

Workshop
Occupational skin diseases: new findings
6-7 October 2014, Amsterdam

Minutes

Day 1 (6 October 2014)

Introduction: The chair provided an overview of important achievements during the first grant year and forthcoming activities (Annex 1). He mentioned in particular that two international partner countries, South Africa and Argentina, have recently joined the Action. Gail Todd, representative of the University of Cape Town attended the workshop and will present the current research activities of her University.

Patch test results in patients with occupational dermatitis across Europe - analysis of the ESSCA network, 2002–2010: Maria Pesonen, Finland presented the recent results of this study undertaken by the ESSCA network, which is active since 1996. Data collected from 11 countries between 2002-2010 were analysed with a view to examining the pattern of patch test reactivity to the allergens in the European Baseline Series in patients with occupational dermatitis both globally and in different occupations and occupational groups.

Patch testing of occupational contact dermatitis in the framework of European Health Systems: Country reports from Denmark, Germany, Croatia, France, Romania, Macedonia and Slovakia clearly showed the diversity of use of patch test and remuneration. An extended discussion on predictive patch testing is necessary. An article on this topic has recently been published by Jacob Thyssen et al. All PPT are annexed to the minutes (Annex 2).

Key lecture: “Prevention pays”: Intervention study design under health economic aspects: In replacement of Prof. Matthias Augustin, the presentation was summarized by Magdalena Krensel. The economic aspects of occupational skin cancer as one example for cost-effective preventive measures were highlighted. Indeed, the economic burden of skin cancer on the health insurance scheme and the national economy at large argue for early intervention measures. Data prove that these measures are effective and thus help avoid long-term costs and disease burden. There is however still a large variety of methods and of quality of interventions, which leads to the recommendation of Prof. Augustin to harmonize cost-benefit study designs in occupational prevention research at the EU level (Annex 3).

Raising awareness - national campaigns:

Brief reports were provided from Croatia, Spain, Romania, Denmark, Netherlands, Slovakia and Romania. Indeed, a number of press conferences have taken place throughout 2013 and 2014. Activities have been carried out at local or national level. The chair recalled that financial support can be provided by the EADV europevention campaign, if interested. Guidelines have been established to submit an application and are at disposal for any interested institution who wishes to apply for support (Annex 4).

Elizabet Paunovic, representative of the WHO Bonn raised the issue of under-reporting: What are the problems laying behind this phenomenon? In most instances, as replied by numerous participants, it can be attributed to a lack of diagnosis, lack of knowledge, lack of reporting and lack of (financial) incentives to report. Also, workers may be afraid to report to social security because of the fear of loss of job. And, complex insurance systems with different responsibilities spread over different institutions may add to the problem.

Research priorities in South Africa: Gail Todd explained that in recent years occupational skin diseases have become increasingly important in South Africa. Together with the WHO support, two clinics in Cape Town campaigned for increased reporting of OSD. The results of the campaign were positive. However, after stopping the campaign, reporting stopped. This clearly showed that awareness raising needs to be done continuously. When it comes to research priorities, hand dermatitis and the impact of personal protective equipment (PPE) is the focus of attention at her university: How can hand dermatitis with food and metal workers with different skin types be prevented? Gail Todd would like to get in touch with StanDerm members who have gained expertise in this field and could provide support (Annex 5).

The afternoon of day 1 was devoted to separate working group meetings and the World Café.

Day 2 (7 October 2014)

Prior to the working group reports, Marc Wittlich from the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) was asked to present a pilot study with 300 volunteers from all relevant outdoor professions throughout Germany to measure their daily exposure to solar UV radiation (UVR). Each volunteer receives a device called "GENeration and Extraction System for Individual expoSure (GENESIS-UV)". Exposure data are obtained by new generation digital UV A and UV B dosimeters with continuous standardized measurements and a data resolution of one second along with gyroscope and magnetometer data to continuously assess the body position and location of the sun. A number of StanDerm members have joined the study. Marc Wittlich adds that measurements will also be carried out in at least 3 non-European countries.

Presentation of results of working group activities (Annex 6):

WG1 – Irena Angelova Fischer, vice-chair:

- ✓ Three new members have joined the group.
- ✓ 1 joint publication; 4 review articles and 2 original articles are under preparation.
- ✓ 2 STSM have been carried out.
- ✓ Training school is planned from 15-17 April 2015 in Split on skin barrier assessment in occupational dermatology.
- ✓ Next meeting will be in February 2015 in Berlin.

WG 2 – Ana Gimenez, chair:

- ✓ Questionnaire was sent out to all StanDerm members.
- ✓ Information is gathered together with WG 4 as similar information is collected by WG 4.
- ✓ Draft document on minimum standards to be addressed in the EU for diagnosis, management and reporting of occupational skin diseases is drafted.
- ✓ Present discussion: What kind of standards can be developed?
- ✓ Next working group meeting will be together with WG 4 on 24 February 2015 in Trieste.

WG 3 – George Sorin Tiplica, chair:

- ✓ New members have joined the group since its inception.
- ✓ WG 3 already applied for horizon 2020 call (PHC 4), not successful.

- ✓ A proposal based on multi-center cohort studies addressing both the prevention of occupational contact dermatitis and occupational sun-induced skin cancer has been developed and will be submitted to apply for funding (PHC4). A focus will be set on the evaluation of (cost)-effectiveness and transferability of prevention programmes in hairdressers, healthcare and construction workers. Methods for the quantification of occupational exposure to UVR have been discussed and will be included in the proposal.
- ✓ Next working group meeting will be on 26 February 2015 in Prague.

WG 4 – Vera Mahler and Wolfgang Uter, chair :

- ✓ First results of the analysis of the current situation of pathways were presented; replies received: 23 replies; 9 EU member states and 15 other European countries are missing; StanDerm members will help to gather the missing information. Differences in definitions and in recognition of OSD in the countries do prevail; this is important to be kept in mind when comparing data.
- ✓ Manual on how to patch test rubber gloves is almost ready; more responses are needed to complete information; questionnaire will be send again to StanDerm members.
- ✓ Skin exposure to nickel study (Carola Liden) will start end of 2014
- ✓ Identification of a useful EDC platform for collecting data on all fields is underway : In-house testing of REDCap <http://www.project-redcap.org/>
- ✓ Critical review of current practices of hairdressers series to come up with a recommendation for European hairdressers series (EHS)
- ✓ 1 STSM.
- ✓ Organizes training school during 3rd grant year on patch testing from 28-31 July 2015 in Erlangen, Germany.
- ✓ Next meeting will be on 24 February in Triest (in part together with WG 4).

WG 5 – Britta Wulfhorst, chair and Ulrike Bollmann, co-chair:

- ✓ Website is running and will be updated
- ✓ Identification of key stakeholders by means of a questionnaire is almost completed; questionnaire will be re-launched to non-respondents after Amsterdam workshop
- ✓ Identification of dissemination structures (e.g. social media, LinkedIn-group) is underway
- ✓ Identification of interdependencies between the working groups through World Café: possible synergies and overlaps may become more visible as well as core activities and neglected topics. Outcome will be disseminated to working groups
- ✓ Further networking-strategies to enhance exchange will be developed by the working group
- ✓ A workshop together with representatives from the other four working groups will take place from 19-20 March 2015 in Dresden. All chairs and co-chairs will be contacted to that end. Please save the date.

COST Action INOGOV (Innovations in Climate Governance: Sources, Patterns and Effects): At the initiative of COST Office Brussels, StanDerm invited the vice-chair of INOGOV, Prof. Dave Huitema to briefly introduce this Action with a view to identifying possible linkages between StanDerm and INOGOV. The impact of climate change on health, including skin damages, seems to be the crucial link between the two Actions and needs to be further explored. Thomas Rustemeyer and Dave Huitema will provide a roadmap.

At the **closing** of the meeting the chair thanked all StanDerm members for their attendance and their most valuable input. Information on the workshops held and on the on-going activities of the WG will soon be posted on StanDerm's webpage. Also, when asked if anybody would oppose to publish pictures taken during the events, nobody expressed disagreement. However, members who changed their mind could still inform the chair in writing by sending an e-mail.

He then briefly recalled the planned activities during the second grant year and reminded that the **next StanDerm workshop with all working groups will take place from Monday, 5 to Tuesday, 6 October 2015 in Copenhagen, Denmark**. Please save the date in your agenda and, should you attend the EADV 2015 make sure to plan your itineraries accordingly. See also Annex 7.
