

Economic Evaluation as a Critical Input into Evidence-Informed Policy and Practice at the Workplace and Systems Levels

Keynote Sessions

Faculty:

Emile Tompa

This presentation emphasises the importance of including economic evaluations in the mix of evidence gathered to inform policy and practice at the workplace and systems level. It then turns to issues of how these methods can be advanced in new areas of social policy. The starting point is often the development and implementation of frameworks for estimating the economic burden of adverse health and wellbeing outcomes associated with labour-market conditions, including work-related musculoskeletal injuries and illnesses, occupational cancers, mesothelioma, and work disability. Macro/jurisdictional- and sectoral-level analyses of economic burdens provide invaluable insights into the human and economic losses associated with not addressing critical health and well-being issues. They provide important information for policy decision-makers for priority setting and are inputs into economic evaluations of exposure reduction efforts. The natural next step is intervention development and evaluation of promising approaches to address adverse exposures. Building the economic component into such evaluations from the start is critical. Examples of recently completed workplace and systems level analysis will demonstrate how a multidisciplinary approach with economics analysis as a key pillar can produce invaluable insights for the business case and policy. The presentation will profile a recent study undertaken for the European Union (EU) on the economic burden of work injury and disease at the country level. The development and piloting of the methodology for five EU countries demonstrated how the approach could be used for monitoring, evaluating and priority setting within and across countries. Research in the Canadian context on occupational exposures will be presented to demonstrate systems-level analysis that began with research on the human burden, followed by estimation and monetisation of the costs and benefits of exposure reduction.

About Our Speaker:

Emile Tompa

Dr Emile Tompa is a senior scientist at the Institute for Work & Health. He holds appointments as an associate professor in the Department of Economics at McMaster University in Canada and as an assistant professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. He also has an appointment at Canada's Pacific Coast University, where he is the area lead for research and sits on the curriculum and ethics committees. Tompa is the executive director of the Inclusive Design for Employment Access (IDEA) social innovation laboratory, a

knowledge-to-practice initiative focused on building employer capacity for equity, diversity inclusion and accessibility. IDEA was recently funded for six years by the Canadian New Frontiers in Research Fund under the Transformation Stream.

Tompa is a labour and health economist with an MBA from the University of British Columbia, an MA in economics from the University of Toronto, and a PhD in economics from McMaster University. Tompa's research interests include the consequences of occupational health and safety system design on the health and well-being of individuals and populations, the economic evaluation of workplace initiatives for improving the health and well-being of workers, the economic burden of occupational injury and illness, and the analysis of disability policy systems. He recently chaired a Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Group technical committee that developed a Work Disability Management System Standard (CSA Z1011). He is currently on an Accessibility Standards Canada technical committee developing a standard on inclusive employment.