

Guest Editorial

Occupational Ergonomics and Safety, Part 2

This section is the second part of a special issue on Occupational Ergonomics and Safety, which was organized for *WORK: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment and Rehabilitation*. As in the first part of this thematic issue, this one comprises thirteen papers that were peer-reviewed and, finally, accepted for publication. This issue includes the work of authors from eleven countries all over the world.

The variety of the presented works is not limited to their geographical origin, but it is also visible on the topics that are addressed, ranging from typical studies on ergonomics to safety management studies, as well as occupational hygiene topics.

The following paragraphs provide a brief introduction to the articles included in the special issue.

This second part of the special issue starts with a set of papers focused on occupational ergonomics, more precisely on topics related to musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) and associated symptoms. The first paper from Torres da Costa, Baptista and Vaz present a systematic review on prevalence and incidence of the upper limb WRMSD. The second paper from Moar et al. compares the Spanish data on MSDs with the data from other European countries. This is followed by the work from Carneiro, Braga and Torres, which tried to identify the main risk factors of work related MSDs for a specific type of nurses, the home care nurses. Still on the same topic, the fourth paper from Löfqvist et al. used an analytical approach to identify, evaluate and grade ergonomic problems in physical work performed during daily activities in horse stables and relate these to MSDs among the workers. Lastly, the work from Nugent and Fallon has a slightly different focus, since its objective was to record a sample of plasterers' self-reported perceptions of discomfort to identify temporal patterns and investigate if discomfort can be related with work-break patterns and task demands.

The second set of papers is composed of five papers that are addressing safety management problems of a

different nature. A first paper, published by Cabeças, is presenting an occupational risk factors taxonomy, which can be applied in systematic hazards identification. This is followed by the work from Drupsteen et al. that aims at exploring how safety issues are recognized in some particular cases. Next, Rodrigues, Coutinho and Cardoso present a paper focused on a model development that can help to clarify the causality of some construction accidents. The last two papers are centred on safety issues related to equipment. The first one from Trudel et al. is a review and it aims to provide support for mining industry when selecting equipment that can combine OHS specifications and productivity. The last paper of this set, by Mrugalska and Arezes, describes an overview of the safety and compliance aspects of metal machinery offered for sale on the Internet market.

The final set of three articles at the end of this special issue is dedicated to occupational hygiene aspects and occupational exposure. The one from Strasser, Müller and Irle describes studies in a laboratory setting to examine the relationship between realistic noise exposure and the corresponding temporary threshold shifts (TTS). The work of Chen, Fan and Wang investigated the noise effect on physiological and subjective responses in semiconductor manufacturing clean room environment. Finally, Coelho et al. tried to assess the association between environmental, physical and organizational working conditions and the physical and psychosocial well being of a sample of clerical workers.

To conclude, I would like to finalize this editorial by once again thanking the entire team that was involved in the success of this special issue. A special thanks to the contributors, for their effort and for sharing their findings with the scientific community, to the journal reviewers, for their crucial contribution, and last but certainly not least to the editor of the journal, who has accepted our challenge and has given us all the necessary support to make this issue a reality.

As mentioned in the previous edition, I hope that the works presented here can also be an inspiration for translating research into useful actions, that can be used to improve working conditions and workers' health preservation and, ultimately, make a significant and tangible contribution to the effective improvement of their quality of life.

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