

Occupational Heat Stress: sustainable solutions and adaptation strategies provided by the HEAT-SHIELD project

This symposium will present results from field studies across European workplaces with seasonal heat stress providing overview on sustainable solutions, prevention strategies and their integration into appropriate heat alert and guidance. We will provide overview on the HEAT-SHIELD (EU-funded) inter-sectoral approach and how heat action plans may translate into practice for occupational hygienists. Based on analyses and testing of adaptation strategies across five key industries representing in- and outdoor occupations, the consortium of meteorologists, physiologists and occupational health professionals have been working together to tackle occupational heat stress from forecasting to implementation of effective and feasible solutions. Participants in the symposium will get 1) a short overview on the HEAT-SHIELD interdisciplinary approach, 2) knowledge from field studies on counter-measures to minimize heat stress, 3) how to use these results in practice as occupational hygienist, 4) perspective on climate change effects on workers in the future and how this may influence trends in the management of occupational heat stress. The presentations in the symposium will be given by thermal physiologists and occupational health specialists from the HEAT-SHIELD project with special focus on providing the participants with relevant information on effective solutions and their integration to local heat action plans and practice.

Heat-Shield interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral approach to occupational heat-stress – focus on factors of importance for workers heat-health | Lars Nybo (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)

Field study experiences: Effective mitigation strategies for occupational heat stress
Andreas Flouris (University of Thessaly, Greece)

From science into occupational hygienists' practice
Ms. Jolanda Willems (Public Health Services Gelderland-Midden, Netherlands)

Future climate change trends in occupational heat stress due to climate change
Tord Kjellstrom (CETRI, Cyprus)

MODERATOR



Lars Nybo

SPEAKERS



Andreas Flouris

Dr Andreas Flouris is an Associate Professor at the University of Thessaly, in Greece, and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Ottawa, Canada. He is contributing to a series of large international research projects in Europe and North America and he has published widely on the effects of different environmental factors on human health, productivity, and performance. He is currently participating in several Working Groups tasked to develop prevention measures to reduce the impacts of environmental factors for workers, athletes, and the general population, including the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, and the Greek Ministry of Labour. In addition to his research efforts, Dr Flouris is a climate action advocate and he is working with national and international institutions to support climate action for a more sustainable world.



Jolanda Willems

Jolanda Willems is an occupational hygienist, toxicologist and environmental health specialist. She works in both public health and occupational health as an advisor. The main aim and strength of Jolanda is bridging the gaps between science en practice, between different fields and between public and private organizations. Jolanda completed her MSc Health Sciences in 1991. In addition, Jolanda completed her education as a safety engineer and her MBA. Jolanda has been working as an occupational hygienist/toxicologist for an Occupational Health and Safety Service since 1991. She started working in public health in 2014 as an advisor in environmental health. In 2014 Jolanda also founded a cooperative named Preventpartner, where she works together with 35 other consultants in the field of occupational health. Jolanda is mainly concerned with issues relating to risk communication, hazardous substances, biological agents, health monitoring and heat.



Tord Kjellstrom

Trained as Dr of Medical Science and Master of Engineering in Sweden in the 1970s. University professor, teacher and researcher, in Environmental, Occupational Health and Epidemiology in several universities in New Zealand, Australia and Sweden from the 1970s to 2000s. Environmental Epidemiologist and Director at the World Health Organization, Geneva, from 1985 to 1997. Has published 400+ journal articles and reports, more than 100 in recent years analyzing the impacts of heat on occupational health and productivity. Initial expertise in epidemiology of cadmium, mercury and lead poisoning, as well as other occupational health hazards. Current focus on climate change and occupational health threats from increasing workplace heat.