

Keynote Speakers



Professor Tord Kjellstrom has academic degrees in Engineering (MMEng) and Medicine (PhD) and more than 50 years' experience as a teacher, researcher and policy advocate in environmental and occupational health. He is currently Director of the research consultancy Health and Environment International Trust in Nelson, New Zealand, and has been Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at several universities and agencies in New Zealand, Australia and Sweden. He has conducted epidemiological field studies and population level analysis of key health hazards, including poisoning by cadmium, lead and mercury, as well as urban air pollution, traffic crash injuries, occupational asbestos cancer, and in the last 20 years on climate change impacts on occupational health and well-being.

From 1985 - 1997 he was environmental epidemiologist at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva and was promoted in 1993 to Director of Global and Integrated Environmental Health with responsibility for the first detailed international report on the public health effects of climate change. His current focus is on the effects of exposure to heat due to climate change with respect to occupational health and labour productivity.

Professor George Havenith (FACSM, FCIEHF) is presently working at Loughborough University in the UK, where he has a Chair in Environmental Physiology and Ergonomics and is director of the Environmental Ergonomics Research Centre (www.lboro.ac.uk/eerc). His research covers three main topic areas, one being Human Thermal Physiology/Environmental Ergonomics, the other being heat and mass (vapour) transfer through clothing and finally athlete exercise performance in relation to clothing.

His special contribution to these fields is the multidisciplinary integration of physiology, physics, textile science and ergonomics. His work spans experimental studies, to the development of theoretical frameworks to explain observations, and subsequently to the final application of the knowledge in the field.



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Dr. Hilde Færevik has comprehensive knowledge in the area of impact of environmental temperatures on human performance, safety and health. She has in-depth expertise in thermal physiology and profound experience in project management and innovation leadership.

As research manager in SINTEF she coordinated several national and international projects resulting in new innovations for personal protective equipment.

She is an active member of the international scientific community, she has been given positions of trust in the Network of Excellence of Smart textiles and Wearable Electronics, The Technology Platform for the Future of Materials and Textiles, ANOSH network (Occupational Health and Safety Network for the Arctic), International Standard committee's for life-saving appliances, the European Society of Protective Clothing (ESPC) and member of the ICOH Scientific Committee on Thermal Factors.

Dr. Færevik has also worked as consultant for the IOGP (The Global Oil and Gas Industry Trade Association) and produced scientific material that made the foundation of a new international standard for safe work operations for petroleum workers in the Arctic. She is currently project manager for the research project Health risk and health effects of firefighting work, funded by the National Research Council of Norway (2020-2023).

Ms Bjørg Sandkjær has been State Secretary (Deputy Minister) for International Development at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2021.

She has a broad background in international development, particularly in the fields of global health, human rights and aid effectiveness. Prior to her current position, Ms Sandkjær served as the deputy leader of the Standing Committee on Health and Welfare of the Oslo City Council. Ms Sandkjær has 20 years of experience working in the areas of global health and human rights, and has held positions at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, and the Church of Norway. As State Secretary, she is deeply committed to development issues, and maintains a particular focus on global health and the eradication of hunger, climate change and environmental issues, human rights, and the global development architecture.

She has published on global health and governance, HIV and aids, and sustainable development. Ms Sandkjær holds a Master's degree in Demography from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and an undergraduate degree from the University of Oslo.



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Dr. Tiina Ikäheimo is currently working as a professor in occupational health at the Arctic university of Tromsø, Norway.

Dr. Ikäheimo has comprehensive expertise related to the influence of weather and climate on human performance and health complemented with research related to physical activity and health. Her research has involved conducting both laboratory and population-based studies. She has contributed to several peer-reviewed original articles and reviews, and produced international and national expert material, such as chapters in textbooks, and professional guides. She has participated as a coordinator, or co-PI, to R&D projects which have led to the production of one international standard for thermal environments. She has profound experience in international co-operation through her work as an editor, and later as Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Circumpolar Health, an international peer-reviewed scientific medical journal on health matters of the arctic areas. Being an active member of the international scientific community has also connected her to different international positions of trust which are linked to high profile decision making concerning human health in the arctic. While being at the University of Oulu in Finland, Dr. Ikäheimo worked as consultant for WHO related to the influence of low temperatures on human health. She has also acted as a vice-director of the WHO collaborating center on global change, environment, and public health. Dr. Ikäheimo is an expert member of the Finnish Work Environment Fund. Her university teaching has included delivering education on public and environmental health, and she has supervised several doctoral and master level students. Her current research interests are focused on the effects of weather and climate change on human health and especially in identifying susceptible population groups. Her research focus in occupational health means shifting to studies related adaptation to climate change in terms of implementing appropriate prevention and protection measures.

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