA 2006 (July) overlapping was taken up. Joint activities with the corresponding IEA TC on Musculoskeletal Disorders chaired by Enrico Occhipinti are under way for organizing together mini-symposia, keynote lectures, pre-conference workshops for both ICOH 2006 and IEA 2006 Conferences.

- **Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology (Secretary: Roberto Lucchini)**

A very active SC, with 47 members, organizes a Symposium every three years; the next one will be held in 2008 in Costa Rica in collaboration with the SC Epidemiology. It is the SC with the highest number of members in good standing. It edits a quarterly Newsletter “Neurotox News”, and has a website. It collaborates with the International Neurotoxicology Association and plans to organize the “9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Neurobehavioural Methods and Effects in Occupational and Environmental Health”, Gyeongju (Korea), on September 26–29, 2005. For ICOH 2006, it proposes a keynote, different symposia and a post-conference workshop on “Neurotoxic metals, from research to prevention – update of protective exposure levels for lead, mercury and manganese” Brescia, June 17–18, 2006 in collaboration with the SC Toxicology of Metals.

- **Occupational Health in the Chemical Industry, MEDICHEM (Chair: Stephen Borron)**

Stephen Borron reminded that MEDICHEM was an organization before becoming a SC and therefore its characteristics are somewhat different from the other SCs. It includes 282 members from 41 countries and is seeking new members in developing countries. Because of the new policy it lost 49 members but gained 31 new members. It is quite interested in collaborating with other SCs (already did so with SC Pesticides) and it is a part of a network for disaster assistance that was involved also in the Tsunami tragedy.

According to the existing agreement between MEDICHEM and ICOH, the Secretary General gave a feedback on the current ICOH membership and Prof. Borron assured strong action in order to promote ICOH membership among MEDICHEM members.

Tar Ching Aw (liaison officer) said that no formal contacts have been established between MEDICHEM and himself and it would certainly be a good goal if each MEDICHEM member become an ICOH member.

- **Occupational Health in the Construction Industry (Chair: Cor van Duivenbooden)**

The focus of the Committee is the state of the art on research and best practices concerning OHS in the construction industry. Two mini-symposia were held in Amsterdam and Zurich for “PREMUS 2004”. As publications, a supplement of SJWEH for the construction industries, and guidelines for the 10 most frequent work-related disorders in the construction industry (due by end 2006) were mentioned.

Alain Cantineau suggested to spread guidelines and make them accessible on the web.

- **Occupational Health and Development (Chair: Kaj Elgstrand)**

The SC was reorganized 5 years ago and it has collaborated with SC Pesticides, SC Occupational Health Nursing and Health Services Research and Evaluation in OH as well as with WHO and ILO; collaboration with other SC in view of ICOH 2006 is welcome. No less than eight minisymposia were held in Iguassu.

Kazutaka Kogi proposed strong involvement of this SC in ICOH 2006 preparation.

- **Occupational Health for Health Care Workers (Chair: Gustav Wickström)**

The SC was founded by J.F. Caillard 15 years ago and it has 43 members, half of whom are quite active. The “6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Occupational Health for Health Care Workers” held

in Kitakyushu, October 8-10, 2004 was quite successful and the joint declaration of ICOH and International Social Security Association (ISSA) was made for protecting health care workers' health.

Collaboration is planned with SC Aging and Work and SC Shiftwork.

- **Occupational Health Nursing (Chair: Jenny Serfontein)**

In 2006 this SC will be 40 years old, many attempts have been made for establishing a collaboration with other SC for seminars, courses, etc. with poor outcomes.

The Committee has collaborated with SC Occupational Health and Development and SC Pesticides especially in the organization of a joint workshop on 24 January 2005. Within ICOH 2006, a one-day seminar will be organized the day before the beginning of the Congress.

It was stated by the ICOH Officers that the SC is very important in Europe and outside Europe and ICOH wants to strengthen further the Committee activities.

- **Occupational Toxicology (Chair: Claude Viau)**

The Committee has 35 members (23 in Europe, 6 in Northern America and 6 in Asia). The intention is to have a website mainly dedicated to biomonitoring with the same ICOH website template. It organized the "6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Biological Monitoring in Occupational and Environmental Health", Heidelberg, September 6-8, 2004. A position paper on this topic is expected by 2005 and proceedings will appear in a 2005 issue of Toxicological Letters. It collaborates with SC Toxicology of Metals and Pesticides.

To the president's suggestion to monitor new parameters such as biological stress indicators, Viau replied that the SC is trying to concentrate on research on early markers.

- **Organic dusts (Chair: Torben Sigsgaard)**

The secretary position of the Committee is at present vacant. The SC published the proceedings of the "4<sup>th</sup> Skokloster Workshop" in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine (2004). The existing newsletter is being transformed into a website to be implemented as soon as a new Secretary will be found.

The Committee collaborates with the SC Respiratory Disorders and SC Allergy and Immunotoxicology and plans future collaboration with SC OH in Agriculture (or its heir). One symposium is planned for ICOH 2006.

Aw invited ICOH to encourage the use of web for the publication of papers, etc.

- **Pesticides (Chair: Jyrki Liesivuori)**

The Committee is one of the oldest SCs and collaborates with 7 SCs. It is pointed out that only one member comes from Africa. Considering that pesticides are still a big occupational problem especially in developing countries, new members from these countries are welcome. The Committee organized a conference and a pre-conference course (Belgrade, May 2004) and plans to hold training courses on pesticide toxicology in India in 2005 and in the Republic of Benin, Africa, in 2006.

It also plans to organize an ICOH 2006 satellite conference "International Congress on Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health", Cremona (Italy), June 18-21, 2006, joint session on "Occupational Health Practices in Agriculture" in collaboration with SC Agriculture and Organic Dusts, and a Mini-symposium on "Risk Assessment of Pesticide Exposure".

- **Radiation and work (Chair: David H. Sliney)**

The Committee organized the "International Non-ionizing radiation workshop and Symposium", Seville, Spain, May 20-22, 2004 together with ICNIRP and WHO. The Symposium was attended by 200 participants. Several informal liaison activities are maintained with different organizations providing resources and information on non-ionising radiation protection, the most important of them being ICNIRP.

It plans a symposium or training session on non-ionizing radiation for ICOH 2006.

Abdeljalil El Kholti informed that assistance and guidelines on this topic are needed in developing countries.

- **Reproductive hazards in the workplace (Chair: Irene Figà Talamanca)**

The SC was set up in Stockholm in 1996 and has been active thereafter. The field is expanding: one conference was organized in Chieti (Italy) in April 2004 and another in Volgograd (Russia) June 29 – July 1, 2004 with hundreds of participants mainly from Russia. The Committee plans a session on “Reproductive Effects of Environmental and Occupational Exposures” for ICOH 2006. In 2006 new officers shall be elected for the Committee.

Aw congratulated on the outcomes and suggested of encouraging participation in ICOH 2006 from developing countries. Irene Figà Talamanca replied that she tried to recruit participants from Africa and Asia as well as in Eastern Europe but the problem seems to be the too high conference and member fees.

- **Respiratory disorders (Chair: Sverre Langård)**

It is a 10-year old SC whose main goal is to establish a guideline for High Resolution Computer Tomography (HRCT) for dust- induced lung diseases. The SC supported the “Global Asbestos Congress”, Tokyo, November 2004. For ICOH 2006 it plans a symposium in collaboration with SC Allergy and Immunotoxicology and SC Organic Dusts.

- **Shiftwork (Chair: Giovanni Costa)**

The Committee has been working for 40 years in 2006: it runs biennial meetings, publishes a six-month Newsletter and joins the electronic mailing list and network of SINET. It is requested to change its name into “Shiftwork and working time” since it seems to better meet the different requirements of working time organization currently in use. A “Working Time Society” was set up to maintain a close interaction among researchers many of whom are not physicians. The officers of the Committee are at the same time President and Secretary of the Working Time Society.

Collaboration (also on individual basis) exists with IEA, Saltsa, etc.

The SC plans a pre-conference within ICOH 2006 in collaboration with SC Aging and work and Health Care workers.

- **Small enterprises and the informal sector (Vice-Chair: Kazutaka Kogi)**

Kazutaka Kogi reported on the satisfactory outcomes of this SC especially as regards the organization of the “International Symposium on Occupational Health in Small Enterprises and the Informal Sector”, Nagoya, Japan, November 12-15, 2004. During this Symposium 23 new ICOH membership applications were achieved by the President. At least one symposium will be organized for ICOH 2006.

The Nagoya Business meeting of the SC elected Professor Itani as the Secretary of the Committee. Suvi Lehtinen as the liaison to the Committee confirmed the success of the Nagoya Symposium and also mentioned the vast interest shown to the Committee in the Business meeting. She also mentioned the support of the SC Occupational Health and Development to the Nagoya symposium.

- **Thermal factors (Chair: Ken Parsons)**

Main focus is exchange and dissemination of knowledge on thermal factors and their effects on occupational safety and health. The SC plans to organize an “International Conference on Environmental Ergonomics”, Ystad, Sweden, May 22-26, 2005 and two seminars “Occupational health issues in extreme weather conditions” and “Heat stress” for ICOH 2006 Congress.

- **Toxicology of Metals (Secretary: Ole Andersen)**

The SC includes 38 active members since those not working have been deleted. As a very active SC, it has organized four conferences since 2003, whose proceedings are going to be published in 2005. Forthcoming conferences are “2005 Neurotoxicity, 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium” to be held in Geonggju, Korea, September 26 –29, and a workshop on neurotoxic metals in 2006.

The SC plans to organize a one-day meeting on neurotoxicology of metals in collaboration with the SC on Neurotoxicology, just after ICOH 2006 Congress, in Milan. Finally, the publication of new edition of handbook on Toxicology of Metals, to be published in 2005 or 2006 has been proposed.

- **Vibration and noise**

The Officers of the SC were not able to attend the Mid-term Meeting. No report was submitted by this SC. As the theme of this SC is very important and relevant from the point of view of the current working life, it was seen important to try to bring this Committee into an active status.

- **Work and vision (Chair: Bruno Piccoli)**

The Committee has a multidisciplinary composition and a good representation of countries. A number of courses were held in Italy, Brazil and Uruguay. In the end a consensus document was produced on ergophthalmological issues. For the first time occupational health physicians have been invited by ophthalmologists to participate in a Conference in Rome, March 2005. The SC plans to organize 1 or 2 sessions for ICOH 2006.

Ruddy Facci congratulated for the work of this Committee. It is also well known in Southern America.

- **Unemployment & Health (Chair: Thomas Kieselbach)**

The Committee was founded in Singapore in 2000. Its main topics are the health situation of the unemployed, precariousness of the labour market and corporate social responsibility in downsizing. Among others, it organized the Scandinavian Expert Workshop “What are the mediating mechanisms between unemployment and ill-health”, Umeå, 22 September 2003, the “3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Unemployment and Health”, Bremen, 23-25 September 2004 with over 80 participants from 26 countries. The forthcoming event is the conference “Health Impact of Unemployment, Underemployment and Informal Sector” to be held in Izmir, Turkey, on 13-14 October 2005 and a number of sessions for ICOH 2006. The website is excellent except for the use of the old ICOH logo. Secretary General recommends to SCs’ Officers the consistency of the use of the logo. The same recommendations was also made as a general comment to all the SCs.

The topic is of relevance also in view of ICOH 2006 (P.A. Bertazzi and Rene Mendes).

- **Work Organization and Psychosocial Factors (liaison officer: Tore J. Larsson)**

The Officers of the SC were not able to attend the Mid-term Meeting. Tore Larsson reported that it is a rather loose SC with not very many ICOH members and it needs reorganization. The topic is very important and a multidisciplinary approach is essential. It plans organization of the “Second International Conference on Psychosocial Factors at Work, East meets West, Job Stress Prevention in a Global Perspective”, Okayama, Japan, 23-26 August 2005 - deadline extended to submit papers [www.wops2005.jp](http://www.wops2005.jp). It collaborates with the SC Health and Unemployment and with the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology. It is not a sleeping SC but by chance neither officer could attend the mid-term meeting.

- **GOMECE network (Chair: Alain Cantineau)**

Alain Cantineau reported that there are guidelines on “Occupational Medicine Education and Competence” to be presented at ICOH 2006 in Milan. Main focus are characterization of professional requirements for education, identification of different levels of education, and design of curricula.

The President reminded of the Bologna process started by the 31 European Ministers of Education in 1999 for the reform of the European higher education systems. The GOMECE should study the impact of the Bologna process on its design of curricula

Maurizio Manno specified that three levels are concerned: international, national and regional and invited the chair of SC Education and Training to continue the mutual collaboration between network and SC.

Alain Cantineau informed that there will be a session of GOMECE within the Strasbourg Conference next September.

- **International Communication and Information Technology Network for Occupational Safety and Health (Chair: Max Lum)**

Set up in Singapore, 80 members, 40 of which are new and less than 35 year aged: more members are greatly welcome. Main focus is working across SCs to try to encourage their communication. Active collaboration has been set up with SC History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases and SC Education and Training.



A CD and several fact sheets were implemented and the Network plans to have 2 symposia in ICOH 2006 and to produce strips for TV shows. A short discussion followed on the impact of such tools and benefits for ICOH member and Sergio Iavicoli summarized TG on Membership activities.

Max Lum presented two draft leaflets, and a poster to be used as tools for promoting ICOH; it is recommended to optimize the development of such tools in strong cooperation with TG on Information and Secretariat General.

- **Network: Tobacco free workplace (Chair: Ruddy Facci)**

It is substantially aimed at supporting the global effort to achieve tobacco-free workplaces. A position paper was approved by the ICOH General Assembly in Iguassu Falls in 2003. The network composition was changed in 2004. The next meeting will be held in Rome in March 2005. ICOH President reported on the achievement of ICOH in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and the inputs of the ICOH Secretary General at the WHA for the development of the Framework with a special focus on control of ETS at workplaces. As a result of that activity the FCTC has a special reference to workplace.

### **3. Commentary of Vice President Alain Cantineau on SC reports**

Alain Cantineau focused his conclusion on the following identified priorities:

- A better visibility of ICOH through a closer links with other organizations, the use of new logo, the production of position papers and statements, the notice of congresses and meetings further promoted in the website (template 14/35).
- It should be taken into consideration (even if there are difficulties) to organize meetings and seminars in developing countries. He also mentioned the ICOH 2006 Congress in Milan where most SCs intend to participate and which is the major event of ICOH. The ICOH centennial celebration should be considered (and in this regard Bertazzi invited to send out urgently proposals and suggestions).
- In order to improve administration, he reminded the SC Chairs of the need to improve relationships between individual SCs and between SCs and Secretary General and Vice-president via knowledge transfer. He asked the SCs to send all updated member lists in order to disseminate information and to increase ICOH membership among the SC members. It would be important to try to get members with a wide geographic representation (and in this connection National Secretaries could be of great help). Officers' election process as well as the liaison with ICOH board members should also be improved.

**Discussion:** a fruitful discussion followed regarding the importance of increasing ICOH visibility (Lum), the importance of setting up general guidelines for the development of position paper in the name of ICOH, (Maroni), the increasing of links with other organizations (Schäecke), the promotion of ICOH membership at national level including specific actions for promoting ICOH membership (Guidotti).

Furthermore, Sergio Iavicoli informed in this triennium it has been allocated the largest percentage of the budget devoted to SCs activities. Finally, Ken Takahashi emphasized the strong potential of practitioners who could be attracted to become members.

With regard to guidelines, the discussion arose on criteria for membership on a SC (Viau), on the problem of Medichem with so few ICOH members (Borron), on possible added values to attract membership (Guidotti), and the gap between the scientists from the industrialized countries and the participation of members from developing countries (Mendes).

Sergio Iavicoli reminded that the proposed guidelines for SC activities are an update of the existing text approved in May 1996 and still in force.

**Conclusion:** ICOH President summarized the main points of the discussion:

1. SCs are the backbone of ICOH and their key activity is to carry out the research process. The reports of the Scientific Committees were most encouraging. Only a small minority has not been active for various reasons. Thanks to such a high level of activity, this triennium is likely to be the most productive one.
2. The scientific outputs of the SCs should be documented in order to enable to produce fact sheets and to increase the use of the web in order to share information;

3. Horizontal collaboration across SCs is highly desirable and it was encouraged.
4. The and ICOH2006 Congress will be a challenge to present the SCs' activity and a healthy competition among the SCs was encouraged.

#### **4. ICOH 2006 Congress (Vito Foà, Pier Alberto Bertazzi)**

Vito Foà, ICOH 2006 President, gave a general overview of the ICOH2006 Congress including the framework of the congress which is promoted by ICOH, Department of Occupational Medicine – “Clinica del Lavoro, L. Devoto”, Italian Society of Occupational Medicine and Industrial Hygiene –SIMLII, Italian National Institute for Occupational Safety and Prevention – ISPEL, and furthermore the support of fourteen Italian Scientific Societies. He also presented the fees of the Congress.

Pier Alberto Bertazzi thanked the SCs for the important inputs and commitments and announced the forthcoming publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> announcement (and alike in the website).

The Congress will include 15 plenary lectures (3/day) with parallel sessions on different topics, 1000 posters, and 900 to 1100 oral presentations are anticipated. So far 43 proposals of sessions, 12 proposals of pre- and post- conference events (lasting one day or half a day) have been received. An innovative tutoring activity to support authors needing help to improve their contribution will be introduced.

Deadlines for abstract submission is the end September 2005 and notification will be at the end of November. Pier Alberto Bertazzi reported that many colleagues already gave their acceptance for this task. Mailing lists from SCs (Medichem, Shiftwork, etc.) will be highly appreciated. For information the active email address is: [scommittee.icoh2006@unimi.it](mailto:scommittee.icoh2006@unimi.it).

All information will be published in the ICOH Newsletter and website. Specific strategies to increase ICOH membership have been developed such as a reduced fee for students and support for participation from developing countries (an ad hoc committee will be set up to examine applications). A WHO/CC meeting will be held before the ICOH 2006 Congress with the participation of 100-120 experts that are likely to attend also ICOH 2006.

#### **Conclusion:**

After a lively discussion, it was strongly recommended to harmonize abstract submission deadlines with payment deadlines and it was also requested to differentiate fees for members from developing countries by some Board Members (Rene Mendes, Jenny Serfontein). The ICOH 2006 Organizers reminded that for the first time 100,000 Euros have been allocated to support developing countries participation. In this perspective, a special Working Group will be appointed by the ICOH President for generating criteria and allocating support for the ICOH 2006 participants coming from developing countries.

#### **• ICOH 2009 (Jenny Serfontein)**

On behalf of ICOH 2009 Organizing Committee, Ms Jennifer Serfontein reported that Congress Committees have been set up and the venue has been fixed. The first announcement will be circulated at the ICOH 2006.

#### **Conclusion:**

The presented reports were recorded for the Board as information.

#### **Closing**

Congratulations were presented by Bengt Knave, Past President of ICOH, on the huge amount of work done. On the request of Kazutaka Kogi, a minute of silence was kept to express sympathy to the Indian Ocean populations so heavily affect by tsunamis. Finally, Sergio Iavicoli expressed thanks to the organizers of the meeting, and in particular to Ms. Suvi Lehtinen and Ms. Kirsti Tuominen of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Ms. Daniela Fano and Carlo Petyx of ICOH Secretariat Staff for the support given to the meeting.

Jorma Rantanen, President of ICOH, expressed sincere thanks to the Committee Chairs, Secretaries, Board Members and ICOH Officers, and closed the Meeting.

Sergio Iavicoli MD, PhD  
ICOH Secretary General



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

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



## Joint Meeting of the ICOH Officers, Board and the Scientific Committees

Date Friday, 28 January 2005  
Venue House of Estates

### Agenda

08.30–09.00 **President's Report:**  Jorma Rantanen  
ICOH activities and strategies

Reports of the Scientific Committees will be presented by the Chair or Secretary of the Committee. If neither of these is present, the liaising \* Board Member will give the report. 7 min. for presentation and 3 min. for discussion.

09.00–10.30 **9 Scientific Committee Reports**

- Accident Prevention
- Aging and Work
- Allergy and Immunotoxicology
- Cardiology in Occupational Health
- Education and Training in Occupational Health
- Epidemiology in Occupational Health
- Fibres
- Handicap and Work
- Health Services Research and Evaluation in Occupational Health

Tore J. Larsson  
Willem Goedhard  
\*Petter Kristensen  
Tage Kristensen  
Bonnie Rogers  
Hilkka Riihimäki  
\* Martha Waters  
\* Richard Ennals

Kaj Husman

10.30–10.45 *Coffee break*

10.45–12.25 **10 Scientific Committee Reports**

- History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases
- Indoor Air Quality and Health
- Industrial Hygiene
- Musculoskeletal Disorders
- Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology
- Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses
- Occupational Health in Agriculture
- Occupational Health in the Chemical Industry
- Occupational Health in the Construction Industry
- Occupational Health and Development

Pier Alberto Bertazzi  
Giuseppe Abbritti  
Håkan Westberg  
\* Louis Patry  
Anders Iregren  
\* Petter Kristensen  
Kaj Husman  
Stephen Borron  
Cor van Duivenbooden  
Kaj Elgstrand

12.25–13.30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.30–15.30	<b>12 Scientific Committee Reports</b> <span style="background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 15px; vertical-align: middle;"></span>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupational Health for Health Care Workers</li> <li>• Occupational Health Nursing</li> <li>• Occupational Toxicology</li> <li>• Organic Dusts</li> <li>• Pesticides</li> <li>• Radiation and Work</li> <li>• Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace</li> <li>• Respiratory Disorders</li> <li>• Shiftwork</li> <li>• Small-scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector</li> <li>• Thermal Factors</li> <li>• Toxicology of Metals</li> </ul>	Gustav Wickström Jennifer Serfontein Claude Viau Torben Sigsgaard Jyrki Liesivuori David Sliney Irene Figa-Talamanca Sverre Langård Giovanni Costa Kazutaka Kogi Ken Parsons Monica Nordberg
15.30–16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16.00–16.40	<b>4 Scientific Committee Reports</b> <span style="background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 15px; vertical-align: middle;"></span>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vibration and Noise</li> <li>• Work and Vision</li> <li>• Work Organization and Psychosocial Factors</li> <li>• Unemployment and Health</li> </ul>	* Martha Waters Bruno Piccoli * Tore J. Larsson Thomas Kieselbach
16.40–17.10	<b>Reports of Networks á 10 min.</b> <span style="background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 15px; vertical-align: middle;"></span>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network for Guidelines on Occupational Medicine Education and Competence, GOMECE</li> <li>• International Communication and Information Technology Network for Occupational Safety and Health</li> <li>• Tobacco free Workplace</li> </ul>	Alain Cantineau  Max Lum Ruddy Facci
17.10–17.20	<i>Break</i>	
17.20–18.20	<b>Future of Scientific Committees, incl. guidelines</b>	Alain Cantineau
<b>Forthcoming Congresses</b>		
18.20–18.40	ICOH 2006	Vito Foa
18.40–18.50	ICOH 2009	Jennifer Serfontein
18.50–19.00	Discussion	
19.00	<i>Cocktails at the House of Estates</i>	

## ANNEX 2

Joint Meeting of the ICOH Officers,  
Board and Scientific Committees  
on Friday, 28 January, 2005 at 8.30–19.00  
House of Estates - Helsinki, Finland

### List of Participants:

- Kristiina Alanko, *SC Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses*
- Ole Andersen, *SC Toxicology of Metals*
- Tar-Ching AW, *Board Member*
- Pier Alberto Bertazzi, *SC History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases, ICOH 2006 Congress*
- David Black, *SC Radiation and work*
- Stephen Borron, *SC Occupational Health in the Chemical Industry - MEDICHEM*
- Alain Cantineau, *ICOH Vice President*
- Giovanni Costa, *SC Shiftwork*
- Cor van Duivenbooden, *SC Occupational Health in the Construction Industry*
- Ian Eddington, *Board Member*
- Kaj Elgstrand, *Board Member, SC Occupational Health and Development*
- Abdeljalil El Kholti, *Board Member*
- Richard Ennals, *Board Member*
- Ruddy Facci, *ICOH Vice President*
- Daniela Fano, *SC History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases*
- Irene Figà Talamanca, *SC Reproductive hazards in the workplace*
- Vito Foà, *ICOH 2006 Congress*
- Hua FU, *Board Member*
- Willem Goedhard, *SC Aging and Work*
- Tee L. Guidotti, *Board Member*
- Hans Martin Hasselhorn, *SC Occupational Health for Health Care Workers*
- Kaj Husman, *SC Health Services Research and Evaluation in Occupational Health*
- Sergio Iavicoli, *ICOH Secretary General*
- Juhani Ilmarinen, *SC Aging and Work*
- Anders Iregren, *SC Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology*
- Annette Jörgensen, *SC Occupational Health Nursing*
- Thomas Kieselbach, *SC Unemployment & Health*
- Bengt Knave, *ICOH Past President*
- Kazutaka Kogi, *Board Member, SC Small enterprises and the informal sector*

- Petter Kristensen, *Board Member*
- Tage S. Kristensen, *SC Cardiology in Occupational Health*
- Yukinori Kusaka, *SC Respiratory disorders*
- Sverre Langård, *SC Respiratory disorders*
- Tore J. Larsson, *Board Member, SC Accident prevention*
- Thomas Läubli, *SC Musculoskeletal Disorders*
- Suvi Lehtinen, *Board Member, SC Occupational Health and Development*
- Jyrki Liesivuori, *SC Pesticides*
- Roberto Lucchini, *SC Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology*
- Max Lum, *International Communication and Information Technology Network for Occupational Safety and Health*
- Maurizio Manno, *SC Occupational Toxicology*
- Marco Maroni, *Board Member*
- René Mendes, *Board Member*
- Giacomo Muzi, *SC Indoor Air Quality and Health*
- Ken Parsons, *SC Thermal factors*
- Louis Patry, *Board Member*
- Carlo Petyx, *Assistant to the Secretary General*
- Bruno Piccoli, *SC Work and Vision*
- Jorma Rantanen, *ICOH President*
- Hilikka Riihimäki, *SC EPICOH - Epidemiology in Occupational Health*
- Bonnie Rogers, *SC Education and Training in Occupational Health*
- Gustav Schäcke, *Board Member*
- Jennifer Serfontein, *Board Member, SC Occupational Health Nursing*
- Torben Sigsgaard, *SC Organic dusts*
- David H. Sliney, *SC Radiation and work*
- Ken Takahashi, *Board Member*
- Antti Tossavainen, *SC Industrial Hygiene*
- Kirsti Tuominen, *Assistant to the President*
- Claude Viau, *SC Occupational Toxicology*
- Martha Waters, *Board Member*
- Gustav Wickström, *SC Occupational Health for Health Care Workers*