



30<sup>th</sup> International Congress  
on Occupational Health  
March 18 - 23, 2012

Occupational health for all: From research to practice  
Santé au travail pour tous: De la recherche à la pratique

ICOH Congress 2012

18-23 March, 2012 Cancun Mexico

Call for Abstracts:

**Call for abstracts is open.**  
**Abstract submission deadline extension July 20, 2011.**

Please accept this warm invitation to participate in the **30th Congress of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) to be held in Cancun Mexico on March 18 - 23, 2012.** ICOH Congress in Mexico aims to build a bridge between research and practice in order to help developed and developing countries to improve the level of workers' health protection, and to prevent occupational injuries and diseases.

ICOH Congress will deal with important subjects related to Occupational Health, as part of its 10 plenary sessions, 30 semi-plenary and up to 200 mini-symposiums. Languages used at the Congress will be English, French and Spanish. A number of grants will be available to support speakers from developing countries with an abstract accepted.

The Organizing Committee of ICOH Congress 2012 invites you to join international colleagues in Mexico. Key international experts will come to share their knowledge with us, encouraging good debate. We have also set aside time for abstract sessions, which will include oral and poster presentations. Those scientific sessions will promote regional and global network-based cooperation for achieving good occupational health practices, and a better understanding of the principles and ethics of our professional activities.

Come and enjoy an excellent scientific program, congress facilities, as well as our culture and hospitality. We hope to see you in Cancun, Mexico.

#### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:

For the International Congress of ICOH 2012, we are particularly keen to receive abstracts which link to our theme of '**Occupational health for all: From research to practice**'. Free papers and posters present an excellent opportunity to stimulate debate, raise issues or highlight quality work being carried out by teams or individuals. Abstracts may be by way of a case study, research or professional experience - the knowledge of which would benefit others in the occupational health field.

All submissions will be subject to review and ***all presenters must register for the Conference.***

Please refer to [www.ichcongress2012cancun.org](http://www.ichcongress2012cancun.org) for submission instructions. It is important to read instructions before submitting an abstract. Your manuscript must be in **English**.

**Abstract Submission Deadline: July 20, 2011**

## Main Topics

- Accident Prevention
- Advances in Biological Monitoring
- Advances in Occupational Toxicology
- Assessing the Risk of the Work Environment on Vision
- Biomonitoring of Chemical exposures experiences in Developing Countries
- Cardiovascular and Chronic Diseases and Occupational Risks in Developing Countries
- Cardiology in Occupational Health
- Children and Adolescent Workers Occupational Health Work Conditions in Developing Countries
- Development and Evaluation of Evidence-based practice guidelines in Occupational Health
- Education Sector Workers Occupational Health Conditions
- Education and Training in Occupational Health
- Ergonomic Risks in Non-traditional Jobs in Developing Countries
- Finish Institute of Occupational Health
- Functional and Clinical Aspects of Work and Vision
- Health Risks and Prevention Tools in the Construction Industry
- History of Occupational Health in Mexico and Latin America
- History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases
- Improving quality in Occupational Health Practice
- Indoor Air Quality
- Infectious Diseases and Prevention in Agriculture and Animal Breeding
- Job-specific Workers' health Surveillance
- Molecular Biology in Occupational Health
- MSDs in the Construction Industry: Risks and Prevention
- Musculoskeletal disorders and Mental Health problems
- Nanoparticules and Occupational Health
- Neurobehavioral methods in Occupational and Environmental Health
- Neurotoxic effects from Chemical Agents
- Shiftwork & Working Time
- Noise
- Occupational Allergies
- Occupational and Environmental Dermatoses
- Occupational and Environmental Immunotoxicology
- Occupational Asthma and Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis
- Occupational Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Occupational Exposure to Toxic Metals
- Occupational Health and Development
- Occupational Health Conditions of Health Care Workers in Developing Countries
- Occupational Health Conditions of Informal Outsourcing Workers in Developing Countries
- Occupational Health Nursing
- Occupational Health Research in Mexico-FENASTAC experience
- Occupational Infectious Agents
- Occupational Medicine
- OH for Health Care Workers
- OH in the Chemical Industry
- Organic Dust Exposure in Farming - friend or foe?
- Pesticide Risk Assessment and Management in Agriculture
- Pneumoconiosis

- Promoting Health and Well-being at Work
- Psychosocial Factors and MSDs: Cause Effect Interventions
- Psychosocial Factors at Work and Worker Health
- Psychosocial Factors: How to Intervene
- Psychosocial Interventions for Prevention of Stress at Work
- Psychosocial Risks Interventions at Work in Developing Countries
- Radiation and Work
- Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace
- Safety Management in the Construction Industry
- Small-scale enterprises and the Informal Sector
- Social Responsibility for Vulnerable Population in Mexico
- The Role of Networking in the Development of Occupational Health Psychology in Latin America
- The State of Construction Safety and Health Science
- Training for Pesticide Exposure Reduction, Online Resources, for Low Income Countries
- Vibration
- Women, Health and Work
- Work and vision
- Work Disability Prevention and Integration

The scientific committee will review all abstracts. In some cases abstracts may be rejected as oral presentations but accepted as posters. The first author on the abstract is considered to be the presenter of the paper at the conference. The authors' preference of oral or poster presentation will be taken into account.

Applicants will receive notification of acceptance of their contribution no later than **1st Sept 2011**. Please note that submitting an abstract to the Conference represents a commitment to participate.

**Registration:** All oral and poster presenters are expected to register for the Conference via online registration.

**Publication:** Abstracts will be published and made available to conference participants as a Book of Abstracts.

Please note that, no editorial changes will be made, your abstract will be published in the Book only if we have received your registration and payments accordingly.

**Instructions for presenters:** Detailed instructions for the presenters will be published at the website.

**Information:** Detailed Information on congress topics, keynote speakers, delegate fees, accommodations, and online registration can be found on conference website pages [www.icohcongress2012cancun.org](http://www.icohcongress2012cancun.org)

### **Instructions for submitting Abstracts to ICOH Congress 2012**

Submission of an abstract requires that you first obtain a congress number which you will use (**to login**) as a password to submit your abstract on this site. This congress number will be sent to you by e mail once you have provided some initial information, and the number **and email** will be used in future to complete registration. This does not commit you to make the registration payment before abstract submission.

Submission of abstracts can be made online through the website at [www.ichcongress2012cancun.org/echeckmein](http://www.ichcongress2012cancun.org/echeckmein) by clicking on the abstract button and following the instructions and format reported there. Should you experience problems with on-line submission, contact the administrator at [abstracts@ichcongress2012cancun.org](mailto:abstracts@ichcongress2012cancun.org)

On receipt of the abstract, the presenting author will be notified by e mail and allocated an abstract number which should be quoted in any enquiry about the abstract. Enquiries, change of details, or requests for withdrawal of abstracts should be sent by e mail to [abstracts@ichcongress2012cancun.org](mailto:abstracts@ichcongress2012cancun.org)

Abstracts must be submitted by 20 July 2011. No late abstracts will be accepted. Presenting authors will be notified of acceptance and format of presentation by 01 Sept 2011. Those intending to apply for grants (see Instructions for Applying for a Grant).

#### Instructions for preparing abstracts

- Abstracts will be published in the conference proceedings and must be submitted in the prescribed format to the most relevant scientific topic option. Do not include graphics or tables.
- Abstracts can be submitted in English only.
- A maximum of three abstracts per presenting author can be submitted
- Abstracts must be no more than 300 words ( excluding the title, keywords, names and affiliations) in the format shown in the example
- The Title must be less than 200 characters and presented in bold 12 point Arial font
- The authors must be listed with Initials and Surname in 11 point Arial font. Names must be separated by commas
- The authors' affiliations must be indicated after each name in superscript numbers (separated by commas if more than one affiliation per author)
- The affiliations must be listed below the names in 10 point italic Arial font with the Institute, Town and Country (see example).
- The name of the presenting author must be underlined
- Add no more than 3 key words in bold 11 point Arial font (see example)
- For the text, Arial 11 point font should be used with single line spacing and no right justification
- The presenting author should complete the abstract with relevant content so participants understand what the session is about.
- The content should be divided into four sections with bold headings:
  - Introduction:
  - Methods:
  - Results:
  - Discussion:
- The system automatically will count the words and apply the type of letter.

Title:

**Travelling for work – seeking advice in South Africa**

**Authors & affiliations and keywords:**

M.H. Ross\*<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, D. Kielkowski<sup>2,3</sup>, A. de Frey<sup>2,4</sup>, G. Brink<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>De Beers Group Services (Pty) Ltd, <sup>2</sup>University of the Witwatersrand, <sup>3</sup>National Institute for Occupational Health, National Health Laboratory Service, <sup>4</sup>South African Society of Travel Medicine, Johannesburg, South Africa

**Keywords:** Sub Saharan Africa, Occupational traveller, 'last minute' consultation

**Abstract:** (Your abstract must use **Normal style** and must fit in this box. Your abstract should be no longer than 300 words. The box will 'expand' over 2 pages as you add text/diagrams into it.)

**Introduction:**

Sub Saharan Africa, a very high risk destination for travellers, is an important destination for South African workers. The concomitant occupational exposure to infectious diseases raises concern about the adequate risk-related preparation of business travellers, particularly those moving to remote areas. Occupational health practitioners in South Africa are concerned about expatriates whose 'last-minute' consultation pattern may preclude adequate disease prevention and appropriate preparation for travel. The South African Society of Travel Medicine established a national sentinel surveillance system and, with the National Institute for Occupational Health, investigated the pre-travel consultation patterns in business travellers.

**Methods:**

A retrospective study was conducted on records of 20 000 travellers attending 24 sentinel general and travel medicine practices in main South African centres from January 2005 to December 2006. Reason for travel, destination, and the time between consultation and departure were collated. Data were analysed using STATA.

**Results:**

Business travellers comprised 42% of the travellers consulting clinics and had a mean 'consultation to departure' period of 15.2 days. Over half the business travellers (54%) consult less than a week before departure, while 92% consult less than a month before departure. Other countries in Africa are the destination for 73% of business travellers.

**Discussion:**

This is the first national surveillance of South African corporate and leisure travellers seeking travel advice. Since Africa is the destination for most business travellers consulting travel medicine clinics in South Africa, the period of consultation prior to departure is of particular concern with regard to malaria prophylaxis and completion of multiple dose vaccine schedules. The findings of this sentinel surveillance indicate the need for detailed comparison of time to departure with vaccines and malaria prophylaxis; for targeted advice to the corporate industries deploying employees in Africa; and to define accelerated schedules to maximise protection for the 'last-minute' business traveller.

## **Welcome students 2nd Annual Student Poster Competition**

ICOH is proud to offer the 2nd Annual Student Poster Competition. To be eligible, participants must identify themselves as a Student on the conference registration form, submit an abstract of their occupational health science research in advance of the conference, and prepare a scientific poster to be displayed at a special conference session. Student presenters will be required to stand by their poster during the Student Track Poster Session to explain their work and entertain questions from other conference attendees and from an international panel of judges. The posters will be judged on scientific quality, poster presentation quality and clarity, and the student's ability to answer questions from the judges. There will be a cash prize for the Best Student Poster, and the winner will be recognized at the conference closing session.