



[Inside this issue] APRIL/MAY 10

FEATURES ▶ ▶ ▶ LEGAL UPDATE 2010 ▶ ▶ ▶ NEWS ▶ ▶ ▶ RESEARCH ▶ ▶ ▶ EXPERT WITNESS

- 03 LEADER**
Good work fitted as standard Would a 'good work' standard promote better health? John Ballard believes it would
- 04 NEWS**
 ... Europe gets sharp – new agreement on needlestick injuries ... little demand for advice – final analysis of Workplace Health Connect ... ethics guidance update ... NHS to address mental health of workforce ... obesity figures ... invisible patients ... preparing for fit notes ... into work targets ... looking after baby – new maternity and paternity rules ... doctors' hours falling ... workplace health interventions ... good work challenge ... national centre for working age health ... smoke-free doorways – the government to review smoking legislation ... quiet time – HSE campaign for quieter workplaces
- 12 LEGAL NEWS**
 ... death of inexperienced lone worker ... restoration workers lose lung function ... employer did not take disability defence seriously – *The City of Edinburgh Council v Mr Alistair Dickson* ... pleural plaques – government resists overturning *Johnston v NEI International Combustion Ltd*
- 14 FEATURE**
The doctor is ill
 John Ballard finds out what support is available to doctors who develop a mental health condition, and how to overcome concerns over stigmatisation and confidentiality that are often barriers to early intervention. He concludes that forthcoming changes to revalidation, particularly performance appraisal, could act as an early warning that a doctor needs help.
- 18 FEATURE**
Public health – the best home for OH?
 Following the decision by the RCN to close its OH Forum after 57 years, OH nurses have become a group within the larger, newly formed Public Health Forum. Katie Oakley discovers what inclusion in the new forum will mean for OH nurses.
- 22 LEGAL TABLE**
OH legal update 2010
 The sixth *OH at Work* legal update provides a unique guide to recent, scheduled and expected changes to the law, codes of practice and official guidance in occupational health, health and safety, disability and professional practice. Among the domestic highlights are the proposed Equality Bill, which is currently in the final stages of the parliamentary process, and the replacement of the existing FMed3 sickness certificate by a fit note. In Europe, there are plans for new Directives on protecting healthcare workers from needlestick injuries and on musculoskeletal disorders.
- 46 EXPERT WITNESS**
Religion or belief
 Changes to employment law over the past decade have extended protection from discrimination to religion and belief, but our legal expert Diana Kloss reveals how other laws can override the right to assert one's religious belief.
- 48 RESEARCH PLUS**
 Our compendium of published evidence on occupational health
- 50 CLASSIFIED**
 ... conference and exhibition – RCN and SOM ... MSc in Workplace Health – University of Nottingham

ISSN 1744-2265

Editor: Dr John Ballard

Contributing editor: Paul Suff

Production director: Claudia Philips

Subscriptions enquiries:

email: info@atworkpartnership.co.uk

tel: 0845 017 6986

Occupational Health [at Work] is published six times a year by The At Work Partnership Ltd. We aim to publish authoritative and accurate information, but our publications are for guidance only and are not official information sources and we do not accept liability for the consequences of any errors or omissions. All rights reserved. It is not permitted to reproduce, store or transmit any part of this journal, in any form or by any means.

The At Work Partnership Ltd

19 Bishops Avenue

Elstree

Hertfordshire WD6 3LZ

tel: 0845 017 6986

website: www.atworkpartnership.co.uk

© The At Work Partnership 2010