



Modernet Newsletter

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Content:

Message from our Chair

PROJECTS

- **Launch of SIGNAAL in Belgium**
- **Clinical occupational medicine in Barcelona**
- **EU-OSH project**
- **Modernet participation in the H2020 project on Sleep disorders**

EVENTS

- **June 2017 in Milan: International Conference on the new ILO Occupational Diseases list**

Message from our Chair Lode Godderis



Dear Modernet friends,

2017 will be an interesting Modernet year, with several Modernet activities and opportunities. Some of the activities took already place and it is becoming more and more clear that our work has an increasing impact. You will read more about this further in de newsletter.

But, let me first start with the opportunities. The European Commission is currently drafting the last work programme for Horizon 2020, spanning three years. In the programme on health there are three major calls foreseen:

Call 1. – Better Health and care, economic growth and sustainable health systems (deadline expected Oct 2018);

Call 2. – Digital transformation in Health and Care (deadline expected Spring 2018);

Call 3. – Trusted digital solutions and Cybersecurity in Health and Care (deadline expected Spring 2018).

The first call could suit our interest especially since there is a specific topic on the role of the environment for health and well-being with a special attention to endocrine disruptors, climate change and tools to determine the exposome. I suggest we start a working group with interested parties. Let me know if you are interested and I'll set up a virtual meeting to organize us.

We have also several Modernet activities to share results of our research activities. The first meeting that comes up is the EPICOH conference in Edinburgh (<https://www.epicoh2017.org/>). Together with the ICOH Scientific Committee on Occupational Medicine, Modernet is organizing on Wednesday 30 August 2017 a 3 parallel session and provides 2 keynotes. I am looking forward to all meeting you there.

Another opportunity is the International meeting of Environment and Health in Strassbourg from Nov 29 to Dec 1. 2017. The idea would be to include an Modernet session on occupational exposure to particulate matter and health effects. Let me know before the end of June 2017 the title of your presentation.

<p>- August 2017 in Edinburgh: Modernet meeting within EPICOH</p> <p>- November 2017 in Strasbourg: Modernet session during IMEH-RISE</p> <p>- 2018 in Kosice, Slovakia: Next Modernet meeting on mental and behavioral diseases</p> <p>New calls coming up</p> <p>Modernet Membership and fee</p>	<p>Other topics that will be included in this second edition will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the major risk factors in Public Health.- the mechanistic approach of air pollution: neurotoxicology, vascular endothelium, epigenetics- an emerging risk factor for the foetus, neurodevelopment and the autistic spectrum- update in neuro-inflammation, cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases- health issues related to chronic and accidental air pollution in megacities- indoor air health issues- is there hope? Remediation and regulation <p>In 2018 there will be a Modernet presence at the big ICOH conference in Dublin (http://icoh2018.org/wp/)</p> <hr/> <p>Our first separate meeting after Prague will be in the autumn of 2018. Our member Marek Varga will prepare this meeting in Kosice, Slovakia and the major topics will be on mental and behavioural diseases.</p> <p>In the first months of 2019 there will be a meeting organised in Germany, either in Berlin or Dresden by Dirk Pallapies.</p> <p>Finally, this Modernet newsletter is an ideal opportunity to share your ideas, projects, realisation, activities and publication. So, make use of it. Contact Chiara, Annet or me and we will take care of it.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Lode</p>
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Report of SIGNAAL launch in Belgium

On March 31, SIGNAAL (<https://www.mysignal.be/>) was launched in Belgium with the support of FEDRIS, which is the new agency for occupational risks. SIGNAAL is the acronym for Signalering Nieuwe Arbeidsgerelateerde Aandoeningen Loket (Signaling New Occupational Diseases Counter). The website and system is now available in several languages: English, Dutch, French, Italian.

SIGNAAL is an online service where suspicions about new relations between health and work can be reported. Through SIGNAAL, OSH physicians and experts can submit a report when they suspect a new or unknown relationship between an exposure at the workplace and health problems. This report is consequently assessed by a panel of occupational experts to see if there is a possible association. In the Netherlands the Occupational Health Specialists of the Dutch Centre for Occupational Diseases (NCOD) and in Belgium to Occupational Health Experts of the Centre for Environment and Health from KU Leuven have been assigned to carry out the assessment in collaboration with a network of OSH organ specialist.

During the conference OSH vigilance was introduced, and the several systems available to study and detect these "side-effects of work" of work were presented by Jelana Bakusic and Lode Godderis. After this introduction, examples and practices of several European countries were presented on how early detection, follow-up of trends and alerts could lead to actions to prevent permanent health damage in workers. Annet Lenderink presented the available systems in The Netherlands. Next, Isabelle Vanrullen and Catherine Nisse the French rnv3p network both from a clinical as from a analytical point of view. The morning was closed by Consol Serra who gave an overview of occupational diseases in the Spanish National health system. In the afternoon, a demo was given of Signaal after which there was plenty of time for questions and debate.

Project Barcelona: clinical occupational medicine



Regarding the Occupational Health surveillance status, we are glad to inform you that this year the CEPS Project started in Spain. It is a 3 years project to estimate the burden of occupational diseases (ODs) treated at the Spanish National Health System. The project is funded by the Spanish Ministry of Health (FIS PI16/00061) and is coordinated by the Centre of Research in Occupational Health of the University Pompeu Fabra (<https://www.upf.edu/web/cisal>) together with the Occupational Health Service of Parc de Salut Mar (PSMAR/IMIM) (<http://www.parcdesalutmar.cat>), both in Barcelona, and involves 11

hospitals throughout Spain. For more information, please contact Consol Serra at consol.serra@upf.edu).

THE STARTING POINT...

In Spain, the National Health System covers non-work related diseases and the Social Security System, mainly through Social Security collaborating insurance companies, covers occupational diseases, with an existing patients and resources exchange that has been little studied until now.

Underreporting of ODs in Spain is a real problem and the burden of those diseases which were actually occupational - but not recognized as such - could be huge. It has to be considered that in Spain it is not enough that a disease is identified and notified as work-related by a doctor of the National Health System to become an OD: it must be recognized as occupational by the Social Security.

Hospitals can contribute to the identification and evaluation of cases of suspected OD by involving their clinical services and occupational physicians. This may offer advantages for patients, their relatives, the public hospitals and the whole society. For all these reasons, in 2010 a Clinical Occupational Diseases Unit (ODU) was created at Hospital del Mar (PSMAR) as a joint innovative project with CiSAL-University Pompeu Fabra to identify cases of suspected OD among hospital patients.

HOW IT WORKS: Clinical Services of PSMAR were involved, and a list of most common OD was selected for each of them. A cases referral system from clinical services to the ODU was created and a full and evidence-based evaluation method is applied to each referred case by an occupational physician. A peer reviewed causation report is elaborated for each confirmed case of suspected OD; that is delivered to the patient, his GP and the referral physician, then the patient or his GP can use it to claim to the Social Security.

SOME RESULTS: Several analyses have been done with a series of ODU cases for the period 2011-2014. Out of 115 cases referred to the ODU by clinical services, 46 were confirmed as cases of suspected OD (positive predictive value = 40%). Of those, 31 decided to claim to the Social Security the OD recognition, and only 13 had their OD recognized during the follow-up period. A detailed analysis of that health care direct costs of a sample of 33 cases of suspected OD revealed a total cost of 181.045,8€ and a mean cost of 5.486,2€, that varied greatly according to the diagnostic main group:

- Musculoskeletal: 2,080€
- Cancer: 15,223€
- Hearing loss: 66€
- Dermatosi: 1,094€

CONCLUSIONS: The results obtained from this experience have shown the ODU to be useful and effective. The Hospital has the possibility of balancing health care costs with the Social Security System by having the corresponding rate for each case refunded by the Social Security. The challenge then was to expand this approach for identification and

management of OD to other hospitals of the Spanish National Health Service

THE CEPS PROJECT in brief

Burden of occupational disease treated at the Spanish National Health System, started in January this year with the following objectives:

- 1) To estimate the prevalence of occupational diseases (OD) in participating hospitals populations and its underreporting in the catchment area of those hospitals;
- 2) To identify underlying causes of the underreporting of OD in those areas;
- 3) To conduct a study of the economic burden, focused on: a) the assessment of the cost of OD in the participating hospitals, and b) the cost-benefit evaluation of this activity for the hospitals;
- 4) To prepare two guidelines to assist patients/workers, and professionals and stakeholders in the OD recognition process by the Social Security.

The research design of the CEPS project is a prospective clinical study involving 10 other public hospitals from 5 Spanish regions, and an estimated sample of 500 cases of suspected OD is planned to be included. The infrastructure and organization of the ODU in each hospital is being created and patients' recruitment and evaluation is expected to start in July 2017.

EU-OSH project Methodologies to identify work-related diseases – Review on sentinel and alert approaches



Several members of Modernet network are currently involved in a EU-OSHA funded project on “Methodologies to identify work-related diseases – Review on sentinel and alert approaches”. The project is run by KU Leuven, the Coronel Institute, the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, the University of Manchester and the University of Bologna. The first report describing the results of an extensive scientific literature search, which identified a total of 75 surveillance systems covering 26 different countries will be launched shortly.

A workshop was organised by EU-OSHA in Brussels 18 May 2017 to gain more insight into existing monitoring approaches for the identification of work-related diseases and their prevention, and on the drivers and obstacles to the implementation of alert and sentinel systems. A further aim of the workshop was to formulate recommendations for the development and use of such systems improving the early detection of work-related diseases and the timely set up of evidence-based prevention. The workshop brought together owners and developers of monitoring systems, researchers, actors from disease recognition and compensation as well as OSH practitioners and provide a platform for discussion on different aspects of these systems.

	<p>The outcome of the workshop will be incorporated into the final report of this review and will serve as a basis for discussions at the final seminar of the project that will bring together policy-makers at EU and Member State level.</p>
	<p>SLEEPOWER: a new H2020 proposal from Modernet</p> <p>Thanks to the efforts of Modernet colleagues and many others who participated in the planning and writing, the SLEEPOWER (SLeEp disorders as determinants of major dePressive disOrder and Work-related stress among shiftworkers and drivers: prevalence, etiology, hEalth impact and suRveillance) project has been recently submitted as a Research and Innovation Action¹ in response to the H2020 call addressing the challenge SC1-HCO-07-2017, Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) prevention and management of mental disorders. The call is part of the 'Health, Demographic Change and Well-being' Work Programme 2016-2017, which objective is 'promoting healthy ageing and personalised healthcare', focusing on mental disorders as defined by the WHO ICD10 classification (http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2016/en#/V), and particularly on ICD10 codes F32 (depressive disorders), F43.2 (adjustments disorders), and F51.2 (Nonorganic disorder of the sleep-wake schedule), as the outcomes of ICD10 G47.2 (disorder of the sleep-wake schedule), and G47.3 (sleep apnoea).</p> <p>Previous, large collaborative studies have provided evidence of the link between work related stress and depressive disorders. In turn, sleep disorders are a major determinant of both, work-related stress and depression among vulnerable populations, such as night shift workers and drivers; these two occupations are of vital importance for the global economy, and those involved are heavily affected by the health problems related to the progressive ageing of the working population. Our proposal will study the prevalence of work-related stress and depression in a large sample of night shift workers and drivers from 8 EU countries; will test the link with disruption of the circadian rhythm as well as the lifestyle and genetics among participants; will design a protocol for early detection and prevention of sleep disorders in these population; and will test the ability of the same protocol to reduce the prevalence of sleep disorders, as well as its impact on reducing the prevalence of work-related stress and depression, thus improving well-being among those vulnerable working populations.</p> <p>The list of participants covers a large part of EU countries, with 12 major groups including occupational health units, sleep medicine units, and with the contribution of occupational psychologists and psychiatrists from Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Spain, Serbia, Slovakia, United Kingdom. Modernet is also included as a participant, being the EU organization gluing the contribution of the rest of participants so to address the final aim of designing a workplace surveillance protocol and testing it. SLEEPOWER has been so far a great effort, and, if funded, will be a very challenging and ambitious project to pursue.</p>

International Conference in Milan: Harmonizing diagnosis, reporting and prevention of the Occupational diseases in the world

Milan, Tuesday 27th of June 2017

The Department of Health Sciences of the University of Milan and the International Centre for Rural Health of the University Hospital San Paolo in Milan are glad to invite you all at this public event which has got the patronage of the Italian Society of Occupational Health and safety (SIMLII), of the Italian Authority for the Insurance of Occupational accidents and diseases (INAIL), of the Region of Lombardy and of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH). Other patronages are on the way.

During this occasion, the diagnosis and prevention criteria document for occupational diseases listed in the new ILO list will be presented and the group who have been working at the document will introduce its work to international experts, users and stakeholders.

Conference Programme:

8.30 - 9.00: Registration

Chairs: Claudio Colosio and Shengli Niu

9.00 - 9.15; Welcome to the participants: Gianluca Vago (Rector of University of Milan), Nicoletta Cornaggia (Region of Lombardy), Silvio Scarone, Director of the Department of Health Sciences

9.15 - 9.30: Shengli Niu (ILO): Occupational diseases in the world and the new ILO List

9.30 - 9.45: Jukka Takala (ICOH): The role of ICOH in the dissemination of the new ILO text

9.45-10.00: Jorge Costa David (European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities): How EU deal with Occupational Diseases diagnosis, reporting and prevention.

10.00 - 10.15: Claudio Colosio (University of Milan & International Centre for Rural Health, Italy): The seven-year activities of the ILO Working Group for Diagnostic and exposure criteria of occupational diseases

10.15 - 11.00: Coffee Break

11.00- 11.15: Anil Adiseh (Dalhousie University, Canada): How to define criteria for diagnosis, compensation and prevention of Occupational Diseases

11.15- 11.30: Tar Ching Aw (ADNOC, United Arab Emirates; Florida International University, USA; University of Occupational & Environmental Health, Japan): Lessons Learnt from the experience of the preparation of the EU text Information notices on occupational diseases: a guide to diagnosis

11.30 - 11.45: Jorma Rantanen (Director General Emeritus Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, FIOH Visiting Scientist, Department of Public Health/Occupational Health University of Helsinki, Finland): How to define criteria for diagnosis, compensation and prevention of Occupational Diseases: the example of Asbestos and the Helsinki Document

11.45 - 12.00: Swen Malte John (University of Osnabrueck, Germany): The

specificity of occupational skin diseases
12.00 - 12.15: Linda Forst (WHO Collaborating Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, at the University of Illinois, Chicago): The status of Surveillance for Occupational Diseases in the US
12, 15 - 12.30 Igor Bukhtiyarov (Russian Academy of Sciences): Diagnosis, prevention and Compensation of ODs in the Russia's system
12..30 - 12.45: Zhang Min (School of Public Health, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences - CAMS/Peking Union Medical College) Diagnosis, prevention and Compensation of ODs in the Chinese system
12.45 13.00: Annet F. Lenderink (Netherlands Center for Occupational Diseases, Coronel Institute on Work and Health, AMC/University of Amsterdam), Lode Godderis (Centre for Environmental and Health, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium): Since work is never done: a plea for OSH vigilance
13.00- 13.15: Francesco Violante (Italian Society for Occupational Safety & Health-SIMLII): The view of the Italian Society of Occupational Medicine and Industrial Hygiene on the new ILO Criteria Document on Occupational Diseases
13.15- 13.30: Shengli Niu and Claudio Colosio: Questions and answers session and closing remarks.

The event is part of the CPD for the Italian Health Personnel (ECM)
Participation is free, but registration is mandatory. For more details see <https://www.eventbrite.it/e/biglietti-diagnosis-reporting-and-prevention-of-the-occupational-diseases-33922877239>.

Modernet Meeting as part of EPICOH 2017 in Edinburgh



The ICOH Scientific Committee on Occupational Medicine (SCOM) will hold a one day scientific meeting, planned to be run in conjunction with Modernet, on **Wednesday 30th August 2017** as part of the EPICOH meeting in Edinburgh, to be held from 28th-31st August. See

<https://www.epicoh2017.org/about/>

More details of the programme plenaries and parallel sessions will follow.

Modernet session during the 2nd RISE International Meeting of Environment and Health in Strasbourg

From Nov 29. to Dec 1. 2017 You are invited to participate to the 2nd RISE International Meeting of Environment and Health in Strasbourg.

The topics for this second edition will cover the latest research in Air pollution, the major risk factor in Public Health recently recognized.

Main topics:

- The mechanistic approach of air pollution: Neurotoxicology, vascular endothelium, epigenetics;
- An emerging risk factor for the foetus, neurodevelopment and the autistic spectrum;
- Update in neuro-inflammation, cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases;
- Health issues related to chronic and accidental air pollution in megacities Indoor air health issues;
- Is there hope? Remediation and regulation.

We are searching contributions for the following topics: "air pollution in occupational settings". Do some have presentation proposals?

2018 in Kosice, Slovakia: Next Modernet meeting on mental and behavioral diseases

Marek Varga will prepare a Modernet meeting in Kosice, Slovakia on mental and behavioral diseases. We aim for October or November 2018 but please note that dates need to be confirmed.

New calls coming up

The EC is currently drafting the last work programme for Horizon 2020, spanning three years.

In the programme on health, three major calls are foreseen.

Call 1. – Better Health and care, economic growth and sustainable health systems (792 M€ in 2018 – deadline expected Oct 2018);

Call 2. – Digital transformation in Health and Care (93 M€ in 2018 – deadline expected Spring 2018);

Call 3. – Trusted digital solutions and Cybersecurity in Health and Care (36 M€ in 2018 – deadline expected Spring 2018).

Modernet Membership and fee

individual persons - involved in work or dedicated to research into the objectives of Modernet.

Modernet has three classes of members: "Professional," "Emeritus," and "Student".

Modernet is an international membership association, in which members are

Professional Membership: any person involved in work dedicated to the objectives of Modernet. Each Professional Member shall pay annual dues as established in accordance with these statutes. Each Professional Member shall have one vote on all matters on which members are entitled to vote, and shall be eligible to hold office.

Emeritus Membership: any person who was formerly involved in work dedicated to the objectives of Modernet, who is currently retired and not employed on a full-time basis. Each Emeritus Member shall pay annual dues as established in accordance with these statutes. Each Emeritus Member shall have one vote on all matters on which members are entitled to vote, and shall be eligible to hold office.

Student Membership: any person enrolled in a higher education program who has an interest in promoting the purpose of the organization as set forth in these statutes. Each Student Member shall pay annual dues as established in accordance with these statutes. Each Student Member shall have one vote on all matters on which members are entitled to vote, and shall be eligible to hold office.

Any person who shall, upon application, show active employment, affiliation or matriculation and provide payment of dues, may become a member of the appropriate class.

Become a member for **25 euro** per year, running from 1-1 until 31-12
It has to be paid into the Modernet bank account

Here you can find all the information on membership of Modernet <http://modernet.org/content/membership>

Here you can register as a member <http://modernet.org/content/modernet-membership-registration-form>

Here you can find our statutes <http://modernet.org/content/modernet-statutes>

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