



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
Scientific Committee on History of Prevention of Occupational and Environmental Diseases

7th International Conference on the History of Occupational and Environmental Health
Wednesday, 15th – Friday, 17th November 2023
Durban, South Africa
(Hosted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal)

Panel Discussion:

Historical perspectives of OEH in Africa – The tracing of the emergence of disciplines in occupational health

Date and Time: 16 November 2023; 14.30 – 15.40

Panellists: (Chair: *Sophia Kisting-Cairncross*)

Rene Loewenson (Zimbabwe),
Edith Clarke (Ghana),
Chafiq Hicham (Morocco),
Reginald Matchaba-Hove (Zimbabwe)

Panel Organisation:

Each panelist will make a 8-10 minute input on the suggested topic below, followed by a 15 minute question and response session, using the questions below as points of departure, then a 15 minute open discussion with the audience

Rene Loewenson: Bridging siloes in OEH: Historical lessons and past experiences from Southern Africa

Edith Clarke: The historical role of communities and worker organisations in strengthening occupational health in West Africa

Chafiq Hicham: Evolving specialist disciplines in occupational medicine - improving the understanding between occupational exposure and disease

Reginald Matchaba-Hove: Government and academia partnerships in strengthening occupational health policy and service delivery in the public sector

Panel Questions

1. What are the key drivers over the past decades for the strengthening of occupational health in Africa?
2. What factors have contributed to the slow development of occupational health in many African countries?
3. Certain disciplines, such as occupational nursing and hygiene have probably advanced further than perhaps occupational medicine and toxicology. What are the reasons for these?
4. What is the history of the role of regional bodies (such as AU, SADC, ECOWAS, EAC and ECCAS) in promoting occupational health
5. How have international agencies, including funder and donor agencies driven the occupational health agenda in Africa?
6. What is your perspective on the participation of women in OEH over the past decades in your country