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45th (Nordisk Arbejdsmiljö Möde) Nordic Conference on the Work Environment and Health (NCWEH), Rebild Bakker, Denmark, 1—3 September 1997

The tradition of arranging annual conferences among the Nordic institutes of occupational health is long. These conferences clearly show the immense and long-term experience of the institutes in many aspects of occupational hygiene and medicine. Along the line of more dissemination and the increase in activities and involvement among the institutes and their colleagues towards European collaboration, including the Baltic countries, the internationalization of the Nordic conferences has been a topic of repetitive interest for some years.

The publication of the papers in this special section of this issue of the *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health* should be considered in the light of these movements towards internationalization and harmonization within the European community and the desire of the Nordic institutes to expand their contacts with new colleagues in the Baltic and northern European regions.

On the basis of an evaluation of the abstracts received by the program committee, some of the persons presenting papers were invited to submit their reports for full peer review. The papers finally selected for publication cover research on sick leave due to musculoskeletal diseases, symptoms in relation to mouse work, the experimental challenge of organic vapors to subjects with long-term exposure, and audit procedures for health services.

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Peder Wolkoff, Guest Editor
National Institute of Occupational Health, Denmark
Peder Wolkoff
National Institute of Occupational Health
Lersø Parkallé 105
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø Denmark
[E-mail: pwo@ami.dk]