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Introduction: The measures taken to combat the pandemic, such as travel restrictions, closed borders and gathering bans, led to cancellations of many conferences, meetings and workshops, forcing the scientific community to identify new ways of disseminating scientific knowledge. This resulted in the transition from traditional face-to-face meetings, where practitioners and academics meet to exchange knowledge, network and develop collaborations, to the development of new events in digital formats. This study aimed at investigating the impact of the spreading of virtual conferences on the field of research.

Materials and Methods: We made a SWOT analysis to evaluate strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of this new way of organizing scientific conferences, as compared to face-to-face conferences in terms of effectiveness of result dissemination, networking opportunities, and policy development.

Results: Among the biggest opportunities of virtual conferences, revealed by the SWOT analysis, there are larger accessibility, equity (in terms of sex, ethnicity, geographical setting, physical ability, health, and career stage) reduced expenses, environmental sustainability and a better work-life balance. On the contrary, reduction in network building and in research capacity/cooperation, lower interest of local stakeholders and “digital exclusion” represent the most important threats.

Conclusions: Organizing a virtual conference does not mean concentrating only on the offline or the online side of the event, but rather to integrate the two sides in order to offer the participants the opportunity to choose how to part

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Occupational skin dermatoses as a result of Covid-19 prevention practices

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Introduction: Occupational skin diseases (OSD) account for a significant proportion of occupational disease. High risk occupations for OSD include workers in the healthcare, food service, metal-working, hairdressing and construction industries. The prevention of the COVID-19 virus has increased the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), handwashing and cleaning practices globally.

Methods: We will cover the first hand experiences gained during the pandemic, by reviewing the presentations of OSD at a dermatology clinic as result of COVID-19 practices.

Results: During the pandemic, the use of PPE created occlusive and humid environments particularly exacerbating underlying skin conditions. This phenomenon was not exclusive to high risk OSD occupations. Atopic individuals at risk of OSD had an increased susceptibility to irritant contact dermatitis (ICD) as a consequence of using hand sanitizers and additional hand washing. Furthermore more exacting cleaning practices provided exposures to additional irritants and allergens, such as laundry rinses containing benzalkonium chloride (BAK) and fragrances in personal care products. Patch testing proved useful in

diagnosing and treating patients, which allowed workers to return to work.

Conclusions: Personal protective practices adopted during the pandemic adversely affected workers, especially those with underlying skin conditions. This included the use of PPE, increased hand washing and sanitizing practices as well as increased cleaning practices. Treatment of underlying skin disorders as well as education on skin protection has been pertinent during this time.

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A longitudinal study of frontline health care workers during the pandemic

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Introduction: Occupational stressors have continuously varied throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Only a prospective study can fully describe the phenomenon.

Material and Methods: A one-year longitudinal study was performed in correspondence with the first three pandemic waves from April 2020 to June 2021 in the intensivists of a COVID-19 hub hospital. Changes in work activity due to the pandemic were measured together with the perception of organizational justice, occupational stress, sleep quality, anxiety, depression, burnout, job satisfaction, happiness, and intention to quit. The participation rate was over 60% in each of the three surveys. The Catholic University Ethics Committee had approved the study (ID 3292).

Results: The various pandemic waves have placed different stressors and generated corresponding reactions in the workers. After the 3rd wave, 59.2% reported at least one unprotected exposure to COVID-19 patients and 19.2% had contracted the infection. Confidence in safety measures was low and occupational stressors (excessive workload, isolation, compassion fatigue, lack of time for meditation and physical activity) were present. Consequently, distress (73%), sleep problems (28%), anxiety (25%), and depression rate (64%) remained unacceptably high.

Conclusions: Clearly, the situation illustrated in our study calls for preventive and supportive action. Preventive interventions are difficult to implement but cannot be postponed. Participatory involvement in safety procedures, increased intangible rewards, increased attention to meditation and sleep are recommended.

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One year of SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic: a characterization of infected healthcare workers in a peripheral hospital of Lisbon, Portugal

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Introduction: After more than one year of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, there are still scarce studies on healthcare workers and particular risk factors for infection, with most published papers focusing on the psychological impact of the

pandemic. Our group analyzed infection rates by professional category, hospital service, as well as initial symptom onset and description in our hospital center.

Material and Methods: We conducted a descriptive study of our hospital center's healthcare workers that were infected with COVID-19 from the 13th of March of 2020 until the 31st of March of 2021. The information was mostly based on the occupational health service's database and confirmed by consulting TRACE-COVID, a platform that gathered information on every COVID-19 patient, nationwide.

Results: From March 2020 to March 2021, about 13.7% of our hospital's staff was diagnosed with COVID-19, with the most affected being nurses and nurses' aides, and healthcare professionals working in the emergency department, as well as infirmaries of internal medicine and general surgery.

Conclusions: In our center, known high risk scenarios in the workplace were not particularly met with high incidence rate of infection, probably because of a particular compliance in the use of personal protective equipment. Although the SARS-Cov-2 pandemic remains a challenging event for hospital centers worldwide, occupational health services should use this opportunity to better study infection rates in their work environment and optimize prevention measures to further protect our professional's health and safety.

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Recovery from pandemic: insights from those affected

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Introduction: In 2021 the WHO observes over 20 disease events worldwide with endemic or pandemic potential. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic highlighted the vulnerability of the globally connected workplace. As part of pandemic planning, preparing for a return to normal operations is required. With the support of the German scientific societies for occupational medicine and safety engineering, companies in Germany were surveyed on the current status of recovery planning.

Methods: From March 2020 to August 2021 German companies completed an online checklist on operational and occupational health issues concerning the return to normal operations. This descriptive evaluation focused on occupational health aspects.

Results: A total of 2606 people participated (answering at least one question). There were: 1117 data on occupational group (36% managers, 62% EHS staff); 992 data on pandemic planning (yes/partially/no: 48%/24%/28%); 911 data on recovery planning (yes/preparation/no/don't know: 27%/46%/20%/7%); 986 data on relevance of recovery planning (important/not important/no statement possible: 92%/6%/2%); 352 data on involvement of occupational health professionals (yes/no/does not apply: 68%/17%/15%); 352 data on infection screening (yes/no/does not apply: 61%/15%/24%); 348 data on hygiene training (yes/no/does not apply: 78%/13%/9%). **Conclusions:** The relevance of structured pandemic/recovery planning is confirmed. Occupational health aspects such as occupational health care or hygiene training are important components.

The course of the pandemic shows that continuous review and adaptation of recovery planning are necessary.

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Psychological work demand, pleasure and suffering of Brazilian health workers from urgency and emergency services in the Covid-19 pandemic

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Introduction: COVID-19 pandemic intensified objective and subjective factors influencing health and working conditions of health professionals. This study had the aim to investigate psychological work demand, pleasure and suffering of workers working in urgency and emergency services in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Material and Methods: descriptive, quantitative study, from April to June 2020, with 80 health workers working in urgency and emergency units, using Job Stress Scale (JSS) and Scale of Suffering and Pleasure at Work (EIPST). Descriptive statistical analysis, with investigation of association between variables (Chi-square test). Study approved by the Brazilian National Research Commission.

Results: Workers in the care of cases of COVID-19 were from an average age of 37.3 years, most from Brazil Southeast (78.75%), nurses (60%), working in public service (78.75 %) and in weekly shifts longer than 60 hours (40%). There was 21,6% of occurrence of high level of psychological work demand, 48.75% of critical/severe level of pleasure, and 37.5% of critical/severe level of suffering. No statistically significant associations were found between the phenomena and independent variables ($p > 0,05$).

Conclusion: there is high psychological demand and low control at work, in addition to impairment of pleasure and the occurrence of suffering related to work activities among health care workers. Subjective conditions are essential for health promotion actions for these individuals. The non-association between the level of pleasure and suffering presupposes that the stressors are probably similar between the groups studied.

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COVID-19 as Occupation Disease in Russian Federation

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Implementation of the WHO Global Plan of Action for Workers' Health is the main focus of efforts to strengthen the management function of national health systems in the Russian Federation. The number of cases of occupational diseases (OP) in Russia for the period 2011-2020 decreased from 7836 to 3409, which amounted to 0.78 per 10,000 employees, a decrease of almost 2.5 times (compared to 1.92 per 10,000 employees in 2011). In 2020, the level