

Public Health meets Occupational Health

Ludwig Binkert

The Swiss Society for Occupational Hygiene held a colloquium organized by Herbert Manser. Some 50 specialists visited the event held at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Basel.

After an Introduction by Fabia Schläppi, Vice-president of Swiss Society of Occupational Hygiene, Jürg Utzinger, Director of the Swiss TPH, presented the «goals, services and research of Swiss TPH», an associated Institute to the University of Basel. Swiss TPH has a three pronged approach including services, research as well as teaching & training. The approach includes innovation, validation and application. Swiss TPH has a high research output in the Areas of infectious diseases as well as public, environmental & occupational health. Swiss TPH is a reference laboratory for tropical diseases. It is well known for vaccination against tropical illnesses.

Dr. Nicole Probst Hensch presented the theme «Biomonitoring and Exposure to Lead».

With her presentation she showed how lead can cross the blood brain barrier and the placenta. Lead is a particular risk to women. Acute exposure can lead to hemolytic, chronic exposure to synthetic anemia. Some neurological effects are non-reversible. It is difficult even today to recognize symptoms of acute or chronic lead poisoning. Lead in blood is recommended for biomonitoring. Up-to-date analytical methods and QA/QC are essential.

Georg Bauer, Prof. Dr. for Public and Organizational Health and Organizer DAS Health Uni Zürich: «Addressing psychosocial factors at work in the digital age – a strong link between public and occupational health».

Today's work environment has a lot to do with psychosocial facts. It is not sufficient to protect psychological health. Today's work offers possibilities for flexibility at work. Work is connected with digital work tools and can mean a lot of chronic stress.

The digital transformation includes risks and opportunities. We need an appropri-

ate framework to maintain the health of our workforce. If we reach a balance of Resources that meet Job demands, the goal of Salutogenesis is met. One way to meet the goals is working on a team development. We tested the team leader workshop and developed the digital Coaching tool for leaders «We Coach».

«Mortality from suicide in Swiss population of working age (18 to 65 years), in order to examine the relationship between occupation and suicide». Prof. Guseva Canu Irina, IST Lausanne, has presented a research about suicides in Switzerland. She showed results about the statistics of mortality and suicides.

The knowledge of occupational risk and protective factors open up new perspectives for prevention. Concerns exist about general conditions in place in the society as well as individuals (behavioral prevention and early detection of mental health problems).

Occupational epidemiology should be better welcomed and recognized by public health. There is a need to complete the inventory about Swiss Public health by the factor of occupation. This leads to great expectations from the Human biomonitoring project.

Evidence-based interventions for suicide prevention require strong data.

Knowledge of occupational risk and protective factors opens up perspectives for prevention. This concerns at the same time:

- General conditions in place in the society
- On the individuals (behavioral prevention and early detection of mental health problems).

David Vernez, Director Institute de Santé au Travail, Lausanne (IST): «When

occupational health meets public health»

The occupational environment, along with the domestic and general environments constitute our Main living environment. An important part of our active time is spent at work and the presence of Pollutants in the occupational environment could lead to significant health risks. To prevent these Risks, occupational hygienist have used Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs) since a long time. OELs Are reference values (airborne concentrations), built on available toxicological and epidemiological Data, and used to define «acceptable» occupational exposures to pollutants.

Similar references values, although targeted on the general population, have also been defined in Public environments. This is the case for instance for the French «valeur guide de l'air intérieur» (VGAI) or for the EPA's references values. Important differences, sometimes of several orders of magnitude, are observed between the environmentally and occupationally based reference values. The different Target populations and exposure times only explain partly these differences. This dichotomy raises Several issues in the risk assessment and management of chemical agents and, to some extent, of Physical agents. This is particularly a concern for ubiquitous pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors, who are present in low amounts in all living environment and for which cumulative exposures is a key Issue.

Prof. Dr. med. Holger Dressel, MPH, Division Leader Unispital Zürich: «Human Biomonitoring in Occupational and Environmental Medicine».

Presented the possible definition: «in the area of occupational medicine, biomonitoring is to be understood as the examination of biological materials of employees for the quantitative determination of

hazardous substances, their metabolites or their biochemical and /or biological parameters. In this respect, the goal is to assess the exposure and health risk posed to employees, to compare the analysis values obtained with appropriate biological assessment values and to propose possible suitable measures (improvement of technical, organizational and personal prevention) for reducing the risks posed to health. For many hazardous substances, the individual levels of exposure can only be quantified and assessed with the use of biomonitoring». (German Society for Occupational and Environmental Medicine e.V: (DGAUM).

With his explanations he covered the themes matrices» for Biomonitoring, Criteria for Occupational diseases: Asbestos exposure and Lung Cancer, the lung dust analysis and the interpretation of individual values. Important links are: Suva and baua, (www.baua.de/DE/Themen/Arbeitsgestaltung-im-Betrieb/Gefahrstoffe/Biomonitoring/Biomonitoring-Auskunftssystem/Biomonitoring-Auskunftssystem_node.html).

Prof. emeritus Helmut Kruger concludes the panel discussion and the day with the following premises: It is Important to come together. Problems start at the

work place. We are information driven people and we have less and less workers for the workplace.

We care for protection and prevention in chemical issues. This is important for the food of tomorrow. But we should not defer our problems to others as our life expectancy is between 55 and 82 years. This means that we have to have the support from the employer as described by Georg Bauer. But we have also the add to the technical part of Biomonitoring, the part of psycho-social issues.

Generalversammlung SGAH 2018

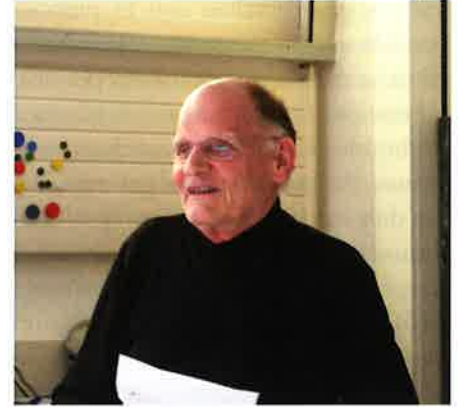
Fabia Schläppi, Vizepräsidentin, führte durch die Generalversammlung. Die Gesellschaft zählt heute 151 Mitglieder, davon drei Ehrenmitglieder. Die Gesellschaft führte wiederum zwei Weiterbildungen durch. Für das Nachdiplom Studium DAS haben sich 11 Studenten gemeldet.



Ludovic Vieille-Petit, neues
Vorstandsmitglied



Herbert Manser, riskcare, Moderator



Prof. emeritus Helmut Krüger

Fabia Schläppi berichtete über ein Strategie-weekend des Vorstandes, in dem Ziele und Weiterentwicklungen für die nächsten drei Jahre besprochen wurden. Schwerpunkte sind in ERFA-Tagungen zu den Normen ISO 45001 und COH-SAS 18001 zum Teil mit anderen Gesellschaften angedacht. Weitere Themen sind Kommunikation, Änderung von Normen usw.

Der Verein schliesst das Rechnungsjahr mit einem bescheidenen Verlust ab, ist aber weiterhin finanziell gut aufgestellt. Der Mitgliederbeitrag wird mit den Beiträgen für die ERFA Tagungen ergänzt und einmal mit CHF 150.– verrechnet.

Neu wird Fabia Schläppi zur Präsidentin und Ludovic Vieille-Petit in den Vorstand gewählt.

Die Zertifizierungskommission wird durch David Vernez, Walter Spieler und Jean-François André besetzt. Für die Suissepro stellen sich Herbert Manser

und Theo Schröder als Delegierte zur Verfügung.

Als Revisoren werden Peter Geissberger und Christian Monn bestätigt. Walter Spieler vertritt die Interessen bei der IOHA.

Ein brennendes Thema ist eine Salärumfrage. Der Vorstand wird das Thema aufgrund der Diskussion weiter evaluieren.

Im Herbst wird anlässlich des 25 Jahr-Jubiläums des DAS ein Festakt stattfinden.



Teilnehmer am Kolloquium Public Health meets Occupational Health