

July 2023

FORUM NEWS

Conference Review – Helsinki 2023

Challenges of a Changing World in the Spotlight in Helsinki

In early June, we had the pleasure of gathering in summery Helsinki for the European Forum 2023 event. The theme of this year's conference was "Insurance against Accidents at work and Occupational Diseases in a changing world."

This theme is highly relevant, as the world has experienced various changes. Major crises such as the global COVID-19 pandemic have revolutionised work practices and caused economic uncertainty. Additionally, the world has been shaken by the aggression of Russia, which has increased feelings of insecurity and led to an energy crisis. Meanwhile, all these calamities have taken place amidst the ongoing climate crisis.

On the first day of the conference, our focus was on the meetings of the Working Groups. At the end of the day, we had the pleasure of enjoying Finnish midsummer festivities accompanied by music and delicious food at the Get Together gathering.

One of the most remote speakers at the conference was Heather Lore, the executive director of the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC) in the United States. She emphasised that although different countries may have different compensation systems for occupational accidents, we still face similar challenges and can learn from one another. Work methods and locations are changing, medicine is advancing, and technology is progressing, regardless of our geographical locations.



"Janne Reini, the CEO of TVK, opened the seminar day together with presenter Peter Nyman." | © TVK

All conference presentations, including the brief interviews with keynote speakers Heather Lore, Annick Starren, and Katri Saarikivi, will be made available to view on our website.



"Tune your environment to induce relaxation", Brain Researcher Katri Saarikivi urged. | © TVK

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During the remaining part of the conference day, participants had the opportunity to choose between two parallel topics: “Vision Zero” and “Telework.” The event concluded with a presentation by Katri Saarikivi, a Finnish cognitive scientist who provided valuable insights on how experts can thrive in cognitively demanding contemporary environments. Good nutrition, exercise, sufficient sleep, stress management, continuous learning, and strong personal relationships remain crucial factors, supported by scientific research.



“A seaside villa awaits its evening guests.” | © TVK



“Stretch break” | © TVK

We would like to express our gratitude to all who participated in the European Forum event in Helsinki. Together, we created a remarkable event! We send the preparations team our warmest wishes for enthusiasm and success for the upcoming year. See you in Croatia! ●

The TVK Team.

We spent the evening in a maritime setting at a villa-style restaurant near Helsinki. The night was crowned by the dazzling performance of Club for Five, Finland’s most popular a cappella group. As we concluded the Plenary Assembly on Friday, it was time to wish everyone a safe journey back home.

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Workers' compensation systems in the US

One of our keynote speakers, Heather Lore, summed up her presentation by answering five questions. Thank you, Heather!



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1. State the main content of your presentation in a few sentences.

Workers' compensation systems in the US, all state-based rather than federally-run, deliver medical care and indemnity benefits to workers who have been injured on the job. These systems are dealing with challenges and trends similar to other workers' compensation systems around the world, including telework; artificial intelligence; digitalization; access to care; and disability prevention. The workers' compensation community in the US is working to find solutions to these challenges and ensure workers and employers are taken care of in the best ways possible.

2. Why is this topic important?

Through learning more about how different systems address these issues, we can improve care and support for both workers and employers everywhere.

3. What do you want us to remember and learn from your presentation?

I would like for everyone to learn that while our workers' compensation systems may function differently, we are experiencing many of the same challenges. Workplaces are changing, new technologies are emerging every day, medicine is advancing, and new ideas about disability prevention are coming forward. We share in these challenges, and in that, we can learn from each other.

4. What will happen in the near future in the topic you are presenting?

In many of these topics, we're seeing changes every day. Staying on top of and ahead of these issues will help us help better serve our communities. Stay connected and aware!

5. From which web address can you get more information on the subject?

The IAIABC has information on many of these topics on its website at www.iaiaabc.org. I would also be glad to talk with anyone about these topics and more; I can be reached at hlore@iaiaabc.org. ●