EDUCATION IN OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE IN RAPIDLY CHANGING ECONOMIES

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• **OBJECTIVES:**
  • To identify the common core competencies required for occupational physicians in Europe.
  • …Topics such as principles of occupational safety and selection of personal protection equipment were of least importance. Although the assessment of fitness was regarded as important, monitoring and advising on sickness absence were not highly rated. Management competency was regarded as of low importance.

• **CONCLUSION:**
  • This survey identified that respondents had traditional disease focused views of the competencies required of occupational physicians and that competencies were lagging behind the evolving definition of occupational health.
Risks for Health and the Issue of Workability - new demanding and changed work conditions
Desired Individual Capabilities of Employees in Evolving Economies

The value of an individual employee (and his/her health) incorporating these features - increases for the company!!
Health promotion (HP) and return to work

EU
- Existing International Declarations (EU)

Nation.
- Positive National Acts

Comp.
- Awareness that the value of individual employees, competitiveness and image increases when the employer implements HP & return to work policy – active role of occup. physicians!
Education of OP in HP & RTW & management issues – importance (versus other professionals – business consultants…..)
HEALTH MANAGEMENT

- prevention
- health promotion
- return to work

EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF OP!

Medical University of Vienna
The Role of a Harmonized Education in OM

To enable occupational physicians to play an active role in health management in enterprises – they have to be educated comparably throughout Europe – to be able to move and exchange internationally (transnational companies).
Mission
The European Association of Schools of Occupational Medicine (EASOM) is established to **promote the highest standards of education and training in occupational medicine in Europe.** This is to be achieved through the exchange of knowledge, skills and experience of teaching and training between member schools.
EASOM Vision

Promote awareness and recognition of EASOM within member states. At present 38 representatives!

Provision of added value to member schools via access to:

- European academic occupational medicine networks,
- the development of European teaching experiences
- the development of quality assurance approach to the provision of specialist training and courses for CME

The annual EASOM Summer School has become established in the academic calendar due to contemporary topics in OM.
Although EASOM is focusing on postgraduate teaching:
Through Prof. Dr. Lutgart Braeckman, Ghent University, Faculty of Medicine, Dep. Of Public Health – collaboration on the EMUTOM project (European module for undergraduate teaching of occupational medicine): [www.emutom.eu](http://www.emutom.eu)
THE STANDING OF OP IN THE CHANGING ECONOMIES DEPENDS ON THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND READINESS TO ACTIVLY TAKE OVER THEIR ROLE IN MANAGEMENT – THUS EDUCATION & EXCHANGE!!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!