



January 6, 2022

Dear IOMSC Members:

Two years later and the COVID-19 pandemic continues with new variants presenting additional challenges for us in trying to keep workers safe and healthy. However, despite the pandemic, we look back on all the meaningful accomplishments IOMSC has made in 2021 with the support of our 48 member societies. Over the past 8 years, the IOMSC has made a significant contribution to the development of OEM internationally. The IOMSC is particularly proud of the progress that has been made supporting the development of occupational medicine societies in countries where awareness of the specialty is still emerging.

In the past year, the IOMSC accomplished the following:

- Presented the results of our survey on international approaches to occupational medicine education and certification which was conducted in collaboration with the University of Maryland School of Medicine. An article with detailed results will be published in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* in early 2022. We will share the publication with all members once published.
- Supported the Society of Occupational Medicine's "Around the Occupational Health World in Eight Global Webinars" series focusing on the challenges and difficulties of protecting workers' welfare around the world where occupational health does not have the leverage to influence government or health authorities. Below are links to the recordings and slides for each of the webinars.
 - 14 September 2021 - *Occupational Medicine Challenges in South & Central Asia & Russia*
Recording [here](#). Slides [here](#).
 - 29 June 2021 - *Occupational Health and Medicine in SE and E Asia*
Recording [here](#). PDF slides [here](#), [here](#), [here](#).
 - 18 May 2021 - *Occupational Health and Medicine in the Middle East*
Recording [here](#).
 - 15 March 2021 - *Occupational Medicine & Health Challenges in Southern Africa*
Recording [here](#). PDF slides [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).
- Hosted a strategic planning session with key stakeholders, including members of IOMSC, in July to discuss the sustainability of IOMSC and the value IOMSC can bring to members and potential funders. The IOMSC Executive Committee is finalizing a value statement and updated business plan that we will be able to share with funders to gain interest in the role that IOMSC can play in achieving their goals.
- Continued our engagement with the World Health Organization (WHO) by collaborating with Dr. Ivan Ivanov. In November, Dr. Ron Loeppke and Dr. Richard Heron (Co-Chairs of IOMSC) were invited to represent IOMSC and participated in the newly established WHO's Health in the World of Work Network. The goal of the network is to increase access to accurate and relevant information and build a community of collaborative sharing on topics related to health, safety and, wellbeing within the world of work.
- Dr. Paulo Rebelo (IOMSC Executive Committee member from Brazil) represented IOMSC and presented at the Latin American Occupational Health Association's (ALSO) Congress in October and the Chilean Society of Occupational Medicine's (SOCHMET) conference in November.

- Distributed a member survey in October to gain insights to inform us on how we can better collaborate with our members to achieve our goals and to also garner interest from members to become more involved in leadership positions in IOMSC.
- Prepared an educational session that will be presented at the International Commission on Occupational Health's (ICOH) conference in February 2022.

With this e-mail, we would also like to bring your attention to resources that might be of interest to you and your society members.

- A new website on occupational health which provides updated strategic directions and resources for WHO's work on occupational health and health at the workplace globally: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/occupational-health>.
- A website devoted to the global network of WHO collaborating centres for occupational health, including the 2020 call by WHO for support in the response to and recovery from COVID-19: <https://www.who.int/groups/global-network-of-who-collaborating-centres-for-occupational-health>. In 2022, WHO plans to convene an online meeting of the global network of WHO collaborating centres for occupational health and partners to review the lessons learned from their collaboration during the COVID-19 pandemic and to elaborate on a new global workplan for support of WHO's global and regional activities.
- Recording from an international conference on the current situation and future trends in international occupational health which was organized by the University of Helsinki, Finland in November: Day 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3Bzy0Bdy9M> and Day 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDR-vywSubE>.

We recognize your hard work to keep workers healthy and safe especially during the pandemic. We also acknowledge the financial strain that many organizations have faced as a result of the pandemic, so we made the decision not to reach out for financial contributions from our member societies in 2021. However, we will be reaching out in early 2022 for member contributions and we hope that your organization will be able to contribute so we could continue moving our mission forward.

We look forward to your ongoing support in working together, building on our accomplishments, and further advancing the important work of international occupational medicine in 2022!

Stay safe and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



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