

Academic Forum - 4th November 2020

Chair – Professor *Ewan Macdonald*; Prof *Neil Greenberg*; *Vaughan Parsons*, Dr *Gwen Wynne Jones*, Prof *Damien Macvelly*, *Finola Ryan*, *Laurie Magowan*, *Tash Heydon*, Dr *Sarah Connolly*, *Nick Pahl*, Professor *Anne Harriss*, Dr *Karen Macdonnell*

- 1 Minutes of the last meeting
Agreed and no updates
- 2 Noted
 - Editorial by Raymond Agius in BMJ on Riddor
 - £15m from NHS for wellbeing

Action - Engage with NHS England as to whether there is a research aspect to it

3 Update on centre for work and health.

Work and health unit support funding and working to scope out. Possible consultancies call for on:

- Research priorities of centre for work and health
- Governance issues
- Whether the centre would have a communications aspect to it

4 Universal access to OH

Need to actively campaign for universal access to occupational health. Note draft survey on occupational medicine research capacity in other countries- below. Ewan suggested involving Patrons of organisations. NP to send round details of campaign and how to get involved. (see <https://www.som.org.uk/universal-access-occupational-health-oh>)

Role of SMEs critical. Exeter Research project on access to SMEs. Looking to engage with policy makers, local partners, and research streams:

Note value of OH research report at <https://www.som.org.uk/value-occupational-health-research>

Action – all lobby for more investment in this area e.g. by writing to local MPs

5 Cabinet expert data base - Noted

6 Update on research

- Damien Macvelly – Thomas Aston Institute review of respiratory health surveillance and developing exposure control database.
- Colt Foundation – next round of funding (not just Covid) – submissions focused on mental wellbeing
- Call for special edition of IJERPH Journal on development and implementation of workplaces interventions
- Prof Neil Greenberg - NHS Check – 15000 staff. Looking at mental health impact of Covid and people's perceptions of interventions and moral injury. Study with Imperial looking at Police officers
- Gwen – centre for MSK health at work looking at predicting long term work absence – using Cohort and Trial data.
- Karen MacDonnell - Healthy working lives - Scotland just published a strategy
- Finola Ryan – training representative – always interested to get involved in research
- SOM – research grant available of up to £3100. Also event on Risk on 10th November

draft survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/683F62S>

Occupational Medicine Academic capacity

Professor Ewan Macdonald, Chair of the UK's Academic Forum, hosted by the SOM, wishes to facilitate increased occupational medicine research capacity in the UK. For more details about the forum, see <https://www.som.org.uk/research-and-academic-forum> and for a report on the value of occupational medicine research, see <https://www.som.org.uk/value-occupational-health-research>. Also see: *Current research priorities for UK occupational physicians and occupational health researchers: a modified Delphi study* - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6760972/>

As part of this process, it wishes to understand global occupational medicine research capacity for comparator purposes. The survey is being sent to UEMS, ICOH and IOMSC members, and results will be shared publicly.

Please do complete this 5-minute survey.

Thanks

1 Country:

Open text

2 How many professors of occupational medicine are there in your country?

Number

3 How many academic posts are there in your country?

Number

4 Do you have a lead national research institution for occupational health and medicine?

Yes/ No

4a If yes, what is its website address?.....

4b If yes, how many staff work in this institution?

5 How many occupational medicine physicians are there in your country?

6 Do you have any other comments?

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Thanks. For any queries about the survey, please contact nick.pahl@som.org.uk