COMBINED EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Editor
Olavi Manninen

Keskuspaino Central Printing House
COMBINED EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Editor

Olavi Manninen

The Academy of Finland, The Research Council for Medicine, c/o Department of Public Health, Medical Faculty, University of Tampere, P.O. Box 607, 33101 Tampere, Finland

The International Society of Complex Environmental Studies - ISCES

ISBN 951-99632-2-7
PREFACE

The combined effects of different environmental factors and the study of these effects are among the most central and problematic questions in the field of traditional medicine, public health, environmental health, occupational health, labor protection, ergonomics, toxicology and environmental planning. However, the entire problem is today still to a great extent unexplored territory. This has often given rise to wild guesses or assumptions as to the potential effects on the human body of, for instance, the most common chemical or physical environmental factors in certain combinations. The study of the combined effects of environmental factors is thus of current interest both in scientific terms and as far as everyday work, dwelling and leisure are concerned.

On 22-25 September 1984, the First International Conference on Combined Effects of Environmental Factors was held in Hotel Cumulus in Tampere, Finland. The purpose of the conference was to bring the researchers in the field together, to delineate the substratum of knowledge currently available, and to create a warm, stimulating forum for regular contacts between researchers. The financial and material support of the Academy of Finland, State Departments, business enterprises and societies made the meeting possible. With this support, it was possible to draw up an interesting program, both from the scientific and social point of view. Hotel Cumulus and its helpful and friendly personnel created a very agreeable environment for the meeting.

During the meeting the combined effects of environmental factors were examined from several different perspectives. The research reports presented can roughly be divided into groups dealing with environmental toxicology, industrial hygiene, physiology, biochemistry, occupational and public health, and statistical methodology. All research reports that were submitted to the meeting have been collected into a book. For the
first time, all research data currently at hand on the combined effects of environmental factors and the present state of research are now arranged in one book. In addition, we have published a more concise version of this book summarizing the reports. There is every reason to believe that they will prove invaluable assets both in tuition and in scientific and administrative work.

All arrangements for the meeting were taken care of by my research team: Mrs. Kirsti Aalto, Mrs. Tiina Ikonen, Miss Merja Lehmusto, Mrs. Ritva Manninen, Mr. Seppo Perkiö, Mr. Antti Perttula, Miss Päivi Suojanen and Mrs. Aulikki Uusipanula. My wife Ritva Manninen was secretary-general of the meeting, and she also assumed responsibility for the social program. Mr. Jouko Kankaanpää saw to the safe and comfortable transportation of our guests. Miss Päivi Suojanen typed the Conference reports.

The Conference was a great success and marked the beginning of a new international scientific cooperation. To promote research into combined effects and to ensure continuity, a new International scientific association – The International Society of Complex Environmental Studies – was established on the last day of the Conference. It goes without saying that both the success of the Conference and the establishment of the new association are ultimately a result of the personal efforts and cooperation of these internationally esteemed experts representing different countries, continents and disciplines.

Olavi Manninen Doc Dr
Organizer and Chairman
of the Conference