R&D programme
What it means for you

www.iosh.co.uk/research
In 2005, we launched a £1 million-plus Research and Development Fund. Since then, we’ve commissioned new research each year and encouraged proposals that focus on various safety and health challenges in the world of work. Our research fund enables us to work with researchers who have a proven track record in high-quality research to support our vision and mission.
Why IOSH commissions research

We commission a range of projects to establish evidence for safety and health policies and practice, and support research and inspire innovation as part of our work as a ‘thought leader’ in safety and health. This is largely done through our annual research competition, as two-stage process that may be linked to a particular theme that we set.

Our research enables us to support our WORK 2022 strategy – Shaping the future of safety and health, to make a real difference in the lives of people around the world. For this reason our research will support the following broad aims that underpin the strategy: Enhance, Collaborate and Influence.
Building collaborations

IOSH is a member of the Affinity Health at Work research consortium. This represents a collaboration between researchers and employer organisations, national institutions and interested individuals who support research, knowledge and networks in topics relating to health, workplace wellbeing, employee engagement and leadership. You can find further information about Affinity Health at Work at [www.affinityhealthatwork.co.uk/](http://www.affinityhealthatwork.co.uk/)

We are also a member of SAFERA and support the work of networks in the area of research, such as PEROSH. The SAFERA consortium is an open partnership with around 19 partners from 10 European countries. The cooperation focuses on research programming and launching joint calls in the field of industrial safety. For further information on SAFERA visit [www.safera.industrialsafety-tp.org](http://www.safera.industrialsafety-tp.org). Information on PEROSH can be found on their website: [www.perosh.eu](http://www.perosh.eu).

I really enjoyed the cooperation with IOSH during our project Return to work after common mental disorders. The time and effort spent by IOSH’s team on creating a meaningful project for occupational health and safety practice and on transferring the knowledge to relevant stakeholders was very much appreciated. I hope to work with IOSH in the near future.

**Dr Margot Joosen**
Senior researcher; Academic Collaborative Center ‘Work and health’ and Human Resource Studies

I was the PI on a grant exploring how line managers and OSH practitioners can ensure the health and safety of distributed workers. It was a great opportunity and IOSH were very supportive throughout the entire project. We had two representatives from IOSH on our steering group and they provided valuable input to the project at the same time as they helped recruit participants and presented the project at conferences.

**Karina Nielsen**
Chair of Work Psychology, Director of the Institute for Work Psychology, University of Sheffield
Our journal *Policy and Practice in Health and Safety (PPHS)* is published twice a year by Taylor & Francis, as a forum for discussing scientific and practice-based aspects of health and safety.

The journal publishes research which has significant practical implications for the wider world of occupational safety and health. It also constitutes a platform for dialogue between a diverse range of professionals such as psychologists, sociologists, occupational safety and health professionals, occupational hygienists, policy-makers and professionals involved in the regulation and management of health and safety.

*PPHS* encourages involvement and interest for OSH practitioners and policy experts. Recent issues have captured current debate and practice centred on ‘Zero Vision’ and ‘Zero Harm’ and the topic of health and safety in a changing world.

Researchers and practitioners alike can engage with *PPHS* by submitting papers or subscribing to the journal. Subscriptions to the journal include online access with live reference linking, a searchable archive and an email alerting service.

You can find further information at [www.tandfonline.com/toc/tphs20/current](http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tphs20/current)
Our five-year research programme, *Health and Safety in a Changing World*, set out to explore the landscape of occupational safety and health and its implications for developing solutions that provide effective protection for workers and their communities.

The programme focused on how health and safety policy has developed over time, how it is applied in practice and how best to make it fit-for-purpose in the 21st century.

The projects were carried out between 2010 and 2015, with teams from the Institute of Occupational Medicine, Loughborough University, Cranfield University and the Universities of Nottingham, Reading and Portsmouth. The studies provide a rich resource for strategic thinking and discussion within the OSH profession.

The findings of the programme are also examined in a book *Health and Safety in a Changing World*, edited by Professor Robert Dingwall and Shelley Frost, IOSH’s Executive Director of Strategic Development.

You can find the full reports, a summary of findings and related materials at [www.iosh.co.uk/changingworld](http://www.iosh.co.uk/changingworld)
IOSH works with leading academics, practitioners and other stakeholders to advise on research areas. Together, they help IOSH to lead and influence the advancement of OSH strategies and professional standards globally through a sound evidence base, encouraging innovation.

Each research proposal is subjected to thorough scrutiny and assessment. After successful navigation of this process, the proposal is sent to two independent assessors before a decision is made.

Once the study is completed, the research report goes through our external review process before it’s published. About a year after the publication of the report, and again after five years, as part of our wider evaluation programme, we’ll evaluate how the project has performed against its original objectives and made a difference to the world of work by improving occupational safety and health policy and practice.

Our Getting the best out of our research guide gives fuller details of IOSH support for research
What are we researching now?

Our latest call particularly sought research which could lead, where appropriate, to practical resources such as guidance, tools and case studies that are useful to the workplace.

We invited applications that addressed the following areas:
- health and wellbeing – key elements of successful interventions
- organisational change and OSH performance e.g. OSH leadership and accountability within changing organisational structures.
- occupational health and safety performance, OSH reporting, and sustainability and OSH as a ‘material issue’
- learning and training methodologies and OSH – investigations into effective methods for workers’ and managers’ learning, training and sustained upskilling in OSH.

This led to IOSH commissioning seven projects

Institution: Cardiff University
Project leader: Professor Helen Sampson
Title: Safeguarding seafarer mental health
This project looks into the issue of mental health in a large international workforce employed to work in institutionalised, remote, multicultural and largely single-sex (male) settings.

Institution: Cranfield University
Project leader: Dr Colin Pilbeam
Title: Dysfunctional processes and fractured relationships: managing health and safety following organisational change through outsourcing.
The aim of this project is to understand how to sustain and enhance OSH performance in a leading firm following organisational change through outsourcing in relatively low- and high-hazard contexts.

Institution: Glasgow Caledonian University
Title: Improving how designers learn about preventing hazards in their designs through a mixed-media approach
The aim of this proposed research project is to improve how designers involved in construction projects learn about how their design influences the management of occupational health and safety once the design is implemented.
**Institution:** King’s College London  
**Project leader:** Dr Ian Mudway  
**Title:** DEMiSt – The Diesel Exposure Mitigation Study  
The overarching aim of the study is to describe the risk of harm to professional drivers from exposure to diesel exhaust, allowing formulation of practical risk reduction strategies.

**Institution:** University of Nottingham  
**Project leader:** Professor Avril Drummond  
**Title:** Mental health in the workplace: a feasibility study  
This project seeks to address the gaps in the evidence-base for mental health first aid (MHFA) by investigating its use and utility in addressing the mental health needs of the workforce in organisations where at least one member of staff has attended MHFA training.

**Institution:** University of Nottingham  
**Project leader:** Dr Glyn Lawson  
**Title:** Multisensory virtual environments for OSH training  
The project aims to produce evidence-based guidance for the development and use of virtual environments (VEs) in engaging and effective training, using cost-effective and accessible solutions.

**Institution:** Tilburg University  
**Project leader:** Dr Margot Joosen  
**Title:** The effect of the return to work (RTW) process on full and sustainable work resumption among workers on sick leave due to mental health problems (MHPs). The overall goal of this project is to improve support in the RTW process of workers on sickness absence due to MHPs.

**Other research in progress includes the following topic areas:**

- Assessing hospital-acquired infection risks to healthcare workers from patients infected with aerosol-transmitted pathogens  
  **Leicester University**

- Reducing risky driving behaviour using telematics and behaviour change  
  **Cranfield University**

- Construction site evacuation safety  
  **Greenwich University**

- Nudging construction workers towards safer behaviour  
  **Heriot Watt University**

- Tideway – Learning from longitudinal research on large, complex multi-site construction projects  
  **Loughborough University**

- Regulating and managing risks in coal-mines – an evaluation of global practice  
  **Cardiff University**
Sharing knowledge and insight

Here are just three examples of how we’ve communicated the findings of our research.

Learning from Tideway: Construction OSH management implementation across industry

The purpose of this webinar is to take key learning from the IOSH-funded research on Tideway and to demonstrate how different aspects of the Tideway approach could be applied to different projects elsewhere with other organisations.

www.iosh.co.uk/tidewayresearch

Return to work after cancer

This webinar will help to understand the health and safety implications of returning to work after cancer and cancer treatment – in particular risk assessment requirements. It will also help to identify what employers can do to facilitate return to work and what is good practice in dealing with health and safety issues.

www.iosh.co.uk/rtwcancer

More than 11 webinars hosted, plus monthly CPD/IPD webinars

More than 600 participants have attended these two webinars*

*02/17–01/18 since 17/04/15

12,500 views on our YouTube channel*
The OSH research community

Our database, the OSH research community, operates on a ‘bring and share’ basis. Researchers and practitioners, wherever they are based, are encouraged to contribute by uploading their work. Work can be published or unpublished, and range from a peer-reviewed journal paper to an evidence-based guide.

Sun safety in construction

A film designed to increase knowledge of the risks of solar radiation exposure and encourage healthy sun safety attitudes and behaviours among construction workers in Great Britain.

www.iosh.co.uk/sunsafety

• More than 12,500 views on our YouTube channel*
Research into practice

IOSH is committed to supporting health and safety research that has a practical application in the workplace. Here are some examples of resources that form part of our ‘Research into practice’ portfolio.

Irish workplace behaviour study
As part of the Irish workplace behaviour study IOSH has developed guidance, case studies and a checklist tool to help organisations address ill treatment in the workplace.

Out of sight, out of mind?
Research into the occupational safety and health of distributed workers.

The research has generated a toolkit for OSH practitioners to enhance development of effective line management behaviours. The toolkit provides practical awareness in the form of top tips, case studies and much more. As part of the toolkit you’ll also find materials to help you identify which type of leader you are and the abilities required to manage distributed workers.

Return to work after cancer
Occupational safety and health considerations.

The Research into Practice materials associated to this research help to outline the elements of good practice in rehabilitation and provide guidance for managing the return-to-work process. The materials include a checklist for employers, case studies and examples of risk assessments.

This leaflet is designed to be read by non-OSH practitioners to assist their understanding of ill treatment and what needs to be done to control it. www.iosh.co.uk/workplacebehaviour

This document gives real-life examples of occupational safety and health leadership and management for distributed workers. www.iosh.co.uk/outofsight

www.iosh.co.uk/outofsight

www.iosh.co.uk

Research into practice
IOSH development funding is available to members or groups of members who have a new or innovative idea that supports the IOSH vision and helps improve occupational safety and health practice.

- **102** development applications received
- **68%** success rate
- **64** development projects commissioned
- **£773,835** committed to supporting new member-driven ideas and initiatives
- **£45,900** largest project grant so far, upwards from £500
- **8–10** typical number of weeks for a decision on applications

All figures are taken from between 2005 and 2017.
Our development fund

These ideas can take the form of a video, a toolkit, a training package, a software development or the creation of an initiative or a network. These are some examples of our latest projects:

**Melanoma skin cancer – exposure at work**

The aim of this project was to estimate the current burden of melanoma in Britain due to solar radiation and to predict and compare the future estimated number of occupational melanomas using various approaches to reduce sun exposure. The findings supported our No Time To Lose campaign. The summary and full reports are available at www.iosh.co.uk/skincancer

**Workplace fire facilitator training project – South Asia pilot**

This project aimed to raise the level of fire safety culture in selected garment factories in South Asia. A workplace fire safety facilitator training programme will be developed and rolled out in countries including India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. For more information visit www.fairlabor.org/sites/default/files/fire_safety_facilitators_course_description.pdf

**OSH in Oman**

A film to promote the launch of the IOSH Oman branch was produced to raise awareness of IOSH and its values and principles to the people and workforce of Oman and the Middle East more widely. View the film at https://youtu.be/Cm8zX6KIUL8

**The Occupational Health (OH) Toolkit**

Our OH toolkit is a knowledge resource that brings together information, guidance, factsheets, case studies, training materials, presentations and more to help you tackle occupational health problems. You can use this toolkit to support what you do over the whole process – from learning the background to a health issue, through identifying and dealing with early symptoms, to getting people back to work if they’ve been off ill. For more information visit www.ohtoolkit.co.uk
Want to know more?

If you want to know more about our research and development work, get in touch with the team.

Research and the development of innovative ideas are vital – together they provide the building blocks to achieve our goal of a world of work where people are able to go back home safe and well.

Mary Ogungbeje
Interim Research and Development Manager

Mary addressing a round-table discussion on psychosocial risks research at the 20th World Congress in Frankfurt in 2014
mary.ogungbeje@iosh.com

These are really exciting times for IOSH to help shape the future of health and safety, we’re currently reviewing our funding activities to ensure we expedite research that has a global reach and impact, and improves the workplace today and in the future. We look forward to working with like-minded partners to accomplish our vision.

Ivan Williams
Research and Development Adviser

Ivan promoting our Move more research in the Active Working summit 2017 in London
ivan.williams@iosh.com

Comments welcomed

Do you have thoughts on how our research publications can be improved? Or have our research resources helped you to change your workplace health and safety policies or practice? If so we’d like to hear from you, please get in touch at rdfunding@iosh.com.
IOSH is the Chartered body for health and safety professionals. With over 47,000 members in more than 130 countries, we’re the world’s largest professional health and safety organisation.

We set standards, and support, develop and connect our members with resources, guidance, events and training. We’re the voice of the profession, and campaign on issues that affect millions of working people.

IOSH was founded in 1945 and is a registered charity with international NGO status.