Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

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leadership commitment and adoption of enhanced digital applications, higher level of compliance on occupational health and safety can be achieved.

**Sp23-3**

**Response to COVID-19 Challenges in Construction Sector - Experiences from USA**

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Introduction: Construction employee safety and health continue to be a concern for construction contractors who experience high injury rates. The COVID-19 pandemic added a layer of challenge to the already hazardous industry. It is critical to understand the challenges the construction industry stakeholders encountered and how they responded.

Materials and Methods: Several rounds of informal interviews and surveys were conducted with construction safety professionals to identify the COVID-19 challenges faced and understand the construction contractors’ responses in the Pacific Northwest of the USA.

Results: Contractors’ responses included Covid-19 Safety policies and procedures, 100% mask policy, employee outreach and training, infection control plan, vaccination requirement, etc. The results indicated that contractors’ common challenges included compliance and enforcement of mask mandates, maintaining social and physical distances for specific tasks, eye protection fog-up due to masks, hot weather-related issues, and so forth.

Conclusions: Contractors adapted to the challenges by treating COVID-19 as a hazard and ensuring proper control measures to protect the workers. Contractors are well-prepared for future outbreaks.

**Special Session 24 The work of an occupational health nurse in various countries during COVID-19**

Chair: Kim Davies and Kirsi Lappalainen

**Session introduction**

How did COVID-19 affect the work of Occupational Health nursing in various countries around the world

**Sp24-1**

**The work of an occupational health nurse in Finland during COVID-19**

Kirsi Lappalainen

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Introduction: The OHN has an important role in coordinating the services and cooperating with the client organizations and enterprises. The main tasks of OHN are promotion of health and wellbeing at work and prevention of work-related ill-health and disability. OHNs do health surveillance and counselling. Assess working environments and communities and their impact on health in liaison with the other experts in the occupational health care team.

Materials and Methods: Some of the Finnish Occupational Health Nurses’ efforts and practices during COVID-19.

Results and Conclusions: In Finland Covid-19 accelerated telecommuting and chat with contacts. Covid-19 caused changes in the work of occupational health nurses. Health examinations and workplace visits have been conducted remotely. Similarly, work ability negotiations have been conducted remotely. Medical treatment has also been accustomed remotely. The cleaning of stations have further been enhanced. The reimbursement of remote medical care in occupational health care has changed. In the future, the Social Insurance Institution of Finland may reimburse the costs of remote services even more extensively when remote services no longer require the use of a video connection. Once Covid-19 vaccinations have started, occupational health nurses have joined the vaccination process. The vaccination schedule is defined in accordance with the Finnish COVID-19 vaccine strategy, with social and health care professionals caring for COVID-19 patients and those working in nursing homes being the first to be vaccinated.

**Sp24-2**

**Fostering healthy workplaces in the aging society Japan**

Minako Sasaki

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Introduction: Japan’s population aging is accelerated at an extremely rapid rate: 17.4% in 2000, 28.4% in 2019, and projected to reach 38.4% by 2065. Accordingly, the workforce is aging as well. In 2020, 13.6% of workers were over 65 years old.

Materials and Methods: Some of the Japanese Occupational Health Nurses’ efforts and practices in the face of this aging society are overviewed.

Results and Conclusions: Countermeasures for Non-Communicable Diseases

Japan has been making efforts to combat lifestyle-related diseases - the implementation of health checkups is mandatory - meanwhile, subsequent health guidance is still required as ‘obligation to make effort’. Most small companies do not have access to OHNs. To implement health guidance in all companies, OHNs need to build a stronger cooperative system with public health nurses and enhance involvement of hospital or clinic nurses.

Balancing of treatment and work

As the workforce ages, percentage of workers with some forms of illnesses or disabilities would be increased. OHNs are expected to support the balancing of treatment and work, and to help the elderly to continue working.

Fostering Healthy Workplaces

It’s very important in the aging society to prevent a loss of productivity by encouraging acceptance of aging and promoting health among workers. OHNs are concerned about the workers’ life satisfaction, work motivation, and job satisfaction, and grasp their job content, work environment as well as their lifestyle, in the aim to support workers to have healthier lifestyle and to foster good organizational climate.

**Sp27-3**

**Are Occupational Health Nurses keeping up with our changing world of work?**

Janice Riegen

Independent Healthy Workplaces, Auckland, New Zealand (NZ)

Introduction: Occupational Health Nurses (OHN), have been part of workplaces for decades, with similarities and differences in how we practice. Are we keeping up in the changing world of work? Health, safety, wellbeing and work are inextricably linked, it is about how work impacts on health and health impacts on work. The World...