

To deal with the ever expanding areas of research in occupational health, the Board of Directors of the Journal has appointed five new associate editors to help with the processing of articles in biological monitoring and toxicology, intervention research, return to work and related economic aspects, occupational medicine, shift work stress and cognitive ergonomics, and reviews and occupational health services.



Dr Antero Aitio (born 1943) is the team leader in the Biomonitoring Team of the Centre of Expertise "Work Environment Development" in the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health. He is an MD by training and defended his MScD thesis on biochemical toxicology in the Turku University, in Turku, Finland. Before joining the Biomonitoring Laboratory at the Finnish Institute of Occupational and Health, he specialized in clinical chemistry. Antero Aitio's research interests focus mainly on the development and use of biomonitoring methods for the assessment of chemical exposure and the risks involved, as well as on the underlying sciences of toxicology, kinetics and metabolism. He has also spent 12 years in chemical risk assessment work in the International Agency for Research on Cancer and the International Programme on Chemical Safety within the World Health Organization.

Dr Alex Burdorf (born 1958) is associate professor in occupational health at the Department of Public Health at Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. He trained as an occupational hygienist and epidemiologist at the University Wageningen in the Netherlands. Currently, he is responsible for a research group in occupational health dealing with a variety of work-related disorders, such as mesothelioma, reproductive disorders, and musculoskeletal disorders. The research programme includes etiologic studies on such factors as physical load and low-back pain, as well as cost-effectiveness studies on interventions in ergonomics and occupational health care. In the past few years, he has worked as a visiting scientist at the Sahlgrenska Hospital in Göteborg, Sweden, the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston in the United States, and in the Liberty Mutual Research Center in Hopkinton, in the United States.



Professor Bengt Järholm (born 1947) received his MD in 1975 and defended his doctoral thesis in Göteborg, Sweden, in 1981. He moved from Göteborg to Umeå in 1996 as professor in occupational and environmental medicine. Since 2005, Bengt Järholm has been dean of the Medical Faculty, Umeå University in Umeå, Sweden. His research covers epidemiology, cancer, respiratory diseases, and clinical toxicology. His main responsibilities as an associate editor will be occupational and environmental health and epidemiology.

Dr Göran Kecklund (born 1962) is a researcher at the National Institute for Psychosocial Medicine (Sweden) and at the Department of Public Health Sciences, Karolinska Institutet (Sweden). Göran Kecklund is an experimental psychologist, and his research is related to how workhours (in particular in shift work) and stress affect sleep and recovery, sleepiness, health, and safety. Sleepiness and performance impairment in transportation, especially driving, and fatigue modeling are other examples of his key research areas. His studies emphasize physiological recordings (eg, electroencephalography, electrooculography, heart rate), biological stress markers (eg, cortisol), subjective ratings, and performance testing, including simulators.



Dr Jos Verbeek (born 1954) is a researcher dealing with occupational health services both at the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health in Kuopio, Finland, and at the Coronel Institute for Occupational Health in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Jos Verbeek's research focuses mainly on improving occupational health through better applications of available scientific evidence with special interest in return-to-work issues and systematic reviews. He is coordinator of the Occupational Health Field in the Cochrane Collaboration and was secretary of the ICOH Scientific Committee on Health Services Research and Evaluation in Occupational Health from 2000 to 2006.