



WORKING FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE

Research in Occupational,
Environmental and Public Health



IOM Research

Working for a Healthier Future

Our purpose is to provide independent research evidence which informs policy and regulation, thereby improving occupational, environmental and public health and making a positive difference to the health of workers and the general public alike. We publish results from all research projects through IOM Technical reports, reports published by our clients and/or publications in the peer-reviewed international scientific journals. We have published over 2,000 peer-reviewed papers and reports across the following subject areas which are publicly available through our online library service:

Nanosafety Research
Air Pollution Research
Chemical Exposure & Risk Assessment
Workplace Health & Wellbeing
Urbanisation, Climate & Sustainability
Exposome & Data Science

Our Work

IOM was established in 1969, with origins in occupational health research. We are a registered charity and not-for-profit body with a world-class reputation for pioneering workplace and environmental health research including the study of occupational cancers, dusts, human exposure and risk assessment for chemicals and other agents including nanomaterials, as well as changes in workforce conditions and behaviours. Our research areas also include environmental exposure, risk and impact assessments for both outdoor and indoor air pollution and other risk factors, such as pesticide exposure and second-hand tobacco smoke.

Our research clients include UK government departments, the European Commission and different European agencies, international research organisations and charities, UK Research Councils and various industry associations. We have been extremely successful in securing funding from the European Commission's 7th Framework and Horizon 2020 research programmes, particularly in the fields of nanomaterial risk assessment and environmental health.

Our Approach

IOM offers clients and partners a unique combination of qualities:

Independence, Integrity and Authority

We are rigorous in maintaining our position as an independent research organisation with a world-class reputation in order to offer our impartial expertise. We commit to our clients and collaborators to efficiently deliver research outputs that are of the highest possible quality.

Breadth of health expertise

The breadth of IOM's work over almost half a century enables us to have a comprehensive view of workplace and environmental factors affecting public health, and nanosafety research, and to link evidence drawn from different disciplines to give a wider perspective and inform policy and practice nationally and internationally.



Multi-disciplinary Research

At IOM we offer a broad range of scientific skills and research experience. Our research staff includes 5 Honorary Professors and more than 15 PhD level scientists in particular scientific areas and disciplines. Working together in research teams they bring a unique international and multi-disciplinary approach to our work, focussing on creating safer and healthier and more sustainable workplaces and environments.

Key Knowledge Areas

With a highly qualified team of around 20 research scientists, we are widely recognised by funders and collaborators in the following areas:

- Human Exposure Science
- Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology
- Toxicology
- Health Impact Assessment
- Nanotechnology and Nanomaterial Safety
- Air Pollution (Outdoor and Indoor Air Quality)
- Urban Environmental Health and Sustainability
- Pesticide Exposure
- Ergonomics and Human Factors
- The Ageing Workforce

Scientific Advisors

Many of our senior staff act as scientific advisors on various influential UK, European and International scientific advisory committees, including the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP), the Workplace Health Expert Committee (WHEC) and the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC) in the UK, the Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL) in the EU, BSI, CEN and ISO committees and a wide range of UK and international nanotechnology advisory bodies.

World Health Organisation Accreditation

IOM has been designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre in the field of occupational health since the early 1990s. Being recognised in this way reinforces our commitment to this field of study. In recent years, our contribution to the work of WHO has been principally on the topics of asbestos in the workplace, the risks associated with engineered nanoparticles, and the health issues associated with the ageing workforce.



World Health Organization
Collaborating Centre



Healthy-Polis Consortium

IOM co-ordinates the International Consortium for Urban Environmental Health & Sustainability (Healthy-Polis) which aims to reduce the health risks and impacts of climate change, weather extremes, air pollution and other forms of environmental contamination, and promote healthier and more sustainable lifestyles in urban areas.

Healthy-Polis facilitates international research collaboration, enhances scientific understanding and opportunities for environmental and public health training and capacity building, and engages with key stakeholders and the public.



Examples of our Research

Our active multi-disciplinary approach to projects enables us to work closely with a diverse range of collaborators, enabling complex and often ground-breaking projects to be undertaken. Examples of such work include:-

- Epidemiological studies of occupational exposure and cancer and other chronic diseases
- Evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of regulatory workplace health interventions
- Quantification of the mortality burden of outdoor air pollution and development of health impact assessment methodologies
- Assessment of the public health benefits of city policies to reduce climate change and improve environmental sustainability
- Development and evaluation of exposure tools, e.g. sampling methodology and exposure models
- Development of the concepts and methodologies related to the Exposome and Big Data research
- Application of novel sensor technologies in order to better estimate personal exposure to environmental agents
- Knowledge transfer and intervention studies to improve health and wellbeing of the workforce, including older workers and for sickness absence management
- Developing, testing and applying exposure, toxicity and risk assessment methodologies for engineered nanomaterials
- Collection, management and analysis for workplace and environmental health and risk factors including pesticide exposures, and nanomaterials toxicology.

Full information on all our IOM research scientists, key disciplines and contact details can be found at www.iom-world.org.



Year Founded: 1969 (fully independent since 1990)

Head Office Location:

IOM Edinburgh, Research Avenue North, Riccarton, Edinburgh, Midlothian, EH14 4AP

Tel/Fax: Tel: +44 (0)131 449 8000, Fax: +44 (0)131 449 8084

Website: www.iom-world.org

Email: info@iom-world.org

Number of Offices:

From our UK base and headquarters in Scotland, IOM has three regional UK offices (Edinburgh, Stafford and Chesterfield), serving our UK, European and North American clients.

We also have a well-established research, consulting and training centre in Southeast Asia with the opening of IOM Singapore in 2012.

Number of Employees: 100

Mission:

IOM aims to benefit those at work and in the community by providing quality, research, consultancy and training in health, hygiene and safety and by maintaining its independent impartial position as an international centre of excellence.



Core Research Offerings:

IOM's core research capability is built around:

- Workplace Exposure and Health Research
- Environmental Exposure and Health Research
- Nanosafety Research (Technology and Materials)

IOM also has highly experienced consultants in the fields of:

- Public Health
- Ergonomics and Human Factors
- Occupational Hygiene
- Hospital Ventilation Validation
- Asbestos Training and Consultancy Services
- Chemical, Mineral and Biological Analysis
- Expert Witness Services

Principal Accreditations:

- The World Health Organisation (as an Occupational Health Collaborating Centre)
- The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) for its Laboratory Testing and Inspection Services to ISO17025
- NQA for ISO 14001 (Environmental Standard)