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simple silicosis and 18 with complicated silicosis. 93% of workers were male and 48.5% were born in a country other than Australia. Workers diagnosed with silicosis had a mean age of 42 years and mean career duration in the stone benchtop industry of 11 years. Based on the longest-held job group, rates of silicosis were highest in factory machinists and benchtop installers. Compared to the final respiratory physician and HRCT chest diagnosis, CXR had limited sensitivity to identify silicosis (ILO profusion score > 0/1, sensitivity 67.9%, specificity 73.2%). Fewer than 5 workers were also diagnosed with an autoimmune disease, but 28% of screened stone benchtop workers had blood tests which demonstrated detectable anti-nuclear antibodies (ANA).

Conclusions: The identification of silicosis in one quarter of screened stone benchtop industry workers is a major public health issue. The prevalence of detectable ANA highlights the risk of the development of other silica-associated diseases in these workers. Considering the rapid growth in the popularity of high silica content artificial stone material worldwide, urgent investigation and implementation of control measures is required in all countries where this material is in use.

### SPL12

#### **OSH Regulations and Enforcement: Comparison Between Low and Middle Income Countries and High- Income Countries**

Ehi Iden

*Entrustable professional activities and core competencies for OEM training have been driven by the members of the society*

Introduction: Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Regulation and Enforcement being a key driver of compliance, has contributed greatly towards the growth in workplace health and safety improvement globally, and as well prevented many workplace incidents, accidents and ill health. This has resulted in much economic gain, improvement in health, safety and wellbeing of employees, and even improved productivity. This further brings to mind why OSH should be seen as an integral part of countries' economic development programs. So many countries have been signatories to several global OSH conventions, why are some countries doing far better in terms of domestication and afterwards enforcement of the clauses in those conventions? Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) seem to struggle in both domestication and enforcement while we notice relative improvement in their high-income country counterparts.

We will be looking at possible OSH enforcement enablers within both categorizations, also identifying the factors behind the regulatory enforcement constraints and also the gains if these constraints were to be removed for ease of enforcement. How can we improve the existing practice in most LMICs from just signing and assenting to a convention of formulating local policies without adequate enforcement mechanism towards supporting the implementation of those regulations?

What are the high-income countries doing differently and how has this improved workplace safety and health? What are the lessons to be learnt by LMICs?

Conclusions: Sharing of information will improve regulatory provisions, and enforcement in pursuant of decent OSH practices globally will strengthen systems. Has this been the case? We do not think so. There is an urgent need for strengthening of global collaboration in OSH and stimulation of discussions towards OSH

development globally, with the overall aim of strengthening the weak links along the OSH value chain towards achieving a safe workplace for our increasing global workforce.

### SPL13

#### **Lessons learned for global occupational health from the COVID-19 pandemic and building forward better**

Ivan Ivanov

### SPL14

#### **The role and activities of public interest NGOs in promoting occupational safety and health**

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It is the main activity of public interest NGOs working in the area of occupational safety and health (OSH) to find occupational victims and to visualize their existence socially. People come to public interest NGOs seeking help when they need to identify the work-relatedness of their diseases or when they file a claim for workers' compensation or when they face difficulties in the course of treatment or rehabilitation. Public interest NGOs do not only help individuals but also concentrate on the social meaning of their experiences, which enables society to see new problems that used to be invisible such as new hazards in workplaces, workers exposed to those new hazards, and loopholes of pre-existing safety and health management systems.

To propose new legislation or policy and organize campaigns to create social pressure for their causes are also the roles of public interest NGOs. There have been significant contributions of public interest NGOs especially in improving coverage and inclusiveness of OSH systems. Public interest NGOs in many countries are still working hard for their OSH systems to include workers in small-sized enterprises or informal sectors, unorganized workers, and unregistered migrant workers.

Justice and equity are the values emphasized frequently by public interest NGOs in their work. Justice usually means social controls to protect the interest of workers and the public from the private interest of employers. This is often the philosophical base of the OSH Act in countries. Equity is often a public interest NGO demand that government provide OSH service to workers who have been left behind.

Public interest NGOs have been bridges among various social partners for general or specific missions of safety and health in workplaces. They organize dialogues between workers and OSH professionals, employers and researchers, and discussions between different stakeholders and lawmakers. Those activities enable academics and professionals to see a broader reality than their own specialties and to facilitate contributions to the public interest.

Global capitalism has grown rapidly and become highly structured, creating gaps in OSH systems. Invisibility becomes more serious, leaving more people left behind. It also becomes more difficult to keep the key values of justice and equity in an OSH system of a single country. Physical distance as well as language barriers are a big burden for most public interest NGOs to overcome for