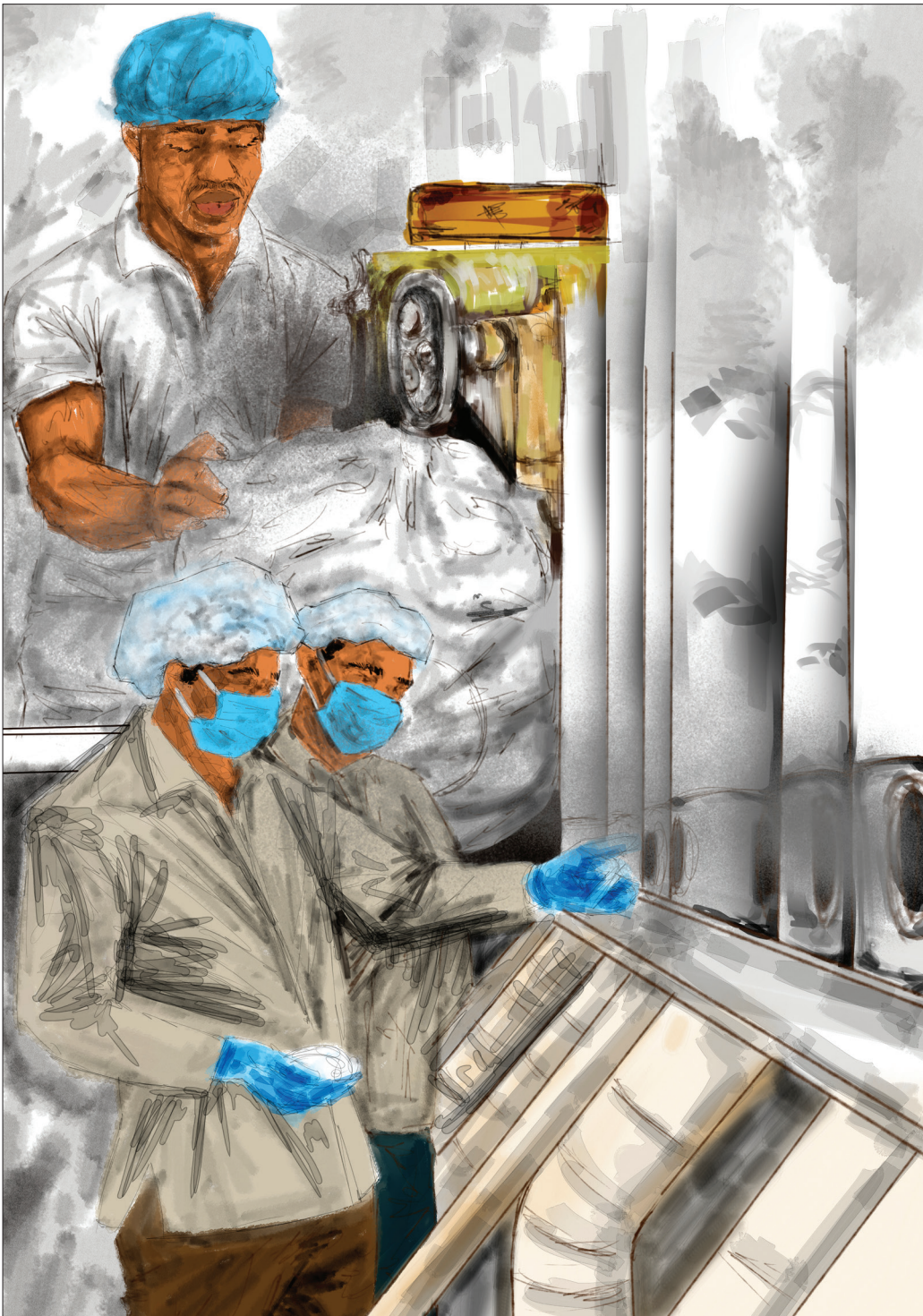


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SOUTHERN AFRICA

Volume 31, Issue 3, 2025

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Volume 31, Issue 3, 2025



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Volume 31, Issue 3 2025

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From the Assistant Editor



Ntombizodwa Ndlovu,
Assistant Editor

In this issue, we are delighted to profile Professor Gill Nelson, Editor-in-Chief of *Occupational Health Southern Africa*, who was appointed Assistant Dean of Postgraduate Affairs in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand in April 2025. Professor Mary Ross, a long-time colleague and friend, offers a brief but insightful overview of Professor Nelson's academic journey, achievements, and contributions. On behalf of our contributors, readers, and the OHSA Editorial Board – congratulations, Gill. We wish you every success in this important leadership role.

This issue features three peer-reviewed papers. Mühlbauer and colleagues explore the views of students and academic staff on the physical preparedness and assessment of emergency medical care (EMC) students for the demanding and hazardous environments they face. Rikhotso evaluates the comfort of hearing protection devices used by chemical plant workers who rely on radio communication. Hoopdeo et al. investigate respiratory symptoms and lung function among flour mill workers, noting high dust exposure despite similar symptom rates compared to office workers. Additionally, in an opinion piece, Laurens explores the workplace implications of cannabis legalisation in South Africa and proposes a balanced approach between employers' safety responsibilities and employees' rights to privacy.

In August, I attended the 2025 National Scholarly Editors' Forum (NSEF), an annual meeting convened by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) as part of its Scholarly Publishing Programme (SPP). The [NSEF](#) is a professional and advisory platform for editors of accredited South African scholarly journals that promotes editorial excellence, ethical publishing practices, and collaboration. This is done through the production of codes of practice to guide scholarly publishing and hosting of webinars and discussion fora for its members.

The meeting included presentations and reflections on activities and achievements of the 2024/2025 reporting period and discussions on a wide range of topical issues. I will highlight some of these here. There are currently 355 South African journals, across all disciplines, accredited by the Department of Higher Education and Training. Using [African Journals Online's](#) estimate that there are 898 African journals currently, this means that an impressive third of the continent's journals are of South African origin. With about two-thirds of South African journals being open access and indexed in international databases such as DOAJ, Scopus, and Web of Science, the global visibility, credibility, and impact of local research is enhanced.


Intentional succession planning for editors to ensure the sustainability of journals is required. At the meeting, recruitment and mentoring of early-career editors was put forward as a strategy to grow the next generation of editors. Succession planning should be a standing item on editorial board agendas.

A major achievement in 2024/2025 was the approval of the [Revised Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review](#), which encourages academic institutions to formally recognise the critical work of editors and peer reviewers. *Occupational Health Southern Africa* highlighted this development in our December 2024 editorial, and we continue to support its implementation (see page 123). The meeting discussed strategies to increase institutional adoption, such as direct engagement with university leadership. We are hopeful that these efforts will bear fruit.

The revised code documents the vital role of reviewers and editors in maintaining the quality and integrity of scholarly publications. *Occupational Health Southern Africa* continues to invite researchers to volunteer as peer reviewers (see page 123). I encourage you to read the code of practice and, whenever possible, accept invitations to review. Thoughtful, constructive peer review is essential to the advancement of science.

Another notable achievement was the endorsement of the [POPIA Compliance Framework for Research](#). The framework is designed to “demystify POPIA for researchers” by offering practical guidance on conducting ethical, transparent, and accountable research, including responsible data sharing. This is a significant contribution, especially as many researchers continue to grapple with the practical implications of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA).

The rapid evolution of artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping the scholarly publishing landscape. In 2024, ASSAf hosted three well-attended webinars on AI, and quarterly virtual *makgotlas* (gatherings) were planned for 2025. Three of these have been held and the final *makgotla*, titled ‘New Ways of Doing Things: Embracing Innovation and Change’, will take place in the last quarter of the year. Look out for it.

The [ASSAf and SciELO Guidelines for the Use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Tools and Resources in Research Communication](#), endorsed in September 2024, provide guidance on the responsible use of AI for authors, reviewers, and editors, and on how to cite and reference AI-generated content. Authors must declare any use of AI and avoid incorporating misinformation. Reviewers and editors, in turn, are encouraged to remain vigilant in identifying and correcting AI-generated inaccuracies. While AI tools offer opportunities to streamline workflows, such as formatting and editing, care must be taken to preserve scholarly integrity and confidentiality. 

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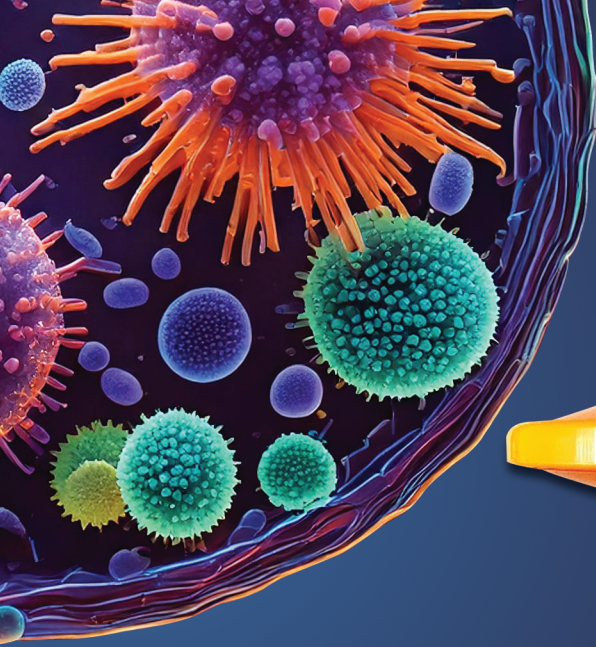
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	Schiller	SpiroScout SPIROVIT SP-1 G2

Product Code	Spirometer	Model
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	Vitalograph	ALPHA Touch ALPHA 6000 In2itive
	Micro Medical	All models
	Schiller	SP-260
	MH	LA303
	COSMED	microQuark Quark Spiro Pony FX
CONTEC	All models	

Product Code	Spirometer	Model
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	Jaeger	Vyntus SPIRO PC Vyntus ONE
	Vyaire	Short Adaptor
	AME	Short Adaptor
	IQ TeQ	Short Adaptor
	ORCAwave	Short Adaptor
	MSG	Short Adaptor
	Thor/Spirosonic	All models

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Professor Gill Nelson

Mary Ross: OHSA Board Member; SASOM Executive Member; Honorary Professor, University of the Witwatersrand

The promotion of the Editor-in-Chief of *Occupational Health Southern Africa*, Professor Gill Nelson, provides the overdue opportunity for recognition of her achievements, both academically and for the journal. In April 2025, Gill was appointed as Assistant Dean of Postgraduate Affairs in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). She continues to head the Occupational Health Division in the School of Public Health, a position she has held since 2013, and is concurrently an Adjunct Professor at the Barrow Neurological Institute (USA).

After gaining a BSc Hons degree in Human Genetics at Wits, she completed a Master's degree in Genetics while working in the Epidemiology section at the National Centre (now Institute) for Occupational Health. Gill then undertook postgraduate training at McGill University in Canada and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and subsequently obtained her PhD in Occupational Health. Although she has spent most of her career in the field of occupational epidemiology, she has also had other exciting forays into the pharmaceutical industry and the Perinatal HIV Research Unit at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital. This extensive and varied career course has contributed to her impressive reputation for teaching and research, as well as in the role of Editor-in-Chief of *Occupational Health Southern Africa*.

I have had the privilege of observing Gill's academic and career progression over the last 35 years, since I was a registrar in Public Health Medicine and she was an epidemiology researcher and excellent biostatistics lecturer on the Diploma in Occupational Health. My initial experience of being taught occupational epidemiology and biostatistics by Gill was echoed by all the Diploma students – a challenging topic made clear and comprehensible.

Gill has established enduring international alliances with researchers in other countries such as the UK, the USA, and Sweden. The international research collaborations, publications, and presentations speak for the local and international recognition of Gill's research expertise, focused on occupational and environmental exposures and respiratory diseases. Much of her work has involved the mining sector, including her PhD on silica exposure and her current work on manganese exposure. In recognition for her ongoing contribution in research and mentoring postgraduates, Gill was awarded prestigious Oppenheimer Memorial Trust funding to support a sabbatical to conduct projects with international collaborators.

Throughout her career, Gill has been an effective communicator and, in recent years, has concentrated on developing postgraduate researchers. As a National Research Foundation (NRF) rated scientist she has been, and continues to be, an excellent, much-admired lecturer in epidemiology and much sought-after research mentor and advisor to students and other researchers. Her teaching philosophy is to assist postgraduate students to write well, since communication skills are vital for effective dissemination of their research findings. Through her university role and *Occupational Health Southern Africa* editorship, Gill recognised the dire need for research writing tuition:



Professor Gill Nelson Photograph: courtesy of Gill Nelson

she initiated various workshops for scientific writing, research report writing, and development of peer-reviewed manuscripts. In addition, she initiated coaching in research ethics for which I provided input for the first MPH students in occupational hygiene.

As Editor of *Occupational Health Southern Africa*, Gill has applied her own considerable abilities in scientific writing to mentoring this skill that is lacking in South Africa. Her teaching role as Editor of the journal is invaluable to all authors submitting papers, with her meticulous editing and encouragement to improve both the research reporting and the quality of the journal. To this end, her own expertise and her extensive global expert contacts that provide a panel of reviewers are invaluable. Gill is responsible for the overall content of *Occupational Health Southern Africa*, including initial and final assessment of the manuscripts submitted, identifying reviewers, communicating with authors, mentoring inexperienced authors, editing papers, plus working with the publication team and chairing the Editorial Board meetings. With her own publication experience of more than 80 papers and several book chapters, Gill's mentorship is invaluable to all authors submitting papers.

Apart from her academic prowess and success, Gill is also a superb negotiator, event organiser, and companion for both work and leisure pursuits. I have benefitted from these talents on many occasions, from her arranging biomarker workshops in idyllic settings, conference accommodation at exotic destinations, visiting a camel market in Egypt, to shopping in the *souks* of Marrakech. Although, unlike her two academic mentors, Professors Margot Becklake and Jill Murray, I cannot bask in the vicarious success of Gill's academic achievements and successful career, I cherish having been able to support her over the years in facilitating obtaining of sponsorship for her research, as well as in her editorial role at *Occupational Health Southern Africa*. [👉](#)

Strengthening trust in research: updated code of best practice released

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) is pleased to announce the publication of the *Revised Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing, and Peer Review*, a key milestone in advancing ethical, professional, and trustworthy standards in scholarly publishing in South Africa.

Originally published in 2004 and updated in 2018, the Code has served as a foundational guide to ensure integrity, transparency, and excellence in scholarly communication. This 2025 revision reflects the evolving landscape of academic publishing and responds to emerging challenges, including the rise of digital publishing, the use of artificial intelligence (AI), the growing emphasis on open access, data transparency, and the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion in scholarship.

The revision was initiated by the National Scholarly Editors' Forum (NSEF) and undertaken by a dedicated Working Group comprising volunteers from the NSEF. The draft was shared widely with the NSEF for comment, and the final version was endorsed by the Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa (CSPISA) on 20 May 2025, and approved by the ASSAf Council on 18 June 2025.

The updated Code provides practical, comprehensive guidance for all stakeholders in scholarly publishing – editors, reviewers, authors,


and publishers – covering key areas such as editorial independence, peer review, governance, ethical responsibilities, and adherence to evolving policies and regulations.

This collaborative effort underscores ASSAf's and the scholarly community's commitment to fostering a culture of professionalism, accountability, and – critically – trust in research and academic publishing. By upholding the principles outlined in the Code, stakeholders ensure that scholarly research remains credible, rigorous, and of enduring value to society.

The Revised Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing, and Peer Review is now available on the ASSAf website at: <https://doi.org/10.17159/assaf.2025/117>


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Submitted manuscripts are most often delayed due to the difficulties in finding reviewers. This causes frustration for authors and the editorial team alike. Authors can wait months for reviewers' comments. The editors spend hours identifying potential reviewers, following up when they promise but don't deliver, and seeking new reviewers when those invited decline or, worse, don't respond at all. We are therefore looking to create a pool of committed reviewers for all aspects of occupational health. If you are interested in joining this pool, please submit your details [here](#). 

Tshiamiso Trust highlights progress and persistent challenges in delivering on its mandate

In its annual general meeting (AGM) on 29 August 2025, the Tshiamiso Trust announced that it has paid out more than R2.27 billion in compensation to former mineworkers and their dependents affected by silicosis and work-related tuberculosis (TB). The Trust's report highlighted significant progress in claimant outreach and processing, while acknowledging persistent operational and legal challenges.

Record payments and regional outreach

The Trust's focused outreach efforts have yielded substantial results, particularly in key regions. To date, the largest proportion of claims (51%) has been paid to South African beneficiaries, with a strong focus on mining areas in the Eastern Cape and Free State provinces. Lesotho follows closely, with 42% of all claims paid, reflecting the long history of Basotho men in South African mines.

Outreach efforts continue in Botswana, Mozambique, and Eswatini. Tshiamiso Trust CEO, Dr Munyadziwa Kwindu, highlighted the success of a pilot project in Zimbabwe, which laid the groundwork for the imminent launch of full services. He also noted significant progress in discussions with the Malawian Government, paving the way for future operations there. *"The period in review saw the establishment of Benefit Medical Examination (BME) services in Botswana, where some claimants were paid within just two weeks of completing their medical examination,"* said Dr Kwindu. *"This demonstrates the effectiveness of our streamlined processes."*

Key amendments to the Trust deed

Two important amendments to the Trust deed were announced at the AGM to address significant barriers to compensation:

- **Death certification:** The scope for recognising silicosis or TB as the primary cause of death has been broadened. The Trust will now accept a full Death Notification Form (DHA1663) or a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death in addition to a death certificate. This change offers a more practical path to compensation for families.
- **Dispute window:** The window for claimants to dispute outcomes has been extended from 30 to 120 days, providing more time to ensure fairness in the process.

Persistent challenges in claim processing

While progress has been made, the Trust continues to face significant challenges.

- **ODMWA certificates:** A long-standing impasse regarding the use of Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act (ODMWA) certificates was addressed. The Trust's Medical Advisory Panel has been tasked with assessing the alignment between the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases (MBOD) diagnostic criteria and the Trust's criteria. Until this assessment is complete, all claimants with an ODMWA certificate will be required to undergo a BME to determine medical eligibility.

- **Eligibility criteria:** A major challenge that remains is the strict medical and legal criteria, which were established in the original legal settlement. Of the 83 810 medical certifications completed, 70% were ruled ineligible as the medical evidence did not meet the prescribed criteria.

Tshiamiso Trust Chairperson, Dr May Hermanus, acknowledged the painful reality that *"Many who approach the Trust with hopes of compensation do not meet the strict medical and legal criteria. These criteria are binding on the Trust and were established in the settlement agreement that gave rise to its mandate."*

Operational and partnership focus

Delivering compensation across a wide geographic footprint has presented immense challenges. Dr Hermanus stressed that strategic partnerships and innovative approaches are required to extend the Trust's reach. Dr Kwindu echoed the importance of collaboration, stating, *"As we look ahead, our strategic focus is clear: strengthening partnerships. We know that the scale of our task cannot be met in isolation. Collaboration is the key to expanding our reach, improving efficiencies, and ensuring that all eligible claimants are paid."*

Commitment to the mandate

Closing her address, Dr Hermanus reaffirmed the Trust's determination to continue its work despite the difficulties. *"The Trust remains steadfast in its responsibility to implement the settlement with integrity and transparency, and to ensure that compensation reaches those who are eligible under its terms."*

About the Tshiamiso Trust

The Tshiamiso Trust was established to give effect to the settlement agreement reached between six mining companies and claimant attorneys in the historic silicosis and TB class action. The companies are African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American South Africa, AngloGold Ashanti, Harmony Gold, Sibanye Stillwater, and Gold Fields.

The Trust is responsible for compensating all eligible current and former mineworkers across southern Africa with permanent impairment due to silicosis or work-related TB, or their dependents, where the mineworker has passed away.

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Prof. Janvier Gasana,
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Special guest:

Ms. Mercedes Viñas, Director at European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), Finland

Other invited speakers:

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Perspectives on the physical preparedness of emergency medical care students in South Africa

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physical fitness, occupational fitness, physical performance, paramedic, emergency medical care, emergency responder

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ABSTRACT

Background: Emergency medical care (EMC) and medical rescue environments are physically demanding and potentially hazardous to patients and emergency care providers. Emergency medical care students must be physically prepared to operate effectively and safely in diverse hazardous situations and environments. Currently, little has been published about the unique physical preparedness requirements of EMC students exposed to EMC and medical rescue training.

Objectives: To describe the perspectives of academic staff and EMC students, with regards to the physical preparedness of undergraduate EMC students at three higher education institutes (HEIs) in South Africa.

Methods: In this descriptive cross-sectional study, a purpose-designed quantitative questionnaire was administered to probe the perspectives of EMC students and academic staff members involved in the teaching of Medical Rescue and Physical Preparedness modules within the undergraduate EMC degree programmes.

Results: One hundred and seventeen EMC students and 12 academic staff members participated in the study. Most respondents were male: 77 (65.8%) students and 11 (91.7%) academic staff members. Most students agreed ($n = 113$, 96.6%) that it is important for EMC students to be physically fit and healthy. There was agreement among students ($n = 104$, 88.9%) and staff ($n = 11$, 91.7%) that emergency care and rescue workers should be able to swim. It was agreed that all EMC programmes should assess physical preparedness and use similar assessments.

Conclusion: Physical preparedness and the assessment thereof are important components of the EMC degree programme. A validated physical preparedness assessment tool should be developed to address the specific physically strenuous learning outcomes associated with the BHSc EMC programme. This assessment should be standardised at the different HEIs offering the programme, and the assessment should be the same irrespective of student age, sex, and physical attributes.

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Comfort ratings of hearing protection devices among chemical manufacturing plant workers who use radio communication

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Keywords

attenuation, band pressure level, frequency band, isolation, speech masking, risk perception

How to cite this paper

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ABSTRACT

Background: Personal protective equipment (PPE), including hearing protection devices (HPDs), can minimise the adverse health impacts of occupational exposures when properly designed, selected, used, and maintained. Wearer acceptance, compatibility with other protective clothing, and environmental conditions affect the use of PPE. The selection of HPDs should consider wearer comfort and the need for effective radio communication to increase field usage and effectiveness, in addition to their attenuation capabilities.

Objective: To assess the comfort rating of HPDs that are concurrently used with radio communication at three chemical manufacturing plants in South Africa.

Methods: A mixed methods cross-sectional study design, incorporating field observations, a questionnaire survey, and noise measurements, was used. Visits to three chemical plants (A, B, and C) involved 1) noise level measurements, 2) the collection of HPDs in use, and 3) administration of a questionnaire, which was designed to elicit information about workers' subjective rating of comfort (isolation and radio communication) when using the devices. Data were analysed, descriptively, using Stata V13.

Results: Average noise levels were highest in plant C, followed by plants A and B. Nineteen different HPDs were used across the three chemical plants. All were designed for effective attenuation against medium and high frequencies, but only nine were designed for effective attenuation across all frequencies. Fifty-four workers completed the questionnaire, 15 (27.8%) of whom felt completely isolated when using HPDs. Twenty-five (46.3%) rated radio communication as bad when using HPDs.

Conclusion: The feeling of isolation and the quality of radio communication is subjective, varies amongst workers, and is influenced by both the spectral noise characteristics of the plant and the HPD used. To promote usage of HPDs and minimise the feeling of isolation and discomfort, the selection of devices should take the radio communication needs of workers into account.

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Exposure to dust and associated respiratory outcomes among workers at a flour mill in KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa

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Keywords

spirometry, flour dust occupational exposure limit, flour millers, pulmonary function, personal dust sampling

How to cite this paper

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ABSTRACT

Background: Inhalation of flour dust is associated with respiratory health effects, but there has been little research conducted on flour mill workers in South Africa. South Africa has an occupational exposure limit (OEL) for grain dust, but no OEL for flour dust. The former is used as the OEL for flour dust, despite the difference in composition and particle size of the two dusts. Flour mill workers report work-related respiratory health effects; therefore, it is essential to establish an OEL for flour dust.

Objectives: We assessed reported respiratory symptoms and pulmonary function amongst workers in a flour milling company, and associated factors.

Methods: This cross-sectional study was conducted at a flour mill in KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa, amongst 63 employees: 48 mill workers and 15 office workers. Self-reported symptoms (chest tightness/breathing difficulties, dry cough, sneezing, and running/blocked nose) and work-related factors were elicited in 2021, using a questionnaire. Pulmonary function data were obtained from medical records; personal dust exposures from 2017, 2019, and 2021 were obtained from environmental monitoring reports. Categorical data, including respiratory symptoms and pulmonary function, were summarised using frequencies and percentages. Logistic regression was used to assess the association between exposure and respiratory symptoms, with odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) reported. Multiple linear regression was used to identify predictors of pulmonary function.

Results: The proportions of mill and office workers who reported respiratory symptoms was similar (50.0% and 46.7%, respectively). Mill workers had slightly higher adjusted odds of reported respiratory symptoms than office workers, but this was not statistically significant. In general, the forced expiratory volume in one second/forced vital capacity (FEV₁/FVC) ratios of the office workers and the laboratory staff were higher than those of the mill workers in other departments. The FEV₁/FVC ratios were slightly higher amongst all participants in 2020, during the severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic, than in 2019. Age was a predictor of pulmonary function ($\beta = -0.377$ ($p = 0.007$) in 2019 and $\beta = -0.393$ ($p = 0.006$) in 2020). Some mill workers were exposed to dust at concentrations exceeding the OEL for grain dust.

Conclusion: Although mill workers had slightly poorer pulmonary function than office workers, the prevalences of reported respiratory symptoms were similar. However, the high dust exposures in the milling and packing departments indicate that there is a need for improved dust control measures. The establishment of an OEL for flour dust will go a long way to protecting worker health.

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Cannabis testing in the post-legalisation era: beyond zero-tolerance to a risk matrix approach balancing safety and privacy

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How to cite this paper

Laurens JB. Cannabis testing in the post-legalisation era: beyond zero-tolerance to a risk matrix approach balancing safety and privacy. *Occup Health Southern Afr*. 2025; 31(2):146-150. doi: 10.62380/ohsa.2025.31.2.4

ABSTRACT

The legalisation of cannabis for private use in South Africa has created significant challenges for workplace substance testing protocols. The landmark *Enever v Barloworld* case demonstrated the inadequacy of traditional 'zero-tolerance' approaches that fail to consider job-specific risks and privacy implications. In this paper, I propose a comprehensive risk assessment methodology for workplace cannabis testing, using a risk matrix approach. The process includes hazard identification, risk analysis, job role categorisation into high, medium, and low-risk categories, and the establishment of appropriate testing protocols with evidence-based THC thresholds. The methodology advocates for oral fluid testing with differentiated THC thresholds (2 ng/mL for high-risk roles and 5 ng/mL for medium/low-risk roles) and tailored testing scenarios based on risk level. By implementing this structured approach, employers can balance their duty to maintain workplace safety with employees' constitutional rights to privacy, creating testing regimens that are proportionate, defensible, and aligned with current legal precedents.

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Increasing capacity for occupational hygiene in Zambia

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How to cite this paper

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SASOM news

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'GLOBAL HEALTH WORKFORCE FORUM – BARCELONA 2025'

Barcelona calling...

Barcelona – the city of Gaudí and dreams, where the mountains meet the sea... Barcelona - a mosaic of history, art, and passion... Barcelona – Mediterranean vibrancy, sun-drenched streets, soul-stirring rhythms...

Situated on the Mediterranean coast, Spain's second largest city mingles centuries of history with a vibrant contemporary spirit, and has long been a crossroads for trade, culture, and ideas. Barcelona is a captivating blend of Gothic charm and modernist brilliance. Renowned for its cosmopolitan flair and laid-back vibe, as well as its thriving arts scene, world-class research institutions, and

dynamic economy, the city is a top choice for history and culture enthusiasts. Often described as an architectural wonderland, the capital of the autonomous province of Cataluña offers a wealth of sights and attractions for every type of traveller, be it for leisure or business. Famed for the bustling markets of La Boqueria, the winding streets of the medieval Gothic Quarter, lively plazas, innovative gastronomy, splendid mosaics, and a welcoming atmosphere, Barcelona is a place where creativity and tradition meet at every turn.

The official languages of Cataluña are Catalan and Spanish, and the city and its wider metropolitan area accommodate more than five million people, and host many more visitors every year (11.71 million in 2024)^a.



Iconic Barcelona – where creativity touches the sky: The *Sagrada Família*, Gaudí's unfinished masterpiece, soars above the city as a symbol of imagination, devotion, and architectural innovation

Photograph: Dr Blanche Andrews (South Africa)

^a <https://hotelagio.com/barcelona-tourism-statistics>

^b https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Gold_Medal

Barcelona is the only city awarded the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture, in 1999^b. Since 1848, this medal has been awarded annually by the Royal Institute of British Architects on behalf of the British monarch, in recognition of an individual or group's substantial contribution to international architecture. It is awarded for a distinguished body of work, rather than for one building and is, therefore, not awarded for merely being currently fashionable.

Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926), a Catalan architect, is considered the great master of Catalan Modernism, especially in Barcelona; his unique works were inspired by his three passions in life – nature, religion, and geometry. Barcelona is often associated with Gaudí's work, with numerous buildings designed by him scattered throughout the city. He is celebrated for the *Sagrada Família* (Basilica and Expiatory Church of the Holy Family), which is still under construction that started in 1882, and many other iconic structures, including i) *Park Güell*, a park with whimsical architectural elements and vibrant mosaics, a true expression of Gaudí's unique style; ii) *Casa Batlló*, a residential building with a distinctive façade, characterised by its flowing lines and colourful tiles; iii) *Casa Milà* (La Pedrera), a private residence known for its undulating roof and innovative construction techniques; iv) *Palau Güell*, a presidential palace and museum with a grand entrance and intricate details; v) *Casa Vicens* – Gaudí's first major commission – a house showcasing his early architectural style; and vi) Church of *Colònia Güell*, a unique and unfinished architectural masterpiece, which served as a testing ground for Gaudí's later, more famous works like the *Sagrada Família*. Gaudí's buildings

are a defining feature of Barcelona's skyline and identity; his final resting place is the crypt of the *Sagrada Família*.

Barcelona stands out as the home to nine United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites. Of these, seven are Antoni Gaudí's works. While nine may seem a small number, this is impactful for a city. Collectively, these sites are known as the 'Works of Antoni Gaudí' and show his "exceptional creative contribution to the development of architecture and building technology in the late 19th and early 20th centuries"^c.

Thanks to Barcelona, we celebrate the World Book and Copyright Day. St Georges Day, or *La Diada de Sant Jordi*, is among the most renowned festivals in Barcelona. It falls on 23 April and aims to honour love and literacy. In 1995, UNESCO was inspired by the festival and its meaning, and so declared the day the World Book and Copyright Day^d.

Barcelona – a global city for ideas, culture, discovery, and health innovation

From its sunlit shores to its rich mosaic of art, architecture, and innovation, Barcelona is ranked among Europe's leading conference destinations, combining excellent infrastructure with a welcoming environment that offers the perfect backdrop for international collaboration. Against this iconic milieu, the 'Global Health Workforce (GHW) Forum – Barcelona 2025' brought together health experts, policymakers, and practitioners from across the globe to connect, share, inspire, exchange knowledge, foster partnerships, and explore strategies for shaping the future of health. The 'GHW Forum – Barcelona 2025' was held from 11 to 14 March 2025, at



'Global Health Workforce Forum – Barcelona 2025' venue – The Sant Pau Art Nouveau site, where history and innovation go hand in hand, has become a new point of reference in Barcelona

Photograph: courtesy of the organisers of the GHW Forum – Barcelona 2025

^c <https://unesco.org/heritage/works-of-antoni-gaudi/>

^d <https://unexpectedcatalonia.com/sant-jordi/>

the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site in Barcelona. This landmark event placed occupational health at the forefront of the global agenda, and recognised that resilient and sustainable healthcare systems are built on the health, wellbeing, and safety of their workforces.

After serving as the *Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau* for over a century, the site underwent a major restoration after healthcare services moved to a new hospital. This project revived the cultural and artistic splendour of the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, showcasing the most important work of Catalan architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner. With the recovery of the Art Nouveau complex, part of the Administration Pavilion was converted into a venue for meetings and events. With a capacity for more than 600 people, its splendid interiors are an ideal setting for corporate meetings, courses, conferences, and other proceedings. The Administration Pavilion also houses the Historical Archive of the *Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau*, one of the most important collections of hospital documentation in the world, which includes historic books and documents from the 15th to 20th centuries. Sant Pau hosts several resident organisations working in the fields of innovation, sustainability, health, and culture, among others. Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Complex occupies a privileged space in the culture and tradition of Barcelona. It is a modern complex of multipurpose rooms with functional spaces, combining the artistic richness of architecture and design with state-of-the-art technical facilities.



Culture, heritage, art, and design meet modern conference and technical facilities – The ‘Global Health Workforce Forum – Barcelona 2025’ brought together 182 attendees from 26 countries, comprising 73% women. The scientific programme featured 94 presentations across 19 sessions

Photograph: courtesy of the organisers of the GHW Forum – Barcelona 2025

The Forum’s theme, *Toward Sustainable Health Systems: Healthy Workers, Gender Equity, and New Leaderships*, focused on key global issues, including the healthcare workforce shortage and improving working conditions. Jointly organised by four Scientific Committees (SCs) of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and Women in Global Health (WGH; <https://womeningh.org/>), and held under the auspices of the University of Barcelona, the GHW Forum addressed pressing challenges in occupational health, including gender equity, transformational leadership, and improving working conditions for healthcare professionals.

With much gratitude and enthusiasm, Rosa María Orriols (Spain), Chair of the GHW Forum, extended a warm welcome to all participants of this transformative event, “*where collaboration was the main driver for the development of innovative solutions and policies, to ensure the health and safety of those who care for us all*”.

Launched in 2015, WGH is a not-for-profit volunteer organisation, with 60 chapters in 65 countries. With around 6 500 members and 100 000 supporters in more than 100 countries, WGH are nurses, midwives, doctors, public health professionals, health policymakers, community health workers, researchers, pharmacists, and private sector health workers, among others. The WGH focus is on five key advocacy areas: i) equal representation in global health leadership, ii) new social contracts to create fair and supportive working conditions for female health and healthcare workers, iii) gender equity in health emergency preparedness and response, iv) gender-responsive Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Movement, and v) alliance building for gender equity in global health. By leveraging its women-led global movement – the fastest growing and largest of its kind – WGH has advanced gender equity in global health. Overcoming challenges in these areas will have far-reaching benefits, including strengthening health systems and health security, advancing women’s empowerment, and boosting national and global economic growth.

The agenda for the week’s programme was built around three core pillars:

- ‘Women’s Health Workforce Leadership’ (Tuesday 11 March 2025): A day dedicated to advancing women’s leadership in healthcare, focusing on bridging structural gaps and ensuring equitable representation in decision-making roles. This kick-off event welcomed the ICOH SCs to Barcelona, served as a social and networking platform for delegates, and presented the context and objectives of the 13th ICOH Joint Conference on Occupational Health for Health Workers. This first welcome session for congress participants and guests was led by representatives of three partner organisations: *Foment del Treball*, the main business association in Catalunya and host of the session; *Mieses Global*, the International Movement for Excellence, Health and Sustainability, committed to assisting small- and medium enterprises achieve health and sustainability; and the Catalan Society of Labour Health (SCSL), which brings together occupational health professionals to continuously improve their skills and promote health.
- ‘Sustainable Health Systems – Global Day’ (Wednesday 12 March 2025): A platform where international experts explored integrating occupational health into global health systems. Topics included prioritising worker wellbeing, achieving pay equity, innovative strategies to tackle challenges such as climate change and an aging workforce, and supporting vulnerable working communities.

The 'Global Day' programme consisted of the following roundtables, with five moderators and 25 speakers:

- o Gender equity in UHC: women health workers closing the gender health gap – chaired by Shabnum Sarfraz (Founder and Senior Advisor: WGH Pakistan and Chair of the 'Global Day')
- o Recognising informal, migrant, and community workers: supporting the vulnerable working communities – chaired by Neus Rosell (President and Co-founder: WGH Spain)
- o Creating gender inclusive workplaces: policies for safe and decent work in health settings – chaired by Marcela Henriquez (WGH Argentina)

- o Preparing for future challenges: the next generation of health workforce – chaired by Xavier Prats Monné (*Hospital de Sant Pau*, Barcelona, Spain)
- o From policy to practice: call for action for gender-responsive health workforce development – chaired by Irene Tato and Elena Torrente (WGH Spain)

The discussions and take-home messages across the various roundtables of 'Global Day' were crystallised into an official statement titled 'Ensuring Equity and Sustainability in the Health Workforce: A Call to Action', accessible at <https://wghspain.es/eventos/ensuring-equity-and-sustainability-in-the-global-health-workforce-a-call-to-action/>.

- '13th ICOH Joint Conference on Occupational Health for Health Workers' (Thursday-Friday 13–14 March 2025): Led by four ICOH SCs (Occupational Health for Health Workers; Women, Health and Work; Biohazards and Occupational Health; and Industrial Hygiene), this conference explored critical issues such as mental health, exposure to biological and carcinogenic agents, musculoskeletal disorders, and strategies to combat workplace violence. The two-day programme consisted of keynote addresses, roundtables, panels, plenary, and oral and poster presentations across a range of hot topics in occupational health. Examples included:
 - o 'Women's occupational health' – keynote presentation by Aitana Garí (National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety, Spain)
 - o 'Occupational exposures to carcinogens and biological risks in health and other sectors' – keynote presentation by Jukka Takala (Past ICOH President, Finland)
 - o 'The ILO approach to psychosocial risk management' – keynote presentation by Ana Catalina Ramírez (ILO Lab Admin OSH, Switzerland)
 - o 'Violence at health settings' – roundtable, covering the topics of violence against health workers – a vision from public policies; the difficult patient – delivering healthcare with a kind approach; and ILO Convention 190 – prevention of violence and harassment at work
 - o 'Working women and ageing' – roundtable, covering risk allowance for pregnancy in healthcare workers, age management for women in the workplace, and menopause and its implications in health workers
 - o 'Women leadership and healthy workforces' – roundtable, covering women leadership and healthy workplaces in Cataluña, reproductive medicine updates, advancing feminine leadership in the health industry, and work-related stress and its effects on women's overall health – management through leadership
 - o 'Pregnancy and lactation' – panel presentation on breastfeeding and work, Zika virus infection and pregnancy, and work-life balance and professional wellbeing
 - o 'Infectious agents and vaccines' – panel presentation on health worker immunisation, managing infections through innovative research in testing, and tuberculosis in 2025
 - o 'Global health safety and pandemic preparedness' – panel presentation on the topics of a COVID-19 prevention strategy for health workers in Korea (presented by Seong-Kyu Kang, ICOH President, South Korea), response strategy to COVID-19 in a tertiary hospital in Korea, evaluation of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) response to COVID-19, and official recognition of the biosafety officer in the biological risk management system



South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM) in the Sant Pau House – L to R: SASOM members, Dr Charlotte Kasiringua, Claudina Nogueira, and Dr Blanche Andrews delivered presentations, participated in panels, and chaired sessions at the Global Health Workforce Forum – Barcelona 2025. Charlotte and Blanche presented a clinical case focused on fostering psychological safety in the workplace to highlight the importance of a healthy workforce. Claudina presented on challenges for health workers in the developing world and was a panel member for the roundtable, 'Recognising informal, migrant and community workers: supporting the vulnerable working communities'

Photograph: Dr Charlotte Kasiringua (South Africa)

- o 'Occupational hygiene in health settings' – panel presentation, covering determinants and control of formaldehyde exposure in pathological anatomy laboratories, comprehensive radon management in health facilities, and occupational exposure to chemical substances in the hospital environment
- o 'Vulnerable workers: aging, disability, informal' – panel presentation on the topics of '4D' (dull, dangerous, dirty, and demeaning) jobs, new forms of work, the future for decent work, and disability improvements inspired by gender equity gains
- o 'Carcinogens/toxins in health workers' – panel presentation on hazardous medication surveillance for healthcare workers, an official guide to the management of hazardous drugs, and endocrine disruptors and the gender perspective in healthcare workers
- o 'Ergonomics in health workers' – panel presentation on the state of play of national occupational safety and health (OSH) programmes for health workers, work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) in rehabilitation professionals, prevention of MSDs in healthcare workers from a gender perspective, and decedent patient handling – lessons learned for future mass fatality events

Other topics of poster and oral presentations included:

- Advancing occupational health services for healthcare workers (Taiwan)
- Occupational health services in health settings (India)
- Hazardous substances and waste in hospital environments (Mexico)
- Challenges for health workers in the developing world (South Africa)
- Association between shift night work and burnout among health workers (China)
- Epidemiology of smoking habits among healthcare workers (Italy)
- Blood and body fluid exposures among healthcare workers (Canada)
- Shift work, mental health, and sleep disorders (Spain)
- The challenges facing health workers in the context of global climate change (Argentina)

The GHW Forum aspired to foster meaningful global dialogue, while laying the foundation for the 'Global Observatory on the Health Workforce'. This initiative will track progress toward building more equitable and resilient health systems, culminating in a collaborative review with health ministers in 2030. A key focus area of this event was female health workers, who form the backbone of healthcare systems, worldwide. Now is the time to empower them, prioritise their health and wellbeing, and ensure that their working conditions become the cornerstone of sustainable and effective healthcare systems. Advancing workplace health and equity is only possible when women, who comprise the majority of health workers, globally, are empowered in several ways.

The GHW Forum was much more than a scientific event; it was a testimonial. It was a global commitment to "We protect those who protect us". The final day summarised the rich and rewarding GHW Forum content and context – transformative proposals grounded in equity, evidence, and intersectoral action. The collective knowledge and collaborative spirit evidenced at the GHW Forum have laid the foundation for real-world change, driving progress in workplaces, worldwide. As we continue shaping the future of occupational health on a global scale, we look forward to the '14th ICOH Joint Conference on Occupational Health for Health Workers', taking place in Malaysia in 2028.

SASOM Chapters host CPD events for members

SASOM KwaZulu-Natal Chapter

The SASOM KwaZulu-Natal Chapter, co-chaired by Drs Basil Dhaniram and Rakesh Goordeen, convened an onsite continuing medical education (CME) event at Coastlands Musgrave Hotel, Durban, on the evening of 30 July 2025, to coincide with the contact week of the Diploma in Occupational Health (DOH) of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Approximately 40 participants attended the event, which was followed by a buffet dinner. Attendance was free for SASOM members, and Universal Pathology Laboratory SA (Pty) Ltd (UPL) was the major sponsor of the event. Established in 2020, UPL is an exclusive provider of diagnostic and clinical pathology services, aiming to grow beyond the region into Africa and the global market.

The academic programme included the following presenters and topics:

- Mr James David (UPL) – 'Laboratory tests in occupational medicine'
- Prof. Rajen Naidoo (Head of Discipline of Occupational and Environmental Health, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban) – 'Occupational heat exposure and heat stress among workers'
- Drs Rakesh Goordeen (occupational medicine practitioner, OccDoc Medicare, Durban) and Basil Dhaniram (occupational and travel medicine practitioner, Medical Director at Medexcel, Ballito) – 'Case studies: Mercury poisoning and the Compensation Fund' with inputs from Dr Nandipha Kahla (Provincial Head: Compensation Fund, Free State)

The next CME event is planned for 10 September 2025, during the next contact week of the DOH programme, with UPL as a co-sponsor again.



Lifelong learning – The SASOM KwaZulu-Natal Chapter hosted and organised an onsite academic event in Durban for its members on 30 July 2025

Photograph: courtesy of Dr Basil Dhaniram

SASOM Western Cape Chapter

The SASOM Western Cape Chapter hosted a webinar on the evening of 12 August 2025. The continuing professional development (CPD) session, themed, *From chemicals to catastrophes: integrated approaches to occupational and process safety*, was moderated by Dr Casper Joubert, co-chair of the SASOM Western Cape Chapter, a registrar in occupational medicine at Stellenbosch University, and employee in the Western Cape Government Department of Health. Dr Joubert opened the session, welcomed participants, introduced the presenters, managed the question-and-answer segments, and delivered the concluding remarks.


The academic programme included two presentations, which underscored the importance of comprehensive data and systematic approaches to ensure health and safety in industrial settings:

- Mr Hein Nieman, an environment, health, and safety (EHS) consultant from Cape Town with extensive work experience in the mining, chemical, and pharmaceutical industries, presented 'Understanding process safety as part of industry asset risk management'. Mr Nieman's discussion focused on preventing and mitigating risks from hazardous materials, distinguishing process safety from traditional health and safety by its emphasis on worst-case scenarios (e.g. fire, explosion, and loss of containment) and engineered controls, and highlighting incident analysis and quantitative risk assessments. Major incidents like those at Bhopal and Chernobyl highlight the devastating multi-layered complications and potential for organisational collapse when process safety fails. Common methodologies include hazard identification, structured what-if, hazard and operability studies (HAZOP), and layers of protection analysis (LOPA). The 'as low as reasonably practicable' (ALARP) principle is used to justify significant capital expenses for process safety improvements, balancing the cost and practicality of mitigation against the likelihood and severity of harm. This approach ensures that safety investments are both effective and reasonable.

- Dr Haidee Williams, an occupational medicine specialist in private practice and senior honorary lecturer at the University of Cape Town, with extensive work experience in the textile and pharmaceutical industries, presented 'Occupational health strategies for chemical risk management: integrating risk assessment, exposure profiling, medical surveillance, and the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for safer workplaces'. Dr Williams' presentation was centred on the cornerstone of occupational health, which is chemical risk assessment, detailing how hazard identification, exposure assessment, and risk categorisation lead to medical surveillance programmes, and emphasising the utility of safety data sheets (SDSs) for consistent risk scoring and designing health monitoring programmes. The GHS standardises the classification and labelling of chemicals, with SDSs being a critical source of information. A good SDS provides valuable data for hazard identification, toxicological information, and the inherent toxicity of a substance. Occupational health strategies involve a continuous cycle, where health risk assessments feed into occupational risk exposure profiles (OREPs), which drive medical surveillance programmes. The outcomes of these programmes, including any noted deviations or work-relatedness investigations, feed back into the risk assessment, ensuring ongoing improvement of OSH systems in the workplace.

Save the date: SASOM Annual Conference 2025 and AGM

The SASOM Annual Conference 2025 and associated meetings will be hybrid events (in person and online) and will take place at the Marriott Hotel Fire & Ice, Menlyn, Pretoria, on the following dates:

- ExCo meeting: Friday, 14 November 2025, 17:00–19:00 (for SASOM ExCo members)
- Conference: Saturday, 15 November 2025 (full-day event – the detailed programme is under development and will be shared once finalised)
- Annual general meeting (AGM): immediately after the Conference on 15 November 2025, concluding at 19:00 (for SASOM members in good standing) 

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Injury-on-duty and COID claims are effectively managed



Chronic conditions are monitored

SAIOH news

The Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH) remains steadfast in its dedication to its members and the ongoing advancement of the occupational hygiene profession. In pursuit of this commitment, we regularly provide updates and share key developments with our community. SAIOH flourishes through the active participation and ethical contributions of its members, whose engagement continues to shape the field. To further strengthen our collective efforts, we welcome and encourage feedback on the topics covered in this edition of the Journal.

SAIOH PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Karen du Preez: SAIOH President
e-mail: president@saioh.co.za



Karen du Preez, SAIOH President
Photograph: courtesy of SAIOH

The work we do as occupational hygienists has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of employees at work. Occupational hygiene practitioners and approved inspection authorities (AIAs) spend a lot of time and effort to ensure that they and their staff are qualified, experienced, and competent to perform their work accurately and effectively.

Have confidence in your competent person

Recent Regulations promulgated under the Occupational Health and Safety Act No. 85 of

1993 (OHSA) require that occupational health risk assessments and exposure assessments are conducted by a competent person.¹⁻³ This places a duty on the employer to ensure that they secure the services of a person competent in the full scope of work contracted.

SAIOH is a professional body concerned with certification of its members at three professional levels/designations, as approved by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).⁴ Members need to have obtained prescribed qualifications and experience before they can apply for assessment at these levels/designations. The curriculum on which the assessments is based consists of 17 skill sets, as described in the self-assessment tool that members need to complete as part of the application process. SAIOH assessments are based on theoretical knowledge, as assessed in the written assessments at all three professional levels, and practical experience that is assessed in oral assessments. Oral assessments are not applicable to an assistant, as this is viewed as an entry level with minimal occupational hygiene exposure, i.e. Grade 12 certification, or certification in the OHTA201 or the AIHA Basic Principles course, or the BOHS M200.⁵

Personnel competence forms an integral part of the requirement for South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) accreditation under ISO/IEC 17020.⁶ SANAS accreditation under ISO/IEC 17020 is a prerequisite to obtain certification from the Department of Employment and Labour (DoEL) as an AIA for occupational health and hygiene.⁷ Competence, as defined by SANAS, includes education, training, technical knowledge, skills, and experience. Personnel competence, as declared by the AIA, is verified by SANAS during assessments. Staff employed as inspectors by an AIA must be registered with SAIOH. The reporting guideline issued by the DoEL requires that copies of the valid SAIOH certificates, of staff involved in an inspection done by an AIA, should be attached to all occupational hygiene reports.⁸

By engaging a reputable AIA accredited by SANAS, the proprietor can be assured that all work falling within the scope of accreditation will be carried out by individuals registered with SAIOH and formally deemed competent by the AIA, verified through SANAS oversight. Furthermore, where work falls outside the AIA's accredited scope, the presence of a robust, documented quality management system increases the likelihood that equivalent quality principles will be applied. Prior to commissioning any specific work, the proprietor may request written confirmation from the AIA regarding the competence of the personnel assigned to the task.

Occupational hygiene practitioners are encouraged to maintain their levels of competence for any work conducted, by attending and participating in relevant learning activities and interventions. The system of continuous professional development (CPD) is compulsory, with each member responsible for keeping their own records and submitting an annual CPD points return, as a prerequisite for renewal of membership.

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NATIONAL COUNCIL FEEDBACK

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SAIOH Management activities: 20 May–6 August 2025

During the period under review, SAIOH Management actively engaged in several strategic meetings and sector-related events, aimed at advancing occupational hygiene initiatives and internal governance.

General Manager position

On 4 June 2025, SAIOH senior management convened a special session to discuss the succession plan for the position of General Manager, as the current incumbent's contract ends on 31 March 2026. The job description was updated, and a Mailchimp campaign was subsequently shared with SAIOH members, inviting applications for the position. All shortlisted applicants were interviewed as part of the selection process. Effective 1 October 2025, the Assistant General Manager position will be assumed in a shadow capacity, with a view to full transition into the role by 1 April 2026.

Governance meetings

- Council meeting: the second Council meeting was held online on 12 June 2025.
- Board meeting: the third Management Board meeting was held on 30 July 2025 in a hybrid format.
- Internal co-ordination: several impromptu Zoom and MS Teams sessions were conducted with the conference planning committee.

Sector engagement and advocacy

- On 23 May 2025, SAIOH Management members attended the Occupational Hygiene Approved Inspection Authority (OH AIA) Association's meeting, where SAIOH updates were presented.
- A Mailchimp call for nominations to the DoEL Noise Technical Committee was circulated to SAIOH members on 30 May 2025. The nominations were adjudicated.
- On 2 June 2025, SAIOH members, Ms Bulelwa Huna and Mr Deon Swanepoel, represented the DoEL at the International Labour Organization (ILO) conference in Geneva, Switzerland. SAIOH circulated ILO Recommendation No. 209 on 13 June 2025, which addresses biological hazards in the workplace.

- On 26 June 2025, the DoEL, in partnership with SAIOH and the OH AIA Association, hosted an online webinar on the newly promulgated Noise Exposure Regulations (NER) and Physical Agents Regulations (PAR).

Event attendance

SAIOH leadership, including the President and General Manager, attended the official book launch of *In a Rain of Dust*, written by David Kinley – a compelling narrative of crocidolite and amosite asbestos mining in South Africa and related legal proceedings in the United Kingdom. The National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH) hosted this insightful event, featuring the author and legal counsel, both of whom engaged attendees with personal stories and book signings.

Accreditation and industry discussions

SAIOH Management participated in the SANAS (Occupational Hygiene Special Technical Committee) meeting on 19 June 2025. Topics included updates to the DoEL occupational hygiene report template and conformity body classifications.

Staff development and team building

The SAIOH administrative team convened online staff meetings on 28 May 2025 and 4 August 2025. From 25 to 27 June, the administrative team embarked on a successful team-building retreat at Mangwa Valley Game Lodge in Dinokeng. Activities included a staff planning session, a spa day, game drives, a wine-tasting experience, and a celebratory dinner. The retreat offered an enriching combination of professional development and camaraderie, with close-up wildlife encounters adding a special touch.



The administration team, L to R: Lee Doolan, Deon Jansen van Vuuren, Rebecca Doolan, Kate Smart, and Tracy Mphaphuli

Photograph: courtesy of SAIOH

SAIOH Strategic Plan

The SAIOH five-year Strategic Plan is led by Jaco Pieterse. Matters arising, key targets, and progress evaluations are reviewed regularly during the bi-monthly SAIOH Management Board meetings and the quarterly Council sessions.

Ethics

SAIOH Management, in collaboration with the Ethics Committee Chair, Dr Oscar Rikhotso, and legal advisors NGO Law, have successfully concluded a rigorous two-year process to develop, review, and finalise the SAIOH Code of Practice and its associated Disciplinary Procedure. The final meeting of this comprehensive effort was held on 9 June 2025, attended by eight dedicated contributors. These foundational documents will be incorporated formally into Chapter 1 of the SAIOH Quality Management System (QMS). With this milestone achieved, the Ethics Subcommittee will commence full implementation, embedding approved ethics protocols into SAIOH's governance practices. The ethics procedure forms a key pillar of SAIOH's strategic priority #3.

Mandatory ethics training for members: effective 1 January 2023, all certified SAIOH members must provide evidence of completing an approved occupational hygiene ethics training course. A one-year phase-in period was granted in 2022.

Terry McDonald (British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)) led professional development courses (PDCs) on ethics during the 2021 and 2022 SAIOH Annual Conferences, as well as via an online webinar on 25 July 2024. Recordings of these sessions remain available for purchase.

Development of SAIOH ethics course

To address regional relevance, SAIOH has partnered with North-West University (NWU) to develop a bespoke ethics course, tailored to occupational hygiene within the southern African work environment. Following multiple online planning sessions, a formal memorandum of agreement (MoA) was signed in early July 2025. With the agreement in place, NWU will now proceed with the development of this vital training programme.

SAIOH branch workshops and meetings

- North-West Branch: Earlier this year, the North-West Branch partnered with Sedulitas to host an insightful electro-magnetic fields (EMF) workshop at North-West University (NWU).
- Gauteng Branch meeting: The branch held its second meeting of the year in person on 9 May 2025 at the Draeger SA facility in Midrand.
- Western Cape Branch meeting: The meeting was conducted online on 23 May 2025, and featured presentations by Dale Kennedy (Ergomax) on ergonomic regulations and risk assessments, and by Jaco Pieterse (Gijima OHES&L) on non-ionising radiation and the 2024 PAR. The next Western Cape event is a mini-conference, scheduled for 29 August 2025.
- The Council Branch Co-ordinator, Ms Yvette Greeff, and Dr Shuan Ramroop from Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha are actively working on the establishment of an Eastern Cape Branch.
- The following branches and discussion group remain inactive: Central (Free State), Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, and Zululand.

SAIOH, in collaboration with the NWU Occupational Hygiene and Human Risk Institute (OHHRI) and the North-West Branch, is organising a one-day course on ISO 23785 – Indoor air quality: operated cab air filtration, pressurisation, and certification. This session is scheduled for 15 October 2025 and will be limited to 20 participants. SAIOH has arranged for Mr Jeff Moredock of the International Society of Environmental Enclosure Engineers (ISEEE) (USA) to present a PDC on the same topic at the upcoming SAIOH Annual Conference

on 21 October 2025. A comprehensive advanced training workshop (ATW) will be offered again on 24 October 2025, immediately after the conference, providing participants with an applied learning experience using the cab simulator.

SAIOH 2025 Annual Scientific Conference

Preparations for the SAIOH Annual Conference, to be hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal Branch, are well underway. The conference and technical organising committees convened multiple planning sessions throughout June, July, and August 2025, demonstrating hard work and commitment.

Following initial logistical challenges, the venue has been relocated to the Coastlands Hotel and Conference Centre in Umhlanga, KwaZulu-Natal. A call for abstracts has been circulated, and a dedicated subcommittee is adjudicating submissions. Conference fees and registration details have been distributed via Mailchimp, and a dedicated conference webpage has been created.

Conference format

This year's conference will once again follow a hybrid format, enabling both in-person and online participation via livestream. The four-day programme promises to deliver a diverse and high-impact experience.



Programme highlights

Monday, 20 October 2025

- Conference opening at 13:30
- Two consecutive four-hour PDCs

Tuesday, 21 October 2025

- Four PDCs
- SAIOH Council in-person meeting

Wednesday, 22 October 2025

- Official conference opening, featuring keynote addresses from distinguished speakers
- Gala dinner

Thursday, 23 October 2025

- Annual general meeting (AGM) held in the morning – a notable change from previous years

New additions and advanced planning

Friday 24 October 2025: A specialised one-day workshop on indoor air quality (IAQ), including cab simulator training, will be hosted by Jeff Moredock of ISEE, and SAIOH.



Sponsor engagement: Platinum sponsors will be allocated a 10-minute slot during the conference to showcase their products.

2026 Annual Conference: Preliminary planning for the 2026 SAIOH conference is in progress, with a proposed collaboration with the NIOH. A second planning session has already taken place with Dr Spo Kgalamono.

IOHA Board, the National Accreditation Recognition Committee, and Occupational Hygiene Training Association feedback

The Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA) and the IOHA continue to publish their newsletters, with links e-mailed to all SAIOH members and posted on the SAIOH website: www.saioh.co.za. Members can also access OHTA resources via www.ohtatraining.org.

On 3 July 2025, SAIOH promoted the IOHA-hosted online webinar titled 'Driving Change in Occupational Hygiene', further supporting global communication and innovation within the field.

SAIOH is proudly represented on the IOHA Board and the National Accreditation Recognition (NAR) Committee by Corlia Peens. She continues actively to attend meetings and provide regular feedback to the SAIOH Professional Certification Committee (PCC) Executive, ensuring strategic alignment with international developments and best practices.

SAIOH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

SAIOH's Technical Committee continues to drive key research and development efforts aimed at strengthening occupational hygiene Standards and supporting regulatory advancement.

Welding fume analysis

Research on the measurement and analysis of welding fumes is currently being led by Dr Ivan Niranjana and Technical Portfolio Coordinator, Dr Goitseman Keretsetse. A joint subcommittee formed by SAIOH and the OH AIA Association has convened several times to develop a comprehensive technical and position paper. The final paper is expected to be released in the near future.

Heat stress management

A second technical committee has been established to develop procedures and a SAIOH position paper on heat stress management. Following the unfortunate passing of Schu Schutte, collaboration has been initiated with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Dr Johan Kielblock to support the research. The deliverables are scheduled for completion during 2025. This initiative aligns with SAIOH's commitment to contributing technical guidance that strengthens the updated PAR, formerly known as the Environmental Regulations for Workplaces.

Real-time monitoring

Prof. Stefan Linde has taken over the role of technical coordinator from Mr Wessel van Wyk, to spearhead the development of a position paper on real-time exposure monitoring – a priority area in occupational hygiene innovation.

Ergonomic risk assessment procedures

Under the leadership of Naadiya Mundy, a dedicated technical subcommittee has begun work on establishing procedures and guidelines to support SAIOH occupational hygiene practitioners

in conducting ergonomic risk assessments. Initial meetings have already taken place, laying the groundwork for practical and implementable standards.

New SAIOH website and quality management system

The SAIOH administration team, led by Naadiya Mundy and Kate Smart, is actively working on populating the new SAIOH website, ensuring that it is a comprehensive and easily navigable resource for members. We look forward to launching the new website soon, and delivering an improved and streamlined platform for the SAIOH community.

Chapter 2 of the PCC's Quality Management System (QMS), which outlines the PCC assessment rules and procedures, is available on the SAIOH website and offers essential guidance and supporting documentation.

SAIOH publications and engagements: mid-year update 2025

SAIOH's contributions to both the *A-OSH* magazine and *Occupational Health Southern Africa* journal are scheduled for submission in July and August 2025. These articles highlight SAIOH's ongoing activities, strategic initiatives, and technical developments.

The latest editions of *OHTA Global Link* (July 2025) and *IOHA Global Exposure Manager* (June 2025) have been published on the SAIOH website, and were distributed to all members via Mailchimp as soon as they became available.

A meeting of the OH AIA Association took place on 22 August 2025.

Ongoing member and stakeholder communication

SAIOH maintains daily contact with its stakeholders through e-mails and Mailchimp notifications, phone calls, and online meetings. These communications cover a range of critical topics, including legislative developments, updates on new Standards, job postings in occupational hygiene, relevant products and services, course offerings, and webinar announcements in the areas of occupational hygiene, health, and environmental safety.

Webinar and conference notifications issued in 2025

SAIOH has circulated multiple international and national online webinar alerts and early announcements for key events, including:

- IOHA: Driving change in occupational hygiene, 3 July 2026
- AIHA Academy: Ototoxicants and occupational hearing loss, 23 July 2025
- Workplace Health Without Borders (WHWB): Workplace heat stress parts 2 and 3, 27 May and 25 July 2025
- WHWB: Global advocacy for occupational health and safety, 11 June 2025
- South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM): Annual webinars on occupational health
- Wave Control and Sedulitas: Electromagnetic field (EMF) assessment for active implanted medical devices (AIMD), 12 June 2025
- Ergonomics Society of South Africa (ESSA): three-part quarterly webinar series (July– August 2025) and Annual Conference, October 2025
- Safety-First Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) conference: Early heads-up for the event scheduled for 9–11 March 2026
- International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) 2026: Conference on the History of Occupational and Environmental Health, April 2026, in Leuven, Belgium

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

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Ivan Niranjani: PCC Chairperson

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The PCC Executive Committee (ExCo) and broader PCC teams remain actively engaged in advancing SAIOH's certification framework through scheduled meetings, subcommittee work, and process improvements.

Governance meetings and key decisions:

- The PCC ExCo held its second online meeting of the year on 20 June 2025.
- A full PCC meeting followed on 11 July 2025.
- After several iterative discussions ('round-robins'), the revised PCC assessment rules and procedures – as detailed in SAIOH QMS Chapter 2 – were formally approved by the PCC ExCo and published on the SAIOH website.
- A special session to review and amend the CPD guideline document was convened on 30 May 2025.
- On 27 May 2025, the PCC hosted a feedback session for the South African OHTA Approved Training Providers (ATPs).
- PCC Chair, Dr Ivan Niranjani, SAIOH General Manager, Deon J van Vuuren, and PCC Administrator, Lee Doolan, participated in a virtual consultation to address CPD compliance matters.

Ongoing subcommittee activities

A subcommittee continues to develop the occupational hygiene skill set for SAIOH's self-assessment/gap analysis tool. The first draft was completed earlier this year and is undergoing refinement. Bi-weekly meetings are expected to continue well into the future. This sustained effort reflects the PCC's continued commitment to the continuous refinement of oral assessments, maintaining consistency, rigour, and fairness, while developing an empathetic setting for both candidates and assessors. The seven-member team is actively engaged in developing oral question scenarios, and conducting a thorough review of the oral assessment guideline. This subcommittee also initiated online workshops for PCC assessors, with sessions held in February and May 2025.

Table 1. SAIOH PCC certification assessment results as of July 2025

Certification category	Written assessments				Oral assessments			
	Assessed	Passed	Failed	Pass rate	Assessed	Passed	Failed	Pass rate
	n	n	n	%	n	n	n	%
OH assistants	71	69	2	97.2	-	-	-	-
OH technologist	36	31	5	86.1	47	28	19	59.6
Occupational hygienist	31	14	17	45.2	21	13	8	61.9
Total	138	114	24	82.6	68	41	27	60.3

Table 2. SAIOH PCC written and oral assessment dates and deadlines, 2025

Assessment type	Deadline for applications	Deadline for assessment evaluations and payment	Assessment date
Written	12 January	14 February	14 March
Oral	-	-	Week of 11 April
Written	25 April	30 May	27 June
Oral	-	-	Week of 25 July
Written	1 August	5 September	3 October
Oral	-	-	Week of 14 November

Professional development and conference planning

A free hybrid PCC PDC will be held at the 2025 SAIOH Annual Conference on 21 October 2025. The first hour is open to all SAIOH members, while the remaining two-to-three hours are dedicated exclusively to PCC assessors.

Assessment systems and compliance updates

The PCC is exploring a transition to an electronic written assessment platform, using MS Excel as an alternative to the current Learning Management System (LMS) and proposed Moodle LMS. Technical challenges and data integrity risks (including AI misuse and paper leaks) have led to a temporary return to invigilated hard-copy assessments, administered at secure venues with oversight by at least two PCC assessors. Oral assessments will continue via Zoom, MS Teams, or in person and, where applicable, be recorded for verification purposes. The second quarter's assessments occurred as follows: written: 13 June 2025; oral: 11–22 July 2025.

CPD system enhancements

SAIOH-registered members may now upload CPD activities throughout the year via their MySAIOH profiles. Effective 1 February 2025, all CPD submissions will be audited, and certificates released only once requirements are met; this includes:

- Settlement of outstanding fees
- Payment of annual membership
- Uploading proof of CPD claim
- Upload of a valid ethics certificate

CPD accumulation has moved from a five-year rolling cycle to an annual point requirement. For each certification level indicated below, the following minimum annual CPD points are required:

- Occupational hygienist – 12
- Occupational hygiene technologist – 10
- Occupational hygiene assistant – 9
- Retired members/fellows – 4

Written requests for amnesty or extension may be submitted to the PCC ExCo via the PCC Administrator, with appropriate motivation.

Certification assessments

A summary of results for the assessments that took place from February to July 2025 is provided in Table 1. The PCC assessment dates for 2025 are in Table 2.

Occupational Hygiene Skills Forum – mid-year update 2025

The Occupational Hygiene Skills Forum (OHSF) continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening occupational hygiene training, accreditation, and qualification recognition within South Africa and the broader southern African region. The final OHSF meeting for the year was held on 11 September 2025.

Stakeholder engagement and sector representation

Throughout 2025, the OHSF actively participated in the OHTA Approved Training Provider Forum meetings, promoting alignment with international best practices. The second official OHSF meeting for the year took place on 22 May 2025, with all attendees contributing to strategic discussions.

Qualification recognition and institutional liaison

A key mandate of the OHSF is to assess applications from tertiary institutions seeking formal recognition of their occupational hygiene-related qualifications. Notable progress includes the Cape Peninsula University of Technology's (CPUT's) occupational health qualification receiving full approval in early July 2025. Congratulations to the CPUT team on this milestone! Ongoing liaison is being conducted with institutions in Botswana, University of Pretoria (UP), Durban University of Technology (DUT), University of Johannesburg (UJ), and University of Limpopo (UL) to expand accreditation coverage.

Tertiary institutions offering occupational hygiene qualifications are encouraged to contact the PCC Administrator at lee@saioh.co.za for application procedures and guidance.

A full list of recognised training providers and accredited qualifications is published on the SAIOH website (www.saioh.co.za), ensuring students and certification candidates can easily identify programmes that align with SAIOH and international standards.


Mandate and curriculum development

Established to coordinate efforts around training provider recognition, the OHSF oversees:

- Approval of occupational hygiene training materials (e.g. asbestos-related content)
- Endorsement of provider institutions
- Development and management of assessment and examination systems, where appropriate

The OHSF is also planning to design a bespoke SAIOH occupational hygiene legislation course, to be delivered in-house – particularly targeting non-AIA members seeking formal exposure to legal occupational hygiene frameworks.

CPD enhancement via Journal engagement

In collaboration with Dr Hennie van der Westhuizen, the OHSF began developing CPD-linked questions based on articles published in *Occupational Health Southern Africa*. This initiative fosters member engagement with scholarly content, while providing a structured pathway to earn CPD points. Following the first engagement and positive feedback, SAIOH plans to continue this initiative. Many thanks to Dr Hennie – round two is underway! 

UPCOMING EVENTS

SOUTH AFRICA

SAIOH Annual Scientific Conference
Coastlands Hotel and Conference Centre, Umhlanga, KZN
20-24 October 2025
Website: <https://www.saioh.co.za/page/SAIOHConference2025>
e-mail: info@saioh.co.za

INTERNATIONAL

Round Table: Work-related ophthalmologic diseases
Goiania, Brazil
2 October 2025
e-mail: ctaboadela@fibertel.com.ar

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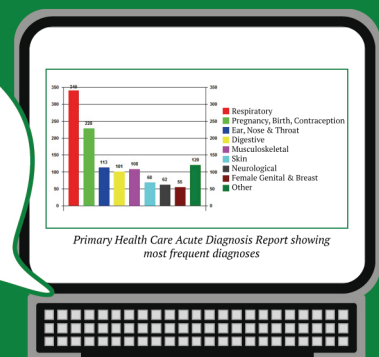
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New mandatory codes of practice for mines: Road and Rail Safety Management, Fire Prevention, Change Management, and Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health Disorders

Kate Collier: Partner, Webber Wentzel

Kalene Watson: Senior Associate, Webber Wentzel

Mining employers must implement mandatory codes of practice (CoPs) in accordance with Chief Inspector guidelines under section 9 of the Mine Health and Safety Act. Non-compliance constitutes an offence and may result in enforcement action by the Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate. Employers must develop operation-specific CoPs and implement these new systems and requirements before the applicable effective dates. All CoPs must be subject to implementation auditing and monitoring measures.

For Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health Disorders, employers must implement a CoP by 1 November 2025. Requirements include: risk assessment quantifying disease burden through medical records, identifying vulnerable employees; safe health condition declaration systems; specialist committees (healthcare providers, occupational medical practitioners, nurses, wellness coaches, nutritionists) for awareness campaigns, prevention, early detection, treatment, and rehabilitation; dedicated wellness committees managing policies, budgets, and employee assistance programmes; community health collaboration; compliance plans with assigned responsibilities; annual auditing and monitoring; and guidance documents for employees and trade unions.

For Change Management, employers must implement a CoP by 1 October 2025 governing organisational change across all mining operations, including operational, structural, cultural, market, and regulatory changes. Requirements include robust governance frameworks with clear accountability; designated senior leader oversight; comprehensive training for all change management personnel with ongoing competence development; and material risk management processes.

Also by 1 October 2025, employers must implement CoPs on *Fire Prevention* and *Road and Rail Safety Management*. The fire prevention CoP requirements include comprehensive fire risk assessments, reviewing fire prevention measures and, potentially, upgrading equipment and infrastructure (fixed infrastructure, mobile systems, and conveyor systems) to meet the listed SANS standards. Specific training programmes must be implemented, including basic fire prevention awareness (with 12-month refresher training obligations), specialised competency-based training for mobile equipment operators, fixed plant operators, maintenance personnel, and electrical workers. All training and assessment records must be maintained.

In respect of *Road and Rail Safety Management*, the CoP must address the significant health and safety hazards associated with mine transport operations, covering everything from employee passenger transport to mineral haulage. The CoP must encompass three core areas: vehicle specifications and maintenance (including design registers, braking system protocols, and pre-use inspections), operational safety measures (route planning, level crossing management per SANS 3000-2-2-1 standards, fatigue management, and mobile device restrictions), and personnel requirements (valid licences, medical fitness declarations, and substance testing compliance). For operations functioning as a network, train, or station operators, specific level crossing safety standards must address design requirements, operational procedures, and incident management protocols.

Employers are urged to ensure compliance with the implementation dates, which will require action well before those dates to ensure necessary engagement and implementation of these various health- and safety-related measures. [▶](#)

From Suspicion to Submission: Occupational Lung Diseases in the South African Mining Industry

by Vanessa Govender

Prof. Dingani Moyo (FRCP, FFOM, MFOM, MOHS, MApMgnt, MBChB)

National University of Science and Technology, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe; Baines Occupational Health Services, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

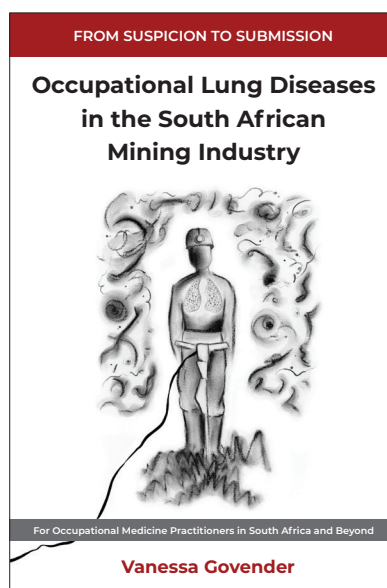
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The subtitle of this handbook is limiting; while focused on occupational lung diseases (OLDs) in South Africa, it espouses invaluable principles and concepts in occupational health, specifically OLDs in mining settings, that are relevant to the entire African space. It includes Quick Reference Guides and chapters that extend beyond the South African legislative context, covering concepts that are relevant to most southern African states – many of whose citizens have worked or still work as migrants in the South African mining industry.

An expert in her field, Dr Govender meticulously explores the subject of OLDs, describing the case continuum from initial suspicion to diagnosis and compensation, in the context of South Africa. With abundant clarity in an easy-to-read yet detailed discourse, she provides a critical and well-researched account of OLDs and the lasting legacy of the mineral extractive industry in South Africa. This well researched book stands as an invaluable contribution to the scientific body of knowledge and illuminates the injustices of apartheid, poor regulatory frameworks, and inadequacies of occupational health services, including how they have influenced the patterns of mortality and morbidity in South Africa. Reflecting on both medical evidence and historical analysis, the book highlights the vulnerability of mineworkers and ex-mineworkers, even in the post-apartheid era.

The book is well ordered with each chapter providing a good foundation for subsequent chapters. It sets the context with a reflection on legislative and policy frameworks in South Africa, and further contextualises these by highlighting key international frameworks and guidelines. In Chapter 2, Dr Govender dissects occupational health principles of practice and key concepts with scientific precision and exactitude.

The book provides a holistic but simple approach to the interpretation of pulmonary and other medical tests. Its utility is epitomised in how it demystifies the perceived difficulties in interpreting spirometry. It will be of invaluable assistance to general practitioners and other related professionals who need to interpret spirometry test results accurately. The high prevalence of OLDs in Africa, against a background of a high burden of tuberculosis, presents a diagnostic challenge to



While focused on South Africa, this handbook is highly relevant to mining health practitioners and policy makers across Africa – and beyond

most health practitioners. The inclusion of Quick Reference Guides for common OLDs, other OLDs, and post-mortem examinations provides a convenient, precise, and invaluable resource for clinicians. The Quick Reference Guides are powerful and concise, and explore the subject themes in the context of current evidence and practice. The book concludes with a succinct and precise description of benefit medical examinations (BMEs). It provides a comprehensive description of BMEs from definition, to the frequency of conducting these examinations, the requisite tests that should be part of the process, and the step-by-step process of submitting claims for compensation in South Africa.

This is an invaluable book, not only to occupational medical practitioners, but also to specialists, and related health professionals dealing with OLDs. Its utility extends to non-medical professionals in human resources, legal disciplines, and other disciplines. Its focus on policy and guidance on compensation processes makes it an important resource for national-level policy makers and implementers.

The book will also be of interest to students and practitioners working in occupational health and public health. Students undertaking postgraduate studies such as a Diploma in Occupational Health/Medicine, a Master's in Occupational Health, or a Master of Medicine (Occupational Medicine) will find this to be an invaluable resource, not only for South Africa, but for the entire global South. The book is also an important resource for those preparing for international examinations such as Membership Examinations in Occupational Medicine. It is a vital reference resource in the spirometry education space, especially regarding the interpretation of spirometry. Policy makers will find the book to be an invaluable reference guide for the development of policies related to OLDs. The author calls on policy makers to engage and focus on continuously improving the health of mineworkers and ex-mineworkers.

Congratulations to Dr Govender for producing this timely masterpiece, replete with a fountain of knowledge on diagnostic and management principles and procedures for OLDs. 📖

Click here to purchase your copy: <https://mettamedia.co.za/handbook.php>

A-OSH EXPO – Meeting the Western Cape’s occupational health and safety needs

The Western Cape’s economy is as varied as its landscapes – home to global shipping routes, high-rise commercial developments, vineyards, manufacturing plants, and fast-growing construction zones. With such diversity comes a wide range of occupational health and safety (OHS) challenges. From ensuring compliance on a remote agricultural site to maintaining safety standards in a bustling CBD office tower, the demands on OHS managers are complex and ever-changing.

“A-OSH EXPO Cape Town, taking place from 21 to 23 October 2025 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), is designed to meet these challenges head-on. It’s a dedicated platform where visitors can explore the latest products, services, and training to safeguard their teams, improve workplace conditions, and ensure compliance with evolving legislation,” says Mark Anderson, Portfolio Director at Montgomery Group Africa.

Addressing regional realities

In the Western Cape, occupational hazards can be as unique as the industries themselves. Seasonal workers in agriculture face different risks than staff in the port and logistics sector, while the construction industry must constantly adapt to new safety requirements as the city skyline changes. OHS professionals need solutions that are adaptable, reliable, and relevant to these conditions.

At the expo, visitors will find personal protective equipment (PPE) suited to local climates, advanced safety signage systems, noise and dust monitoring solutions, and digital compliance tools. Exhibitors will showcase innovations in risk assessment, emergency response,

and workplace wellness – essential in a region where health and safety considerations must balance both productivity and worker wellbeing.

“A-OSH EXPO Cape Town is co-located with Securex South Africa, Facilities Management Expo, and Fireexpo, giving visitors the chance to see how occupational health and safety integrates with fire prevention, facility operations, and security measures. This one-stop format allows attendees to explore interconnected solutions, from access control systems that double as timekeeping tools to building maintenance practices that reduce hazards before they arise,” says Anderson.

Building safer workplaces together

Whether you’re managing a small team or overseeing safety across multiple sites, attending A-OSH EXPO Cape Town offers the opportunity to connect with industry experts, compare products side-by-side, network with knowledgeable specialists in the field, and discover new methods for keeping your workforce safe. It is a chance to build a safety strategy that is not only compliant but forward-thinking – positioning your organisation to protect both its people and its reputation.

Visit the A-OSH EXPO website to find out more about the show at www.aosh.co.za, and to pre-register for fast access.

Contact:
Specialised Exhibitions – Marketing Department
Tel: 011-835-1565
SEMarketing@montgomerygroup.com
www.securex.co.za



A-OSH EXPO Cape Town, taking place 21–23 October 2025 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), is designed to meet OHS challenges head-on *Photograph: courtesy of A-OSH*