

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

**Prevention of Occupational Diseases:**

***Launching the Knowledge Network on Occupational Diseases: a Regional effort to improve diagnosis and prevention of occupational diseases***

**Webinar # 3: 12 June 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>

We have arrived to the last webinar programmed to commemorate the 2013 World Day for Safety and Health at Work, in which ILO made a call to prevent Occupational Diseases (ODs) and PAHO/WHO joined with the development of this mini-series of Webinars for creating awareness of the situation in the region and to organizing a Regional Knowledge Network on Occupational Diseases. The first two webinars were successfully attended by more than 130 persons each. In this last one, we are expecting to have all stakeholders that can help us act to move towards solutions for the ODs critical silent and invisible epidemic. Please join us in this final dialogue that marks the beginning of actions in this important regional effort.

***Seven reasons explain the need of a Regional Knowledge Network on ODs:***

1. 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.
2. ODs are hugely under-diagnosed and under-registered, and chronic OD such as cancers and respiratory diseases are most probably immersed and unidentified amongst the statistics of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) that occur during the productive period of life and probably are acquired at work, and the leading cause of death in the Region.
3. ODs remain invisible for 54% of the economically active population working in the informal sector, a situation considered to be critical in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Furthermore, invisibility is aggravated by the long periods of latency between occupational exposures and the onset of the clinical presentation of the diseases.
4. Health professionals have huge needs for knowledge and developing basic competencies and skills in occupational medicine, toxicology and occupational hygiene for identifying and diagnosing ODs. Thus, primary health care personnel need to be empowered with training and education for adequately addressing workers within healthcare services and to differentiate ODs from NCDs.
5. Primary prevention is based on the practice of Occupational Hygiene, the only way to identify, assess, and control hazardous exposures (elimination, substitution or reduction) in the workplaces.
6. The practice of occupational medicine now counts with tools and protocols developed through the joint efforts of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to tackle this global challenge.

7. Because the regional working population (468 million) is the driving force of productivity, wellness and progress of the society as a whole, we need healthy, satisfied, motivated and happy workers in all the countries of the Americas.

### ***What do we need it for?***

To support Member States of the Americas in strengthening workers' health by jointly working with the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centers Network, ILO CIS collaborating centers and stakeholders in the governments and civil society; and by establishing and enabling national and international mechanisms and efforts to improve prevention, diagnosis and registration of ODs, as well as treatment and return-to-work programs for workers who need them.

### ***Who can join it?***

PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centers in Occupational Health, ILO CIS Collaborating Centers, workers' organizations, employers' organizations, academia, and professional organizations in occupational hygiene, occupational medicine, ergonomics, toxicology and psychology, within other occupational health sciences. Members are expected to actively contribute to:

- Collecting, creating and disseminating knowledge
- Access stakeholders in the particular fields of occupational health sciences
- Identify strategies and successful experiences that when adequately assessed will allow Member States to consider options for moving to policy and practice.

The participants in this Webinar's dialogue are:

1. **Guests from ILO:** **Dr. Shengli Niu**, Coordinator and Senior Specialist of the Occupational Health Cluster, within the Programme on Safety and Health at Work (SafeWork); and **Dr. Carmen Bueno**, Regional Specialist in OHS for Latin America [TBC].
2. **Guests from WHO/PAHO:** **Dr. Ivan Ivanov Dimov, MD PhD**, team leader of Occupational Health, within the area Sustainable Development and Environment of the World Health Organization; **Dr. Agnes Soares**, Advisor Environmental epidemiology; **Dr. Ana Boischio**, Advisor in Toxicology; **Dr. Oscar Mujica**, Advisor Social epidemiology: Staff members from the Occupational and Environmental risk project in WDC.
3. **PAHO Knowledge management, media experts and other collaborators:** **Mr. Marcelo D'Agostino**, Manager KMC/PAHO, **Mr. Javier Munoz** Advisor in social networks/PAHO, **Mr. Walter Varillas** RSST-LAC Moderator
4. **Guests from the Academia:** **Dr. Linda Forst**, Director of WHO/PAHO CC at the University of Illinois in Chicago and **Dr. Maria Teresa Espinosa** Director of OH Graduate programs at UEB Colombia; **Dr. David Zalk** Director of Occupational Hygiene program in UIC.
5. **Directors and delegates** of the WHO/PAHO Collaborating Centers in Occupational health and the ILO International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centres (CIS) [TBC]
6. **Guests from international Occupational Health Professional Organizations:** **Dr. Bonnie Rogers**, Vice-President, International Commission on Occupational Health; **Dr. Juan Vicente Conde Sierra** Colombian Society of Occupational Medicine; **Dr. Zuher Zandar**, President ANAMT Brazil (TBC); **Dr. Claudio Taboadela**, President of ALSO; others present.
7. **Guest from the Occupational Hygiene Professional Associations:** Prof. Eng. Rudolff van der Haar (Spain); **Eng. Jose Espino** (Panama); **Eng. Alejandro Magnin** (Argentina); others present.

Dr. Julietta Rodriguez Guzman, PAHO Regional Advisor on Workers' Health, SDE will serve as Moderator; and Dr. Carlos Santos-Burgoa, PAHO Coordinator for Occupational and environmental Risks in the Area of Sustainable Development and Environmental health, SDE will make the closing remarks.

## Agenda

- 09:30 **Introduction**  
Dr. Julietta Rodríguez Guzmán, Moderator
- 09:40 **Welcome Greeting**  
Dr. Jose Romero Teruel, Assistant Director
- 10:00 **Introducing the Knowledge Network on Occupational Diseases [KNODs]**  
Dr. Julietta Rodríguez Guzmán and M. Basat Iltter, Humphrey fellow
- 10:20 **Global mentors: WHO and ILO Efforts to preventing Occupational Diseases in AMRO**  
Dr. Ivan Ivanov, WH/WHO Dr. Shengli Niu, ILO/HQ and Dr. Carmen Bueno, Safework/ILO
- 10:35 **Regional PAHO SDE partners: Regional Efforts to preventing Occupational Diseases in PAHO**  
*Dr. Agnes Soares*, Advisor Environmental epidemiology; *Dr. Ana Boischio*, Advisor in Toxicology; *Dr. Oscar Mujica*, Advisor Social epidemiology; *Eng. Paulo Teixeira*, Advisor in Urban health; others present.
- 10:50 **Regional PAHO KMC partners; Knowledge management and social media support for KNODs**  
*Mr. Marcelo D'Agostino*, Manager KMC, *Mr. Javier Munoz* Advisor in Social Networks/PAHO, *Mr. Walter Varillas* RSST-LAC Moderator
- 11:00 **Supporting and joining the KNODs:**  
**Panel discussion and debate with delegates & participants:**  
Academia: Prof. Dr. Linda Forst and Dr. David Zalk, UIC/USA; Prof. Maria Teresa Espinosa – UEB/COL  
Professional global organization: Message from Prof. Dr. Bonnie Rogers, Vice-president of ICOH  
Hygiene Associations: Prof. Eng. Rudolff van der Haar (Spain), Eng. Jose Espino (Panama); Eng. Alejandro Magnin (Argentina).  
Occupational medicine associations: Dr. Zuher Zandar, ANAMT Brasil, Dr. Juan Vicente Conde Sierra, Colombian Society of OM, Claudio Taboadela (ALSO)  
Questions and Comments from participants
- 11:50 **Comments from the Moderator**  
Future actions
- 11:55 **Closing Remarks**  
Dr. Carlos Santos-Burgoa

## How to participate

All Seminars will be open for participation in person at PAHO Headquarters, or via Blackboard Collaborate. 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 B**  
525 23rd St. NW - Washington, D.C. 20037

**Online:** via Blackboard Collaborate link:

**English:** SDE ER Workers and Consumers Health Virtual Room - PAHO

<http://www.paho.org/virtual/workershealth>

**Telephony Bridge:** 571-392-7703      **Internal:** 44123

**PIN:** 518 283 461 861

**Spanish:** SDE ER Sala Virtual del Programa de Salud de los Trabajadores - PAHO

<http://www.paho.org/virtual/saluddelostrabajadores>

**Telephony Bridge:** 571-392-7703      **Internal:** 44123

**PIN:** 905 483 530 358

- Twitter: @pahowho / @opsoms

### **Suggested readings:**

1. "Tools and techniques to support knowledge networking and virtual collaborations" WHO/RHR 10.24 (2011). WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research [www.who.int/reproductivehealth](http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth)
2. International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) Networks & Partnerships Page <http://www.iisd.org/networks/>
3. 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/>

### **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, 12 June 2013:** *"Launching of the Knowledge Network on Occupational Diseases: a regional effort to improve prevention and diagnosis of Occupational Diseases."*

***The KNODs will continue holding a monthly webinar focusing in occupational pathologies themselves.***