

THOR ROI

The Health and Occupation Research network in the Republic of Ireland

Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health

The University of Manchester

<http://www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/oeh/research/thor/schemes/ireland>

Dr Melanie Carder, Dr Annemarie Money, Dr Louise Hussey & Prof Raymond Agius

June 2015

INTERIM REPORT, covering the reporting period: Jan 2015 to March 2015

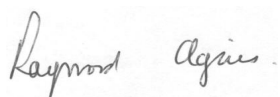
Dear colleague,

Thank you for your continuing participation in The Health and Occupation Research network in the Republic of Ireland. Please find attached the quarterly report based on the reporting data collected during the first quarter of this calendar year.

As you will see, the main new feature of this reporting quarter has been the commencement of recruitment of General Practitioners with an interest in occupational medicine. Participants in THOR-GP are offered free access to our online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) resource. This is entitled 'Electronic, Experiential, Learning, Audit and Benchmarking' (EELAB). EELAB has been accredited for CPD purposes by the Royal College of General Practitioners for three consecutive years. Together with pilot groups of occupational physicians in the Republic of Ireland as well as in the UK, we are developing a version of EELAB for occupational physicians, and plan to develop versions for chest physicians and dermatologists too. Thus we hope to further support participating THOR physicians' CPD by supplementing their reporting with interactive resources as well as the opportunity for reflective self learning.

Remember that participation in THOR is intended to support you in your individual practice besides supporting the 'common good' through collecting and disseminating data on work-related ill-health. Therefore if you require help such as information from us, please contact my colleague Dr Money by email: Annemarie.money@manchester.ac.uk

Best wishes



Raymond Agius

Professor of Occupational Medicine

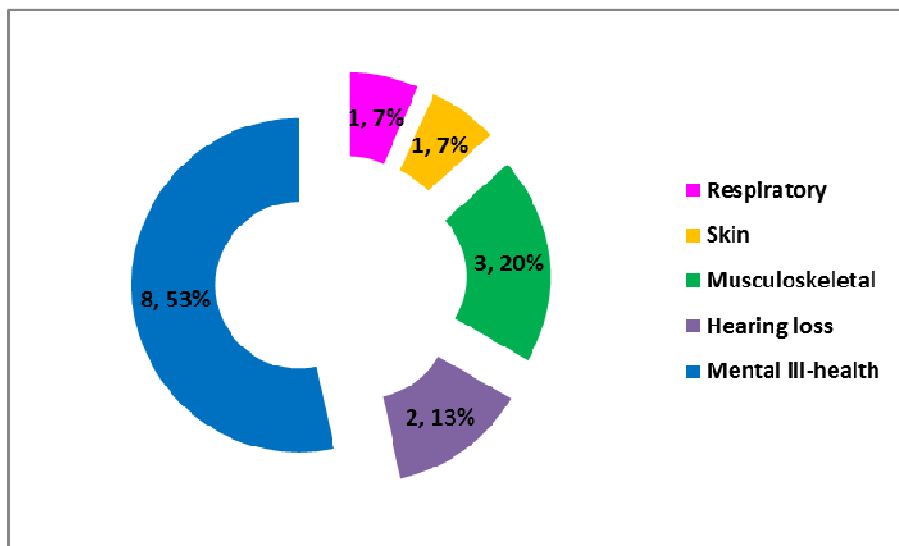
BACKGROUND

Chest physicians and dermatologists in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) have been reporting voluntarily to The Health and Occupation Research network (THOR-ROI) since January 2005, whilst occupational physicians have been reporting since January 2007. THOR-GP is the newest ROI scheme enabling general practitioners with an interest in occupational medicine to report, with data collection commencing in January 2015. This document provides a brief update of the cases reported during the inclusive period January to March 2015. The practice within all the THOR schemes is to work on an approximate three month lag to enable thorough data cleaning procedures to be carried out. This should not be viewed as a 'stand alone' document but as a supplement to previous interim quarterly reports and 'substantive' annual reports (the most recent of which was submitted in March 2015).

OVERVIEW OF CASE REPORTS

OPRA-ROI

The 25 occupational physicians currently reporting to OPRA-ROI returned 15 case reports during the first quarter of 2015, taking the total number of cases returned by OPs since the scheme commenced in 2007 to 1257. Figure 1 provides the proportion of work-related ill-health cases by major diagnostic category.



Just over half the cases were reported in females (53%) and the age range (all cases) was 39 to 60 years (mean age = 48years).

The majority of the cases (8/15 = 53%) were reported under the mental ill-health category and comprised 6 diagnoses of work-related stress and 2 diagnoses of anxiety and depression. The precipitating events (as recorded by the physicians) associated with the mental ill-health cases included bullying, relationship difficulties, boredom, work overload and management support.

A further 3/15 (20%) of cases reported by OPs this quarter were musculoskeletal disorders. 2 cases of mid and low back pain and 1 case of hip pain (diagnosed as trochanteric bursitis). The tasks and movements associated with the musculoskeletal cases (as recorded by the physicians) included body posture, accident and assault.

2 cases of noise induced hearing loss were also reported this quarter along with 1 case of respiratory disease (sinusitis attributed to dust and excessive heat) and 1 case of skin disease (varicose eczema attributed to diesel fuel).

6/15 (40%) of the cases reported this quarter were reported in the health and social care sector, 4/15 cases (27%) reported in the land transport sector (including bus and train operatives), 3/15 (20%) cases reported in the education sector, and 2/15 (13%) reported in the manufacture of food and beverages (abattoir). Occupations reported included psychiatric nurses, medical social worker, paramedic, meat inspectors, admin assistants, and bus refueller.

EPIDERM-ROI

The 13 dermatologists currently reporting to EPIDERM-ROI returned 5 cases of work-related skin disease for the first quarter of 2015 (total ever cases = 416).

All cases were reported as contact dermatitis with 3 diagnosed as irritant (beautician attributed to wet work and cleanser; pharmacist attributed to hand washing and alcohol gels; farmer attributed to antiseptic spray) and 2 diagnosed as allergic (chef attributed to rubber; healthcare assistant attributed to thiuram in gloves).

All but one of the five cases were females, the age range for cases was 22-77 years (mean age = 38 years).

SWORD-ROI

8 cases of work-related respiratory disease were reported by chest physicians between January and March 2015 (total ever cases reported = 125). In contrast with the cases of skin disease, all but one of the reported cases of lung disease were men. The mean age for all cases was 51 years (age range 26-70 years).

The cases were diagnosed as asthma (2 cases), bronchitis / emphysema (2 cases), pneumoconiosis (2 cases), inhalation accident (1 case), non-malignant pleural disease (1 case).

The industries reported were coal mining (3 cases), manufacturing (3 cases), construction (1 case), and warehousing activities (1 case). The suspected agents recorded by physicians for the 8 cases of work-related respiratory disease were coal dust; cyanoacrylates, asbestos and soya dust.

THOR-GP-ROI

22 general practitioners have been enrolled into the GP reporting scheme in ROI on a sample reporting basis (i.e. one randomly selected reporting month per calendar year). Reporting commenced in January 2015; and in the first quarter, GPs have returned 3 nil returns to the scheme.

NEWS

Dr James Hayes and Dr Peter Noone attended the SWORD (Thursday 26th March) and OPRA (18th June) annual advisory committee meetings respectively, held at the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health; presentations of the 2014 ROI summary statistics were given at each meeting.

REMINDER OF HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

We would again like to take this opportunity to encourage THOR-ROI reporters to contact us if they would like to present THOR-ROI or THOR-UK data at future meetings; simply email Annemarie.money@manchester.ac.uk