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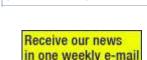
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## Scientists Develop A Fast System To Detect Metal Concentrations In Iron And Steel **Industry Workers**

Gil Fernández also discussed the poisonous character of everyday items such as batteries. For example, the cadmium in these batteries is a potential carcinogen which can produce lung and testicle cancers among others - hence the importance of

to control toxic waste. "The legislative imposition makes large firms very aware of poisonous waste treatment systems.

However, perhaps there is not enough information available to small businesses, including the farming industry," said Gil.

Finally, he talked about the transport and transference of poisons in ecosystems and the typologies of polluting products.

an adequate waste treatment system. Furthermore, Gil Fernández covered the question of responsibility in treating poisonous waste. According to this expert, industrial activities are the most pollutive. However, he highlighted the efforts of the companies

Main Category: Public Health News Article Date: 21 Nov 2007 - 6:00 PST

Researchers from the Department of Legal Medicine, Toxicology

and Psychiatry of the University of Granada (UGR) developed a

Fernando Gil Hernández, an expert in Industrial Toxicology and

Work Medicine, gave a presentation of this research project which

aims at detecting the levels of chromium, manganese and nickel in

iron and steel industry workers. Traditionally, these biomarkers are

analysed in blood and urine samples. However, researchers seek

to replace these samples with others such as saliva and hair, as

they are faster and less invasive. Consequently, researchers will

compare traditional marker analyses (blood and urine) with saliva

determine whether it is possible to use saliva and hair as metal

The study will analyse biological samples from 92 iron and steel

and high metal concentrations can be poisonous. In addition to

sociodemographics, age, job types, previous jobs related to the

blood, urine, saliva and hair analyses, scientists will interview

workers to obtain information on variables such as

iron and steel industry and smoking or drinking habits.

industry workers, who have periodic medical examinations because

of the characteristics of their job - a job where continuous exposure

and hair samples. Then, depending on the matches, the project will

new method to detect metal concentrations in iron and steel

industry workers. Continuous exposure to certain elements

constitutes one of the work-related poisonings which were

discussed in the course Technologies for Industrial Waste

Treatment (Tecnologías para el tratamiento de residuos

industriales) at the Centro Mediterráneo at UGR.

markers in continuous exposure to metals.

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Article adapted by Medical News Today from original press release.

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