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Oral Presentation

S30. TOXICOLOGICAL APPROACH TO INDUSTRIAL EXPOSURE: WHERE ARE WE?

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A large number of working people are injured, become ill or die world wide every year, as a result of chemical exposure at work. From the occupational health point of view, the main problem in the work place is wide and unsafe use of toxic chemicals, especially in small and middle-scale work shops. In all countries, the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Systems aim to prevent and control occupational exposures by the help of different measures, including education, inspection and engineering controls. The main barriers to prevention is cost, time, insufficient man power, social pressures, technical barriers, individual right sand lack of education. Information and awareness on how toxic chemicals pose risk to human health is the main step in controlling health risks of toxic exposure in the work place. For this reason, the strength of toxicology-related sciences in the area is the main promoter in the solution of this problem.

In Turkey, insufficiency of diagnosis of occupational diseases and statistical determination is the under lying etiological factor in low number of occupational patients. In this case, toxicology, as one of the main instruments of occupational health's determinants, is normally out of focus. There is approximately 19.000.000 registered working population in Turkey and Social Security Institute have announced only 77 compensated patients due to toxic exposures in the work place in 2012. These numbers do not reflect the truth. It is obvious that OHS system should be re-designed quickly and the first step should be improving the art of "toxicological approach to toxic industrial exposures in the work places".