

Cardiff Work Environment Research Centre

Working for a healthier tomorrow at work – where do we go from here?

Monday 8th December 2008

Reardon Smith Theatre, National Museum Cardiff, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP



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A one-day conference to explore research needs

Recent developments in policy and practice on work and health have stressed the unacceptable social and economic costs of not being in productive employment and at the same time emphasized the positive aspects of work on health and well-being. But it is clear that traditional work hazards have not entirely abated and new ones continue to emerge in an economy in which the work and employment relationship is increasingly precarious. This situation makes for a complex policy scenario, in which it is important that research helps to inform a balanced, evidence based, view on setting priorities.

The aim of this conference, which is hosted by the Cardiff Work Environment Research Centre (CWERC) is to explore the future of research into work, health, safety and well-being. It will help to clarify the research agenda and discuss its funding. Its approach combines the perspectives of policy makers, practitioners and other stakeholders on what they need from research, while at the same time giving consideration to some of the major challenges presented by emerging findings.

Issues covered include:

- Identifying and defining the characteristics of "good work" and what constitutes a "good job"?
- What is it about work that is good for maintaining and enhancing physical and mental health?
- Achieving the balance between the positive and negative effects of work. Ensuring that work is as "safe" as reasonably practicable.
- How best to continue to support the prevention of harm in a changing work environment
- Is the present regulatory framework fit for the purpose of achieving safe and healthy work
- Clarifying precisely the scientific concept of "stress": its relationship to, and distinction from, recognisable mental illness in the conventional sense. Existing models of stress: how useful are they; and which are more likely to yield successful interventions in the workplace?
- Questions relevant to the changing nature of work and the workforce, including how to support the management of health, safety and well-being for vulnerable workers.
- Engaging employers and the business world: what is the business case for occupational health and vocational rehabilitation? A healthy and productive workforce.
- Is Carol Black's recommended "Fit for Work" service reasonably practicable and achievable? What are its essential elements?

The aim of the conference is to promote discussion and debate on the future of research to inform healthier and safer work and workers.



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Programme

- 10.00 Registration and Coffee
- 10.30 Professor Mansel Aylward CB, Chair
Opening remarks, welcome
- 10.40 Keynote:
Work and Health: The UK research agenda necessary to support a better understanding of their relationship, Professor Gordon Waddell
- 11.10 Where do we go from here? Professor Mansel Aylward CB

Part 1

- 11.20 **Expounding, clarifying, and funding the research agenda: what do we need the academic and research community to address?**

Speakers (20 mins each):

- HSE - Patrick MacDonald/Peter Brown
- IOSH - Luise Vassie
- Colt Foundation - Sir Anthony Newman-Taylor
- WORD - Sue Denman

- 12.40 Pressing questions

Lunch 1.00 – 1.30

Part 2

- 1.30 **Current issues and areas in which further research is necessary**
(Chair: Professor Mansel Aylward CB)
- 1.40 Engaging employers and the business world. What is the business case for occupational health and vocational rehabilitation? A healthy and productive workforce.
Dr Debbie Cohen & Dr Melody Rhydderch, Healthy Working Wales Research
- 2.00 Clarifying precisely the scientific concepts of "stress": its relationship to, and distinction from, recognisable mental illness in the conventional sense. Existing models of stress: how useful are they; and which are more likely to yield successful interventions in the workplace?
Professor Andy Smith, Cardiff University
- 2.20 Issues for the support of the management of health, safety and well-being in changing work contexts.
Professor David Walters, Cardiff University
- 2.40 General Discussion, Chair Professor Gordon Waddell
- 3.40 Summing up Professor Phil James
- 4.00 Finish



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To register:	Post the form to: Victoria Parkin CWERC, 59 Park Place, Cardiff University, Cardiff, CF10 3AT	Enquiries: Victoria Parkin Telephone: +44 (0) 29 208 70246 Email: cwerc@Cardiff.ac.uk Fax: +44 (0) 29 208 74759
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Your details

Dr, Mr, Mrs, Ms, Prof, OtherFirst Name

.....Surname.....

Job Title

.....

Organisation

.....

Address

.....

.....

Postcode

TelephoneFax

Email*

* Confirmation will be sent by email so please write clearly.

I would like to accept the invitation and book a place on the conference:

☐

Signature.....Date.....

Further details

Registration: Please return this completed form by Friday 28th November 2008.

The venue: Reardon Smith Theatre, National Museum Cardiff, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP

The Programme: The event will run from approximately 10:00am-4.00pm.

Directions: Sent by email on confirmation of booking.

Payment: The conference is free of charge to invited delegates.

Confirmation of booking: All bookings and pre-conference information will be sent via email.

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Use of information

Your delegate information will be used to produce a delegate list for this event. CWERC will also hold your information on file and may use it to update you on other events. If you DO NOT wish for your information to be used in this way please tick this box ☐

Register by Friday 28th November 2008