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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers, Contributors and Friends,

Introduction of the last issue in 2014 is a great opportunity to address to you the best wishes of much happiness and prosperity in the coming New Year with a hope for further fruitful cooperation.

This 6th number of IJOMEH includes 14 papers on various topics and is opened with 2 review articles, therefore, one may suppose that everybody will find in it something of their interest.

The 1st article, by F.C. da Silva et al. (Brazil), is devoted to anthropometric indicators of obesity in policemen. Analysis of the findings identified in 23 studies and 9 articles taken from electronic databases indicates that most of the subjects were overweight, obese (body fat > 25%), had increased waist and abdominal perimeters, and they were all at a higher risk of chronic disease. All that is associated with depression and stress.

The 2nd article, by M. Zieliński et al. (Poland), reviews environmental hazard caused by polichlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs), dibenzofurans (PCDFs) and dl-polichlorinated biphenyls (dl-PCBs), their levels and sources, based on the accessible data on the diffusion of those compounds in the water ecosystem.

The section of original papers contains 12 papers and among them as many as 5 research reports concerning psychological problems.

The 1st one, by V. Malinauskiene and S. Einarsen (Lithuania and Norway), focuses on relationships between workplace bullying and post-traumatic stress symptoms among family physicians comprising the representative sample of 323 subjects. The affirmed strong associations indicate that bullying at work is a significant source of mental health.

The configurations of positive versus negative interactions between work and home (WHI) and their relation to burnout and demographic characteristics were explored by D. Merecz and A. Andysz (Poland). Results of the interviews carried out among the sample of 533 workers suggest that segmentation is not a universal and effective strategy of copying with work and home demands; it may present positive home-work spillover, which can constitute a remedy against stress or burnout.

The next paper, by K.P. Minh (Vietnam), describes the results of cross-sectional study on the prevalence of work-related depression in the employees of a shoe factory. A relatively high proportion of workers (18.8%) suffering from depressive symptoms was identified. The factors associated with depression at work were: high psychological job demands, low social support, inadequate work protection materials and work absenteeism.

C.H. van Wijk (South Africa) assessed the predictive value of trait anxiety measures, previously considered as a marker of panic behavior under water. His conclusion resulting from the analysis of archival trait-anxiety data from 322 subjects is that the use of Spilberger's trait anxiety subscale as part of occupational health surveillance of subaquatic specialists may support prevention of accidents by identifying high-risk candidates during annual follow up medical examinations.

Another cross-sectional study, by Y. Morita et al. (Japan), aimed at testing the hypothesis that workers with a strong sense of coherence (SOC) have fewer metabolic syndromes (MetS) and healthier lifestyle behaviors. The study confirmed that high SOC is associated with a healthy lifestyle and fewer atherosclerotic risk factors, including MetS.

The effects of job strain on physicians' mental health were investigated by Y. Saijo et al. (Japan). The questionnaire

survey revealed that high job burden is related to depressive symptoms and burnout, and support from co-workers has a buffeting influence on the symptoms.

B.A. Basińska et al. (Poland, The Netherlands and Belgium) have verified psychometric properties of the Polish version of the Job-related Affective Well-being Scale (JAWS). The results of the multidimensional scaling analysis showed that theoretical circumplex model of emotions underlining JAWS was satisfactorily reproduced and confirmed satisfactory psychometric properties of both 20- and 12-item Polish versions.

In the next paper, by G.L. Rosso et al. (Italy), the prevalence of falling asleep at the wheel (FAW) among professional drivers (PDs) is presented. The questionnaire data from 497 subjects indicated that 41% of them experienced at least 1 episode of a sudden-onset FAW per month. The use of the Chalder Fatigue Questionnaire is advised for detecting PDs at a high risk of falling asleep at the wheel.

The results of neurological and neurophysiological examinations of workers employed in a copper smelting plant, exposed to inorganic arsenic (As) are discussed by H. Sińczuk-Walczak et al. (Poland). Typical symptoms of peripheral neuropathy were identified in the employees exposed to As levels exceeding TLV and BEI hygiene norms.

B. Bamac et al. (Turkey) examined the sensory nerve conduction velocities (SNCV) for upper extremities of the long term computer users versus controls. The study showed that computer users have a tendency toward developing median and ulnar sensory nerve damage in the wrist region.

P.P. Necz and J. Bakos (Hungary) measured the ultraviolet (UV) and blue light (BL) emissions from halogen bulbs, compact fluorescent and light-emitting diode household lamps to evaluate their possible health effects. They found that the UV and BL radiation does not exceed the current exposure limit values and thus, that it is not dangerous for general public.

The last but not least paper, by K. Gryz et al. (Poland), is aimed at assessing the electromagnetic radiofrequency radiation (EMRR) exposure in the indoor workplace accessible to the public. Using a frequency-selective exposimeters, the authors pointed out EMRR exposure of workers or general public in locations comparable to offices to be well below international standards.

I hope that the above short summary of the contents of IJOMEH 6/2014 will encourage you to read this issue *in extenso*.

In the end, let me please once again wish you good luck and all the best in the New Year 2015.

Prof. Wiesław J. Sułkowski
on behalf of the Editorial Board