

Occupational Health and Diseases in Built Environment

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Message from the Guest Editor

It is well known that health and safety performance in the construction industry is poor. Past efforts to improve health and safety performance in the sector have tended to focus more on the safety aspect, particularly on reducing and eliminating physical injuries. Occupational health in construction tends to be neglected because it is usually invisible, and its impact does not manifest immediately. Furthermore, the end products of the construction industry are our built environment, comprising buildings, infrastructure, and facilities that we use daily. The impact of this built environment on health and wellbeing is significant since the built environment itself will typically last for decades. Therefore, this SI aims to bring together up-to-date research in this significant, yet underexplored area:

- Mental health and wellbeing in construction;
- Occupational diseases in construction, such as musculoskeletal disorders, muscular stress, cardiovascular diseases, etc.;
- The physical and psychological health of building users;
- The impact of built environment on community health and wellbeing;
- Post-occupancy health and wellbeing evaluation of buildings and facilities.



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Current urban environments are home to multi-modal transit systems, extensive energy grids, a building stock, and integrated services. Sprawling neighborhoods are composed of buildings that accommodate living and working quarters. However, it is expected that the cities and communities of the future will face complex and enormous challenges, including maintenance, interconnectivity, resilience, energy efficiency, and sustainability issues, to name but a few. A smart city uses advanced technologies and a digital infrastructure to improve the outcomes in every aspect of a city's operations. A smart building optimizes the experience of occupants, staff, and management by using a modern and connected environment. Innovations in technology that can bring dramatic improvements to design, planning, and policy are critical in developing the cities and buildings of the future.

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