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Jason Busse, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada
- Coordinator** Heike Raatz, EbIM Research & Education, Dept. of Clinical Research, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland

Preface

The past year was marked by Corona-related restrictions on many of our activities which prevented travel and personal collaboration. Nevertheless, we were active in many ways, and there were important changes:

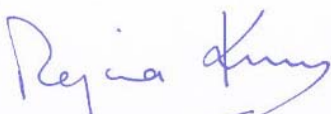
We welcomed Dr. Heike Raatz, an internist, epidemiologist, and systematic reviewer from Germany, as the new coordinator of the Cochrane Insurance Medicine Field. Prof. Karen Walseth Hara has recently joined the CIM Board of Directors. Karen is an associate professor at NTNU, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, specializing in work and health, and Regional Medical Officer at NAV, the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration.

We enjoyed contributing to the virtual 23rd EUMASS Congress, organized by Swiss Insurance Medicine and us, among others: More than 800 participants attended. Four workshops and six presentations illustrated the diversity of IM research themes covered by CIM members.

Many of us continued to work on the COS (Core Outcome Set) for Work Participation, which was launched to overcome the heterogeneity of work participation outcomes in occupational research and to facilitate comparison across studies. Led by Jan Hoving, NL, and Jos Verbeek, FIN, Margarita Ravinskaya and the team have published two articles to date: a systematic review of work participation outcomes that highlights the enormous heterogeneity of outcomes used in research, and an international survey to measure such outcomes. This work is expected to make an important contribution to research in this area.

We have continued to place our work on social media by producing podcasts and tweeting messages. It has been fun to explore the use of these technologies in insurance medicine.

Enjoy reading our report!



Prof. Dr. Regina Kunz
on behalf of the board of directors

HIGHLIGHTS 2021

Regina Kunz was awarded the Georg Klemperer Prize by the Berlin Medical Association

The Berlin Medical Association (Ärztammer Berlin) awarded Prof. Dr. Regina Kunz, Professor of Insurance Medicine at the University of Basel, the Georg Klemperer Prize for her work merits in the field of evidence-based medicine (EbM).

Regina Kunz is a specialist in internal medicine and nephrology as well as a clinical epidemiologist. She has been Professor of Insurance Medicine at the University of Basel since 2010 and heads the Evidence-based Insurance Medicine unit at the University Hospital Basel. In addition, she leads the Competence Centre for Insurance Medicine of the Swiss Accident Insurance, Suva.

In Berlin, she was co-founder of the German EbM network, EbM representative of the Berlin Medical Association and organised the first nationwide EbM congress.

The Georg Klemperer Prize has been awarded by the Berlin Medical Association since 2007 and commemorates the Berlin physician, researcher and university teacher Prof. Dr. Georg Klemperer (1865-1946). Aside from Regina Kunz, Prof. Dr. Hans-Heinrich Raspe and Prof. Dr. Vera Regitz-Zagrosek were awarded the Georg Klemperer Prize this year for their innovations and initiatives in the fields of EbM and gender medicine.



[Link to the website Georg-Klemperer-Prize](#)

Inaugural Lecture of Frederieke Schaafsma on November 5th 2021 at Amsterdam UMC, Netherlands



Dr. Frederieke Schaafsma, member of CIM, has been appointed Endowed Professor for the Netherlands Society of Occupational Medicine, based on her outstanding research about the needs of employed people with or without chronic diseases, for her engagement in evidence based medicine in education and practice of insurance medicine, for her studies on factors determining a healthy and long-lasting working life, to name a few of her research interests. We congratulate Prof. Schaafsma and wish her all the best to continue her academic career with unabated enthusiasm, high productivity and accompanied by colleagues with a mind alike.

EUMASS BASEL 2021 – SIM ANNUAL CONGRESS 2021

The 23rd international EUMASS congress - this year in virtual space - co-organized by Swiss Insurance Medicine, SIM, and CIM was the highlight of this fall: 14 keynote lectures, 11 workshops, 2 mini-symposia and 64 short oral presentations with a large number of speakers. The Swiss IM community welcomed more than 880 colleagues, mainly from Europe, with the number of participants constantly increasing over the last decade. During this time, the EUMASS Congress has evolved into a meeting that focuses on both IM research and practice. Many young researchers, often PhD students, presented their results that will shape tomorrow's IM practice. We observed an increasing number of studies involving researchers from two or more countries: True international collaboration and exchange. Even though we all missed the personal contacts, meeting new people and the special atmosphere of a large congress, it is evident that the EUMASS Congress has found its place in the European insurance medicine community. We will meet again in Strasbourg in 2023.



Congress contributions by CIM

Presentation

Kunz R. ICF-basierte Instrumente zur Einschätzung der Arbeits-(un-)fähigkeit: Was können sie leisten? Wo sind die Grenzen? **[ICF-based instruments for assessing work (dis)ability: What can they do? What are the limitations?]**

Short Oral Sessions

- Daniëls R, Noordik E, Simon J, Hoving J. **Assessment of visual impairments by physicians working in the field of disability evaluation: a qualitative study.**
- Friberg E, Lytsy P. **Psychosocial interventions at the workplace, a systematic literature review.**
- Lytsy P, Friberg E. **Psychosocial work environmental factors and workplace health, a systematic literature review.**
- Murley C, Karampampa K, Alexanderson K, Hillert J, Friberg E. **Diagnosis-specific sickness absence and disability pension before and after multiple sclerosis diagnosis with a matched reference group: a Swedish study.**
- Ravinskaya M, Langendam M, Kunz R, Verbeek J, Verstappen SMM, Madan I, Daams JG, Hulshof C, Hoving J. **Variation of work participation outcomes and measurement methods in trials: a systematic review.**
- Söderman M, Wennmann-Larsen A, Alexanderson K, Friberg E. **Intervention studies regarding physicians' sickness certification practice – a scoping review.**

Workshops

- Hoving J, Kunz R, Schaafsma F, Friberg E. **How to read a Cochrane Review: the basics.**
- Hoving J, Ravinskaya M, Kunz R, Verbeek J. **Working on a Core Outcome Set (COS) for Work Participation.**
- Kunz R, Schmidt H, Sarrafzadeh A. **SCS for chronic pain management from an insurer's perspective.**
- Donker-Cools B, van Rijssen JH, Schaafsma F, Hoving J, Kunz R. **Workshop: implementation of the training programme “acquired brain injury and return to work”.**

CIM ACTIVITIES 2021

Ongoing projects and collaborations across the Field



Core Outcome Set for work participation

The Core Outcome Set for Work Participation (COS FOR WORK) is proposed to provide a minimum set of outcomes that should be measured and reported in all clinical trials addressing issues of work participation. The international collaborative project COS FOR WORK is headed by Dr. Jan Hoving, Coronel Institute, AMC Amsterdam, CIM. Within the field of occupational health, work participation is used as an umbrella term – it contains various types of work related outcome constructs and definitions. For example, when research is done about interventions to improve return to work for people who suffer from depression, several outcomes are used to measure the effectiveness of this kind of interventions, such as: functional status, work functioning, productivity, workability, absenteeism, sick leave, or return to work. This results in researchers using a variety of measurement instruments and measuring effectiveness at varying time-points.

The COMET-Initiative (www.comet-initiative.org) aims to facilitate exchange of ideas and information for people who are interested in methodologically sound development and application of core outcome sets.

Current studies and projects:

- I. A framework for measuring work participation outcomes in intervention studies on individuals with health issues.
- II. Heterogeneity of work participation outcome measurement - a systematic review.
- III. Measuring work participation: An international multidisciplinary survey amongst researchers and other experts.
- IV. International Delphi-Consensus-Process to define COS FOR WORK.

Publications

Ravinskaya M, Verbeek JH, Langendam M, Daams JG, Hulshof CTJ, Madan I, Verstappen SMM, Hagendijk M, Kunz R, Hoving JL. [Extensive variability of work participation outcomes measured in randomized controlled trials: a systematic review.](#) J Clin Epidemiol. 2021;142:60-99.

Margarita Ravinskaya, Jos H. Verbeek, Miranda W. Langendam, Ira Madan, Suzanne M.M. Verstappen, Regina Kunz, Carel T.J. Hulshof, Jan L. Hoving. [Preferred methods of measuring work participation. An international survey among trialists and Cochrane systematic reviewers.](#) [Submitted]

Project group: Ravinskaya M, Verbeek J, Hulshof C, Langendam M, Madan I, Verstappen S, Kunz R, Hagendijk M, Hoving JL.

Knowledge transfer collaborations

Can we keep insurance physicians up-to-date with evidence using an email alert? The development and evaluation of an electronic IM email alert.

Project group: Daams JG, Kok R, Schaafsma F, Hoving JL.

Evidence on the Web – The feasibility of a searchable database for insurance medicine evidence.

Project group: Kunz R, Raatz H, Walter Meyer B.

Tagging reviews with relevance to insurance medicine in the Cochrane Library.

Project group: Raatz H, Kunz R, Walter Meyer B.

Social Insurance Literacy in the Dutch context.

Project group: Boonstra MA, Abma FI, Wilming L, Karlsson E, Ståhl C, Brouwer S.

Systematic Reviews

Interventions regarding physicians' sickness certification practice. A systematic literature review and meta-analysis.

Project group: Söderman M, Wennman-Larsen A, Hoving JL, Alexanderson K, Friberg E.

Interventions on physicians' sickness certification practices – a scoping review.

Project group: Söderman M, Wennman-Larsen A, Hoving JL, Alexanderson K, Friberg E.

The role of the employer in supporting work participation of workers with disabilities: a systematic literature review using an interdisciplinary approach.

Project group: Jansen J, van Ooijen R, Koning PWC, Boot CRL, Brouwer S.

Prognostic factors for return to work in breast cancer survivors.

Project group: Tamminga, S.J. de Wind, A. Greidanus, M.A., Coenen, P. Friberg E., Duijts S., de Boer A., Oldenburg H.

Educational collaborations

Daams J, Kok R, Schaafsma F, Hoving JL. Keep Up-To-Date with the latest Evidence and Research in Insurance Medicine and Disability Evaluation Workshop at EUMASS Congress 2021.

Hoving JL, Kunz R, Friberg E, Verbeek J, Schaafsma F. How to read a Cochrane review? Workshop at EUMASS Congress 2021.

Ravinskaya M, Hoving JL, Verbeek J, Kunz R. Working on a Core Outcome Set for Work Participation. Workshop at EUMASS Congress 2021.

Meetings and Activities

Basel Research Day Insurance Medicine –Friday, September 19th 2021

Cochrane Insurance Medicine members met in Basel for an international research day insurance medicine – CIM and Cochrane Work, covering topics related to research, education, practice and politics. Special thanks to our guest Jos Verbeek, previous editor of Cochrane Work, who attended online.

Chantelle Murley presented results of her PhD studies supervised by Emilie Friberg, Swedish Karolinska Institute, on the socioeconomic burden of multiple sclerosis in working-aged people, which make use of the large databases available in Sweden.

Margarita Ravinskaya, University of Amsterdam, reported on the huge variability of work participation outcomes in randomized trials. The aim of her systematic review led by Jan Hoving will serve as basis for the development of a core outcome set on work participation.

Rob Kok, chair of the Nederlands Vereniging voor Verzekeringsgeneeskunde (NVVG) informed about challenges policy makers face regarding the future of medical disability evaluations in the Netherlands.

Liesbeth Wijnvoord from Movir Insurance talked about strategies developed at the Geneeskundig Adviseurs Verzekeringszaken (GAV) to offer internships with private insurers despite COVID.



Following the meeting, participants had the opportunity to experience Rhine swimming, Basel's most popular summer activity, up close and personal! With colorful wrap-around fish-like bags and under the strict supervision of an accident insurance expert (3rd from right), the group drifted with the gentle current along the picturesque old town.

Communication and social media

News Cochrane Insurance Medicine Field Coordinator

We are happy to welcome Dr Heike Raatz as new coordinator of the Cochrane Insurance Medicine Field. Internist by training with experience in doing medical assessments for work disability, she has a good understanding of insurance medicine. As an epidemiologist, she knows about systematic reviews and health technology assessments. As coordinator at CIM, she takes the lead in knowledge translation, bringing scientific evidence to practitioners, decision makers and researchers. We welcome Heike to our team and wish her success in her new position.



Newsletters

- [Cochrane Insurance Medicine Newsletter, Mar 2021, Issue 17](#)
- [Cochrane Insurance Medicine Newsletter, June 2021, Issue 18](#)
- [Cochrane Insurance Medicine Newsletter, Oct 2021, Issue 19](#)

Podcast

- [Surgical or conservative treatment for impingement of the shoulder](#)
- [Operative oder konservative Behandlung bei Schulter-Impingement](#)
- [Traitement chirurgical ou conservateur pour les patients souffrant de conflit sous-acromial](#)

Cochrane Corners

Kunz R, Widmer M. [Entscheidungshilfe zur Kostenübernahme: Das Evidence-to-Decision Framework am Beispiel von TENS.](#) [*The Evidence-to-Decision Framework for Transcutaneous Electrical Neurostimulation TENS*]. 2021

Kunz R, Widmer M. [Décision relative à la prise en charge des frais: le cadre décisionnel appliqué à la neurostimulation électrique transcutanée TENS.](#) [*The Evidence-to-Decision Framework for Transcutaneous Electrical Neurostimulation TENS*]. 2021

Educational Activities

Friberg E. Evidence-based Insurance Medicine. Lectures for medical staff within psychiatry. Stockholm, Sweden. Seminars and adapted lectures, spread over the year (approx. 10 events / year)

Friberg E. Advanced course in Insurance Medicine for rehabilitation coordinators. Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden (2ects)

Promotional Activities

Agreement between EUMASS and CIM for CIM to regularly update the 26 states of the EUASS Council on recent development within CIM and Cochrane and important research findings.

Internal activities

- Monthly tele meetings of the board of directors
- CIM is board member of the Fields Executives

Peer-reviewed Publications with participation of CIM members

Boersema H-J, Abma FI, Hoekstra T, Roelofs PDDM, Brouwer S. [Exploring the concept inability to work fulltime in the context of work disability assessments: a qualitative study](#). BMC Public Health. 2021;21(1):1853

Boersema H-J, Hoekstra T, Abma F, Brouwer S. [Inability to Work Fulltime, Prevalence and Associated Factors Among Applicants for Work Disability Benefit](#). Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation. 2021;31(4):796-806.

Bosma A, Murley C, Aspling J, Hillert J, Schaafsma F, Anema J, Boot C.RL, Alexanderson K, Machado A, Friberg E. [Trajectories of sickness absence and disability pension days among people with multiple sclerosis by type of occupation](#). Multiple Sclerosis Journal 2021;135245852111048759.

Bosma AR, Boot CRL, Snippen NC, Schaafsma FG, Anema JR. [Supporting employees with chronic conditions to stay at work: perspectives of occupational health professionals and organizational representatives](#). BMC Public Health. 2021;21(1):592.

Branca-Dragan S, Koller MT, Danuser B, Kunz R, Steiger J, Hug BL. [Evolution of disability pension after renal transplantation: methods and results of a database linkage study of the Swiss Transplant Cohort Study and Swiss Disability Insurance](#). Swiss Med Wkly. 2021;151:w30027.

Elrud R, Friberg E, Alexanderson K, Stigson H. [Sickness absence and disability pension among injured car occupants, and associations with injury and car safety factors: A prospective cohort study](#). Accid Anal Prev. 2021;159:106262.

Holm J, Frumento P, Almondo G, Gémes K, Bottai M, Alexanderson K, Friberg E, Farrants K. [Predicting the duration of sickness absence due to knee osteoarthritis: A prognostic model developed in a population-based cohort in Sweden](#). BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders 2021 Jul 2;22(1):603.

Hoogsteder MHH, Douma LN, Eskens CGA, Berendsen RL, Vanneste YTM, Schaafsma FG. [Professionals' and Students' Perceived Needs for an Online Supportive Application for Reducing School Absence and Stimulating Reintegration: Concept Mapping Study](#). JMIR Form Res. 2021;5(6):e24659.

Kunz R, Verbel A, Weida-Cuignet R, Hoving J, Weinbrenner S, Friberg E, Klipstein A, Van haecht C, Autti-Rämö I, Agosti N, Vargas-Prada S, Kneepkens S, Lindenger G, de Boer W, Schaafsma F. [Evidence needs, training demands, and opportunities for knowledge translation in social security and insurance medicine. A survey across Europe](#). J Rehabil Med. 2021;53(4):jrm00179.

Kvillemo P, Chen L, Bottai M, Frumento P, Almondo G, Mittendorfer-Rutz E, Friberg E, Alexanderson K. [Sickness absence and disability pension among women with breast cancer: a population-based cohort study from Sweden](#). BioMed Central Public Health. 2021;21:697.

Luites JWH, Kuijjer P, Hulshof CTJ, Kok R, Langendam MW, Oosterhuis T, Anema JR, Lapré-Utama VP, Everaert CPJ, Wind H, Smeets R, van Zaanen Y, Hoebink EA, Voogt L, de Hoop W, Boerman DH, Hoving JL. [The Dutch Multidisciplinary Occupational Health Guideline to Enhance Work Participation Among Low Back Pain and Lumbosacral Radicular Syndrome Patients](#). J Occup Rehabil. 2021.

McKay K, Friberg E, Razaz N, Alexanderson K, Hillert J. [Long-term socioeconomic outcomes associated with pediatric-onset multiple sclerosis: A nationwide prospective register-based study](#). JAMA Neurology 2021;78(4):478-482.

Merner B, Lowe D, Walsh L, Synnot A, Stratil J, Lewin S, Glenton C, von Philipsborn P, Schonfeld L, Ryan R, O'Connor D, Hoving JL, Hill S. [Stakeholder Involvement in Systematic Reviews: Lessons From Cochrane's Public Health and Health Systems Network](#). Am J Public Health. 2021;111(7):1210-1215.

Murley C, Tinghög P, Alexanderson K, Hillert J, Friberg E, Karampampa K. [Cost-of illness progression before and after diagnosis of multiple sclerosis: a nationwide register-based cohort study in Sweden of people newly diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and a population-based matched reference group](#). Pharmacoeconomics. 2021;39(7):835-851.

Ravinskaya M, Verbeek JH, Langendam M, Daams JG, Hulshof CTJ, Madan I, Verstappen SMM, Hagendijk M, Kunz R, Hoving JL. [Extensive variability of work participation outcomes measured in randomized controlled trials: a systematic review](#). *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*. 2021;142:60-99. Epub ahead of print.

Ronne-Engström E, Alexanderson K, Friberg E. [Sickness absence, disability pension and economic situation after a spontaneous subarachnoid haemorrhage among people of working age: a Swedish longitudinal nationwide cohort study](#). *British Medical Journal Open* 2021;11(1):e040941.

Schaafsma FG, Hulsege G, de Jong MA, Overvliet J, van Rossum EFC, Nieuwenhuijsen K. [The potential of using hair cortisol to measure chronic stress in occupational healthcare: a scoping review](#). *J Occup Health*. 2021.63(1):e12189.

Schaap R, Schaafsma FG, Huijsmans MA, Bosma AR, Boot CRL, Anema JR. [A Context Analysis with Stakeholders' Views for Future Implementation of Interventions to Prevent Health Problems Among Employees with a Lower Socioeconomic Position](#). *J Occup Rehabil*. 2021;1-14.

Söderman M, Wennman-Larsen A, Alexanderson K, Svärd V, Friberg E. [Oncologists' experiences of and prerequisites for sickness certification tasks: A nationwide questionnaire study](#). *European Journal of Cancer Care*. 2021;30(4):e13414.

Svärd V, Friberg E, Azad A. [How People with Multimorbidity and Psychosocial Difficulties Experience Support by Rehabilitation Coordinators During Sickness Absence](#). *J Multidiscip Healthc*. 2021;31;14:1245-1257.

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van der Wurf C, Speklé E, Schaafsma F, Coenen P. [Determining the Costs of Low-Back Pain Associated Sick Leave in the Dutch Workforce in the Period 2015 to 2017](#). *J Occup Environ Med*. 2021;63(6):e367-e372.

Vendrig L, Wijnvoord L, van Nassau F, Schaafsma F. [Does an entrepreneur run the risk of developing stress due to unsuitability as an entrepreneur? Validation of an entrepreneurship scale](#). *Work*. 2021;70(1):187-197.

Verbeek J, Hoving J, Boschman J, Chong LY, Livingstone-Banks J, Bero L. [Systematic Reviews Should Consider Effects From Both the Population and the Individual Perspective](#). *Am J Public Health*. 2021;111(5):820-5.

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Supporters



Swiss Insurance Medicine



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