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OCCUPATIONAL

HealthWATCH

Division of Occupational & Environmental Medicine



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Message from the Director

Our Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine welcomes the global declarations on tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases announced at the United Nations last month that include preventive measures for vulnerable populations, including worker populations at elevated risks. We were honored to contribute to that process and recognize this is an important step for workers everywhere.

We are now turning to another, pressing global crisis: climate change. On January 12, 2019 we will host the conference "[Clinical Climate Change](#)" to educate medical providers, health care administrators, and health and safety specialists on how changes in climate are affecting human health. Recent [research](#) shows that mitigating the hazardous health consequences of climate change on workers will increasingly fall on how employers and occupational and environmental medicine providers collaborate on approaches to treatment and prevention in the workplace. We hope to see you in January to further these discussions. Details at www.clinicalclimatechange.com.

Learn more below about these and other initiatives happening in our Division. I also encourage everyone to download the Occupational Safety App (www.mountsinai.org/selikoffapp), a new resource for workers on a variety of occupational health topics.

United Nations Declarations on Tuberculosis and Non- Communicable Diseases

This year the United Nations General Assembly gathered at two high-level meetings to address tuberculosis (TB) and non-communicable disease (NCDs). These meetings have resulted in the first ever political declaration on TB and third declaration on NCDs, and include preventive measures for occupational and environmental

health. Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine faculty worked with national and international representatives, including the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), to drive the inclusion of occupational and environmental factors in the new declarations. [Read more.](#)



UNITED NATIONS

WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL UNION OFFICERS CONF



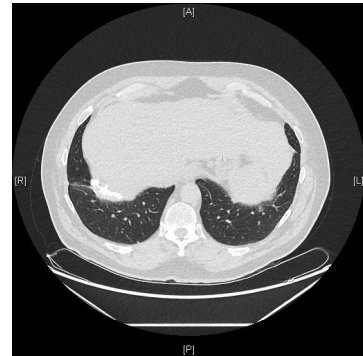
Insulators Tissue Bank at Mount Sinai

The Insulators Tissue Bank is a partnership between Mount Sinai and the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Union (HFIAW) dedicated to advancing the scientific understanding of asbestos-related diseases. While asbestos was banned from new insulation in the 1980s, there remains millions of tons of asbestos in refineries and numerous other industrial facilities. Individuals performing

maintenance work in such places are now being diagnosed with and dying from asbestos-related disease. The Tissue Bank collects samples from those exposed to asbestos to learn how to better diagnose and treat workers with asbestos-related conditions. [Read more.](#)

Chest CT Scan Findings in World Trade Center Rescue and Recovery Workers

In a new study, CT imaging was used to investigate the range and frequency of possible work-related chest imaging abnormalities in a large cohort of World Trade Center (WTC) workers. Chest CT imaging increases detection of occupational lung diseases compared to traditional chest radiology. This is the first and largest study to use a standardized method to identify and grade chest CT abnormalities in the WTC occupational cohort. [Read more.](#)



Responsibilities of the OEM Provider in Treating and Preventing Climate-Related Health Problems

The Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health will be hosting a conference this January to provide further information on up-to-date clinical information on health and climate change. Learn more at www.clinicalclimatechange.com.

Climate change has been shown to directly and indirectly impact health. This is especially true for certain working populations, putting workers at a higher risk for negative health outcomes. Mitigating hazardous health consequences of climate change on workers increasingly falls on employers and occupational and environmental medicine providers. [Read more.](#)

Health and Safety of Restaurant Workers

New research shows that New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYS DOHMH) restaurant grades can shed some insight on food service worker health and safety. Cases of workplace injuries and illnesses in small restaurants are maybe underreported due to the establishment's ownership hiring family members, part-time employees, or employing few enough employees to be exempt from OSHA injury and illness recordkeeping. NYC DOHMH restaurant grades can serve as a proxy for worker health. [Read](#)



[more.](#)

Learn more about preventive strategies to stay safe in the kitchen in our [infographic](#).



Dr. Robert Wright Appointed to the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council

[Robert Wright, MD, MPH](#), Chair of the Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health, has been appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services as a council member of the [National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council](#) (NAEHSC). The NAEHSC is a Congressionally mandated body that advises the secretary of Health and Human Services, the director of the National Institute of Health, and the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

on matters relating to the direction of research, research support, training, and career development supported by the NIEHS. An important function of the council is secondary review of research grant applications with a focus on NIEHS scientific program priorities and program balance.

Download the Selikoff Occupational Safety App

The Mount Sinai Selikoff Occupational Safety App is a resource for workers on topics related to occupational health. The Mount Sinai Selikoff Occupational Safety App is available today for free. iPhone users, download it on the [Apple App Store](#) and Android users, download it on the [Google Play Store](#).



 MSSOS



[The Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine](#) is committed to preventing and treating occupational and environmental injury and illness through clinical services, education, and research. Its groundbreaking history in identifying, treating, and preventing occupational-related illness has encompassed a multidisciplinary approach. The Division is under direction of Roberto Lucchini, MD and a part of the Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.