

Martin Kuster

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Summary

Maintaining the physical and mental health of people at work is my passion with prevention taking precedence over treatment.

During my career at Novartis, I developed and implemented programs covering all facets of the workplace: occupational medicine, toxicology, environmental health, workplace safety, industrial hygiene, ergonomics, biosafety, mental health, and pandemic preparedness – including the medical part during COVID-19.

Experience

01/2000 – 03/2021
Basel

Head Occupational Health & Biosafety, Novartis International/NBS REFS

Delivery of Occupational Medicine in Novartis:

Co-Author of the first Novartis guiding documents on Occupational Health. Revised, updated, augmented, and implemented this set of documents over the years, leading to the guideline "Occupational Medicine" in 2017.

Conceptualized, implemented, and authored the "handbook" – a best practice document repository for aligning delivery of occupational medicine at Novartis.

Authored and implemented an office/travel ergonomics program in 2008.

Regular expert medical authoritative input into investigations, evaluations, and remediation of occupational illnesses in Novartis locations.

Pandemic Preparedness (2003 – 2021):

Responsible medical lead for writing and implementing Novartis' pandemic plans for SARS-CoV-2, Influenza, Ebola, and Zika virus.

Setting internal Occupational Exposure Limits:

Written and/or reviewed internal guiding principles regarding OEL-setting. Reviewing and shaping most of the 1200 OEL set since 1999 as responsible physician.

Worksite Health Promotion:

Developed and implemented "Be Healthy", an intuitively understandable scientific program driving behavioral changes in life-style. We took particular care to include existing programs in sites and make it culturally as diverse as possible.

Developed and implemented programs focusing on mental health at work.

Biosafety:

Since 2008, I have revised, updated, augmented, and implemented existing biosafety guiding documents. I led the overhaul of the Novartis Biosafety database – important for biological risk assessment.

I have conceptualized and implemented the summary safety statement, a document similar to the chemical safety data sheet. I reviewed the content of all those documents until February 2021.

I have set the Novartis standard for post exposure prophylaxis for lentiviral vectors and Cercopithecine Herpes Virus.

Expert input and program implementation beyond Occupational Medicine:

Safety: Co-authored and implemented programs in behavior based safety and accident investigation. Responsible lead for the Novartis standard in workplace health risk assessment.

Industrial Hygiene: Standardized and implemented the Novartis approach to evaluation of industrial hygiene data.

Environmental Health: Medical lead of the Novartis position on nanoparticles, for position papers on pharmaceuticals in the environment, and for several remediation projects – most notably the Lindane remediation next to Basel from 2014 to 2019.

Internal Health/Safety/Environment-Auditing (2003 – 2015):

Until the re-organization of the global Health/Safety/Environment department, I participated in health and safety audits as co-auditor of Novartis sites, focusing on medical and biosafety aspects.

- 01/1999 – 12/1999
East Hanover, NJ, USA
Director Occupational Health, Novartis International
Transition from being a site physician to **global** Head Occupational Health & Biosafety
- 08/1994 – 12/1998
Basel
Occupational Physician, Sandoz AG / Novartis AG
Responsible for the St. Johann site of Novartis whilst working on the occupational medical frontline
- 1985 – 1994
Switzerland, USA
Medical Resident
- Occupational Medicine | Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA
 - Internal Medicine & HIV Clinic | Regionalspital Langenthal
 - Surgery | Kantonsspital Aarau
 - Obstetrics & Gynecology | Spital Uznach
 - Pathology | Universitätsspital Bern
 - Occupational Medicine | Brown-Boveri Corporation, Baden

Memberships

- European Biosafety Association, Member**
2005 – heute
- 2009 - 2012: Member of the Board
 - 2010 - 2011: President
- Swiss MAK-Kommission, Member**
2001 – heute
- Swiss Society of Occupational Medicine, Member**
1988 – heute
- Swiss Medical Society, Member**
1988 – heute
- Swiss Toxicological Information Center, Member of the Board**
2001 – 2019

Education

- Master of Occupational Health (MOH),**
Harvard School of Public Health
1992 – 1993 | Boston, MA, USA
- Medical Doctorate (Dr. med.),**
University of Basel, Medical School
1986 | Basel
- Medical Degree (Med. pract.),**
University of Basel, Medical School
1978 – 1984 | Basel

Languages

German	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>
English	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>
Französisch	<div style="width: 80%;"></div>
Italian	<div style="width: 30%;"></div>

Skills

Negotiating without authority	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>
Microsoft Office	<div style="width: 90%;"></div>
Industrial Hygiene Data Analyst Software	<div style="width: 80%;"></div>
TAP-root (Accident Investigation Software)	<div style="width: 70%;"></div>

Publications as Co-Author

- Aerosol Release by Healthy People during Speaking: Possible Contribution to the Transmission of SARS-CoV-2,**
International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health [↗](#)
2020
- Classification of Dermal Sensitizers in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing,**
Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology [↗](#)
2015
- Cancer risk of immunosuppressants in manufacturing,**
Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology [↗](#)
2014
- Predictors of Success for Smoking Cessation at the Workplace: A Longitudinal Study,**
Respiration [↗](#)
2013
- Work-Family-Balance im Topmanagement: Konflikt zwischen Arbeit und Familie als Mediator der Beziehung zwischen Stressoren und Befinden,**
Zeitschrift für Arbeits- und Organisationspsychologie [↗](#)
2005

Certificates

- Lead Auditor Certificate (OHSAS 18001)**
British Standard Institute, 2014
- Facharzt Arbeitsmedizin (FMH)**
1994
- Facharzt für Allgemeine Innere Medizin (FMH)**
1992

Lecturer in Occupational Medicine

- 2010 – heute
University of Lausanne / ETH Zürich, Diploma of Advanced Studies: "Work and Health"
- 2000 – 2007
University of Basel, Medical School, Occupational Medicine for Medical Students