

World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2013 - Commemoration  
PAHO/WHO Workers' Health/Environmental and Occupational Risks (ER), Area of Sustainable  
Development and Environmental Health (SDE)

## **Prevention of Occupational Diseases:** ***Occupational Diseases: The global path for prevention and diagnosis***

**Webinar 2: 29 April 2013** – PAHO/WHO World Day for Safety and Health at Work  
(In English with simultaneous translation to Spanish)

**Time: 09:30 am - 12:00 pm - EST (Washington, D.C.)** To check local time in WDC against your time zone, see the World Clock at: <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/meeting.html>

Occupational Diseases (ODs) are hugely under-diagnosed and under-registered, although ILO estimates that they are responsible for 2.02 million deaths and 160 million new incidents per year at global level. Regional data indicates that they are a hidden epidemic of old, new and emerging occupational pathologies that are not timely and adequately recognized by general health care services, nor by the scarce occupational health services available in the Region. This situation is critical in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) because only formal working populations have access to them, excluding close to 54% of the economically active population occupied in the informal sector. On the other hand, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of death in the world and our Region, occurring mostly during the productive period of life and probably being acquired at work. It is highly probable that many chronic OD such as cancers and respiratory diseases are immersed and unidentified amongst the statistics of NCDs, simply because they are not detected and diagnosed. This is aggravated by the long periods of latency between occupational exposures and the onset of the clinical presentation of the diseases.

For identifying and diagnosing ODs, health professionals need to have basic knowledge and develop skills in the practice of occupational medicine and toxicology, as well as being familiarized with occupational hygiene. Aside identifying and assessing exposures to work hazards, it is absolutely necessary to identify, document and specify the type and extent of the damages/pathologies occurring on workers' health and wellbeing. Occupational Medicine and Toxicology are key sciences with which health professionals need to be familiarized. Primary health care personnel should also have minimal competencies and skills to adequately address and orient workers within healthcare services, to finally achieve identification, diagnosis and registry of OD. As well, hazardous exposures will be identified for their elimination, reduction or mitigation. This is the only way to identify and differentiate OD from NCDs.

Taking into account the huge needs to develop the clinical skills previously mentioned, and acknowledging the ongoing joint efforts done by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to tackle this global challenge, PAHO planned this second seminar with the purpose of having the global experts share the joint actions taken to increase prevention, diagnosis and registration of Occupational Diseases by harmonizing the ICD-10/ICD-11 with ILO List of OD and protocols, where important advance have been achieved.

The Expert guests for this seminar are:

1. **Dr. Shengli Niu**, Coordinator and Senior Specialist of the Occupational Health Cluster, within the Programme on Safety and Health at Work (SafeWork), from the International Labour Office. He has

led the updating of the ILO List of Occupational Diseases that took place during the last decade, as well as the working group for improving the diagnostic criteria and registration of OD.

2. **Dr. Ivan Ivanov Dimov, MD PhD**, team leader of Occupational Health, within the area Sustainable Development and Environment of the World Health Organization. He has led several initiatives, including: the conformation of an Expert Group on OD aiming to include the ILO List of OD within the International statistical Classification of OD (ICD-11); and the joint effort with ILO to develop diagnostic criteria for OD.
3. **Dr. Anil Adisesh, GMC**, Deputy Deputy Chief Medical Officer at the Centre for Workplace Health in the Health and Safety Laboratory in Harpur Hill. Buxton, Derbyshire, UK. He is the leader of the WHO Global Expert Group on OD, and who developed the Beta-version of ICD-10.
4. **Dr. Manuel Pando, MD PhD**; he is the Director of the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Social, Environmental and Occupational Health Research (IIISO), Director of the Occupational Health Research Institute and founder of the Masters and Doctorate Programs in Occupational Health at the Guadalajara University in Mexico.
5. **Professor Tar-Ching Aw, MBBS, PhD, FRCP, FRCPC, FFOM, FFPHM**: he is the Interim Dean of the College of Medicine & Health Sciences, at the United Arab Emirates University, Al-Ain/United Arab Emirates. He was also Professor and Head of Division of Occupational Health at the University of Kent, Canterbury, UK until 2007.

Dr. Julietta Rodriguez Guzman, PAHO Regional Advisor on Workers' Health, SDE will serve as Moderator; and Dr. Carlos Santos-Burgoa, PAHO Coordinator of Environmental and Occupational Risks Program, SDE will be in charge of the the closing comments.

#### **Suggested readings:**

ILO World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2013: Prevention of Occupational Diseases. Available at:

[http://www.ilo.org/safework/events/meetings/WCMS\\_204594/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/safework/events/meetings/WCMS_204594/lang--en/index.htm)

WHO Occupational health: Occupational and work related diseases activities. Available at:

[http://www.who.int/occupational\\_health/activities/occupational\\_work\\_diseases/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/occupational_health/activities/occupational_work_diseases/en/index.html)

International Workers' Memorial Day, recruiting most of the events organized for this commemoration around the world, at: <http://www.hazards.org/wmd/index.htm>

Visit the webpage of the Latin American Associations on:

- Occupational Medicine and Health: <http://www.alsoweb.net/>
- Occupational Hygiene, at: <http://www.aldho.org/>
- Occupational Safety: <http://www.alaseht.com/index1.htm>
- Occupational and general toxicology: <http://www.alatox.org/>
- Occupational Ergonomics: <http://www.ulaergo.net/>

#### **Agenda**

##### **09:30 Introduction**

Dr. Julietta Rodríguez Guzmán, Moderator

##### **09:35 Welcome Greeting**

Dr. Jose Romero Teruel, Assistant Director - Dr. Luiz Augusto Galvão, SDE Manager

##### **09:40 Advances for adopting and implementing the ILO List of Occupational Diseases**

- Dr. Shengli Niu, Safework/ILO
- 10:10 **WHO Efforts on Occupational Diseases**  
Dr. Ivan Ivanov, WH/WHO
- 10:40 **The WHO ICD-11 project with Occupational Diseases: challenges and achievements**  
Dr. Anil Adisesh, GMC, CWH/UK
- 10:55 **Graduate education and for continuous education in Occupational Medicine: needs and Challenges**  
Prof. Tar Ching Aw, UAE University
- 11:10 **Education and Training Programs in Occupational Medicine and Health in Mexico**  
Dr. Manuel Pando Moreno, UG/Mexico
- 11:25 **Comments from the Moderator**
- 11:30 **Debate**  
Questions and Comments from participants
- 11:55 **Closing Remarks**

### How to participate

All Seminars will be open for participation in person at PAHO Headquarters, or via Elluminate. Some of the Seminars will be in English; others in Spanish and all will have simultaneous translation.

For those who cannot follow the live seminar, we will have the summaries available later online in our webpage.

#### In person:

9:30 am to 12:00 pm ET  
PAHO/Headquarters **Room 812**  
525 23rd St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20037

**Online:** via Elluminate link:

- Spanish: <http://www.paho.org/virtual/saluddelostrabajadores>
- English: <http://www.paho.org/virtual/workershealth>
- Twitter: @pahowho / @opsoms

### About the ODs Seminar Series:

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work declared by the International Labor Organization (ILO) is an international commemoration for the workers who suffered injuries, diseases or were fallen at work. It also celebrates those health events that were successfully prevented. As every year, PAHO has joined it, aiming to strengthening capacities in the countries for improving and promoting worker's health and wellbeing, and to preventing Occupational Diseases (ODs) in the Americas. To meet this goal, we have organized a short series of **three webinars** aimed to raise awareness and share knowledge about the creation and implementation of policies and strategies to prevent and diagnose ODs. The ODs Seminar series will take place as follows:

1. **Monday, 8 April 2013:** *"Occupational Hygiene: a necessary science for the prevention and diagnosis of Occupational Diseases."*
2. **Monday, 29 April 2013:** *"Occupational Diseases: the global path for prevention and diagnosis."*
3. **Wednesday, 29 May 2013:** *"Launching of the Knowledge Network on Occupational Diseases: a regional effort to improve prevention and diagnosis of Occupational Diseases."*