Welcome to our first newsletter. These are planned to be quarterly and hopefully will keep you informed of highlights of our work.

**BUSINESS UPDATE:**

The Centre for Workplace Health is currently collaborating with Imperial College London on a project to provide evidence on which a long-term strategy for the prevention of occupational COPD in Great Britain may be developed.

CWH are also collaborating with Sheffield Hallam University to investigate occupational sitting time and employee perceptions of the impact of prolonged sitting on health and wellbeing.

**What is the Centre for Workplace Health?**

The Centre represents a long-standing, and highly successful, collaboration between HSL, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Sheffield. It has been up and running since 2005, with collaborative work before this since 1997. CWH employs individuals who work across traditional organisational boundaries, including consultant respiratory physicians, an occupational physician, a sports exercise and rheumatology physician and a respiratory nurse specialist. This unique arrangement allows development of work across organisations, bringing benefit to each partner and novel solutions to our customers.

CWH is a unit of the Health and Safety Laboratory.

**CWH welcomes Collaborators and Associates:** The Centre for Workplace Health has developed a set of associates, who work closely with the Centre. For example, Dr Roger Rawbone assists the work of the Centre with ethics advice, and Professor Steve Green assists the work of the Centre with his invaluable input relating to infectious diseases at work.

CWH is active in the work of GORDS (Group of Occupational Respiratory Disease Specialists)


If you are interested in becoming an associate of the Centre, please contact Emma Marshall or David Fishwick.  
emma.marshall@hsl.gov.uk phone 01298 218370 or david.fishwick@hsl.gov.uk/d.fishwick@sheffield.ac.uk  phone 01298 218445.

**Strategic Research Programme update:**

CWH is involved in a themed set of research projects, which are practical in nature, and relate to identifying the best ways to improve worker health. Dr Chris Barber, Consultant Respiratory Physician, is currently developing one of these research studies, a workplace based study in UK foundries. This compliments work investigating respiratory problems relating to silica exposure.

Exposures in the foundry industry have previously been linked with occupational cancer and respiratory disease. As part of the Strategic Research Programme for HSE, Chris and the CWH team are working with many others in HSL to carry out a series of workplace visits. Workers will be asked a simple questionnaire, and undergo lung function testing. When completed this work will improve our knowledge of the health risks of foundry-based exposures and help formulate better health surveillance. Dr Leon Lewis, a research fellow in the Centre is leading on many aspects of this research.
COPD Standard of Care

The CWI team are currently producing their next national standard document, in this instance relating to occupational aspects of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The main cause of COPD is tobacco smoking, although workplace exposure to vapours, gases, dusts and fumes also cause this condition. Workers, employers and others with responsibility for the workplace can work together to reduce the risk of COPD. This Standard of Care is currently under development. Project managed by Louise Carter, Lisa Bradshaw, (research nurse), Ed Robinson, (scientist), and Jade Sumner, (occupational health scientist) have carried out a monumental search of the relevant literature. Using typical methodology to rate evidence quality, the team have created evidence tables and produced a set of statements and recommendations supported where possible with evidence. This work is being carried out in collaboration with the British Thoracic Society Standards of Care Committee, and hopes to finalise in July 2012.

The original 2008 standard of care for occupational asthma, updated by CWI recently, is freely available for download from the BTS website; [http://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/guidelines/occupational-asthma.aspx](http://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/guidelines/occupational-asthma.aspx)

For further information please contact; Ed Robinson [edward.robinson@hsl.gov.uk](mailto:edward.robinson@hsl.gov.uk) or David Fishwick; [david.fishwick@hsl.gov.uk](mailto:david.fishwick@hsl.gov.uk) / d.fishwick@sheffield.ac.uk

FOCUS ON; Human Volunteer Studies

HSL carries out a significant number of human volunteer studies each year. These vary in their nature, and have ranged from nanoparticle science to assessment of new personal protective equipment. The appropriate governance is required to be in place for these studies, including research ethics committee approval, to ensure the health of the volunteers is properly considered. CWI coordinates this governance activity.

Alison Codling, an experienced occupational health nurse, runs this programme of volunteer assessments and all the associated testing. For example, certain volunteers are required to undergo annual testing with a questionnaire, lung function, blood pressure measurement and an ECG recording. Alison ensures that this information is not just archived carefully, but also used to help volunteers if needed. Occasionally, with consent, test results are sent to the GP of the volunteer for their information.

For further information please contact; Alison Codling; [Alison.codling@hsl.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.codling@hsl.gov.uk) or David Fishwick; [david.fishwick@hsl.gov.uk](mailto:david.fishwick@hsl.gov.uk)

RECENT CWI PUBLICATIONS:


COMMITTEES & STANDARDS:

David Fishwick continues his role as chair of the Respiratory LPG for South Yorkshire NIHR, and BLF Northern region Chair.

CWI team have recently published a national standard of care for occupational asthma (Thorax 2012).

Dr Anil Adisesh is currently co-chair of the working group on diagnostic and exposure criteria for occupational diseases for the International Labour Organisation.

RECENT LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS:

CWI has been recently involved in the highly successful Wellbeing at Work 2012 Conference, Chaired by Andrew Curran and David Fishwick. Dame Carol Black, David Frost and Carey Cooper were amongst the invited speakers. More will follow relating to this in the next newsletter.

CWI contacts:

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