

# Overview of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Anil Adisesh,
Specialist Physician, Occupational Medicine
Dalhousie University
September 22, 2023





- Faculty: Anil Adisesh, MB ChB, MSc, MD, FRCP, FFOM, FFCI, FRCPC, Hon. FFOM (Ireland), CIME
- Relationships with financial sponsors:
  - Grants/Research Support: WSIB Ontario, Canadian Cancer Society, Canadian Immunology Task Force / CIHR, WCBs New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, CanPATH, New Brunswick Innovation Foundation
  - Speakers Bureau/Honoraria: N/A
  - Consulting Fees: N/A
  - Patents: N/A
  - Other: Director OccupAl Inc. start-up in occupational health informatics, Chief Medical Officer at Canadian Health Solutions Inc.





- This program has received financial support from WSIB in the form of an educational grant.
- This program has received in-kind support from N/A
- Potential for conflict(s) of interest:
  - None





- The information presented in this program is based on recent information that is explicitly "evidence-based".
- This Program and its material is peer reviewed and all the recommendations involving clinical medicine are based on evidence that is accepted within the profession; and all scientific research referred to, reported, or used in this CME/CPD activity in support or justification of patient care recommendations conforms to the generally accepted standards

# Learning Objectives



By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- 1. Describe the roles and functions of an occupational health team and those of occupational physicians
- 2. Recognize the common categories of occupational medical conditions
- Explain the relationship between the occupational and environmental aspects of OEM



## Occupational Health



Occupational health is an area of work in public health to promote and maintain the highest degree of physical, mental and social well-being of workers in all occupations. Its objectives are:

- 1. The maintenance and promotion of workers' health and working capacity;
- 2. The improvement of working conditions and the working environment to become conducive to safety and health;
- 3. The development of work organization and working cultures that should reflect essential value systems adopted by the undertaking concerned, and include effective managerial systems, personnel policy, principles for participation, and voluntary quality-related management practices to improve occupational safety and health.

### Occupational Health Teams

- Certified Occupational Nurses Occupational Health Nurses
- Nurses working in Occupational Health non-certified in OH
- Administrative Assistant
- Physician
  - ➤ Specialty trained in Occupational Medicine
  - ➤ Canadian Board of Occupational Medicine
  - ➤ Other qualifications / experience
- Occupational Hygienist
- Safety Professional



### Occupational Health Teams



- In-House provision
- Group provision
- Contracted services
- Social provision

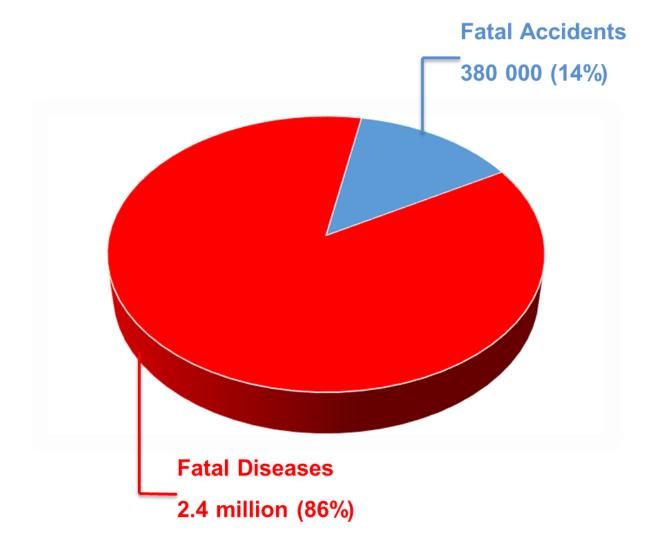
# Mad-Hatter Symptoms Confused by Diabetes Mims Magazine 1993; 20:30





# Global Estimates of Occupational Accidents and Work-Related Illnesses 2017



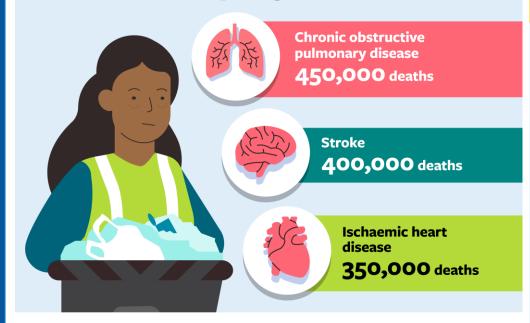


# WHO/ILO Joint Estimates of the Work-Related Burden of Disease and Injury 2000-2016



Occupational & Environmental Medicine

The work-related health conditions that cause the most deaths per year are



**#WorkersHealth** 





The risk factors at work which cause the most deaths per year are





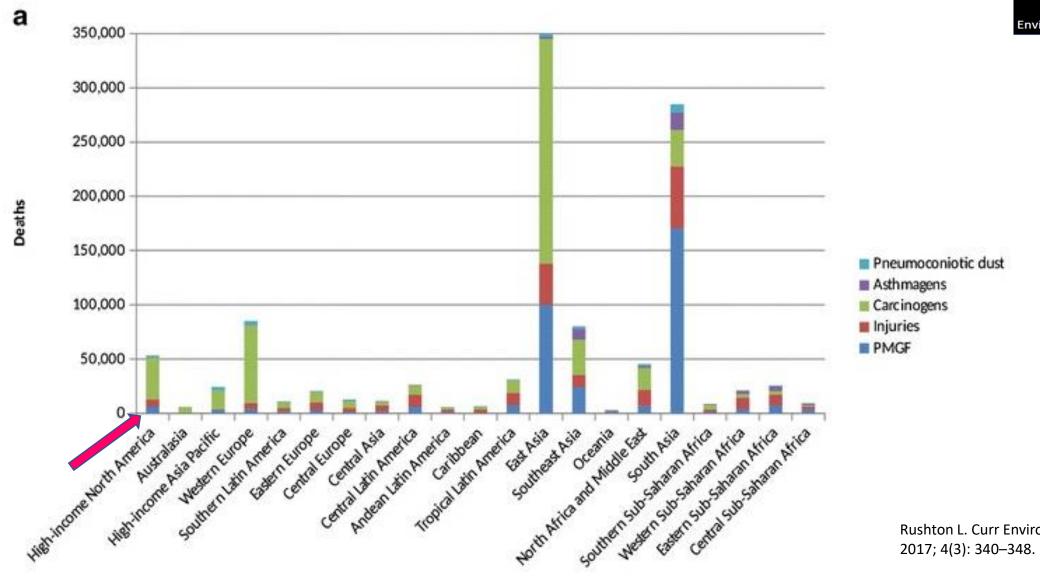




### Numbers of Global Occupationally-Related Deaths in 2015 by WHO Region and Major Disease Group



Occupational & Environmental Medicine

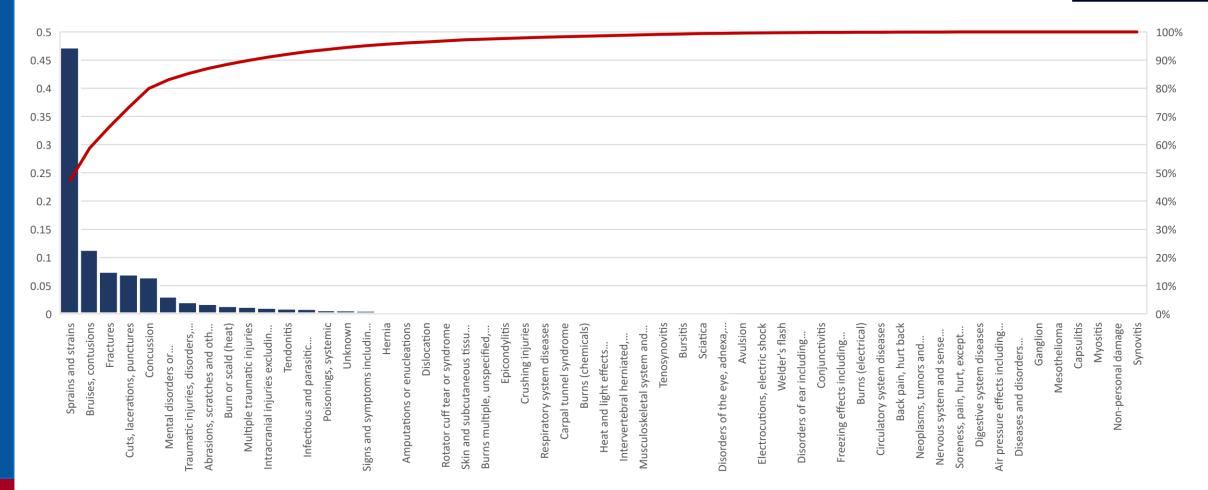


Rushton L. Curr Environ Health Rep.

### What is Seen in Ontario?



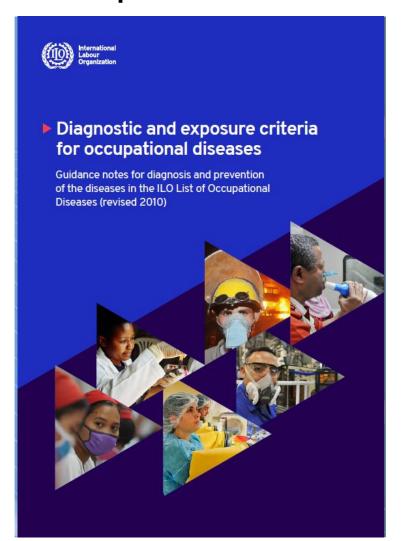
WSIB 2018 Lost Time Claims by Nature of Injury (%)



# International Labour Organization (ILO) List of Occupational Diseases



Occupational & Environmental Medicine



97 listed diseases with 9 open items

4 categories:

**Category 1** Occupational diseases caused by exposure to agents arising from work activities, divided into a section for diseases caused by chemical agents, diseases caused by physical agents, biological agents and infectious or parasitic diseases.

**Category 2** Occupational diseases by target organ systems; 4 sections; Respiratory, Skin diseases, Musculoskeletal disorders and Mental and Behavioural disorders.

Category 3 Occupational cancer listed by specified agents.

Category 4 other diseases.

## What Does an Oiler Do For a living?

# Project

Occupational & Environmental Medicin

#### **Job Description: Marine Oiler**

- 1) Oils and greases moving parts, such as gears, shafts, and bearings, of engines and auxiliary equipment used to propel maritime vessels: Examines machinery for specified pressure and flow of lubricants.
- 2) Fills oil cups on machinery with grease and lubricating oil, according to machinery lubrication instructions.
- 3) Reads pressure and temperature gauges and records data in engineering log.
- 4) Assists Engineer in overhauling and adjusting machinery.
- 5) May lubricate deck machinery when vessel is unloading cargo

### Think Work!

Project (SCHO)

- What is the patient's job?
- Could the disease be due to a work exposure?
- What has the patient been exposed to at work?
- Is the exposure enough (dose) to cause the disease?
- Did the exposure start long enough ago (duration) to cause the disease?





Occupational & Environmental Medicine

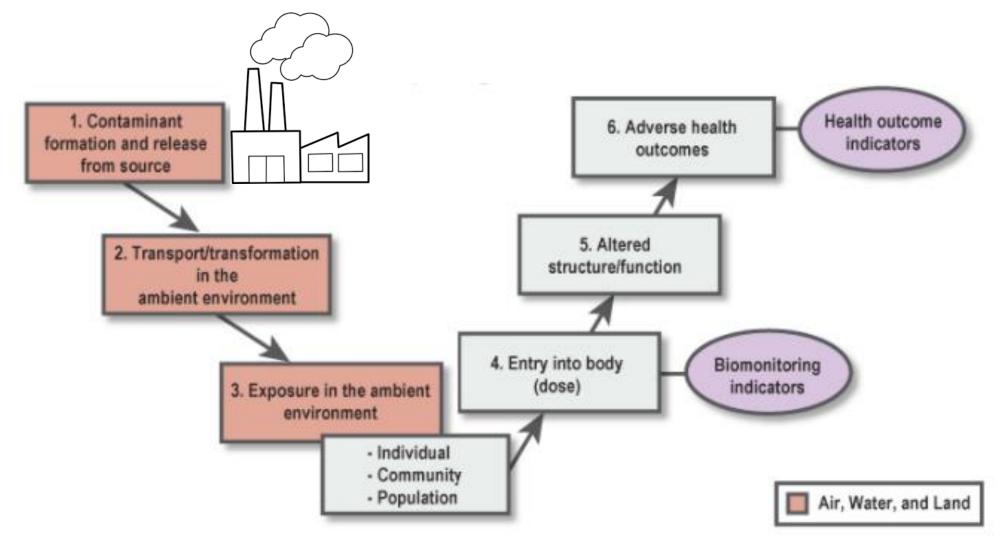
#### Why use it?

- Time management
- Record keeping
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Assessment
- Environmental exposures
- Disclosure of information
- Prognosis
- Special populations (adolescents, pregnant workers)

t is your current employment status? (Check and temployed by an organization full-time / part-tipelf-employed full-time / part-time / on leave if full-time university or college student / Homer benefits / Retired (Go to Question 2)	Date of Birth then circle mos time / on leave (Go to questic	(YYY/MM/DD):t oppropriote answer)
t is your current employment status? (Check and t Employed by an organization full-time / part-ti Self-employed full-time / part-time / on leave i Full-time university or college student / Homer	then circle mos ime / on leave (Go to questio	t appropriate answer)
Employed by an organization full-time / part-ti Self-employed full-time / part-time / on leave i Full-time university or college student / Homer	ime / on leave (Go to questio	
	maker / Not e	on 3)
t currently employed, when was your last approxin ob? Last date worked YYYY/MMM / _		ked and how long did youwork at
long were you employed in your last job	Years	Months (Go to question 4)
long have you been at your current job?	Years	Months
and be specific. For example: Fruit picker, Lege	al secretary, F	
details, for example: picking and carrying app aging the operations of a restaurant and servi	les and peach ing customers	nes, preparing legal documents,
0.7 10.7 May 2.7 May 2	ne time? Yes /	/No
ch one of the following best describes your wi job worked)? A night shift is work during the early hours of t	he morning, a	ofter midnight. An
Regular daytime schedule or shift     Regular night shift     Rotating shift, changing periodically from days to evenings or to nights     Other, please specify	☐ Irregula ☐ Split shi	r evening shift or schedule, or on call ft, consisting of two or stinct periods each day
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	v long were you employed in your last job v long have you been at your current job? your current or last job worked, what was you and be specific. For example: Fruit picker, Leg vool teacher, Dry waller, Heavy Equipment Meci your current or last job worked, what are/wer details, for example: picking and carrying app naging the operations of a restaurant and serv sanding walls, grinding and using impact wrei did you work in more than one job at the san betails ch one of the following best describes your w job worked)? A night shift is work during the early hours of t evening shift is work during the evening ending Regular night shift Regular night shift Rotating shift, changing periodically from days to evenings or to nights	ch one of the following best describes your working schedu job worked)?  A night shift is work during the early hours of the morning, a evening shift is work during the evening ending at or before  Regular daytime schedule or shift Regular inght shift Irregular Regular inght shift Shift Shift Shift Shift Shift Shift Regular inght shift in more directions of the more directions of the shift Shi

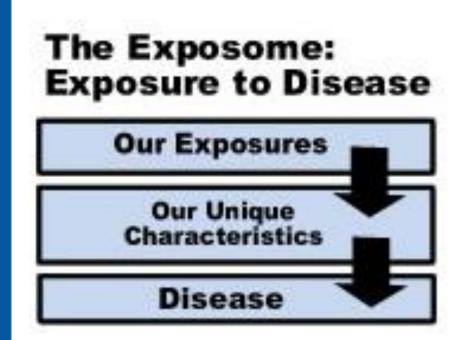


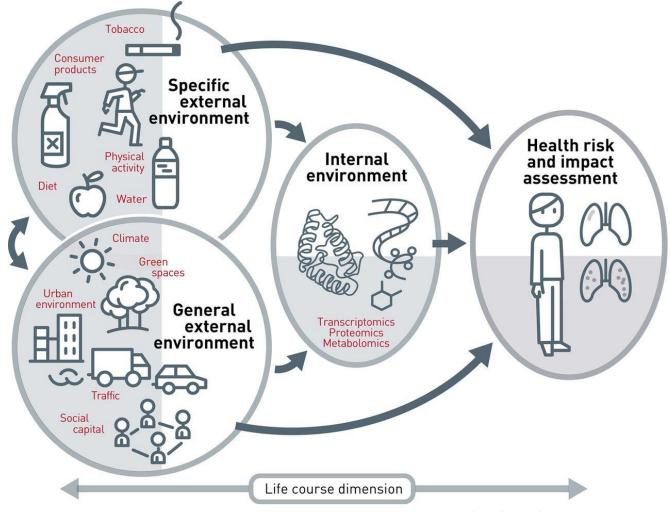




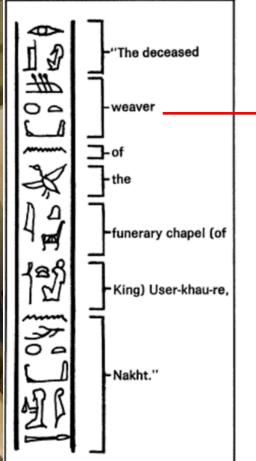
# What is the Exposome?











5244 – Artisans and craftspersons



Occupational & Environmental Medicine

Thank you,

Anil Adisesh

anil.adisesh@canhs.ca

#### Coffin for the Mummy of Nakht Western Thebes, Egypt, about 1190 BC

Nakht was a young weaver from a small temple on the west bank of the Nile.

His mummy was autopsied in Toronto in 1974. When Nakht died about three thousand years ago, someone in his family loved him enough to ensure that he was buried in a good quality coffin, where his name and occupation were recorded for all eternity.

910.4.1-2