

Translating knowledge into action - Technological innovations in occupational safety and health

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The work environment has seen rapid changes, necessitated by the need for innovation and productivity. The nature of work is evolving, with many tasks vulnerable to automation. At the same time, technology has become more pervasive, with increasing applications developed in robotics, machine learning, artificial intelligence and wearable technology. Huge amounts of data are routinely collected from many different sources, which can be used for predictive analytics. The generational change in the workforce also has implications on how we work.

The above factors, acting in concert, have caused not only disruption, but also technological innovations in occupational safety and health (OSH). We now see the utilization of innovations such as Automation, Drone technology, Artificial Intelligence, Wearables, Predictive Analytics, Virtual and Augmented Reality in different OSH scenarios. In order for us to better prepare for and accept such technological innovations, we have to keep abreast of developments, embrace and adapt to change, be aware of hype, and ensure that policy, regulations and ethics keep up with such technological innovations.

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