

Short CV Thomas Birk

Thomas Birk is a Senior Manager of ENVIRON Germany GmbH and member of ENVIRON's Health Science Group as well as the REACH Core Group.

In 1990 he made his Professional Social Scientist Diploma at the Faculty for Social Sciences, Ruhr-University Bochum in Germany. He worked for 4 years as research associate and project manager at the Department of Social Medicine and Epidemiology, Ruhr-University Bochum and the Institute of Epidemiology and Social Medicine, University Muenster. Between 1994 and 2003 he worked as independent consultant and associate epidemiologist of Applied Epidemiology Inc., Amherst, MA before joining ENVIRON.

Thomas Birk has twenty years of professional experience in the application of epidemiological concepts and methods, with particular expertise in the areas of occupational and environmental health research, exposure assessment and reconstruction for epidemiological analyses and quality-based critical reviews (QBCR) of epidemiological literature, for both industrial and governmental clients. Some relevant project experience is shown in the following:

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Designed and manages an epidemiological study of lung cancer and silicosis risk among 20,000 employees of the German porcelain industry.
- Designed and managed various national and international epidemiological studies of cancers and other diseases among occupational populations exposed to chemicals such as chromium compounds or within the rubber industry.
- Designed and directed feasibility studies using records-based data as preliminary investigations to full scale epidemiological research activities, e.g. in the rubber industry, among coke-oven workers and among silica-exposed porcelain workers.
- Designed and conducted historical exposure assessments and exposure reconstructions for epidemiological analyses.
- Comprehensively reviewed and synthesized the epidemiological and medical literature on various topics such as cancer risks associated with occupational tetrachloroethylene and silica exposure.
- Completed a comprehensive expert review of published literature on the epidemiology of needlestick injuries with a main focus on studies, evaluating the effectiveness and cost aspects of the implementation of safer devices in hospitals.
- Provided scientific input in the assessment and management of observed potential disease cluster among employees for individual industrial clients.
- Provided scientific input in support of litigation.
- Coordinated the development of strategies for product registration in several non-EU countries.
- Conducted comprehensive data evaluation and exposure scenario creation in the framework of the EU REACH regulation

He is member of the German Association of Epidemiology (DGEpi) and MEDICHEM.