

# Center of Occupational and Radiological Medicine of Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital (Center)

**Maija Eglite**, professor

Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Contacts: [Maija.Eglite@rsu.lv](mailto:Maija.Eglite@rsu.lv), phone +0037167409139



# About the Center

---

- The Center is a structural part of the Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital located in Riga, Pilsonu Street 13. The Center was established in 1976. In 1990 it was reorganized and enlarged.



# Structure of the Center

---

- The Center consists of 3 important structural parts, all working in a joint team, however each performing different tasks:
- The **outpatient department**;
- The **clinical part** (12 beds in Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital);
- The State **Registry for patients** with occupational diseases and persons exposed to radiation after Chernobyl accident.



# Main tasks of the Center(I)

---

- To organize and provide help (consultations, diagnostics and treatment) for the patients with
  - ✓ occupational diseases
  - ✓ for the workers with high risk for the development of occupational diseases
  - ✓ for the Chernobyl clean-up workers or persons that have lived in the contaminated zones near Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant and for their children
  - ✓ for the persons working with the ionizing radiation;



# Main tasks of the Center (II)

---

- ❑ To manage employees compulsory health checks;
- ❑ To provide early diagnostics, treatment and rehabilitation of work related diseases;
- ❑ To coordinate scientific investigations in the field of occupational health;
- ❑ To carry out the training for students and post-graduates.



# Main tasks of the Center (III)

---

To create data base about health status of Latvian occupational patients and persons that have received ionizing radiation;

Currently there are registered

- ❑ **10 000** patients with occupational diseases
- ❑ **5 000** Chernobyl clean-up workers
- ❑ **1000** Chernobyl clean-up worker's children



# Latvian Society of occupational physicians

**Maija Eglite**, professor

Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Contacts: [Maija.Eglite@rsu.lv](mailto:Maija.Eglite@rsu.lv), phone +37167409139



# Latvian Society of occupational physicians





# The development of Latvian Society of occupational physicians in 18 years

---

- Society has been built in 9th december of **1994**
- Number of members in the society by years  
1994th – **35 physicians**  
2004th – 347 physicians  
2009th – 434 physicians  
The number of members in 18 years has increased **12,7 times**  
In 2012th the number of members in the society are **445 physicians**



# Main objectives of the Latvian Society of occupational physicians (1)

---

- To develop occupational health and occupational medical speciality in Latvia,
- to participate in occupational health and safety strategy development in the country,
- to take part in the development of regulatory documents in Latvia,
- to bring qualification of specialists.



# Main objectives of the Latvian Society of occupational physicians (2)

---

- We have organized participation in international courses, seminars and conferences (NIVA courses, 5 NIVA courses have been held in Riga; Latvian and international seminars abroad etc.



# NIVA courses in Riga

---





# Collaboration with international partners



Darba drošības un  
vides veselības  
institūts

# Collaboration with international partners

---



Darba drošības un  
vides veselības  
institūts

# Preparation of information materials (1)

---

- ❑ 20 years ago only few books were available in Latvian and Russian in the field of occupation health and there was also absence of foreign literature;
- ❑ currently there are **20 new handbooks** for professionals published;
- ❑ there are more than **100** leaflets published;





# Preparation of information materials (2)

- The first book in English "***Information notices on occupational diseases: a guide to diagnosis***" (co-author M.Eglīte), Luxembourg, the European Commission, 2009;



Information notices on occupational diseases: a guide to diagnosis



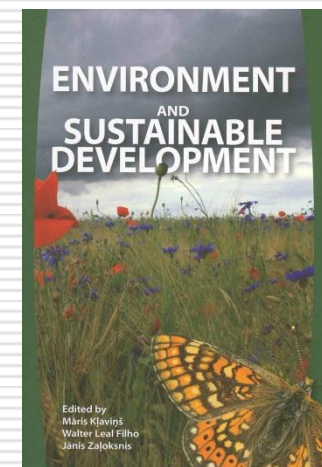
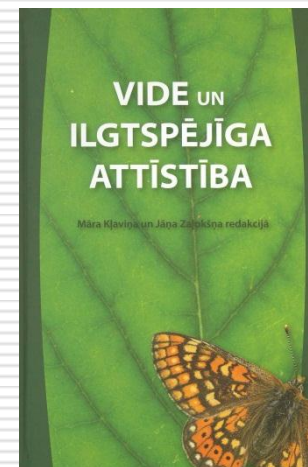
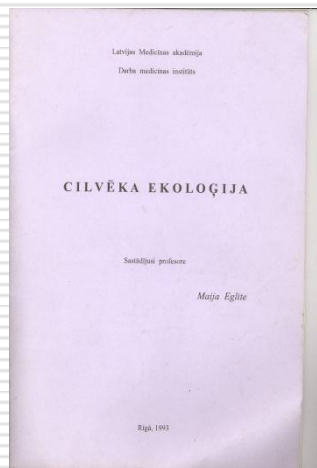
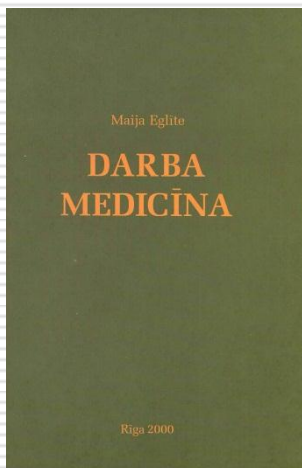
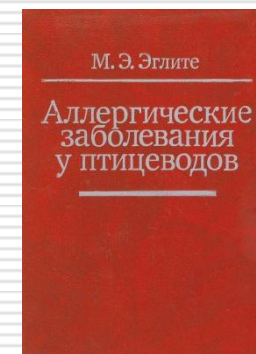
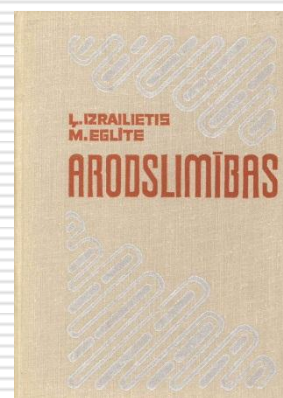
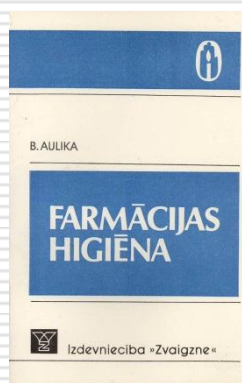
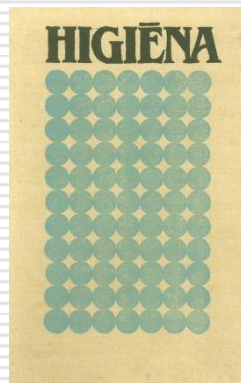
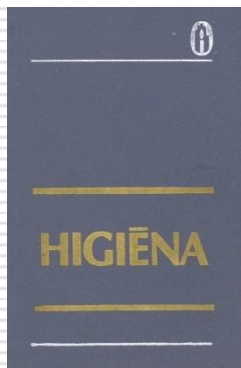
European Commission



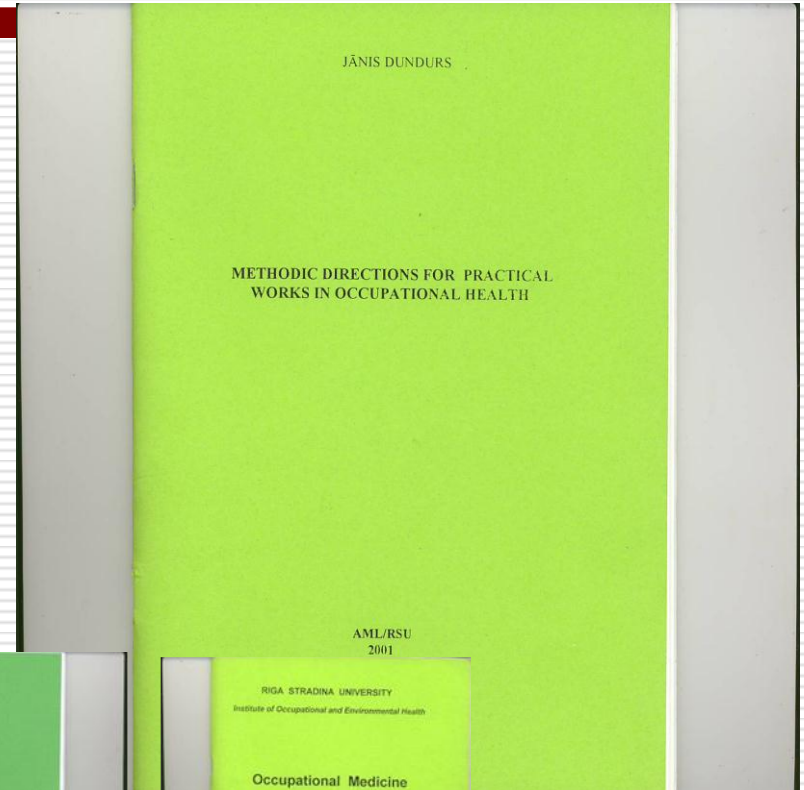
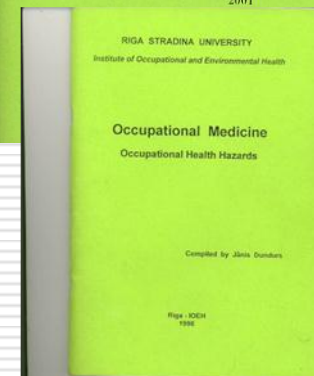
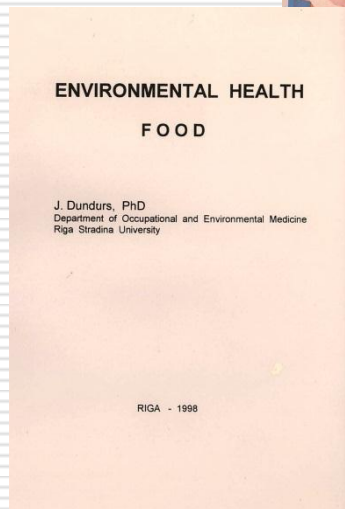
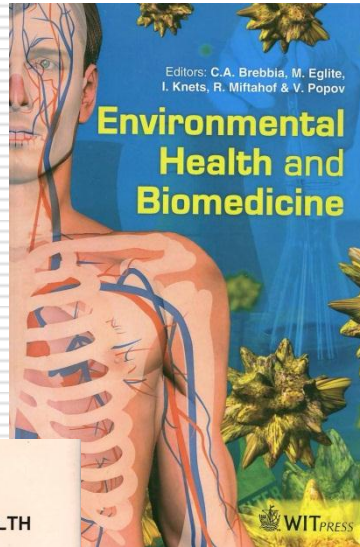
Darba drošības un  
vides veselības  
institūts



# Preparation of information materials (3)



# Preparation of information materials (4)



# Web pages

---

- We have built Latvian Society of occupational physicians web site: [www.arodslimibas.lv](http://www.arodslimibas.lv)
- We are Helping in the building of website of European Agency for Safety and Health at work: [www.osha.lv](http://www.osha.lv)



# Occupational physician contribution in occupational safety and health sector development

---

- Participation in the building of legislation,
- Participation in the European Commission (EC)
  - We are experts in different EC in organizations - *European Agency for Safety and Health at work (I. Vanadzins), EC Expert Group on Occupational Health (M. Eglīte),*  
Occupational disease diagnosis and registration
- The occupational physicians are responsible for the mandatory health checks of employees





Darba drošības un  
vides veselības  
institūts





Darba drošības un  
vides veselības  
institūts

# Training of Occupational Physicians

**Maija Eglite**, professor

Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Contacts: [Maija.Eglite@rsu.lv](mailto:Maija.Eglite@rsu.lv), phone +3716709139



# Training for postgraduates on occupational medicine (health)

---

- New training system for occupational physicians is created:
- **2 ways** to get certificate of occupational physician:
  - Residency – 4 years
  - Updating course for physicians already working – 500 hours (1year)





# Residency in occupational medicine

---

- ❑ Training for **residents** in Occupational Health and Occupational medicine - 4 academic years programme
- ❑ In line with EU programme requirements
- ❑ On average 1-3 residents per year
- ❑ Quality is OK as 3 of our occupational physicians already working in EU countries...



# Updating course for physicians already working

---

## Background:

- Very few occupational physicians after 1990 (35 physicians)
- Decisions to:
  - reorganise training process and create sufficient pool of physicians to provide health examinations and diagnostics of occupational diseases for all Latvia
  - re-train so called «shop physicians» working in in-house units of large companies (starting 1994)



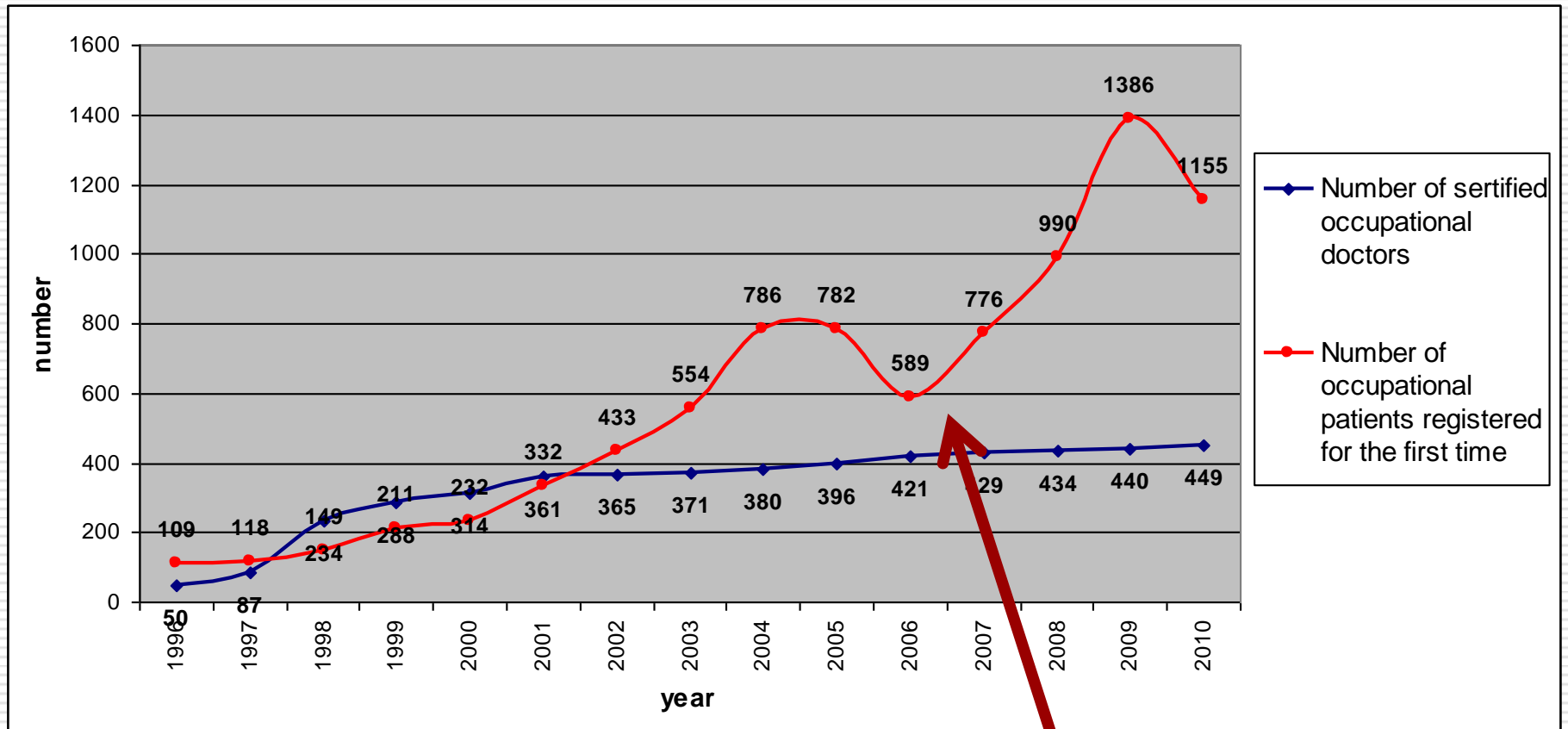
# Occupational Physicians in Latvia

---

- ❑ Correct decision as after 2004 political decision to give over rights to carry out health examinations only to occupational physicians
- ❑ Presently there are **445 occupational physicians** in Latvia (01.01.2011.) – **1 per 2.080 employees**. They are joined by Latvian Society of Occupational Physicians (LSOP).
- ❑ Occupational medicine in Latvia is independent speciality.
- ❑ This is reason why the speciality is popular as «second» training for many physicians (general practitioners etc.)



# Total Number of Occupational Physicians Registered in Latvia and Dynamics of Number of Occupational Patients Registered for the First Time per Year



Darba drošības un  
vides veselības  
institūts

Political decision to give examination  
rights back also to general practitioners  
- WRONG decision changed after 2 years

# Occupational Physicians in Latvia

---

- ❑ The most of occupational physicians work in private sector (private medical centres), but at the same time a large part of them work also as family physicians.
- ❑ Only about 40 occupational physicians work as company doctors (in large companies).
- ❑ 15 occupational physicians are working in Occupational medicine center of University Hospital.



# Updating course for occupational physicians already working

---

- **Training** is provided by:
  - Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and IOSH of Riga Stradins University and Association of Latvian Occupational Physicians;
  - Invited external specialists (insurance, infectology, personal protective equipment etc.)



# The postgraduate training course is based on 4 parts:

---

- ❑ The length of postgraduate training course has increased during last 13 years from 70 academic hours in 1997 up to 500 in 2011.
- ❑ **Part 1. Basics of occupational hygiene** - lectures and practical work.
- ❑ **Part 2. Individual work** (evaluation of work conditions in one of selected workplaces, evaluation of individual work, literature review)
- ❑ **Part 3. Occupational medicine** - lectures, practical classes, individual work.



# The postgraduate training course is based on 4 parts:

---

- ❑ **Part 4.** Examination is taken after successful completion of steps 1-3.
- ❑ If successful – certificate of occupational physician is given **for 5 years**
- ❑ Recertification in 5 years necessary
  - Compulsory training required during this period
  - Various courses/lectures/research work (provided by Association, Institute, Labour inspection and others)





# Functions of Occupational physician (OP) in Latvia

---

- ❑ provides regular compulsory health control (CHC) for employees;
- ❑ according to results of CHC, OP can give some advices for employer for safer work conditions;
- ❑ OP can visit work place and evaluate working conditions of employee, who was sent for CHC;
- ❑ OP examines employees estimating probable occupational diseases;
- ❑ OP can prescribe medicines and treat work-related health problems.



# Changes required

---

- ❑ Improvement of the training system has to be continued (by increase of training staff, lecture hours, extension of study topics etc.)
- ❑ Given the current financial capacity and human resources, annually we can adequately train 2 - 3 residents and approximately 20 - 30 occupational physicians.



# Training of students

---



---

# Thank you!



Darba drošības un  
vides veselības  
institūts

"Promotion of International Cooperation Activities of Riga Stradiņš University in  
Science and Technologies", agreement No. 2010/0200/2DP/2.1.1.2.0/10/APIA/  
IAA/006



IEGULDĪUMS TAVĀ NĀKOTNĒ



EIROPAS SAVIENĪBA