Special Issue

Digitalization of Knowledge Work and Its Influence on Occupational Health

Message from the Guest Editors

The aim of this Special Issue is a better understanding of how digitalization influences occupational health and how to ensure sustainable management of digitalisation with an integrated focus on both organizational performance and employee wellbeing. Digitalization of work using digital technologies changes business models, provides new revenue and value-producing opportunities and new managerial and work processes. The digitalized working environment can have a positive and negative influence on the occupational health of employees. From a positive point of view, knowledge workers can access more people, become more innovative with the help of the crowd, can avoid working in dangerous working environments, or can improve health by applying digital tools. From a negative point of view, digitalization of work can create a physical distance with less contact to colleagues, increase the monitoring of work related activities and affect work-life balance. Digitalization of knowledge work therefore opens the door to an increase in occupational health challenges-in particular of a psychosocial and organizational nature -that need to be better understood and managed.

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers.

Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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