



International Occupational Hygiene Association

Occupational Health in Action 2026

Date/Time: January 29, 2026 – 0600 to 0730h NZDT / January 28, 2026 – 1200 to 1330h EST; 1300 to 1430h CET

Fees: Complimentary to all members of IOHA Associations. *IOHA is a not-for-profit organization so please consider donating through the QR code below if you are not a member or from a for-profit industry.*
80€ for industry-sponsored and for-profit organization participants

Abstract

As an occupational physician, Dr. Obele sees every day that the future of occupational health depends on the strength of occupational hygiene. Looking toward 2030 and beyond, Dr. Obele is asking occupational hygienists to claim their role not only as technical specialists, but as strategic partners in shaping the health of workforces and communities worldwide. The discipline's power to anticipate, measure, and control exposures anchors prevention, yet prevention must be woven into clinical care, organizational design, and policy to create lasting impact. The vision is integration.

When hygienists co-design with occupational physicians, nurses, ergonomists, mental health professionals, and safety leaders, guided by data science and informed by worker voice, we can deliver outcomes that matter: earlier detection of risk, sharper exposure controls, declining occupational disease, reduced inequities across sectors and regions, stronger organizational resilience and productivity, and measurable contributions to global sustainability goals.

In this session, she will discuss practical steps for 2026 that move us toward that future: shared exposure–illness dashboards; joint medical–hygiene case conferences and walk-throughs; risk-informed medical surveillance and return-to-work pathways; procurement standards that eliminate hazards at the source; and cross-sector advocacy for “healthy work by default”. Her call to hygienists is simple: lead. Bring the science of hygiene to the centre of decision-making so that occupational health becomes not reactive, but transformative, ensuring every worker, everywhere, can thrive in safety, health, and dignity.

Webinar Instructor



Dr. Mary Obele is a physician and specialist in occupational and environmental health, with over two decades of experience advancing worker well-being across diverse sectors. She has held leadership roles in national and international occupational health programs, with expertise in workplace risk prevention, policy development, and integrated approaches to health promotion. Dr. Obele has been a trusted advisor to governments, industry, and professional bodies, contributing to initiatives that bridge science, practice, and policy. She is a Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine and a recognized advocate for aligning occupational health with global sustainability and equity agendas. Dr. Obele has received awards for her contributions to worker health and community resilience, and she is widely regarded as a thought leader in innovative approaches to occupational health. She holds medical and postgraduate qualifications in occupational health, reflecting her commitment to prevention, practice excellence, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Register here: [IOHA January 2026 webinar](#)

Contact for more information: admin@ioha.net

Webinar Donation QR Code

