

UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTÓNOMA DE MÉXICO



Faculty of Medicine
Division of Graduate Studies
Coordination of Health at Work

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UNAM
Facultad de Medicina

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UNAM
Facultad de Medicina

History of Occupational Health in Mexico and Latin America

Real dictated Decrees by the Counsel of Indies on occupational health. (1541 - 1601)

- It was prohibited to work in days Sunday and festivals days.
- It was established that the Indians of cold weather could not be carried to work to warm weather neither warm weather to cold weather .
- The men, when was transferred them to work from a region to another, they should go accompanied by their family.
- The Indians who were suffering an accident by the work continued receiving the half of its salary to its total re-establishment and was obligatory to give them medical processing.

- It was prohibited that the less than 18 years old charged heavy merchandise.
- It was obliged the bosses of the "coca" and the "añil" to that had doctors to attend the injured and to the sick.
- If the miners by industrial accident passed away, should be given to their family money and the coffin.
- In the transition of the Cologne to the independence the first antecedent of social security we find it with the Liberator Simón Bolívar, when February 15, 1819 indicated:
- "The perfect government system is one that produces the greatest possible happiness, greater social security and political stability."

Latin America

- With social movements initiated in the early twentieth century, emerging technology based early attempts to protect workers.
- In Central and South America begins legislative development in Guatemala, Salvador, Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay and later throughout Latin America to be the work accident and occupational disease as labor rights protected by the State.

Peru

- In 1940 was created the National Department of Industrial Hygiene, Ministry of Health and Social Assistance.
- In 1948, according to a bilateral agreement between the governments of Peru and the United States, researchers led by Dr. John Bloomfield, the American Corporate Services took over the functions of the National Department of Industrial Hygiene, making it the Institute of Health Occupational organizing occupational health services in Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Colombia and Venezuela, becoming the First Training Center in Occupational Health and Air Quality in Latin America.

- In 1963 with financial support from the Special Fund of the United Nations and the technical assistance of the Pan American Health Organization, created the Institute of Occupational Health and Air Pollution in Chile.
- The advancement of occupational health stopped partially in the 60th and 70th due to political, social and economic factors that affected Latin America.
- In 1965 he started graduate courses for engineers, doctors and chemists in the Americas, creating academic programs at universities in countries like Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Cuba and Mexico.

Argentina

- In 1904 John Biale Massé describes the state of the working classes at the beginning of the century.
- In second decade of the last century began to enter the factory clinic.
- The work and the development of occupational health increase with the contribution of Feinmann, Bosio, Coni, Wilde, Palacios, Urbandt, Boccia, Reggi, Francone, Kaplan and Antoni.
- In 1934 he founded the Argentina Society of Sports Medicine and Labour.

- Moving forward in time and with the sanction of the Law on Health and Safety at Work in the year of 1972, began its work in Argentina Services Prevention for which were divided into two areas clearly defined: Medicine labor and Health and Safety at Work.
- The Institute of Hygiene and Social Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Buenos Aires has successfully completed training the formation of high level academic specialists.
- Dr. Juan Biale Massé (1876-1907). Precursor of occupational health, "First Professor of Labour Law and Labour Law Precursor in Latin America"
- Dr. Donato Boccia, First Professor of Occupational Medicine of Argentina.

Chile

- In 1924, he created the Workers' Compensation Act legally established mandatory employer liability for accidents and occupational diseases of employees, but not obliged to pay that would cover such liability.
- Mandatory Labor Insurance Fund originated Injuries, which gave the work accidents and occupational ill with conditions, full medical care of good quality and no cost, subsidies, allowances and pensions.

Colombia

- 1904
General Rafael Uribe, was the first to propose a policy aimed at safety of workers, forced to care for the elderly who could no longer work; enacted laws on occupational accidents and protection of children, young woman and women in the workshops and field work.
- 1915
Congress has forced companies to pay for medical care and compensation for disability or death and to pay the funeral expenses.

- 1934
An Office of Occupational Medicine, acknowledging the accident work and occupational diseases.
This office became the Department of Occupational Medicine with qualification and evaluation functions of the accident and diseases.
- 1935
It provides employment law, citing the risks of working.
- 1950
It takes the first table of occupational diseases.

Cuba

Before the triumph of the Revolution, the activities of protection and occupational health were virtually nonexistent.

- 1961
It creates the Department of Hygiene of the Work and Medical Care Section of the Workers.
- 1964
Issuing the "General Rules for the Organization of Protection and Hygiene"
- 1967
It implements the Regulation of Pesticides.

- Beginning of the 70th
Creating the "labor polyclinics."
The Confederation of Workers of Cuba began forming their own inspectors.
- 1977
Establishing the Institute of Occupational Medicine in order to carry out research, teaching, standards and medical care.
- Mid 80 th
Initiates Program Family Physician (a doctor and a nurse in every workplace).
It creates the Regulation of Hygiene of the Work.
- 1983 - 1991
Master of Occupational Health for Spanish-speaking foreign professionals.

- 1991
They include national professionals to the Master of Occupational Health.
The Institute of Occupational Medicine changed its name to National Institutes of Health Workers, where courses, diploma and Master of Health Workers.

Dr. Antonio Granda Ibarra.
Father of Occupational Medicine in Cuba

Uruguay

- In 1911 was created the State Insurance Bank Insurance and Occupational Accidents and Diseases.
- In 1914, was pointed out the responsibility of employers for health and safety of their workers.
- In 1915 was established the working day of 8 hours a day in the industry.
- In 1950 was created the Honorary Commission of Unhealthy work.
- In 1996 was established the National Council for Safety and Health at Work, an organization of high responsibility in the subject to date.

Mexico

- During the French invasion of Mexico, in 1864 Maximilian of Habsburg, Emperor of Mexico, passed a Law on Workers and one on Mining, which mentioned some aspects of prevention of accidents.
- In the 1857 Constitution only mentions "we must protect workers."
- 1906
Were dictated laws on occupational accidents.
- Were dictated the first law in accepting the occupational hazard.

- **1910**
Minimum working age, 14 years old and working day of 8 hours.
- **Plan of Guadalupe, 1913**
Prohibiting child labor.
Working day of 8 hours.
Proposal to legislate domestic work.
Obligation of contracts.
Recognition of occupational diseases.
- **Yucatan, 1915**
Earliest prevention of occupational accidents and illnesses.
Obligation in the workshops have good lighting, ventilation and sanitary facilities.
First rules of safe use of machinery and steam boilers.

- **Hidalgo, 1915**
Workmen's Compensation Act, "employers are responsible for workplace accidents."
- **Coahuila, 1916**
Labor Law Gustavo Espinosa Mireles: Obligation of employers to cover injured workers' wages for six months and defines disability in full, temporary and perpetual.
- **1917**
The Mexican Constitution provides that employers are responsible for occupational accidents and illnesses, as well as the obligation to carry out preventive measures.
- **1931**
Creation of the Federal Labor Law.

Dr. Enrique Arreguín Vélez (1907 – 1989)

- Professor of Labour and Social Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, National University of Mexico.
- Head of Industrial Hygiene of the Ministry of Labour.
- He created the Mexican Society of Hygiene and Occupational Medicine.
- Head of Risk Services and Disability Work.
- President of the commission American Regional Prevention for Risk Professionals.
- Publications: The protection of workers' health risks of working in social insurance.

Dr. Jorge Osorio Fernández (1923 - 2009) Father of Occupational Health in Mexico

- Starts as a doctor at the factory.
- Doctor in the Department of Risk Professionals Mexican Social Security Institute.
- The Pan American Health Organization, I scholarship to study Masters in Industrial Medicine at Kettering Institute of the University of Cincinnati.
- Coordinate courses on Health and Social Security in the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies (CIESS).
- President of the Mexican Society of Occupational Medicine.
- Founder of the specialty of occupational medicine in Mexico.

- Technical Secretary of the American Regional Commission on Prevention of Occupational Risks of the Inter American Conference on Social Security (CISS).
- Health and Safety Advisory Committee Working American Permanent Social Security and International Affairs Department of the Mexican Institute of Social Security.
- He created the Health Unit at Work in the Faculty of Medicine, National University of Mexico.
- He designed the curriculum of the Master of Occupational Health in the Autonomous Metropolitan University.
- PAHO consultant.
- Head of the Department of Social Medicine, School of Medicine, Autonomous University of Yucatán

- Counsel for four decades of workers' organizations:
 - Mexican Union of Electricians
 - Union of Workers of Mexico's National Autonomous University.
 - Union of Workers of the Autonomous Metropolitan University
 - Union of Telephone Workers of Mexico.
 - National Union of Miners and Metalworkers.
 - Air Traffic Controllers.
- Author of books: "The Worker's Struggle for their Health" and "Occupational Health and Workers"

Legislation Development of occupational health in Latin America

YEAR	COUNTRY
1911	El Salvador and Peru
1914	Uruguay
1915	Argentina
1916	Chile, Colombia and Panama
1919	Brazil
1921	Ecuador
1923	Venezuela
1924	Costa Rica and Bolivia
1927	Paraguay
1930	Nicaragua
1931	Mexico
1932	Dominican Republic
1946	Guatemala
1952	Honduras

