



State of the Art of Occupational and Environmental Health in South Africa

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The current state of Occupational and Environmental Health in South Africa is rooted in the country's apartheid past. The emergent mining industry in the 19th century in the country gave rise to concerns about the Occupational and Environmental Health of miners based on their living and working conditions. Interestingly the evolution of Occupational and Environmental Health has occurred in parallel with the political changes and transitions of the country. Legislative changes over the years have sought to address the Occupational and Environmental Health challenges posed by a burgeoning industrial sector, population growth, and growth in the economically active population in the country. Despite the legislative improvements in the country post-apartheid, most of the challenges, such as morbidity and mortality from occupational pneumoconiosis and infections, industrial air pollution, agrochemical worker, and population exposure, persist. Industrialization has seen women enter the workplace, and high levels of unemployment have resulted in the growth of the informal sector in the country.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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