P4169
Firefighter occupational exposures in forest fire settings – Three years of the FUMEXP project
Antonio Jorge Ferreira, Carlos Robalo Cordeiro, Pedro Ferreira, Ana Isabel Miranda, Vera Martins, Domingos Xavier Viegas. Centre of Pulmonology, Coimbra University Medical School, Coimbra, Portugal Department of Environment and Planning, University of Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal Association for the Development of Industrial Aerodynamics, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal

Introduction and objectives: There is a growing awareness that smoke produced during wildland fires can expose firefighters and populations to hazardous concentrations of several air pollutants. The FUMEXP Project was developed to evaluate the potential effects of smoke emissions on firemen health.

Methods: A sample of firefighters (n=38) was submitted to spirometry and responded to the SF-36® General Health Survey before the 2008 forest fire season, and again at the end of the 2010 season. During three years (2008-2010), a subsample of 18 firefighters was tested before and after firefighting. Exhaled nitric oxide (eNO), carbon monoxide (CO) and% carboxy-haemoglobin were monitored. Ten of these firefighters carried monitoring devices to assess particulate matter (PM2.5), NO2, volatile organic compounds (VOC’s) and carbon monoxide, during prescribed/experimental real forest fires.

Results: Values above international recommendations were measured: PM2.5 > 1,280 μg.m-3; CO >73,000 μg.m-3; NO2 >4,670 μg.m-3. VOC values were also high.

Airway monitoring: there was a significant decrease (p<0.05) on the eNO, and a very significant increase on exhaled CO (p<0.001), pre and post firefighting. Predicted FEV1, FVC, FEV1 e MEF were lower at the end of the Project (p<0.05). Three questions of the SF-36 survey had scores significantly lower.

Conclusions: With the levels of exposure monitored, forest fire smoke inhalation can cause acute and long term health effects on exposed professionals. Suggested preventive measures include regular health evaluation, use of adequate protecting equipment and individual monitoring devices, planning of fire-fighting shifts and modelling of exposure.

P4170
Systematic review of ill-health outbreaks associated with exposure to water-based metalworking fluids
Clare Burton, Brian Crook, Helena Scaife, Gareth Evans, Chris Barber. Centre for Workplace Health, Health and Safety Laboratory, Buxton, Derbyshire, United Kingdom

Objectives: Aims to identify and review all previously published reports of outbreaks of ill health due to water-based metalworking fluids (MWFs), in order to identify aetiological risk factors for disease, and highlight areas requiring further research.

Methods: A multidisciplinary team agreed appropriate search terms for a systematic literature review. From a total of 1346 titles, 35 relevant articles, relating to 29 separate outbreaks of ill health attributed to MWF exposure were selected. Results: 17 outbreaks related to respiratory disease, 4 to skin disease, and 8 to a combination of both. There was a peak incidence between 1996 and 2000. The majority were from the United States, from large car manufacturing plants using a central sump. The mean attack rate for allergic respiratory disease during outbreaks was 5.9% of the exposed workforce. Outbreaks were identified with all types of water-based MWFs, and mean MWF aerosol levels were below recommended exposure limits in most cases. For respiratory disease outbreaks, bacteria were isolated in 76%, fungi in 71% and opportunistic mycobacteria in 59% of workplaces. Endotoxin contamination of MWF ranged from non-detectable to 5.3×105 EU/ml, and measured airborne endotoxin levels ranged from 0.52 EU/m3 to 126 EU/m3.

Conclusions: Despite numerous investigations, significant knowledge gaps remain, particularly regarding the aetiology, natural history and risk factors for these outbreaks. The available evidence supports the hypothesis that microbial contamination is important in the aetiology of occupational lung disease in this group, and improvements in workplace hygiene have generally been associated with a cessation of new cases.
P4171
Epidemiological study of the workforce after an outbreak of occupational asthma due to chromium and cobalt in an aerospace factory
Gareth Walters1, Atastaar Robertson2, Vicky Moore1, Cedd Budge1, Arun Vellore1, Sherwood Burge1.1: Occupational Lung Disease Unit, Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 2: Department of General Practice, University Hospitals Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom

An outbreak of asthma due to chromium and cobalt in 4 employees at a aerospace factory occurred after coolant oils were changed in 2004 (6-24 month latency). The factory machined high chrome and nickel alloys with hard metal tipped tools containing cobalt. Oils and mist exposure met exposure standards. This prompted an investigation of the workforce, in order to measure extent and cause of outbreak. 62 (of 65) employees (n=54±5; mean age 34.5; 58% currently working with coolant oils; 58% never smoked) undertook a self-completed symptom questionnaire, lung function, urinalysis and received expert consultation. 74.1% had urinary chromium excretion indicating occupational exposure. 66.1% had at least one respiratory symptom, most symptoms from after 2003. Clinical opinion identified cases of definite, probable and possible occupational asthma. 80% of those with definite or probable asthma had chromate antibodies and 66% had antibodies to nickel. Anti-chrome antibodies were not detected in controls. Logistic regression analysis demonstrated an OR of 1.8 (95% CI 1.0-3.1) for urinary chromium with cough or wheeze, OR 1.4 (95% CI 1.0-2.0) for nasal symptoms and OR 1.4 (95% CI 1.0-2.0) for eye irritation. The OR for OFD was 2.9 (95% CI 1.0-8.4). The OR for sensitive was 1.3 (95% CI 0.8-2.0). All OR’s were positive and were more likely in those undertaking manufacturing work (p=0.006) or work with machines using coolant oils (p=0.02). Chrome exposure sufficient to cause occupational asthma can occur from metal-machining fluid aerosols when machining high chrome alloys.

P4172
Past dust and gas/fume exposure and COPD in Chinese: The Guangzhou Biobank Cohort study
Kin Bong Hubert Lam1, Peng Yin2, Chao Guang Jiang3, Wei Sen Zhang3, 41:Occupational Lung Disease Unit, Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 2:Unit of Public Health, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 3:Guangzhou Biobank Cohort, Guangzhou Medicine, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 4: Unit of Public Health, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

Background: The impact of occupational dust and gas/fume exposure on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) has been described in Western populations but the extent has not been quantified in developing countries.

Aims: We examined the relationship between past dust and fume exposure and prevalence of COPD and respiratory symptoms in a Chinese population sample. We have calculated the population attributable fraction for COPD due to previous occupation exposures.

Methods: Baseline data from the Guangzhou Biobank Cohort Study (2003-6; n = 8,239) were analysed. Self-reported intensity and duration of dust and gas/fume exposure was obtained from which a cumulative exposure index was derived. COPD was defined based on MRC questionnaire. Respiratory exposure was obtained from which a cumulative exposure index was derived. 

Results: In this sample (27.3% men, mean age 61.9±6.8 years), COPD was associated with dust or gas/fume exposure in a dose-response manner with no evidence of effect modification by smoking (adjusted OR for high level exposure = 1.49; 95% CI 1.21-1.91). Similar associations were found for chronic cough/phlegm (1.60; 1.18-2.17) and dyspnoea (1.38; 1.21-1.58). The population attributable fraction for COPD due to occupational exposure was 11.2% (95% CI 1.4%-20.0%).

Conclusion: Occupational dust and gas/fume exposure is associated with an increased prevalence of COPD in this Chinese sample, independent of smoking. The magnitude is similar to that reported in other populations.

P4173
Long term effect and allergic sensitization in newly employed workers in laboratory animal facilities
Brit-Marie Sundblad, Lena Palmberg, Maciek Kupczyk, Kjell Larsson. Lung and Allergy Research, The National Institute of Environmental Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden

Background: Allergic reactions are common in laboratory animal workers and one of the most common working with laboratory animals is work-related allergic symptoms and may develop occupational asthma. Working in laboratory animal facilities also implies exposure to airborne dust, contaminated with microbial and other products, which may lead to health effects.

Objective: The aim of this study was to identify targets that can predict sensitization to laboratory animals. Skin Prick Test change and sensitization to laboratory animals were used as an outcome variable.

Methods: In a prospective longitudinal study newly employed personnel who were employed to work with laboratory animals at Karolinska Institutet (Sweden) were investigated before and after 6, 12 and 24 month after employment. Lung function, bronchial challenges, exhaled NO and nasal lavage were performed and blood samples were taken at each visit.

Results: Seventy subjects attended all four visits and 13 of those (19%) became sensitized to laboratory animals during the study. Lung function (VC and FEV1) deteriorated (as compared with predicted values) and increased blood levels of eosinophils and IL-2 over time were observed. An increased risk of developing laboratory animal allergy was significantly associated with female sex, atopy, symptoms, CDAi−0.92 cell/e/l blood, total IgE>15.5 U/A, specific IgE to rat (e67−0.01 U/A) and mouse (e88−0.004 U/A).

Conclusions: One of five subjects became sensitized to one or two laboratory animals in this study and atopic subjects before starting working with animals had a greater risk to develop laboratory animal allergy.

P4174
Cow hair sensitisation is uncommon among Danish dairy farmers despite high allergen levels
Vivi Schlünssen1, Joannis Basinas1, Eva Zahradnik2, Grete Ebbesen2, Gryvind Omland1, Monika Raufi-Heinmo1, Torben Sigsgaard1. 1: Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Medicine, School of Public Health, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark; 2: Dept. of Allergy and Immunology, Institute of Prevention and Occupational Medicine of the German Social Accident Insurance (IAK), Ruhr-University Bochum, Bochum, Germany; 3: Dept. of Occupational Medicine, Aalborg University Hospital, Aalborg, Denmark

Background: Bovine allergens can induce allergic airway diseases. Recently high levels of cow hair allergens (CHA) in dust from stables and homes of dairy farmers were reported (Zahradnik E et al. IAAI 2011;155-225-233).

Aim: To investigate CHA levels among dairy farmers (DF), pig farmers (PF), former farmers (FF) and never farmers (NF) and to assess CHA sensitisation in these groups.

Methods: In 2007-8 415 dust samples were collected using an electrostatic dustfall collector, EDC (Noss et al. 1990), Air Environ Microbiol 2006;74:5621-7 with a 14 days sampling time among 54 PF, 27 DF, 71 FF and 51 NF. Among farmers sampling was carried out both summer and winter. The cow hair allergens levels (μg/m3) were measured using a sandwich ELISA assay (Zahradnik E et al. IAAI 2011:155-225-233). SPT for cow hair allergens (ALK-Abelo *) were performed among 48 PF, 20 DF, 54 FF and 31 NF.

Results: CHA levels were substantially higher in stables than bedrooms. DF had much higher CHA level compared to PF, FF and NF had low levels of CHA in their bedrooms compared to DF. No one but one PF (former DF) was sensitised to CHA. Selection out of dairy farming might be important.

Table 1. CHA (μg/m3) among DF, PF, FF and NF strat. by summer/winter and stable/bedroom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Stable</th>
<th>Bedroom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DF</td>
<td>26.07000</td>
<td>953-19600</td>
<td>25.34666</td>
<td>1741-20300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PF</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>24-1</td>
<td>48.14</td>
<td>43-6368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FF</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>35.02</td>
<td>6-106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NF</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>27.02</td>
<td>6-55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: These results confirm high CHA levels on dairy farms. Despite this no dairy farmers were sensitised to CHA. Selection out of dairy farming might be of importance.

P4175
Fungal colonization of oxygen humidifier and nebulizer chambers
Tushar Sahasrabudhe1, Savita Jadhav2, Vipul Kalley1, Nageswari Gandham2. 1: Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Padmashree Dr. D.Y Patil Medical College, Pune, Maharashtra, India; 2: Department of Microbiology, Padmashree Dr. D.Y Patil Medical College, Pune, Maharashtra, India

Humidified oxygen and nebulizers are routinely used in hospitalized patients suffering from respiratory ailments. These can be a potential source of allergens or infection if colonized by fungi. We undertook a study to determine if the oxygen humidifier chambers of portable cylinders and central lines at our hospital were colonized by fungi. The Hudson’s chambers of nebulizers were also studied as they remain wet after use. Samples of these were obtained using sterile swabs on Tuesday as these chambers are usually cleaned on every Saturday. Spot samples were taken from ICUs, wards, casualty and OPD on a single day. Air samples were also obtained on the same day to determine if the fungal spore load in the inhaled room air was normal or high. 46/53 (86.79%) swabs form oxygen humidifiers and 717 (41.17%) swabs from Hudson’s chambers grew fungi. There were a total of 14 species of fungi identified altogether 4 of them are virulent species and 6 are known allergens for asthmatics. The colonization was less in shallow Hudson’s chambers (35.71%) as compared to the reusable long ones (66.66%). The air samples showed insignificant growth. The study indicates a potential in-hospital source of allergens and infection. The oxygen and nebulizer chambers need to be cleaned more frequently with disinfectants.
P4176
Prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in male workers exposed to dust, gas and fume
Byung-Soon Chei, Jeong Oh Lee, Youlum Lee. Occupational Lung Diseases Institute, Occupational Lung Diseases Institute, Ansan, Gyeonggi-do, Korea

Purpose: It is known that chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) can be developed after exposure to many kinds of dust, gas and fume. But the prevalence of COPD was not investigated extensively, especially after bronchodilator inhalation.

Method: Chest X-ray images were taken in 1,298 male workers exposed to many kinds of dust, gas and fume. Pulmonary function tests were done with short-acting bronchodilator during the periodic health examination from 2008 to 2010. Excluding the workers with the abnormal radiological findings that could affect lung function, the data of a total of 838 workers were analyzed.

Result: The prevalence of COPD increased with age: under age 45, 0.0%; 45 to 64, 31.6%; 65 to 74, 51.8%; 75 and over, 62.2% (p<0.001). COPD was also prevalent in those with high relative exposure index, sum of multiplication of exposure level and exposure duration: under 60, 35.5%; 60 to 99, 37.2%; 100 and over, 47.2% (p<0.001). About half of pneumoconiosis patients had COPD: 43.5% in profusion category 1; 49.6% in 2; 62.5% in 3, but the prevalence in profusion category 0 and 1 was also high, 30.1% and 30.8%, respectively. The prevalence of COPD in smokers was higher than non-smokers (31.8%), but there was no difference between ex- (41.7%) and current-smokers (41.5%). In ex- and current-smokers, it was 30.0% under 15 pack-years, 42.4% in 15 to 29, and 54.1% in 30 and over.

Conclusion: The prevalence of COPD was very high in workers exposed to many kinds of dust, gas and fume occupationally. Also, it showed the increasing trend with exposure intensity.

P4177
Occupational asthmogens and total IgE according to asthma status in the EGEA study
Ozanne Dumas1,2, Valerie Siouroux1, Bénédicte Jacquin1,2, Isabelle Pin1,4, Jean Boussquiel1,2, Rachel Nadif1,2, Francine Kauffmann1,2, Nicole Le Mouël1,2,3,4,5
1 Respiratory and Environmental Epidemiology Team, CESP Center for Research in Epidemiology and Population Health, Inserm U1018, Villejuif, France; 2UMRS 1018, Universite Paris-Sud 11, Villejuif, France; 3Inserm U823, Centre de Recherche Albert Bonniot, Universite Joseph Fourier Grenoble, France; 4Pneumologie, CHU, Grenoble, France; 5Respiratory Diseases, Hôpital Arnaud de Villemeuvre, Montpellier, France

Introduction: The comprehension of the relationship between asthma and immunoglobulin E (IgE) remains a challenge. Several occupational asthmogens have been identified to cause or aggravate asthma, but their associations with IgE have rarely been studied.

Aim: To study the relationship between occupational exposure to asthmogens and total serum IgE in non-asthmatics, childhood-onset and adult-onset asthmatics.

Methods: Analyses were conducted in 1212 adults (aged 17-79 years, 48% men) from the Epidemiological study on the Genetics and Environment of Asthma (EGEA, 2003-07) without missing data for work history and IgE. Lifetime exposure to asthmogens was estimated using an asthma-specific job-exposure matrix.

Results: 32%, 28% and 36% of non-asthmatics, childhood-onset and adult-onset asthmatics had respectively ever been exposed to asthmogens. In non-exposure asthmatics, exposed subjects had a significantly lower total IgE level. In asthmatics, no association was observed. Nevertheless, among women with childhood-onset asthma, exposure to asthmogens was associated with higher IgE level (adjusted OR (95%CI) for IgE=100 IU/ml: 2.49 (1.07-5.83)).

Conclusion: Our results suggest a healthy worker effect among non-asthmatics. Further analyses will be conducted by distinguishing the types of asthmogens.

P4179
Respiratory work disability and occupational outcomes in adults with asthma and bronchial hyperresponsiveness
Nicola Murgia, Giulia Paoloacci, Angela Gambelgher, Marco dell’Omo, Ilenia Folletti, Giacomo Muze, Giuseppe Abbritti. Section of Occupational Medicine, Respiratory Diseases and Toxicology, University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy

Background: The correlation between asthma and work disability has been demonstrated in previous surveys. Changing job for respiratory problems often defines respiratory work disability. Little is known about occupations of asthmatics with respiratory work disability after they were forced to change job. This study investigates factors associated to respiratory work disability in asthmatics, focusing on occupational outcomes.

Methods: 342 adults in working age with asthma, diagnosed by GINA criteria and methacholine challenge or bronchodilator response, answered to a questionnaire. Subjects with occupational asthma were excluded. Respiratory work disability was defined as to have changed job/task because of asthma. Information about pulmonary function tests and skin prick tests were obtained from medical records.

Results: 22 subjects reported respiratory work disability. Age, sex, smoking, atopy, were not risk factors for changing work. Patients with work disability referred more often uncontrolled asthma (72.7% vs 60.5%), regular use of asthma controllers (81.1% vs 66.6%) and asthma relievers, even if these differences were not significant. Workers that have changed job because of asthma were still prone to asthma work disability (81.1% vs 66.6%) and asthma relievers, even if these differences were not significant. Workers that have changed job because of asthma were still prone to asthma work disability (81.1% vs 66.6%) and asthma relievers, even if these differences were not significant.

Conclusions: In this study atopy did not predict job change. Maybe because the current economical situation, workers with respiratory work disability did not move to more safe occupations, remaining at risk of work exacerbated asthma.

P4180
Enzyme immunoassay (EIA) for bacterial peptidoglycan (PGN) assessment in air and house dust samples
Peter S. Thorne, Nervana Metwali. Occupational and Environmental Health, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, United States

PGN forms the outer wall of Gram+ bacteria (Gm+B) and when liberated induces inflammation through TLR2 and NLR2. Thus, PGN is a potential marker for Gm+B. We employed 3 PGN standards, 3 monoclonal antibodies (mAb) and environmental samples to develop PGN-specific ELISAs. Reagents: anti-PGN mAb clones (B10, 4f6, 3C11); Cereamide β-D-galactoside, Keratin and Phenolosin cerebrosides for PGN capture; PGN standards: Bacillus subtilis (PGN-Bs), Micrococcus luteus (PGN-M) and Staphylococcus aureus (PGN-Sa). Evaluation methods: inhibition EIA, EIA with cerebrosides for capture and PGN mAb for labeling, and double mAb sandwich EIA. Samples from three studies were extracted in PBS plus 0.05% tween.

Keratin proved a higher affinity receptor than other cerebrosides. The B10 and 4f6 mAb showed high specificity for PGN-Bs and PGN-M. The 4f6 mAb...
exhibited high specificity for all 3 PGN. Sandwich EIA was not sufficient for quantitation of PGN in household dust and air samples.

P4181 Characterization of airborne organic dust exposure with limulus amoebocyte lysate – evaluation in whole dust

Verena Liebers1, Vera van Kampen1, Maria Duscher1, Heike Stuble1, Thomas Brüning2, Jürgen Bünger2, Monika Raufel-Heimsoeth1.

1 Allergy/Immunology, Institute for Prevention and Occupational Medicine of the German Social Accident Insurance – Institute of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum (IPA), Bochum, NRW, Germany 2 Medicine, Institute for Prevention and Occupational Medicine of the German Social Accident Insurance – Institute of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum (IPA), Bochum, NRW, Germany

The aim of the study was to evaluate if measurement of endotoxin and/or pyrogenic activity could be suited to methods to describe different exposure circumstances for dust in composting plants. Dust sampling was performed with stationary pumps. Fiberglas filters were extracted with PBS. Endotoxin activity was determined with Limulus amoebocyte lysate (LAL)-assay (Charles River, Sulzfeld). Pyrogenic activity was measured with a whole blood assay (WBA) using cryo-preserved blood (Zwisler Laboratorium, Konstanz) measuring Interleukin (IL-)1 β-release in the cell-free supernatant. In all 124 extracts endotoxin as well as pyrogenic activity were detectable. Median of endotoxin activity was 12 EU/m3 (range 6 - 3421). Median of pyrogenic activity was 3831 PU/IL-1 β-release. Sensitivity of the cellassay, the diagnostic work up of the LAL-test, was r = 0.78 (Pearson). Dust samples collected in wheel loaders (n = 33) showed median values of 9 EU/m3 and 3580 PU/IL-1 β-release respectively whereas in the area of sieving machines (n = 14) a median of 61 EU/m3 and 7608 PU/IL-1 β-release was measured. Test results of WBA and LAL-assay were compared with receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve using LAL-Test as gold standard. Assuming a desirable test sensitivity of 95% WBA provides a possible specificity of 40% for a cut-off of 10 EU/m3 increasing to 100% specificity if the cut-off was set at 500 EU/m3. LAL-Test and WBA are applicable methods to evaluate bioaerosol exposure. Especially in areas with lower endotoxin activity and with further pyrogenic components WBA may deliver additional information.

P4182 Bioactivity of 14C-labeled endotoxin in aggregates, shed blebs and whole bacteria: Potency comparison in the LAL assay, cell cultures, and mouse blebs

Peter S. Thorne1, Kimberly A. Hoppe1, Suzana Hadina1, Andrea Adamcakova-Dodd2, Jerrold P. Weiss2. 1Occupational & Environmental Health, University of Iowa, Iowa City, United States 2Internal Medicine, University of Iowa, Iowa City, United States

It is unknown if endotoxin reactivity in the LAL assay varies by its presentation or if this parallels differences in potency in vitro and in vivo. We compared endotoxin responses in the LAL assay, in cell cultures and in vivo when presented in different forms.

Lipopolysaccharide (LOS) from Neisseria meningitidis sere B was metabolically labeled and incorporated into bacteria, purified membrane blebs, and aggregates (14C-LOS, 14C-LOSagg). 14C-LOS content of each was quantified as LOS-specific 14C-3-OH fatty acids. Equivalent escalating doses of 14C-LOS-containing bacteria, blebs or LOSagg were tested in the LAL assay, in vivo in C3HeB/FeJ mice following intranasal instillation (monitoring induced airway inflammation), and in vitro using HEK293 cells or 3T3-MEFA cells (14C-TLR4, MD-2, TLR4 (monitoring extracellular accumulation of IL-6). Doses of 14C-LOS were measured by scintillation counting (our gold standard).

Potency varied depending on LOS presentation. Compared to the gold standard, potency was 1.0-3.3 for blebs, 0.3-0.7 for aggregates and 0.1-0.2 for whole bacteria. How endotoxin presentation significantly affects endotoxin reactivity in the LAL, cell cultures and whole animal assays cannot be attributed to endotoxin exposures. The LAL assay substantially underestimated the content of the LOS preparations for LOSagg and bacteria.
assessed by standardized ATS questionnaire. Statistical differences were tested by Independent t test and Chi Square. Logistic regression analyses were performed, adjusting for age and smoking. Results: Totally 150 workers participated; 79 coffee workers and 71 controls. Coffee workers had significantly higher prevalence than the controls for morning cough with spumon (23% vs. 10%, OR = 2.95; CI 1.1 - 8.4) and chest tightness (27% vs. 15%, OR = 1.39; CI 0.7 - 2.8). Total dust exposure in the coffee factories was significantly higher than in the control factory (geometric mean; 1.23 mg/m^3 vs. 0.21 mg/m^3, p = 0.001).

Conclusion: Coffee workers in primary factories have higher prevalence for respiratory symptoms and higher dust levels than controls.

P4186
The investigation of stable nitric oxide (NO) metabolites correlation in exhaled breath condensate (EBC) in Chernobyl clean-up workers (CCUW) with COPD
Igor Klimanov1, Svetlana Soodaeva1, Alexander Lisitsa1, Tatjana Marchenko2.
1Clinical and Experimental Biophysics, Pulmonology Research Institute, Moscow, Russian Federation; 2Dept. of Radiation Problems, Ministry for Civil Defense & Emergencies, Moscow, Russian Federation

The aim of the study was to investigate the correlation between stable NO metabolites in EBC in CCUW with COPD during the course of antioxidant inhalation.

Materials and methods: 58 males outpatients were enrolled in the study. Group1 contains 21 patients CCUW with COPD stage I; group2 contains 19 patients CCUW with COPD stage II. The control group consisted of 18 healthy volunteers. The EBC was collected in all patients, as well as the TNN concentration in EBC was measured before and after the course of therapy. The nebulized ambroxol inhalation (15 mg BID) was carried during 7 days in addition to traditional COPD therapy. The TNN concentration as well as NO3-/NO2- concentrations were measured by spectrophotometric method using the Gries reaction. The correlation between NO3-/NO2-concentration in EBC during the course of antioxidant inhalation was also investigated.

Results: The results obtained demonstrate the statistically significant increase of NO3- concentration and NO2- concentration in EBC in both groups compared with control. The strong positive correlation between observed parameters (r=0.98; p=0.001) as well as linear coefficient k=2.13 (k=[NO3-]/[NO2-]) were determined only in control group. There was a statistically significant correlation between NO3- and NO2- levels in EBC in group1 after the course of ambroxol admission (r=0.89, p=0.003 with k=2.7).

Conclusion: The correlation revealed indicates positive changes in NO metabolites. Thereby, the investigation of NO3-/NO2- correlation in EBC in patients with COPD can be used as a marker of the efficacy of the therapy admitted.

P4187
Biotoxicological pattern and related respiratory impairments in chemical laboratory workers
Felicia Gradinaru, Carmen Crotoru, Brigitte Scutaru, Razvan Danulescu, Micaela Margineanu, Madalina Ipat, Mirela Ghitescu, Eugenia Danulescu.
Occupational Medicine Dept, Regional Center of Public Health, Iasi, Romania

Aim: To evaluate the relations between the changes in blood/urine markers and respiratory outcomes in workers from a chemical research institute

Material/Methods: 161 workers (73% women, 23% smokers, having mean age 44±1.3 yrs, mean exposure 20±14 yrs) were investigated by spirometry, blood/urine biomarkers, including exposure/effect ones. Workplace air solvents level was below upper threshold limits, but noxious cumulative index varied between 1 and 2.

Results: Urinary total phenols releases correlated with TBARS (r=0.22; p<0.01). 22% of subjects had mild respiratory changes (discrete distal obstructive syndrome). In the group of 95 subjects having >10 yrs length of exposure, SOD correlated with Ig M level (r=0.20; p<0.05), and urinary acetone with Ig M, resp. IgG (r=0.19; p<0.05), showing the relation of the inflammatory effects resp. oxidative imbalance with the occupational hazards. 2/3 of the subjects diagnosed with spirometric changes were in this subgroup, but these changes did not correlate with smoking habit.

Conclusions: Immunological and oxidative stress markers might be related to respiratory changes, even in the early stage of occupational-induced respiratory diseases.

P4188
Occupational allergy in apprentices hairdressers and hairdressers in region of Lodz, Poland
Patrycja Krawczyk-Snusi1, Beata Krecisz1, Dorota Chomiczewska2, Marta Wiszniewska1, Marta Kiec-Swierczynska2, Ewa Nowakowska-Swirta1, Joanna Zgorzelska-Kowalik1, Cezary Palczynski 1, Aleksandra Golinska-Zach1, Micaela Margineanu, Madalina Ipat, Mirela Ghitescu, Eugenia Danulescu.
1Occupational Medicine Dept, Regional Center of Public Health, Iasi, Romania; 2Department of Radiation Problems, Ministry for Civil Defense & Emergencies, Moscow, Russian Federation

Aim: The aim of the study was to assess the prevalence and risk factors of occupational allergy in apprentices hairdressers and hairdressers from the region of Lodz in Poland.

Material and methods: Prospective study was done in apprentices. A group of apprentices hairdressers were tested twice (34 at the beginning of education and 21 at the end) for respiratory and skin allergy. 54 hairdressers were tested for respiratory and 40 for skin allergy.

Results: The prevalence of respiratory symptoms in apprentices after two years at school was not significantly higher after 2 years of education. One student became sensitized to latex. Positive skin prick tests to common allergens was a risk factor of rhinitis related to work in apprentices hairdressers OR = 9.75 (CI 1.03 – 14.64). Prevalence of cough, dyspnoea and rhinitis was significantly higher in hairdressers than apprentices in the 1st class (p<0.05). Smoking was a risk factor of dyspnoea OR=2.37 (95%CI 1.07-5.28) and rhinitis OR=2.44 (95%CI 1.1-5.3) in hairdressers. Two of 54 hairdressers was sensitized to ammonium persulfate and one to para-phenylenediamine. One subject had an occupational asthma diagnosis. Contact allergy was common in hairdressers and apprentices, however more prevalent in the first group.

Conclusions: Respiratory symptoms were not the most important health problem in apprentices hairdressers at the end of education probably due to “healthy worker effect”.

Hyperresponsiveness to common allergens in apprentices and smoking in hairdressers were risk factors of respiratory diseases.