

Personal Information

Last Name	Houba
First Name(s)	Remko
Title(s)	dr. ir.
Job title	Occupational Hygienist at NECORD, PreventPartner & DPSO Arbozorg

Field(s) of knowledge relevant for your work at Ctgb

Occupational exposure and risk assessment (specialized in chemical and biological agents)
Research and consultancy with regard to occupational respiratory diseases (both individual clinical cases and disease clusters in companies)

Education

Higher education

1982 - 1988	Wageningen University Environmental hygiene, specialization occupational hygiene
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Post-graduate education

1996	PhD Wageningen University. Occupational respiratory allergy in bakery workers. Epidemiological survey on relationships with wheat and fungal α -amylase aeroallergen exposure
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Training

Participation in training / refresher courses

2002 - present	Several short 1-day courses and symposia on current subjects (biological agents, REACH, asbestos, bayesian statistics, non-ionizing radiation, respiratory diseases, limit values (system), diagnosis of allergic occupational
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	diseases, occupational surveys in respiratory epidemiology, skin diseases, statistical compliance testing)
2001	Course 'Biologic Agents in the work and home environment: exposure assessment and health risk evaluation' organized by Utrecht University (3 days)
1999	Course 'Dermal Exposure Assessment' organized by Wageningen University (2 days)
1995	Course 'Advanced Course in Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology: Principles of Exposure Assessment' (2 weeks)
1994	Course 'Leadership', organized by Wageningen University (2 days)
1993	Course 'Analyses of longitudinal data with epidemiologic applications' by David Kleinbaum and Larry Kupper, Brussels (3 days)
1991	Course '11th Annual New England Epidemiology summer Program', organized by the New England Epidemiology Institute in Boston (3 weeks)
1990	Course 'Oral presentation', organized by Wageningen University (2 days)
1988	Course 'Fundamentals of industrial ventilation', organized by Wageningen University (4 days)

Professional positions held

2014	- present	Independent occupational hygienist. (self-employed; 0,5 fte related to: 1. Expertise Center Toxicology within PreventPartner, a cooperative partnership of freelancers within curative occupational health care (www.preventpartner.nl) 2. DPSO Arbozorg, a health and safety service operating regionally in the province Zuid-Limburg (www.dpsoarbozorg.nl)
2010	- present	Deputy member of the Board for the Authorization of Plant Protection Products and Biocides (Ctgb), competent authority for the authorisation of plant protection products and biocides in the Netherlands.
2005	- present	Board member of Netherlands Expertise Center for Occupational Respiratory Disorders (NKAL).
2001	- present	Occupational hygienist Netherlands Expertise Center for Occupational Respiratory Disorders (NKAL) (in time varying from 0,1 - 0,8 fte).
2013	- 2014	Occupational hygienist at the Expertise Center Toxic Substances (ECTS) of the Arbo Unie (0,4 fte). Advising companies and branches on occupational health issues. Consultancy work for sectors and companies within the field of occupational hygiene, specifically in relation to chemical and biological agents.
1999	- 2008	Occupational hygienist at the Arbo Unie (in time varying from 1,0 - 0,6 fte) Consultancy work for sectors, companies and individuals (patients) within the field of occupational hygiene, specifically in relation to respiratory diseases and biological agents.
1997	- 1999	Assistant Professor "Occupational Hygiene" at Maastricht University
1996	- 1997	Research fellowship at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in Morgantown, West Virginia, U.S.A.

1990	-	1995	Temporary academic staff member at the Department of Human Epidemiology and Health Studies, Department of Air Quality, Wageningen Agricultural University (0,2 fte).
1990	-	1995	Researcher in Training (OIO) at the Department of Human Epidemiology and Health Studies, Department of Air Quality, Wageningen Agricultural University (0,8 fte).
1989	-	1990	Military service
1988	-	1989	Temporary scientific assistant at the Department of Human Epidemiology and Health Studies and the Department of Air Quality, Wageningen Agricultural University.

Other information relevant for professional experience

2013	-		Co-developer of BWStat, a calculation tool for processing occupational hygiene measurements according to protocol of the BOHS-NVvA measurement strategy (2011) (http://www.tsac.nl/BW_Statv1.xlsx)
2010			Co-promotor PhD-thesis Frits van Rooy: An interdisciplinary Approach to Occupational Respiratory Disorders, Utrecht University, 16 nov 2010
2000	-	now	Modulemanager and teacher module 'Health' in the Postgraduate course 'Management of Safety, Health & Environment' organized by TopTech Studies, Delft Technical University (1 week / 1,5 year)
1995	&	1998	Author of criterion documents for the establishment of a MAC limit value for the occupational exposure to grain dust and flour dust (Dutch Health Council).

Participation in EU working groups and scientific networks

2017	-	present	Working group of the Dutch Association for Occupational Hygiene (NVvA) on promotion of expertise.
2016	-	present	Member of the permanent subcommittee "Employees and Vaccination". Subcommittee of the National Vaccination Program committee that operates under the Dutch Health council (Gezondheidsraad)
2009	-	present	Member of the permanent Committee "Health and Occupational Exposure to Substances (GBBS)". Within this committee, health-based limit values are derived for the occupational exposure to substances that operates under the Dutch Health council (Gezondheidsraad)
2013	-	2014	Member of the temporary Committee on Working Conditions and Vaccination of the Dutch Health Council (Gezondheidsraad)

2011	-	2012	Member of the temporary Committee on "Livestock Farming: Risks to Local Residents" of the Dutch Health council (Gezondheidsraad)
2010	-	2012	Member of the temporary committee "Nanoparticles in the workplace" of the Dutch Health Council (Gezondheidsraad)

Publications in peer reviewed Journals

1992		Smid, T., D. Heederik, G. Mensink, R. Houba & J.S.M. Boleij, Exposure to dust, endotoxins, and fungi in the animal feed industry. Am. Ind. Hyg. Assoc. J. 53 (1992) 362-368.
1992		Smid, T., D. Heederik, R. Houba & P.H. Quanjer, Dust and Endotoxin-related Respiratory Effects in the Animal Feed Industry. Am. Rev. Resp. Dis. 146 (1992) 1474-1479.
1994		Smid, T., D. Heederik, R. Houba & P.H. Quanjer, Dust- and Endotoxin-Related Acute Lung Function Changes and Work-Related Symptoms in Workers in the Animal Feed Industry. Am. J. Ind. Med. 25 (1994) 877-888.
1994		Jorna, T.H.J.M., P.J.A. Borm, J. Valks, R. Houba & E.F.M. Wouters, Respiratory symptoms and lung function in animal feed workers. Chest 106 (1994) 1050-1055.
1994		Heederik, D., T. Smid, R. Houba & P.H. Quanjer, Dust-related decline in lung function among animal feed workers. Am. J. Ind. Med. 25 (1994) 117-119.
1996		Doekes, G., J. Douwes, I. Wouters, S. de Wind, R. Houba & A. Hollander, Enzyme immunoassays for total and allergen-specific IgE in population studies. Occ. Env. Med. 53 (1996) 63-70.
1996		Houba R., P. van Run, D. Heederik & G. Doekes, Wheat antigen exposure assessment for epidemiologic studies in bakeries using personal dust sampling and inhibition ELISA. Clin Exp Allergy 26 (1996) 154-163.
1996		Houba, R., D. Heederik, G. Doekes & P. van Run, Exposure-sensitization relationship for α -amylase allergens in the baking industry. Am. J. Resp. & Crit. Care Med. 154 (1996) 130-136.
1997		Houba, R., P. van Run, G. Doekes, D. Heederik & J. Spithoven, Airborne levels of α -amylase allergens in bakeries. J. Allergy Clin. Immunol. 99 (1997) 286-292.
1997		Houba, R., D. Heederik & H. Kromhout, Grouping strategies for exposure to inhalable dust, wheat allergens, and α -amylase allergens in bakeries. Ann occup Hyg 41 (1997) 287-196.
1998		Tielemans, E., L. Kupper, H. Kromhout, D. Heederik & R. Houba,

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- Individual-based and group-based occupational exposure assessment: some equations to evaluate different strategies.
Ann occup Hyg 42 (1998) 115-119.
- 1998 Post, W., D. Heederik & R. Houba,
Decline in lung function related to exposure and selection processes among workers in the grain processing and animal feed industry.
Occup Environ Med 55 (1998) 349-355.
- 1998 Houba, R., G. Doekes & D. Heederik,
Occupational respiratory allergy in bakery workers - a review of the literature.
Am J Ind Med 34 (1998) 529-546.
- 1998 Houba, R., D. Heederik & G. Doekes,
Wheat sensitization and work related symptoms in the baking industry are preventable: an epidemiologic study.
Am J Resp Crit Care Med 158 (1998) 1499-1503.
- 1998 Doekes, G., R. Houba & D. Heederik,
Enzymallergie: Standards für luftgebundene Exposition am Arbeitsplatz?
Zbl Arbeitsmed 48 (1998) 480-484.
- 1998 Houba, R., D. Heederik & G. Doekes,
Arbeitsmedizinischer Expositionswert für Weizenmehl in den Niederlanden.
Zbl Arbeitsmed 48 (1998) 485-487.
- 1999 Burstyn, I., D. Heederik, K. Bartlett, G. Doekes, R. Houba, K. Teschke & S.M. Kennedy.
Wheat antigen content of inhalable flour dust in bakeries: Modeling and an inter-study comparison.
Appl Occup Environ Hyg 14 (1999) 791-798.
- 2001 Heederik, D. & R. Houba,
An exploratory quantitative risk assessment for high molecular weight sensitizers: wheat flour.
Ann occup Hyg 45 (2001) 175-185.
- 2002 Borm, P.J.A., M. Jetten, S. Hidayat, N. van de Burgh, P. Leunissen, I.J. Kant, R. Houba & H. Soeprapto,
Respiratory symptoms, lung function and nasal cellularity in wood workers – a dose-response analysis.
Occup Environ Med 59 (2002) 338-344.
- 2007 Rooy, F.G.B.G.J. van, J.M. Rooyackers, M. Prokop, R. Houba, L.A.M. Smit & D.J. Heederik,
Bronchiolitis obliterans syndrome in chemical workers producing diacetyl for food flavorings.
Am J Respir Crit Care Med 176 (2007) 498-504.
- 2008 Rooy, F.G.B.G.J. van, J.M. Rooyackers, M. Prokop, R. Houba, L.A.M. Smit & D.J. Heederik,
Diacetyl and Bronchiolitis Obliterans – from the authors.
Am J Respir Crit Care Med 178 (2008) 313-314.
- 2009 Rooy, F.G.B.G.J., L.A.M. Smit, R. Houba, V.A.C. Zaat, J.M. Rooyackers & D.J.J. Heederik,
A cross sectional study on lung function and respiratory symptoms among chemical workers producing diacetyl for food flavourings.
Occup Environ Med 66 (2009) 105-110.
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- 2009 Rooy, F., R. Houba, N. Palmén, M. Zengeni, I. Sander, J. Spithoven, J. Rooyackers & D.J. Heederik, A cross-sectional study among detergent workers exposed to liquid detergent enzymes. *Occup Environ Med*, 66 (2009) 759-765.
- 2011 Rooy, F.G.B.G.J., R. Houba, H. Stigter, V.A.C. Zaat, M.M. Zengeni, J.M. Rooyackers & D.J.J. Heederik, A cross-sectional study of exposures, lung function and respiratory symptoms among aluminium cast-house workers. *Occup Environ Med* 68 (2011) 876-882.
- 2011 Meijster, T, B. van Duuren-Stuurman, D. Heederik, R. Houba, E. Koningsveld, N. Warren & E. Tielemans, Cost-benefit analysis in occupational health: a comparison of intervention scenarios for occupational asthma and rhinitis among bakery workers. *Occup Environ Med* 68 (2011) 739-745.
- 2016 Heederik, D, J. Jacobs, S. Samadi, F. van Rooy, L. Portengen & R. Houba. Exposure-response analyses for platinum-salt exposed workers and sensitization: a retrospective cohort study among newly exposed workers using routinely collected surveillance data. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2016;137(3):922-929
- 2017 Zilaout, H, J. Vlaanderen, R. Houba & H. Kromhout. 15 years of monitoring occupational exposure to respirable dust and quartz within the European Industrial Minerals Sector. *Int J Hyg Environ Health*. 2017;220:810-819
- 2017 Berg, M. vd, R. Houba, H.A. Leslie, R.F. Canton, C. Thomsen, G. Becher, M. Alvarez-Pedrerol, J. Sunyer Deu, M. Steiner, M. van Tongeren, B. Brunekreef & J. de Boer. Serum levels of decabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-209) in women from different European countries and possible relationships with lifestyle and diet. *Environmental International*. 2017;107:16-24
- 2020 Zilaout, H., R. Houba & H. Kromhout. Temporal trends in respirable dust and respirable quartz concentrations within the European industrial minerals sector over a 15-year period (2002-2016). *Occup Environ Med Epub ahead of print feb 2020:1-8*
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