

## Special Issue

# Modern Occupational Medicine

### Message from the Guest Editors

Occupational medicine has focused on the elimination of risks in the physical work environment, which initiated a regulated and standardized work environment. However, workers still suffer from risks posed by the physical work environment, pointing towards a need for a shift in focus towards individual susceptibility and integration of health promotion and prevention in the organization of the work and environment. The workforce stills need to maintain and improve work ability and good health due to increasing retirement ages; thus, initiatives targeting these objectives are warranted. Less educated employees and employees exposed to high levels of occupational physical activity and chemical or organic exposure are at a risk of decreased work ability. Occupational physical activity may have adverse health consequences, contrary to leisure time physical activity, which is called the physical activity paradox, although the physiological mechanisms surrounding this paradox are yet to be understood. The incidence of allergic diseases continues to rise and new occupational exposure to chemical and organic compounds are constantly introduced in the work environment.

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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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