

Title: First Regional Conference on Injury and Safety Promotion - Eastern Mediterranean

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Abstract:

As one of the leading causes of death and disability in the world, human trauma and injury disproportionately affects individuals in developing countries. This is particularly true in Egypt and the Middle East. However, all too often occupational injuries are overlooked when examining injuries and injury prevention. For example, many agencies responsible for injury prevention fail to identify work injuries when discussing injuries that occur in the communities under examination. In most injury statistics, occupationally related injuries are not separately identified and by default are included in the general injury counts and rates. Work related injuries, while often a lesser part of the *total* injury mortality burden, can have devastating impacts on certain high vulnerability groups, such as young workers in high hazard occupations. In addition, many internationally funded projects aimed at improving livelihoods and productive youth employment does not recognize the negative effects of work-related injuries on their objectives. It is critical to ensure that work related injuries are included in major regional and global discussions.

There is a critical need for a concerted, regional dialogue to address the significantly increasing morbidity and mortality from injuries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. As an extension of our existing and successful NIH Fogarty Center funded University of Maryland/Egyptian Ministry of Health/Ain Shams University Fogarty International Collaborative Trauma and Injury Research Training (ICTIRT) Program already in place in Egypt, we received funds to support a regional conference on injuries in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Eastern Mediterranean Region Office and other partners. After receipt of initial conference funding, in part due to events in Egypt and the region, the first regional conference on injury and safety promotion was postponed and then cancelled. In consultation with our program officer, a regional conference entitled Occupational Injuries in the Arab Countries was accepted as an alternative. The overall objective of this conference was to raise awareness and exchange views on various aspects of occupational injuries and their management, aiming at limiting their humanitarian and economic costs. Additionally, it was to bring regional experts together to improve communication and to allow for future collaboration.

Our successful Occupational Injuries in the Arab Countries Conference was held on June 24th-25th, 2012 at the Le Mirage Landmark Hotel in Cairo, Egypt. The organizing committee included participation by national and regional health and safety experts, including physicians and engineers. Approximately 75 attendees attended the conference, primarily from Egypt but also

from other regional countries including Kuwait and Sudan. Additional presenters included a representative from WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region Office as well as medical officer from the Division of Surveillance Hazard Evaluation and Health Studies of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Examples of topics discussed included: Technologic Innovations, Epidemiology of Occupational Injuries, Developing Research Agendas for Occupational Injuries; Occupational Injuries in Egypt; and Health Related-Quality of Life of injured Workers in Eastern Delta region of Egypt (see attached agenda). Presentations were primarily in person, but web-based presentations allowed for participation by individuals unable to attend the conference in person.

Despite significant obstacles, for example the first day of the conference coincided with the announcement of the election of Mohamed Morsi impacting attendance, the conference was successful and allowed for significant national and regional discussion. A number of specific draft recommendations were developed, including 1) to encourage close cooperation and coordination between medical, engineering and administrative professions to create safer work environments; 2) to develop more research capacity and funding for injury prevention and control initiatives; and 3) to encourage good safety practices in various economic facilities. Plans were initiated for a second Occupational Injuries in Arab Conference, but have been placed on hold due to the continued political situation in Egypt and Eastern Mediterranean Region. However, we are collaborating with multiple Egyptian institutions and governmental organizations to study and implement these recommendations and continue to work on improving research related to occupational injuries.



OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES CONFERENCE

Sunday and Monday: 24 and 25 June, 2012
Le Mirage Landmark Hotel- New Cairo

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter/organizer
<u>First Day: Sunday 24 June 2012</u>		
08:00 – 09:00	Registration	Mrs. Nawal and colleagues
09:00 – 10:00	Opening Session: Opening Speech Notes on the conference The Project on: "Injury Prevention Research"	– Dr. Maged El-Setouhy – Dr. Gehad Abo El-Ata – Dr. Jon Mark Hirshon
10:00 – 10:30	Break	
10:30 – 12:30	First Session: Epidemiology of Injuries	Chairpersons: Dr. Jon Mark Hirshon Dr. Mohamed El-Batanouni Dr. Mohsen Gad-Allah Dr. Ahmed Gomaa
10:30 – 10:55	Technologic Innovations, Epidemiology of Occupational Injuries, Developing Research Agendas for Occupational Injuries	
10:55 – 11:15	Occupational Injuries in Egypt	Dr. Essam El-Said
11:15 – 11:35	Comparative Study on Annual Statistics on Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Egypt	Mr. Mohamed A-M Omeira
11:35 – 12:00	Non-Fatal Occupational Injuries and Disability in Construction Workers in Kuwait, 2003-2005	Dr. Nermin Hamdy Zawilla
12:00 – 12:30	Discussion and comments	Session chairpersons
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:30	Second Session: Occupational Injuries in Economic Facilities	Chairpersons: Dr. Maged El-Setouhy Dr. Ahmed Gomaa Dr. Amani Waheed Dr. Adel M. Zakaria
13:30 – 13:50	Injuries Trend in Alexandria National Iron and Steel Company From 1988 to 2004	
13:50 – 14:10	Occupational safety and health in Sudan; Occupational Accidents and Injuries Investigation in Selected Industries	Dr. Fadia A El-Marakby
14:10 – 14:30	Prevalence and Prevention of Sharps Injuries among Health Care Workers in Cairo University Hospitals, Egypt	Dr. Nermin H. Zawilla
14:30 – 14:50	Occupational safety and health of different industrial sectors in Khartoum State, Sudan; Safety performance appraisal: A retrospective cross-sectional study	Dr. Gehan R. Zaki
14:50 – 15:30	Discussion and comments	Session chairpersons
15:30 – 16:00	Break	
16:00 – 18:00	Third Session: Injuries Among Special Groups	Chairpersons: Dr. Abdel-Aziz Kamal Dr. Mostafa El-Husaini Dr. Mahmoud Zouk Dr. Hesham Fathy El Sayed
16:00 – 16:20	Childhood Injuries	

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter/organizer
16:20 – 16:50	Young Egyptians' perceptions, attitudes and knowledge of injuries	Dr. Maged El-Setouhy
16:50 – 17:10	Mechanism of Nickel and Chromium-induced-Immunotoxicity and Oxidative stress: A Comparative study	Dr. Nashwa M. El-Mahdy
17:10 – 17:40	Discussion and comments	Session chairpersons
17:40 – 18:00	Concluding Remarks	Organizing Committee

Second Day: Monday 25 June 2012

9:00 – 10:50	Fourth Session: Practical Experience (1)	Chairpersons: Dr. Howayada Hassan Dr. Mahmoud El-Saddawy Dr. Tarek Adly Farid
09:00 – 09:20	Risk management approach to fatigue	Dr. Howayda A. Hassan
09:20 – 09:40	Stress	Dr. Mahmoud Zouk
09:40 – 10:00	Unit for Fitness and Disability at the CUH	Dr. Dalia Ismail Attia
10:00 – 10:20	Evaluation of Fluoride Effects on Bones Among Workers in Primary Aluminum Industry	Dr. Gehad A. Abo El-Ata
10:20 – 10:50	Discussion and comments	Session chairpersons
<i>10: 50 – 11:20</i>	<i>Break</i>	
11:20 – 13:00	Fifth Session: Practical Experience (2)	Chairpersons: Dr. Hussein H. Zayet Dr. Amal K. El-Safty Dr. Mohamed Farghaly Kassem
11:20 – 11:45	Evaluation of disability due to B and/or C viral hepatitis among healthcare workers in Cairo University Hospitals	Dr. Essam El-Said
11:45 – 12:10	Occupational Injuries among Children Working in Furniture Manufacturing in Damietta, Egypt	Dr. Jon Mark Hirshon
12:10 – 12:35	Health Related-Quality of Life of injured Workers in Eastern Delta region of Egypt	Dr. Waleed Salah El-Deen
12:35 – 13:00	Discussion and comments	Session chairpersons
<i>13:00 -14:00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 16:00	Sixth Session: Miscellaneous Issues in Occupational Health Risks	Chairpersons: Dr. Ahmed Shouman Dr. Dalia Ismail Attia Dr. Yassin Darwish
14:00 – 14:20	Prevalence of Tuberculosis Among Healthcare Workers	Dr. Bahira M.S. Lotfy
14:20 – 14:40	Updates in Occupational Exposure and Reproductive Health	Dr. Neveen A. Mansour
14:40 – 15:00	Proposed National Strategy on Occupational Health and Safety	Dr. Gehad Abo El-Ata
15:00 – 15:30	Ladder falls in the workplace: Impact of age on relative risk of mortality (<i>web-based presentation</i>)	Dr. Gordon Smith
15:30 – 16:00	Discussion and comments	Session chairpersons
<i>16:00 – 16:30</i>	<i>Break</i>	
16:30 – 18:00	Seventh (Closing) Session: Final Discussion, Comments and Recommendations	Organizers: Dr. Jon Mark Hirshon Dr. Maged El-Setouhy Dr. Yassin Darwish
16:30 – 17:00	Final Discussion and Comments	
17:00 – 18:00	Recommendations and Certificates for Attendants	