Special Issue

Occupational Health in the Warming World: Novel Insights to Risk Assessment and Management

Message from the Guest Editors

Global warming increases health risks in various occupations. Global warming threatens to aggravate working conditions and even prevent occupational activities in certain regions. High occupational heat strain decreases workers' performance, lowers work productivity, and causes adverse health effects. Hence, occupational heat stress increases the societal economic burden considerably. This Special Issue describes the most recent evidence of heat-related health effects in an occupational context with special emphasis on vulnerable populations. It also presents novel aspects on the assessment of heat strain and related health risks at the individual and population level. Occupational health risk management, on the other hand, includes developing prediction and early-warning systems, as well as adaptation measures to reduce heat exposure through organizational (e.g., work-rest cycles, scheduling), technical (e.g., air conditioning, shades), and individual (such as clothing, personal cooling, hydration, heat adaptation) protective measures.

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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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