

National School of Occupational Health Newsletter



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Welcome to an insight into the NSOH. We hope you find this useful and welcome your feedback.

In this edition we will not only be giving you an update on what we have been up to but will be providing a synopsis of the following topics and will have links to the latest information relating to OH.

Latest School News

NSOH has moved from London to the East Midlands Deanery with Professor Jonathan Corne as our Postgraduate Dean. Jonathan is interested in widening participation in medicine, flexibility in training and inter-professional education.

Mandy Murphy (Deputy Head) has stepped down from her role. Mandy achieved a significant amount in her time at the school, working closely with organisations such as the Faculty of Occupational Health Nursing (FOHN) to pursue quality. Mandy supported numerous projects within education, including apprenticeship standards, an OH education framework, a career framework, the new SCPHN standards and a framework for practice educators, working alongside several stakeholders. Fortunately for all of us, Mandy continues in her role as a board member of the Council of Work and Health.

Dr Ali Hashtroudi continues to Head up the School and Professor Harj Kaul, remains the National Training Programme Director, both supporting the trainee program including ARCP process, alongside the wider growth of OH as a speciality for Medics to consider.

Janet O'Neill is now Deputy Head of NSOH and has replaced Mandy. Janet is an OH Nurse Advisor by background with experience working in the private OH sector over the last 20 +years, culminating in a clinical governance and training role. Janet's focus is on OH Nursing and the wider multi-disciplinary team e.g., Allied Health Professionals (AHPs).

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Conference

NSOH Conference will be held in the first quarter of 2023, the date, agenda and speakers to be confirmed.

The theme for the conference, is “Looking back to look forward”.. This will be a review of previous conference topics and how they have evolved over the last 6 years .



NSOH Updates

Workforce planning

is important to several stakeholders, including the Government Work and Health Unit, with whom the school is working within a Task & Finish Group. The first port of call of the Task & Finish group when considering the future OH workforce was to work with several stakeholders to gauge the concerns and potential solutions. One barrier noted was a lack of awareness of Occupational Health as a speciality and the need for opportunities to experience the speciality.

From this, a list of **shadow opportunities** for Student Medics, Doctors, Nurses, and Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) was created by Dr Shriti Pattani, President of the Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM). A list of participating organisations can be obtained via admin@som.org.uk. These shadow opportunities or tasters are open to anyone wanting to know more about Occupational Health

The second was to identify **placement opportunities** for student undergraduate nurses and Allied Health Professionals within OH. To do this we have been working with the Councils of Deans, placement leads, OH organisations and departments. These experiences play a vital role in preparing students for learning about OH in practice, raising awareness of work as a health outcome or goal and potentially choosing OH as a career in the future. We are encouraging OH organisations and departments to participate, it is not as onerous as people think and the benefits for both students and OH are significant. The school has a good information leaflet which includes information on free training for supervisors and funding. Please contact Janet.Oneill@hee.nhs.uk for more information or an informal chat.



Quote from Jasmine Duxbury-Wood -Associate Director of Nursing, Medigold

We recently had our first student join our Manchester team. We developed a timetable so they could experience several areas of the business, however, we learned they were interested in drug and alcohol rehabilitation, so we facilitated time with the drug and alcohol testing team and with one of our Occupational Health physicians with a background in drug and alcohol rehabilitation. At the end of the placement, we received some lovely feedback from the student, and they even advised that they are now considering a career in Occupational Health! We are looking forward to hosting our next student.

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Website

Please have a look at our website <https://www.eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/occupational-health/national-school-occupational-health> which has plans to develop. The school also provides free webinar's on a range of interesting topics, for example, Vocational Rehabilitation, Mental health, and Ionising radiation. The recordings can be found [Here](#) and our open to everyone via E-lfh.

Strategy

The school is updating the 2022 to 2027 strategy with objectives of workforce planning, a single approach to training and education, a quality management framework and creating a community of learning: meeting HEE's quality standards.

Updated Occupational Medicine Curriculum - August 2022



A new curriculum in Occupational Medicine was approved by the GMC and came into effect in August 2022. Further information about the curriculum, its implementation and FAQ can be found on the Faculty of Occupational Medicine's (FOM) website [here](#). Further guidance on how it applies to the ARCP process is

The NHS Growing OHWB strategy

The NHS is the biggest employer in Europe. In 2021 they revised the People Plan to invest in their people's health and well-being. This led to the Growing OH & Wellbeing strategy which focuses on:

- Growing the strategic identity of OHWB
- Growing OHWB services across systems
- Growing OHWB people
- Growing OHWB impact and evidence-based practice.

NHS England is investing in NHS OH & well-being of people, and other NHS healthcare professionals interested in a career in occupational health and therefore are providing access to various courses. For more information and to register interest please click [here](#). Other exciting projects are in the pipeline including a focus on the multidisciplinary OH & Wellbeing workforce which the NSOH will be supporting.

Education and training

The Diploma in Occupational Health Practice for nurses is now underway, with the first exams taking place in November. This is not an academic course but is accredited by FOM. The course will be made available for AHPs at some point next year. This foundation course is very useful for those looking to enter OH or looking to upskill without a university education. More information can be found on the FOM website [Here](#).

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- ◆ October SOM: The Musculoskeletal (MSK) Health Toolkit
- ◆ September SOM: Long Covid Guide for Managers
- ◆ September WHO: Mental Health at Work fact sheet, committing to increased access to OH
- ◆ August SOM Long Covid and return to work - what works
- ◆ July DWP: Menopause in the Workplace: How to enable fulfilling lives
- ◆ July Occupational Medicine Journal: Vol 72 Issue 6, Special issue Lung Disease and Silicosis
- ◆ July Work Foundation: The changing workplace: Enabling disability-inclusive hybrid working
- ◆ July DWP: Fit note changes enabling alternate health care professionals to issue
- ◆ June SOM: Time to act on climate change and health
- ◆ June FOHN: Career development framework (OH Nurses) What is OH & Employing OH Nurses
- ◆ June HSE: Work-related suicide
- ◆ May NMC: Standards for Proficiency of Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (OH)
- ◆ April CWH: BSRM Vocational Rehabilitation guidelines
- ◆ April CIPD: Health and well-being at work survey
- ◆ March DWP: Workplace health; applying all our health update

New developments

A new research centre for Occupational health is being developed as a centre for excellence in supporting collaborative, multi-disciplinary research: London Centre of Work and Health <https://www.lcwh.org/>

Events coming up

HSE Health at Work conference 15th November 2022 [HERE](#)

RCN SOM Occupational Health conference 25 November 2022 [HERE](#)

Health and Wellbeing at Work conference 14th to 15th March 2023 [HERE](#)

Opinion piece

Our current narrative supports the joined up working of public and private funded organisations to improve the UK workplace performance of workers, and to do this, we often talk about a multidisciplinary team in Occupational Health. However, overall, as occupational health practitioners (physicians/ nurses /physio's/ psychologist's/OT's/technicians /hygienists etc.), we have to remind ourselves that we share one thematic umbrella, which is to reduce the risk of work-related ill health and improve attendance and performance for workers. This involves the delivery of evidence based , safe, quality-assured, consistent clinical and health-related guidance, health surveillance and assessments as well as treatment. Perhaps, as Professor Harj Kaul said at a recent NSOH meeting, where we should ultimately be heading is interdisciplinary working, and simultaneously accepting that a convergence of our varied skills will help UK PLC recover from the pandemic going forward. Together we are greater than the sum of our parts.