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Opening Presentation - Abstract

Work and health – challenges for cohort studies

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Research on psychosocial work environment and health was for a long time characterised by small-scale cross-sectional studies, generating only very limited knowledge regarding the role of psychosocial working conditions in the aetiology of physical illnesses and mental disorders. This changed during the last decade that has seen the emergence of numerous large-scale cohort studies and of international research consortia combining cohorts from different countries. In this presentation I will discuss the main findings from these studies. I will in particular focus on recent studies conducted by the IPD-Work Consortium on the contribution of psychosocial work environment factors to the risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes and on results from various new cohort studies on psychosocial work environment and risk of depression. I will further address current controversies in the field and will discuss new research questions that are arising and how these new research questions can be answered in future studies.