Foundation

Learning and Developing Occupational Health

Annual Report
2021 - 2022

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1. Introduction

In the year 2021 COVID-19 still dominated social life: most meetings were online. Gradually life normalized in 2022 but still a few international activities were online, or hybrid.

2. The foundation LDOH

The mission of the Learning and Developing Occupational Health Foundation is to support professionals all over the world through developing and disseminating good quality education on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH). The foundation wants to contribute to meeting the global need for Universal Health Coverage (WHO). For more information about the organization of the foundation, see the website https://ldoh.net/about-ldoh/.

The LDOH experts are mostly working in international teams and have good connections with international organizations such as ICOH, WONCA, IOHA, ILO, ENETOSH, ACOEM and EASOM.[1]
LDOH staff have a high level of expertise in:

1. Occupational and work-related diseases: research, development of diagnosis, health surveillance, prevention, and notification systems
2. Education and information: evidence-based OSH practice, online OSH information, blended education, organization of international educational and development projects
3. Primary or community health care activities for workers' health (basic occupational health services): exchange of country experiences, collaboration between international organizations
4. Occupational health care in agriculture: development of international education and health care projects, online information services

Main activities are:

- Development and organization of OSH education and training
- Consultancy and advisory services for the development of OSH
- Organization of international projects, meetings, conferences and collaborations
- Dissemination of good quality OSH education online

In 2021 and 2022 we had several meetings discussing the future opportunities for LDOH. What are the main goals and activities. Can we find sustainable alliances with Dutch universities and/or with schools of public/occupational health, responsible for the professional education of OSH? Would the European Association of Schools in Occupational Medicine (EASOM) be prepared and able to collaborate in the e-library for educational

[1] ICOH: International Commission on Occupational Health; WONCA represents the Family Physicians (global); IOHA: International Occupational Hygienists Association; ILO: International Labor Organization; ENETOSH: European Network Education and Training in Occupational Safety and Health; ACOEM: American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine; EASOM: European Association of Schools of Occupational Medicine.

materials? Can we mobilize occupational physicians via de Dutch association of occupational physicians (NVAB) to be more active in international developments? We started many consultations.

International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) activities

LDOH was active and well-visible in the ICOH scientific committees on Education, on Effectiveness of Occupational Health Services, and on Agriculture.

3. Members of the Board, Staff, International Advisory Board

Members of the Board
Marten van Til (chair)
Mieke Lumens (secretary-treasurer)
Teake Pal (member)
Frank van Dijk (chair International Advisory Board, advisory member)
Ad de Rooy (managing director, advisory member)

Members of the staff
Ad de Rooij (agriculture, Latin America, managing director)
André Weel (publicity)
Frank van Dijk (reliable information, LDOH online, BOHS, Central-Asia, India, Indonesia, Türkiye, ICOH, advisory board member)
Gert van der Laan (agriculture, occupational diseases, coordinator Central-Asia, Türkiye)
Maarten Verberk (agriculture, coordinator task group Basic OH in Agriculture)
Marrit van der Meer (online education and information, coordinator task group LDOH Online)
Marten van Til (occupational health services, chair of the board)
Mieke Lumens (occupational hygiene, internat. education, Central-Asia, IAOH, board member)
Paul Smits (LDOH online, reliable information, quality of education, Central-Asia, EASOM)
Peter Buijs (BOHS, primary health care, WONCA)
Piet Kroon (international organization of education, Indonesia, Surinam and Caribes)
Teake Pal (chemical exposure and effects, clinical occupational medicine, board member)
Yohama Caraballo-Arias (reliable information, communication, LDOH online, Latin America, ACOEM)

Members of the International Advisory Board
Katja Radon (Munich, Germany)
Claudio Colosio (Milan, Italy)
Roberto Lucchini (Brescia, Italy; Miami, USA)
Norbert Wagner (Singapore)
René Mendes (Curitiba, Brazil)
Frank van Dijk (Leiden, Netherlands) (chair)

4. Projects, publications, education, website and newsletter

Projects

Tutorial in Central Asia

The closing conference of the Tutorial project in Central Asia has been organized in April 2021. LDOH staff were actively involved in all events by giving lectures and workshops and through coordinating and coaching.
The presentations and workshops of LDOH staff members in the Tutorial project can be found on the LDOH website. (www.ldoh.net)

The 'HARMONEE' project, a follow-up of the Tutorial project, includes new points of attention: harmonization and mutual recognition of Master programs in Occupational and Environmental Health. The Utrecht University (IRAS institute) and the University of Milan are coordinating this program today collaborating with nine Central-Asian partners.

Safety culture in agriculture project, SACURIMA

LDOH is involved in this EU COST Action which explores reasons why agriculture lags behind other sectors, and why some countries have been successful in reducing agricultural injuries and illnesses. This COST Action on 'Safety Culture and Risk Management in Agriculture' evaluates health and safety programs, identifies knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and priorities. A staff member of LDOH contributes in providing activities, especially in surveillance of Occupational Diseases in agricultural workers in Europe.

Book and article on OSH online, how to find reliable information

In 2021 we published our first scientific article on this topic in the Annals of Global Health, so we could reach a far wider audience than before. From December 2020 until December 2022 more than 300 downloads were noted by the editor of the journal. In 2021 68 books 'Occupational Safety and Health, how to find reliable information' (third edition, 2016) were downloaded from our website (43 English, 25 Spanish), in 2002 75 books were downloaded (51 English, 24 Spanish). The LDOH planned to work on a fourth edition in 2021.

In 2022, we published a chapter entitled '¿Como buscar información confiable en internet?' [How to search for reliable information online] (Van Dijk F, Caraballo-Arias Y) in the book "Medicina Preventiva Ocupacional y Ambiental" (first author Leonardo Briceño-Ayala; Bogotá, Colombia). We feel very honored, as the invitation to write this chapter enabled us to reach a large professional audience, especially in Latin America.

Book and course on Work and Health in Agriculture

In 2022 we could publish, after years of work, the evidence-based up to date textbook 'Work and Health in Agriculture, for primary, community and occupational health care' (Verberk MM, Van Dijk FJ), 151 pages. Chapters are on Basic Occupational Health Services, Workplace evaluation, Respiratory diseases, Skin diseases, Musculoskeletal disorders, Zoonoses, Mental disorders, Pesticides and other chemicals, Physical factors, Accidents, Personal protective equipment, Networking in BOHS, Information resources. The online book is free-of-charge, well-illustrated, and is packed with direct links to scientific sources.
We also started the development of a comprehensive set of educational materials for a course of 3-4 days, in basic occupational health care in agriculture for primary health care professionals. These materials include the textbook as mentioned, a teacher's manual with proposals for classes mainly consisting of participants' activities, and a section on teaching skills, presentations and assignments. The intention is that a local OSH expert team will adopt this course, adapt it to the local conditions and execute and evaluate it, when possible, in collaboration with the LDOH. The challenge for LDOH is to find interested teams in several countries.
Much effort has been spent to ask for comments on the prefinal version of the book from international experts. The comments were very positive and resulted in several improvements. We also have sent printed copies of the final version of the book to many experts in the world.

Primary health care and workers health, BOHS

In the past years, many LDOH activities concentrated on lecturing and on connecting pioneers on this topic in different countries and continents. We participated in the Special Interest Group for Workers' Health in WONCA (family physicians) while organizing workshops and (special) sessions at congresses (mostly of ICOH) in various countries. In 2022 we could add a new activity in publishing our repository for publications on Basic Occupational Health Services and similar innovations in the world, based on a systematic literature search. This online repository contains records of 189 publications published between 2000 and 2022. The publications are divided in those using a global perspective, and those using a country or regional perspective e.g. dealing with Brazil, Thailand or Southern Africa. All records contain bibliographic information, country information, the abstract or a short description of the content, and a direct internet link to the abstract or the full-text publication. The repository is downloadable, free of charge.

Online library of education in Occupational Safety and Health

New online lessons and courses are being collected, selected, described and included, a few had to be removed. The total number of available lessons, modules and courses is about 90. Most lessons etc. are in English. This project is fully based on voluntary work. Visit https://library-education-osh.ldoh.net/.

Publications

Articles, books and other publications published with LDOH staff as first author or co-author.

Publications in 2021

Van Dijk F, Bubas M. Sharing online OSH education, examples that SCETOH would like to share. ICOH Newsletter September 2021; vol 19, pg. 10-12. This Sept 2021 issue of ICOH Newsletter is not available in the ICOH online archive. Article, free of charge.

Van Dijk F, Caraballo-Arias Y. Where to Find Evidence-Based Information on Occupational Safety and Health? Ann Glob Health. 2021;87:6. Article, free of charge. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7792450/**.**

Van Dijk F. Improving global worker health and safety by capacity building. ICOH Newsletter December 2021; vol 19 nr 3, pg. 12-13. https://www.icohweb.org/site/pdf-viewer/viewer.asp?newsletter=icoh_newsletter_vol19_no3.pdf . Article, free of charge.

Publications in 2022

Verberk MM, van Dijk FJ. Work and Health in Agriculture; for primary, community and occupational health care. Leiden: LDOH Foundation. 2022. 151 pages. https://shop.ldoh.net/. E-book, free of charge.

Van Dijk F, Caraballo-Arias Y. ¿Como buscar información confiable en internet? [How to search for reliable information online]. Chapter 3 in: 'Medicina preventiva ocupacional y ambiental'. Leonardo Briceño-Ayala (first autor). Bogotá, Colombia: Editorial El Manual Moderno. 2022. Page 40-52. https://pure.urosario.edu.co/en/publications/medicina-preventiva-ocupacional-y-ambiental. Book chapter, not free of charge.

Van Dijk. Moti S. Repository for publications on basic occupational health services and similar innovations in the world. Leiden: LDOH Foundation. 2022. https://shop.ldoh.net/ or https://iaohmumbai.org. Repository (bibliographic database) in a concise and complete version, free of charge.

Van der Laan G (Member of ILO Core Experts Group). ILO Guidance Notes: Diagnostic and exposure criteria for occupational diseases - Guidance notes for diagnosis and prevention of the diseases in the ILO List of Occupational Diseases (revised 2010). Geneva: ILO. 2022. 617 pages.

Education

In 2021 and 2022, 22 courses, lectures, or workshops were given by LDOH staff. An overview is given in the Appendix.

Training in Nepal as an example (G van der Laan, 2021)

LDOH co-organized a 5-day capacity building training funded by the German Development Organization, on recognition and prevention of Occupational Diseases (OD) for the Social Security Fund (SSF) in Nepal. Participants were doctors dealing with OD in hospitals as well as the officers at SSF dealing with OD.
To obtain insight in the learning needs, a literature search was conducted resulting in 71 relevant contributions in scientific literature (34 from Nepal). Based on this comprehensive overview two experts of DGUV and LDOH could plan their curriculum for the workshop focused on the apparent problems and needs in Nepal.
This interactive 5-day course contained basic knowledge of recognition, assessment and prevention of OD, presentation of cases of suspected OD by the participants, a review of national policies and regulations by Pranil Pradhan (expert from Nepal), group exercises and an OD quiz, and finally a written assessment designed by us.
Both the oral evaluation and the written assessment showed that the course was appreciated and met the learning objectives. Furthermore, the course was valuable by gathering many doctors in Nepal and officers from the Social Security Fund dealing with OSH and OD.

LDOH participated in courses and workshops in Türkiye, several Central-Asian countries, and Bangladesh. Gradually, we developed a method in which we could enrich literature searches by a brief bibliography describing not only shortly the content of the publications, but also the authors involved, affiliations (institutes), and national and international connections behind the publications found. So, we could identify and share the names of key experts and details of various networks.

Presentations

Presentations in 2021

Kranig A, Van der Laan G, Mockenhaupt J, Smits P (Educational advisor), Van Dijk, F (Advisor search strategies). Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences. One week of online Training Course on Occupational Diseases for Nepal Staff Social Security Fund GIZ Nepal. Support to the Health Sector Programme (S2SHP). March 2021.

Caraballo-Arias Y, Van Dijk F. Online lecture. How to find reliable Occupational Safety and Health information online efficiently. ACOH, USA. March 2021.

Van Dijk F, Smits P, van der Laan G, Caraballo-Arias Y. Online lecture. How to find and use reliable online information and education for occupational, public and environmental health. Tutorial International Days, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. March 2021. Hybrid conference.

Van der Laan G. Working Group on Work-related Diseases in Agriculture. Sacurima, Lausanne, Switzerland. July 2021.

Van Dijk F, Smits P, Van der Meer, M. Online lecture. Online information and education. EASOM Summer school in Leuven, Belgium. August 2021.

Van Dijk, F. Online lesson. Introduction BOHS. University of Pretoria, South Africa. September 2021.

Van Dijk F. Online lesson. Online information. University of Pretoria, South Africa. September 2021.

Kranig A, Van der Laan G, Van Dijk F (search strategy). Development of a curriculum on identification and treatment of the most common occupational diseases and work-related diseases for the export oriented Ready-Made Garment (RMG) Industries of Bangladesh. Online event DGUV, GIZ Bangladesh. September 2021.

Van Dijk F, Van der Laan, G. Lecture. In search of work-related diseases in the RMG industry in Bangladesh. Online event DGUV, GIZ Bangladesh. September 2021.

Presentations in 2022

Caraballo-Arias Y, Van Dijk F. Lecture. How to find reliable information. A bottleneck for OSH professionals? Online ICOH Congress Rome/Australia. February 2022.

Van Dijk F, Moti, S. Lecture. Introduction on BOHS. Online ICOH Congress. Online ICOH Congress Rome/Australia. February 2022.

Van Dijk F, Moti, S. Chairpersons of Special Session BOHS Development of Basic Occupational Health Services, more needed than ever. Online ICOH Congress Rome/Australia. February 2022.

Van Dijk. F. Lecture. I am not throwing away my books. University of Bologna, Italy. May 2022.

Van Dijk, F. Lecture. Reading online textbooks or searching online. EASOM Summer school in Beograd, Serbia. August 2022.

Van der Laan G. Lecture. Collapse of the Dutch Agricultural Miracle? Impact of the Green Deal Reform on aspects of One Health. conference. Public and Occupational Health in Sustainable Agriculture, in Odense, Denmark. August 2022.

Van der Laan G. Lecture. Detection of Occupational Diseases for Targeted Prevention. International Conference on Occupational Health and Safety, in Mersin, Türkiye. September 2022.

Van der Laan G. Lecture. International Training Courses in Occupational Diseases Recognition and Prevention, Lessons Learnt. MODERNET Conference in Haarlem, The Netherlands. September 2022.

Van Dijk, F. Online lecture. Introduction in BOHS. University of Pretoria, South Africa. September 2022.

Van Dijk, F. Online lecture. Online information. University of Pretoria, South Africa. September 2022.

Van der Laan, G. Lecture. Collapse of the Dutch Agricultural Miracle? Impact of the Green Deal Reform on aspects of One Health, perspective of the youth. European Network of Agricultural Social Protection Systems (ENASP). Conference in Berlin, Germany. October 2022.

Van Dijk F. Lecture. Infectieziekten en werk (Dutch). [Infectious diseases and work]. Working group infectious diseases at work (WIZA, RIVM). In Bilthoven, The Netherlands. October 2022.

Van Dijk F, Van der Laan, G. Lecture. Bedrijfsgezondheidszorg over de grenzen (Dutch). [Occupational health care beyond borders]. NVAB, Eindhoven, The Netherlands. November 2022.

Website and Newsletter

The LDOH website **www.ldoh.net** has been restyled in 2019 and kept up in the years thereafter. Six major LDOH themes are on the front page of the website now: 1. How to find reliable OSH information, 2. OSH in agriculture, 3. Basic Occupational Health Services, 4. Work-related and occupational diseases, 5. Development of education and 6. Sharing education. There is direct access to the Library of OSH Education and the LDOH web shop. Maintenance of the website is a lot of work, but such is needed for communication. Infographics are produced to improve the message. We added the Glossary of OSH terms (published in 2016, but still useful) to our web shop.

In the last months of 2022, a **LDOH Newsletter** was prepared that has been widely disseminated in January 2023.

5. Financial results

See the Annual Financial Reports 2021 and 2022 under ‘About us’, at the LDOH website.