

Special Issue

State of the Art of Occupational and Environmental Health in South Africa

Message from the Guest Editors

The current state of Occupational and Environmental Health in South Africa is rooted in the country's apartheid past. The emergent mining industry in the 19th century in the country gave rise to concerns about the Occupational and Environmental Health of miners based on their living and working conditions. Interestingly the evolution of Occupational and Environmental Health has occurred in parallel with the political changes and transitions of the country. Legislative changes over the years have sought to address the Occupational and Environmental Health challenges posed by a burgeoning industrial sector, population growth, and growth in the economically active population in the country. Despite the legislative improvements in the country post-apartheid, most of the challenges, such as morbidity and mortality from occupational pneumoconiosis and infections, industrial air pollution, agrochemical worker, and population exposure, persist. Industrialization has seen women enter the workplace, and high levels of unemployment have resulted in the growth of the informal sector in the country.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 June 2022)



International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

CiteScore 8.5
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/61040

*International Journal of
Environmental Research and
Public Health*
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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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.

IJERPH provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality peer-reviewed journal.

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