

# OH Issues in the Semiconductor Industry

## Symposium 3 - Science, struggling of the victims, role of the professionals and NGOs for unveiling risks in the Semiconductor industry in Korea

Occupational health issues have emerged in all countries which have semiconductor industry. Although there have been many epidemiological studies related to occupational diseases, the causal link for most diseases has not been clearly identified. In Korea, patients with suspected occupational diseases and the result of decades of efforts by NGOs have been recognized and rewarded for occupational diseases. In this long struggling process, Patients and NGO developed their own bottom-up science that collected evidence from their factories and connected this evidence with the claims of counter-experts. This will be a good example of "undone science," which investigated the relationship between the unknown disease and the semiconductor industry. This symposium will highlight the roles of patients, NGOs, scientists and will discuss the legal aspects, academic aspects, and the roles of NGOs until semiconductor-related occupational diseases are recognized in Korea.

### How to Use Scientific Evidence in Workers' Compensation and Prevention of Work-related Illnesses in the Semiconductor Industry

Jeongok Kong (Workers' Health Center in East Gyeonggi, Korea, Republic of)

### Legal Issues and Achievements from Struggle against Occupational Diseases of Semiconductor workers

Jawoon Lim(Law office JIDAM, Korea, Republic of)

### Politics of Science and Undone Protection in the "Samsung Leukemia" Case

Jongyoung Kim (Department of Sociology, Kyung Hee University, Korea, Republic of)

## MODERATOR



Jongyoung Kim

Jongyoung Kim is a professor in the Department of Sociology at Kyung Hee University, South Korea. He has published three books: Dominated Dominators: American Degrees and the Birth of Korean Elites (2015, Korean Sociological Association Book of the Year, winner of the National Academy of Science Book Award); The Birth of Intelligent Citizens: The Challenge of Civic Intelligence toward Knowledge Democracy (2017, winner of the Sejong Book Award); and Hybrid Korean Medicine: Modernity, Power, and Creation (2019, winner of the National Academy of Sciences Book Award). His research interests include STS, globalization and education, sociology of knowledge, and medical anthropology.

## SPEAKERS

Jeongok Kong

Dr. Jeong-ok Kong worked and studied as a resident of the department of Occupational & Environmental in the Graduate School of Public Health at Seoul National University and received a Master's Degree of Environmental Health. For the next seven years she worked in the Korea Institute of Labor Safety and Health, a labor NGO, mostly focusing her activities on empowerment of workers for safety and health. Since 2007 till now, Dr. Kong has been working in the Supporters of Health And Right of People in Semiconductor Industry, SHARPS, a public interest NGO consisting of victims and advocates, helping workers from high-tech electronic industry get the legal recognition of work-relatedness of their cancers and other illnesses. Based on the lesson from the experiences via SHARPS, she tried to contribute to build international network between workers and advocates in different countries which many high-tech electronic corporates have their manufacturing facilities and to raise awareness among occupational health professionals and practitioners on the hazards of this industry. She is the representing Korean translator of the book "Challenging the Chip; Labor Rights and Environmental Justice in the Global Electronics Industry and has been presenting the concerns on health hazards in semiconductor or display industry in many domestic or international conferences. In 2010, the Occupational Health & Safety Section of American Public Health Association gave her the International Award acknowledging the importance of work done by SHARPS. Currently Dr. Kong is working in a Workers' Health Center, a public occupational health service provider for small-sized-enterprises.



Jawoon Lim

Ja-woon Lim is a lawyer in Korea. He has been working as an activist for SHARPS, a civic group supporting for the health and rights of people in the semiconductor industry since 2013. He has represented victims in the lawsuits of semiconductor occupational diseases. He has also conducted research on compensation, prevention, and right to know for occupational diseases of semiconductor factory workers.