

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers, Contributors and Friends,

In the present issue, you will find as many as 17 original papers and 1 case report.

The content includes a variety of topics and so it is likely that everybody will find there something of their interest.

The first article by M. Jevtić et al. (Serbia) is focused on the association between outdoor concentrations of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and cardiovascular diseases (CVD), based on a daily number of hospital admissions (HA). A significant positive relationship was found between HA due to CVD examined in 10469 subjects and NO₂ concentrations.

G. Kayihan et al. (Turkey and UK) compared the values of aerobic performance in the 1-mile run test (1-MRT) in male law enforcement officers using different formulae. Based on the results of the study, the authors recommend the most accurate formula for evaluating aerobic capacities in large numbers of healthy individuals.

The association between subclinical hypothyroidism (HT) and metabolic syndrome (MS) components and possible differences by sex and occupation in university staff were studied by M.J. Cheserek et al. (China and Kenya). The findings showed a considerable connection between HT and MS in male workers, but not in female ones, as well as in administration staff compared to academics.

The results of a 4-year follow-up on the effects of tetramethyl succinonitrile (TMSN) exposure are reported by A.S. Ensslin and M.F. Koller (Switzerland). Among 44 workers exposed to TMSN in a PVC production plant, 4 individuals suffered from toxic convulsions and other 16 were hypoglycemic.

Occupational allergic and irritant contact dermatitis in workers exposed to polyurethane foam is described by M. Kieć-Świerczyńska et al. (Poland). The authors

consider that the revealed skin changes were attributable to insufficient protection of hands and forearms.

The next paper by D. Pelclová et al. (Czech Republic) discusses the issue of optimal markers in the exhaled breath condensate (EBC), plasma and urine, reflecting the severity of occupational asthma (OA). The study proved that cysteinyl leukotrienes (LT) and 8-ISO in EBC and 8-ISO in plasma might enrich the spectrum of useful objective tests for the follow-up of OA.

The chronic adaptations of lung function in 11 breath-hold diving fishermen vs. 10 controls were tested by C.M.P. Diniz et al. (Brazil). The study confirmed that the adaptations of the respiratory system result in elevated lung volumes without airway obstruction.

The problem of burnout among physiotherapists was brought up by Z. Śliwiński et al. (Poland). The findings suggest that burnout in those with 5–15 years of service is higher and increases with age and greater financial satisfaction, while it decreases with greater satisfaction with friend and family relations.

L.E. Joslin et al. (United Kingdom) came up with estimating the association between neck pain and psychological stress in nurses. Over 1/3 of the examined persons had symptomatic neck pain and lower mental and physical health scores reducing their quality of life.

A similar study, exploring the prevalence of pain not only in the cervical, but also in the thoracic and lumbar spine in another occupational group, namely air force pilots, is presented by A. Truszczyńska et al. (Poland). The results of a questionnaire survey showed an important problem regarding the spinal conditions in high performance aircraft pilots, which may influence the flight safety.

The association between depressive symptoms (DS) and psychosocial and organizational work environment was

examined among nurse managers by N. Nourry et al. (France and Canada). A significant relationship was found between DS and the effort-reward imbalance.

A study by A. Madej-Pilarczyk (Poland) was aimed at the identification of factors, which might influence the ability to work in 24 patients with Emery-Dreifuss muscular dystrophy, a rare genetic disorder affecting skeletal and heart muscles. It turned out that higher level of education increased the chance of employment, even in cases with significant disability.

The paper by M.P. Biernacki and Ł. Dziuda (Poland) is devoted to the effects of the simulator test conditions on mood and simulator sickness. The examinations of 12 study participants subjected to truck simulator exposure (fixed-base and mobile platform) revealed that under the conditions of the mobile platform, a higher severity of the simulator sickness symptoms was observed accompanied by a decrease in energetic arousal.

The incidence of subjective symptoms related to the use of mobile phones was assessed by A. Szykowska et al. (Poland). The results indicated that mobile phone users may experience such symptoms as headaches, fatigue, feeling of warmth around the ear, the intensity of which depends on the duration of mobile phone use.

A. Allami et al. (Iran) examined the seroprevalence of *Varicella* zoster virus (VZV) antibodies in medical students being at risk of *Varicella*. They concluded that medical students should be tested for *Varicella* immunity regardless

of the history of the previous infection. In addition, the authors stated that immunization of students of Iranian medical sciences seems to be logical in the near future.

The assessment of the patients' exposure to organic compounds identified in surgical smoke formed in the abdominal cavity during laparoscopic cholecystectomy was conducted by M. Dobrogowski et al. (Poland). The average concentrations of benzene and toluene in the urine were significantly higher after surgery than before it. Fortunately, the exposure to the smoke byproducts is usually a one-time and short-term incident.

The next paper by A. Bizoń and H. Milnerowicz (Poland) presents the investigations of metallothioneine (MT) concentrations and copper/zinc superoxide dismutase (Cu/Zn SOD) activity in the blood of smoking smelters. It was concluded that MT plays a meaningful role in comparison with SOD in the extracellular environment, while in the intracellular compartment Cu/Zn SOD and MT cooperate with each other.

The content of the issue is completed with a case report of lactic acidosis (LA) prepared by A. Bronisz et al. (Poland). It concerns a firefighter with no chronic diseases, in whom LA developed during standard exercises in the smoke chamber.

We wish you a good time reading this interesting, in my opinion, issue.

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