

## ... from the Editor



Linda Grainger,  
Editor

This is the final issue for 2007. It features three scientific papers. Phillips, Renton, Murray, Garton, Tylee and Rees report on their study to determine whether there are respirable, airborne asbestos fibres in and around Soweto homes with asbestos cement roofs. Given that these homes are ageing and many residents are renovating them, there was concern that residents and construction workers could be exposed to such fibres. The value of the paper lies in its results as well as the sampling strategy that was employed.

Bronkhorst and Smith describe the findings of their pilot study to investigate whether bagasse-yard workers were suffering from any health problems, which could be ascribed to any one or a combination of fungi. Although they were unable to demonstrate an occupational link to the identified health problems, their recommendations for future studies as well as the protection of exposed employees are useful.

Finally, Zungu presents her evaluation of the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of occupational health programmes implemented at the on-site clinic of a newspaper production industry. Readers should find her use of Donabedian's structure, process and outcome model as the framework, informative for guiding their own evaluation activities.

### LAUNCH OF OUR WEBSITE

I am delighted to inform you that our website is now operational. The address is <http://www.occhealth.co.za>. This project was financially supported by our publishers, Technique (Pty) Ltd, and should be an extremely useful

resource to complement our hard copy version of the journal. As the site is password protected, you will require a personal log-in. Jenny Gent, who is in charge of production of our journal, has sent these out to all the current members via the e-mail addresses supplied by your societies. If you have not received a message from her, please contact her at [jennyg@technews.co.za](mailto:jennyg@technews.co.za).

The Homepage, Subscription, Guidelines and Contact pages are available for anyone to view. The remaining pages can only be accessed by current members of the four societies, and any subscriber to the journal. The homepage lists the contents of the current issue, and information about the Editorial Board and the publishers. Instructions for using the website are available under the heading 'Lost and confused?' The 'What's on' page will feature news flashes, media releases and items that cannot be published in the journal, due to time and space constraints. I would like to encourage you all to use the website and give us feedback.

...and in closing, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the journal over the past year. In particular, the members of the Editorial Board for their invaluable guidance, the staff of Technique publishers for the professional manner in which they handle our journal, the authors, advertisers, peer reviewers and, of course...the readers. May the coming festive season be a restful and restorative time for you all, and may 2008 be a year in which you are able to turn the challenges of occupational health into opportunities!

## Upcoming events

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES					
DATE	PLACE	TOPIC	MORE INFORMATION		
6-8 March 2008	Washington, D.C.	Work, Stress, and Health 2008: Health and Safe Work Through Research, Practice, and Partnerships	E-mail: <a href="mailto:wbaker@apa.org">wbaker@apa.org</a>		
12-15 March 2008	Hamburg – Germany	48th Annual Scientific Conference combined with ICOH Mid-term Meeting 2008 (Topics – ethics, work-related skin diseases, maritime medicine)	E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@gameda.de">info@gameda.de</a> <a href="http://www.dgaum.de">www.dgaum.de</a>		
31 March – 2 April 2008	ICC, Durban, SA	8th International Work Congress on Work Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation and Compensation	M Nyenti, Tel: +27 (0)11 559 4101 Fax: +27 (0)11 559 2933 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mnyenti@uj.ac.za">mnyenti@uj.ac.za</a> <a href="http://www.uj.ac.za/wc2008">http://www.uj.ac.za/wc2008</a>		
18-22 February 2008	Taipei, Taiwan	IOHA 2008	<a href="http://www.ticc.com.tw">www.ticc.com.tw</a>		
Please access <a href="http://www.asosh.org/WorldLinks/calendars.htm">http://www.asosh.org/WorldLinks/calendars.htm</a> for additional information regarding events					
LOCAL CONFERENCES					
DATE	TOPIC	REGION	TARGET	COST	CONTACT NAME
1-4 July 2008	TB Conference – Working as One	Durban, KwaZulu-Natal	Occupational medical and nursing practitioners	Not available	<a href="http://www.tbconference.co.za">www.tbconference.co.za</a>
HEALTH AWARENESS DAYS, WEEKS AND MONTHS					
DECEMBER	DAY	TOPIC			
Sun Smart Awareness Month CANSA	1	World AIDS Day			
	3	International Day of Disabled Persons			
	5	International Volunteers Day			