



80 Years of Excellence: Celebrating Occupational Health at Manchester

Wednesday 1st October 2025

18th Floor, Hyatt Manchester, 55 Booth St W, Manchester M15 6PQ

Event Summary:

Join us in celebrating the 80th anniversary of Occupational Health research and training at the University of Manchester. This milestone event will bring together our community of former staff, students, and esteemed guests to reflect on the remarkable achievements and contributions of the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH) and to explore future directions in the field.

The programme includes insightful lightning talks, a forward-looking panel session, and the distinguished Lane Lecture by Professor Malcolm Sim AM, followed by a reception. Your presence will make this celebration truly memorable as we honour our past and look forward to the future of Occupational Health research.

Programme

- **1-1:45pm: Registration - Tea / Coffee / Nibbles (In person session)**
- **1:45-2:45pm: Lightning talks: Research and Achievements in COEH and Occupational Health**
Chair David Fishwick (In person session)
 - **From Past to Present: The Evolution of Occupational Health at UoM**
Professor Martie van Tongeren (20 mins)

This lightning talk will explore the evolution of occupational health research at the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health and the wider University of Manchester, highlighting significant milestones and the impact of the centre's work on public health policy and practice.

It will also discuss the future directions of occupational health research, emphasising the ongoing commitment of the [Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health, Thomas Ashton Institute for Risk and Regulatory Research](#) and the University of Manchester to innovation and excellence in the field.

- **Pioneering Excellence: The Story of Our PGR Programme**
Dr Andrew Povey (20 mins)

This lightning talk will explore the rich history and achievements of the PhD/MPhil Occupational and Environmental Health programme. It will highlight the programme's role in shaping the careers of its graduates and its ongoing commitment to excellence and innovation in occupational and environmental health research.

- **Transforming Futures: The Postgraduate Programmes' journey and impact**
Dr Anne Clayson (20 mins)

This lightning talk will delve into the history, achievements and future directions of the programme, highlighting the transformative impact it has had on its alumni and the broader field of occupational health.

3-4pm: Panel Session: Shaping the Future: Emerging Directions in Occupational Health

Chair Martie van Tongeren (In person session)

This panel session will bring together leading experts to discuss the future direction of occupational health research. The session will explore emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in the field, with a focus on innovative approaches to improving worker health and safety. Panel members will share their insights on the latest research developments, policy implications, and practical applications that can shape the future of occupational health.

The discussion will cover a range of topics, including advancements in exposure assessment, the impact of new technologies on occupational health, and strategies for addressing emerging health risks in the workplace. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with the panellists through a Q&A session, gaining valuable insights into the future of occupational health research and its implications for practice and policy.

Panel members

- Professor Gillian Leng CBE - Chair of IIAC and former Chief Executive of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)
- Mrs Tash Heydon – Director of the Colt Foundation
- Professor David Fishwick – Clinical Senior Lecture, University of Manchester and Chief Medical Advisor for the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
- Professor Malcolm Sim AM – Emeritus Professor Monash University.

- **4-4.30pm: Lane Lecture registration, drinks, and nibbles (In person session)**

- **4.30-6pm: Lane Lecture and Q&A: The Artificial Stone Silicosis Epidemic: Lessons Learned for More Effective Prevention**

Professor Malcolm Sim AM, with introduction from Professor Duncan Ivison, President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Manchester. (In Person)

This lecture will include a summary of the research documenting silicosis cases among stonemasons, highlighting the main predictive and other factors which contributed to the development of this preventable occupational disease. The lecture will also cover how this research has informed policy and practice to minimise the burden of artificial stone silicosis, drawing upon the experience in Australia where artificial stone has now been banned and a wide range of regulatory and other prevention and screening measures have been introduced to reduce the risk of silicosis from other sources of crystalline silica exposure in the workplace.

- **6.00pm – 8.00pm: Reception (In person session)**