

Guest Editorial

This Special Issue reflects the diverse interests of contemporary ergonomics, observed both in Europe and the United States, which focus on the management of occupational safety, health, and prevention of work-related musculoskeletal injuries in a variety of occupational groups. The first paper by Terrés and colleagues deals with the economic fluctuations affecting the success of occupational safety management in Spanish industry. The second paper, coauthored by Hale and his colleagues from the Netherlands, addresses an important problem of developing effective diagnosis for safety improvements in the context of safety culture observed in Dutch steelworks. The third paper, prepared by Sherehiy and her coworkers in Poland and the United States, reviews the current state of knowledge regarding the relationships between risk factors for musculoskeletal disorders in the nursing profession around the world. In the fourth paper, Taloni and colleagues present an application of a new index, which they proposed for the assessment of back pain reported by workers employed in Italian nurseries. Finally, in the fifth paper, Zurada and colleagues present the results of applying various data mining techniques for classification of industrial jobs with respect to the risk of low back disorders, and discuss the potential benefits of different knowledge discovery tools for hazard analysis and injury prevention due to manual handling tasks.

On a personal note, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to this diverse group of authors for their contributions, and to all reviewers who assured the quality of the selected papers published in this Special Issue.

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