Introduction Despite improvements in tobacco control smoking is the leading, preventable risk factor for premature death and disability in Hungary. The purpose of this study was to identify the determinants of smoking and quitting in Hungary.

Methods The first wave of a quantitative longitudinal study was delivered in 2009. A sample of individuals (n=2250) aged 16–70 years was selected from the seven geographical regions of Hungary. The survey was conducted through self-administered questionnaires. χ² test and one-way ANOVA were applied to compare smokers who attempt to quit with smokers without intentions.

Results One-third (33.2%) of interviewed were current smokers, 17.6% were ex-smokers, and 49.1% non-smokers; the prevalence of smoking was significantly higher in men and lower educated respondents. Actually 46.0% of smokers wanted to quit smoking, 29.5% didn’t and 22.5% was uncertain. Age, gender, education and marital status had no effect on behaviour, but the knowledge about the various risks of smoking (p<0.001) and the support for tobacco control in public places (p<0.001) were significantly higher among smokers who wanted to quit smoking.

Conclusion The improvement of knowledge and the implementation of anti-smoking policy can support the decision making about quitting smoking independently from socio-demographic factors.

This publication was made possible by Grant Number 1 R01 TW007927-01 from the Fogarty International Center, the National Cancer Institute, and the National Institutes of Health. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of the NIH.
Methods Cross-sectional, random study of 40 patients in a private practice, submitted to the SF-36 questionnaire and to a Vitamin D serum dosage.

Results Average age is 52 years (±3.83); 95% of participants have a college degree. The great majority displays skin pigmentation between levels II (40%) and II/III (55%), according to the Fitzgerald Skin Types, and 75% of them relate scarce sun exposure. The average dosage of Vitamin D is 20.05 ng/ml (±7.96), and insufficient levels (<30 ng/ml) were detected in 90% of the patients. However, the analysis of the SF-36 revealed positive perception of both physical and mental health, with more than 70% of favourable answers to the items analysed, including degree of pain, vitality, physical aspects, functional capacity, social and emotional aspects, and mental health. In spite of that, 92.5% declare little leisure time.

Conclusions The reduction of Vitamin D was positively related with low sun exposure, not associated with skin colour or quality of life. Based on these results, the high incidence of hypovitaminosis D in women from a tropical country leads us to suggest the importance of a routine dosage of Vitamin D.

SPB-50 OCCUPATIONAL PESTICIDE EXPOSURE IN CORDOBA, ARGENTINA. AN ASSESSMENT BASED ON SELF-REPORTED INFORMATION OF AGRICULTURAL APPLICATORS

doi:10.1136/jech.2011.142976q.21

1M J Lantieri,* 2R A Fernández, 1M I Stimolo, 1M Blanco, 1M Bonsignor, 1M Del Pilar Díaz. 1Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Córdoba, Argentina; 2Universidad Católica de Córdoba, Córdoba, Argentina

Occupational pesticide exposure is a global health concern in agricultural settings. During the last 20 years, Argentina has experienced a strong and continuous increase in the area dedicated to crop growing. Córdoba, located in the center of the country, is one of the most important cropping province; its cultivated area increased from 3,397,050 ha in 1994/95 to 6,810,500 ha in 2009/10. Moreover, an extensive agricultural model was set up based on the production with glyphosate-resistant transgenic soybean, no-till and intensive use of fertilisers and pesticides since 1996. In fact, a strong growth in the marketing of pesticides was observed: 155 million pounds in 1995 to 600 million pounds in 2007. Nevertheless, environmental impact and human health effects is poorly studied in this region. A population-based study of 880 agricultural applicators was carried out between 2007 and 2010. An exposure assessment was performed based on self-reported data. Workers completed a validated questionnaire describing several socio-demographic and lifestyle characteristics, pesticide and personal protective equipment use, lifetime exposure years and their health conditions. The main results indicate that our population is composed by young men (34.9 y, SD 11.04); 71% of them have mixed/applied pesticides up to 10 years and 46.5% live <500 m with respect to the next sprayed crop. Furthermore, 67% do not use adequate PPE and 65% apply on an average of 7000 ha/year. Our research shows a risk scenario that warrants further evaluation particularly for chronic health effects occurrence.

SPB-52 TEACHING OF EPIDEMIOLOGY IN RUSSIA. HISTORY AND MODERNITY

doi:10.1136/jech.2011.142976q.23

N Briko, T Sokolova, N Torchinsky.* First Moscow State Medical University named after I.M. Sechenov, Moscow, Russia

Epidemiology for a long time was inseparable from clinical medicine. In the 18-19th centuries selected issues of epidemiology were taught in the departments of fundamental medicine, and therapeutic departments of the Russian Imperial Universities. Systematic teaching of epidemiology began in the late 19th century at Universities of St. Petersburg and Moscow. Teaching of epidemiology as a distinct discipline began in 1920 when the Medical Institute of Odessa opened one of the first in the world Department of Epidemiology. In the thirties in the Soviet Union were organised the Health and Sanitation departments, which were prepared epidemiologists and hygienists. Soviet epidemiology paid great attention to the epidemiology of infectious diseases. Within a short period there had been significant advances in the fight against smallpox, typhus, tuberculosis and malaria. In the last decade of 20th century began a new stage in the development of epidemiology in Russia. The basic principles of epidemiology as fundamental medical science were formulated, and it was reflected in the teaching of epidemiology in Medical Schools. In accordance with educational standards of 2011 important role devoted to the population-based approach on the study of infectious and non-communicable diseases, to the organisation of epidemiological studies and implementing evidence-based medicine. The cooperation between Russian Universities with Universities in Europe can be achieved real successes in teaching epidemiology in modern period.