Occupational Medicine in Germany
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Outline
- Occupational Medicine at Universities
- DGAUM – German society for occupational and environmental medicine
- Legal framework of OM in Germany

OM at Universities in Germany
- 36 universities with a Medical Faculty
- 26 institutes for OM, two vacant chairs
- Broad variety of research topics
- Very small institutes
- Therefore research activities sometimes limited

Organisation
Scientific society: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Arbeitsmedizin und Umweltmedizin e.V.
www.dgaum.de

Berufsverband: Verband Deutscher Betriebs- und Werksärzte
www.vdbw.de
DGAUM

- education and training in OM and EM
- creating a scientific basis for prevention by analysing the causes of work related diseases and
- giving evidence based recommendations for preventive measures for
  - work related hazards
  - work related diseases
  - and occupational diseases and work accidents

Aims of the DGAUM

Physicians with a qualification in OM

DGAUM März 2004
Education and training

Curriculum for medical students (with examination)
Specialist for occupational medicine (5ys of training)
Physicians with special knowledge in OM (3ys of training)
Continuous medical education

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DGAUM März 2004

Guidelines Occupational Medicine

www.dgaum.de
Responsibilities on occupational health and safety

Employer

- … is responsible for health and safety at workplace
- … has the duty to take care for the employee
- … mandates occ. health physicians and specialists for occ. safety
- … has to cover all costs for safety and health
State... 
- ... adopts acts and regulations and rules on occupational safety:
  - Arbeitschutzgesetz
  - Arbeits sicherheitsgesetz
  - Verordnung zur arbeitsschutzhilfsmittel Vorsorge
  - u.a.
- ... controls acts and adherence of acts, and safety rules ...

Statutory accident insurance...
- ... is part of the obligatory social security system

Statutory accident insurance

- members:  • compulsory membership of all enterprises
- insured:    • all employed persons, students, pupils ... 
- financing:  • 100% by employer
- fee:        • 1.6 % of the aggregate wages (depending on accident risk)
- costs:      • 2008: 13.3 billion €
- decision-making body:  • employers and employees 50/50
Occupational diseases in Germany

Quelle: Nowak, Drexler, Kraus, Letzel, DMW 138 (2013)

Occupational diseases in Germany 2010
(recognized and newly compensated)

Quelle: Nowak, Drexler, Kraus, Letzel, DMW 138 (2013)

(Main)Tasks of the occupational physician in Germany

OM in Germany

81 million inhabitants

40 million workforce

50% of employees don’t know their OHP
(role of OHP or do they have no OHP?)

Problems:
- Added value of OM is not recognized by many employers
- neither state nor insurances fulfil their control function sufficiently
Changing work environment

Main challenges for the future

Ageing workforces

Improvement of individual case management with chronic diseases at the workplace

Improvement of Return to work management

Psychosocial aspects at the workplace

Lack of OHPs

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Thank you for your attention!