December 2022 ASPHER Newsletter

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NEW YEAR ADDRESS FROM THE PRESIDENT

This newsletter is released a few days before the Christmas break and is an opportunity to address to you and your families my most sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A 2023 of major scientific events awaits ASPHER, with the World Congress of Public Health in Rome (May 2-6) of which we are co-organizers, the ASPHER Deans and Directors Retreat in Dublin (August 31-September 3), and the 16th European Public Health Conference, also in Dublin (November 8-11).

It is a great honour for me to lead ASPHER on its course of ongoing and planned activities: the updating of the core competences in public health, the continuation of the precious scientific work of the ASPHER task forces, and the research projects in which our Association is involved.

ASPHER has played an active role in the launch of the Global Network for Academic Public Health which will see the signing of its Constitution at the World Congress in Rome.

In 2023 we will continue to reinforce our collaborations with other Public Health associations (EUPHA, EPHA, EuroHealthNet, EuroNet MRPH and IANPHI), enhance the human resources capacity at our Brussels office, and drive forward the various initiatives for young professionals.

Best wishes to all of you and hope you'll enjoy your work activities in 2023!

Carlo Signorelli
President, ASPHER

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

ASPHER Secretariat hopes you will enjoy this December edition of the ASPHER Newsletter to close out 2022. It has been a year filled with activity for ASPHER in spite of troubling times of war in Europe and the ongoing COVID pandemic and its repercussions. ASPHER Vice President John Middleton helps us highlight many of them below.

The most recent big event in our calendar was the in person European Public Health Conference in Berlin. We hope you will enjoy our reporting from the event and we still have much follow up to do! We started out in Berlin with the ASPHER Young Researchers Forum during pre-conferences - read about the winners here.

This newsletter also brings you updates on several ASPHER agenda items including: climate and health with a presentation on planetary health education in public health curricula — part of ASPHER's update to the core public health curriculum; ongoing work of the Task Force on War, Task Force on Public Health Workforce Professionalisation, and COVID-19 Task Force; ASPHER Projects with reporting from UCCAIDE, VxTrain and SEEPHI. Also please consider the editorial and survey from Public Health Reviews on the breakdown of the peer review process.

Member news is not to be missed this time with announcements of new schools opening their doors while others celebrate their longevity with 50 and 100 year anniversaries! Not to forget also 200 years since the birth of Louis Pasteur! Partner news is also reported and there are many exciting opportunities and open positions as we wrap up the year.

Next year will be filled with many more opportunities to continue to network with you, so make sure to mark your calendars for the World Congress on Public Health and ASPHER's General Assembly in Rome from 02-06 May; the ASPHER Deans’ & Directors’ Retreat in Dublin from 31 August – 03 September in Dublin; as well as the EPH Conference from 08-11 November!

Finally, ASPHER Secretariat would like to wish you, your faculties and your families a very happy, healthy and peaceful holiday season. See you next year!

Please don't forget to share your news, publications, comments & suggestions with Lore at lore.leighton@aspher.org to be included in the next regular issue of the newsletter and on the ASPHER website activity log.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ASPHER YEAR

There are two kinds of public health - the health of the public, and the public health profession, service and system. The health of the public is everybody's business - it requires multi-disciplinary and multi-agency action from all corners of society and it requires trust and cooperation with the public themselves. It is 'everybody's business', but nobody does it, without the efforts of public health professionals, public health services and a public health system. We are the conductors of the orchestra, or the grit in the oyster, or the catalyst for action... 2022 has been a terrible year for the health of the public. The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed nearly 7 million lives so far with many more unaccounted and perhaps 20 million as a central estimate of excess deaths. The Russian aggression against the Ukraine has caused immense suffering in Ukraine, massive displacement of refugees and global problems of energy shortage, inflation and food shortages, threatening mass starvation in parts of the world like the Horn of Africa and the Middle East. European countries been hit by spiralling inflation, energy shortages, social care challenges for their residents and refugee populations, health care systems are under intense pressure in many parts of the continent, and climate breakdown has been witnessed in the form of wildfires which have burned the equivalent of three Luxembourgs worth of land mass. As public health educators all we can do is train our people to be effective operators against the massed array of health threats. It is all anyone can do to ensure the best possible actions to produce and improve the public health professionals who will serve us in the coming years. ASPHER colleagues have continued to undertake great and selfless work over 2022, professionally, calmly, unnoticed, and uncelebrated, going about the business of training and education. So we present here some highlights of how ASPHER has sought to help its members, advance the quality and quantity of excellent training, with the aim of improving and protecting the health of people and planet.

1. ASPHER European and Global professionalization and workforce capacity development

In February ASPHER joined with WHO Europe to launch the Road Map for Professionalization. We particularly thank Kasia Czabanovska and Natasha Azzopardi-Musc at WHO EURO, for their efforts in bringing this to fruition. Our professionalization task force is beginning to set out a strategic agenda we hope European countries and schools of public health will join in and develop strongly.

Kasia and John Middleton have also recently published in the **UK Faculty of Public Health 50th anniversary celebration supplement of the Journal of Public Health**.


ASPHER and the Global Network for Academic Public Health (GNAPH) have also been key members and drivers of the WHO Headquarters Steering group work on another roadmap, *National workforce capacity to implement the essential public health functions including a focus on emergency preparedness and response: roadmap for aligning WHO and partner contributions*. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022.

The Steering group for this road map was convened in Geneva October 17-19 with John Middleton contributing for ASPHER. Here with Dr Tedros DG WHO, Laura Magana ASPPH, and Fatai Ogunlayi UK Faculty of Public Health. His report back is here: [Reflections from Geneva: Steering group meeting for the road map at WHO. ASPHER members blog (07.11.2022)](https://aspher.org/blog/2022/11/07/reflections-from-geneva-steering-group-meeting-for-the-road-map-at-who/).

### 2. ASPHER competency development

In February, ECDC published the Core Competencies in Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology in Europe. This was commissioned from ASPHER and was a two-year labour of love by Mary Codd from University College Dublin, with the support of ASPHER colleagues and an extraordinary effort from our Secretariat. The competencies are strongly recommended not just for European schools but more widely.

The wider review of our core curriculum guidelines was launched at the Sofia Dean’s Retreat in October. Please [contact Mary](mailto:mary@aspher.org) if you have ideas about this work. We intend to launch the revised curriculum in Dublin at the 2023 Dean’s Retreat.
3. ASPHER young professionals

Ines Siepmann, our executive board young professional member, has continued to lead our expanding group of excellent young professionals in a range of activities through the year. Our ASPHER Fellows have been doing great work – Rana Orhan and Tara Chen on climate change education and Karl Conyard on the curriculum review. We have Associate Fellows firmly established now in the work of ASPHER also among the group – Rok Hzrzić (Maastricht, The Netherlands: COVID task force data and digital competencies review), Karen Dopelt (Negev, Israel: social involvement role of schools), Lisa Wandschneider (Bielefeld, Germany: diversity and intersectionality competencies and conflict and public health programme).

Outstanding ASPHER YP events of the year:

- The ASPHER ASSETS meeting in Brussels in July, expertly mentored and facilitated by Jose Martin-Moreno.
- The Young Researchers Forums, in Bled, Slovenia in June with winner Dennis Wienand, from University of Vienna, Austria; and Berlin, Berlin in November with winner Iris Ganser, University of Bordeaux, France & McGill University, Canada.

Tara Chen was outstanding as a moderator for the ASPHER-led EPH 2022 Conference plenary.
4. ASPHER COVID task force

The [ASPHER COVID-19 task force](https://www.aspher.org/) has continued to meet weekly. It passed its 100th meeting in 2022. In March we thanked [ASPHER members for their commitment during the pandemic](https://www.aspher.org/). Nadav Davidovitch took over from John Middleton, as chair of the task force in February and has served us with distinction.

Nadav and Rok successfully led a European Public Health session on the working of the task force in November.

**Key papers produced by the task force in 2022:**

Lopes H, McCallum A, Martin-Moreno JM, Middleton J. Invest in primary healthcare and public health for the pandemic and beyond. BMJ 2022;376:o425. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.o425](http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.o425)

Hrzic R, Peixoto VR, Mason-Jones A, McCallum A. Is it really time to ditch the mask? BMJ 2022; 377 doi: [https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.o1186](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.o1186) (Published 11 May 2022)


5. War, conflict and public health task force

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine stimulated a renewed requirement to educate ourselves and our students about war, violence, and public health. This has been strongly led for ASPHER by Bielefeld through Oliver Razum, Lisa Wandschneider and Yudit Namer. As Samer Jabour pointed out in our first seminar on Public Health in Times of War series, it should not have taken that conflict to stimulate our concern and action. War continues to be a major cause of poor health, death and disability; it causes prolonged and inter-generational harms to physical and mental health and destroys societies, environments and economies. It also alerted us to the need to understand how weapons of war impact on the human body and influence the need to plan for conflict.
ASPHER’s diversity and intersectionality agenda is a key element for prevention of injustice and unfairness, key drivers in themselves for conflict. We will publish this work in the first part of 2023. Our commitment to an ethical framework and values, for public health teaching and practice; not the least of these values is a commitment to peace and non-violence. This will also be published in 2023.

Key actions in the year:

ASPHER’s statement on the role of Europe's schools of public health in times of war was produced in a timely and impactful way - and was adopted by the Global Network for Academic Public Health:


The War conflict and public health task force ASPHER web page:


President’s Spring message, War in Europe | And in ASPHER’s Spring newsletter.

6. Climate change and health education

ASPHER’s climate and health education Fellows, Tara Chen and Rana Orhan have been doing brilliant work in the year. We saw climate breakdown first hand, again, this summer; parts of Europe experienced their hottest days ever, and more than 3 Luxembourgs worth of forest fires raged across the continent.

Highlights:

Getting the European Health Policy Platform statement on climate change and health education agreed and launched in the European Parliament in May by the ASPHER President. Formal ASPHER launch by Rana as part of the ASSETS event July, and EPH workshop November.

Moving towards the right to 'health for all' by training the public health and wider health workforce on climate change and health: Joint statement by the EU HPP's thematic network “Climate action through public health education and training” statement.

ASPHER is also now a partner in the European Climate and Health Observatory, overseen by EC DGs SANTE and CLIMA. John Middleton chaired the launch of a major report on climate, infectious
disease and heatwave in November and he and Laurent Chambaud, new ASPHER Climate and Health Education Lead, attended the European Observatory meeting in December.


7. ASPHER partnership business

We continue to build our relationship with EUPHA in accordance with our joint memorandum of 2021.

We have been active in European Public Health Week in May, in the launch meeting, and meetings on SEEPHI and climate change education. We were also active in EPH Conference 2022 Berlin in November. We led with the European Health Management Association, on the plenary, sustaining high quality care: interprofessional training for our clinical and public health workforce.

Key EUPHA partnership efforts:

ASPHER-EUPHA joint message to members March 18th 2022, marking their commitment and hard work over 2 years of pandemic.


In 2023, we will be seeking to formalise a new working partnership with EUPHA, EPHA and other European health partners.

8. ASPHER conference business

Sofia Deans’ and Directors’ Retreat was the first in person meeting since 2019 and was judged
by all to be an extremely successful and rewarding event. The social programme was outstanding also, with an enlightening visit to Plovdiv. Thank you to Bulgarian hosts: Dean Tzekomir Vodenicharov, Karolina Lybomirova and everyone from the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University of Sofia.

As we mention elsewhere, ASPHER was well in evidence at Berlin European Public Health Conference, 09-12 November 2022.

And we look to the World Congress of Public Health May 2nd –6th 2022, for which ASPHER, on behalf of the Global Network for Academic Public Health, is one of the organising partners with the World Federation of Public Health and the Italian Society for Public health and Hygiene.

9. ASPHER governance

ASPHER continues to develop, strengthening its services to members, increasing its membership, securing its financial base, implementing its new statutes, and planning and implementing new initiatives, projects and bids.

At Sofia Deans’ and Directors’ Retreat, October, Carlo Signorelli, Dean of the School of Public Health, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University Milan, took over the mantle as President of ASPHER.

The outgoing president lists these achievements on behalf of ASPHER members:

Outcomes for the General Assembly May 2022


President’s final message. The reign has ended. ASPHER member blog.
Thanks go to all ASPHER Executive Board and to the ASPHER secretariat for their continuing commitment and hard work.

Great thanks also to Jose Martin-Moreno, the outgoing Co-chair of the Honours Committee.

Congratulations to Laurent Chambaud, as recipient of the 2022 ASPHER Andria Stampar Medal, and thanks to him for taking on the role of ASPHER Climate and Health Education Lead.

Left: Laurent Chambaud with President Carlo Signorelli, Vice President John Middleton and Henrique Barros, presenter of the Laudatio.

Many congratulations also to 2022 ASPHER Research Excellence Award winner - Nadav Davidovitch, to 2022 ASPHER Teaching & Practice Excellence Award winner - Institute of Public Health, Jagiellonian University, and to 2022 ASPHER Early Career Excellence Award winners: Keren Dopelt and Rok Hrzic!

10. Happy birthdays

Escola Nationale Salud Publica, ENSP, The Mexican School of Public Health, 100 years old a celebratory publication here: https://saludpublica.mx/index.php/spm/issue/view/539;

and an ASPHER contribution here:


The United Kingdom Faculty of Public Health, 50 years old, a celebratory publication here: https://academic.oup.com/jpubhealth/issue/44/Supplement_1;

and an ASPHER contribution here:


And Louis Pasteur, 200 years old on December 27th 2022.

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ASPHER office was thrilled to be in Berlin and catch up with members and the wider European public health community for the EPH Conference in November. It was an exciting conference programme keeping us busy with fresh ideas and opportunities to network! We were glad to have the ASPHER booth centrally located to offer a great meeting place of the buzz of activity.

We kicked off the event on Wednesday with a great group of participants for the ASPHER Young Researchers Forum during pre-conferences. Read more about YRF in detail here.

Day one of the conference saw ASPHER President Carlo Signorelli speak on the role of Public Health Institutions and Academia in building capacity for Health Impact Assessment. Meanwhile ASPHER Executive Board Member and Covid-19 Task Force Chair Nadav Davidovitch contributed to the EUPHA roundtable on Covid-19 pandemic: rise or downfall of Public Health. He brought the considerable experience of the ASPHER Task Force to that event. We wrapped up Thursday with a memorable ASPHER dinner with the Executive Board, WFPHA leadership, ASPHER Fellows, Heads of Berlin SPH and EHESP to celebrate our 2022 ASPHER award winners including Andrija Stampar medalist Laurent Chambaud.

Friday was quiet in terms of ASPHER conference events, but we took the time to catch up on regular ASPHER business with a full meeting schedule taking advantage of in person meetings with those of you who were on site.
Then we were back in conference mode on Saturday for a busy last day of the conference hosting Plenary 5 along with EHMA on interprofessional training for clinical and public health workforce. It was a great signal of cooperation to synergize the WHO and WHO/EURO-ASPHER professionalization road maps with the EHMA BeWell Project agenda to develop future health workforce strategy on digital and green skills.

The conversation on greening skills carried over to the roundtable on Climate Crisis & Health Education led by ASPHER Fellows Rana Orhan and Tara Chen with ASPHER's new senior Lead for Climate and Health Education Laurent Chambaud. In parallel, the conversation continued also on digital skills critical to surveillance, communication and knowledge translation as discussed in a round table joined by ASPHER Fellow Rok Hrzcic and ASPHER Director Robert Otok.

Finally; we closed out the day and the conference with a round table from the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force on translating science into policy & lessons learned. The group discussed their experience as an international group of experts and the unique ASPHER arrangement allowing them to engage a young generation of early career professionals to be a part of the task force and the work.
ASPHER office created many lasting memories in Berlin including a long and adventurous train journey back on Sunday, sharing the ride with other Brussels-based colleagues and passing through several member cities.

**We're looking forward to seeing all of you next year in Rome for the World Congress on Public Health and in Dublin for the ASPHER Deans’ & Directors’ Retreat, as well as EPH Conference 2023.**

Thank you to all of you and especially to EUPHA for a stimulating EPH 2022 Conference in Berlin!

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**WORLD CONGRESS ON PUBLIC HEALTH - ROME 2023**

2-6 May 2023, Rome, Italy

ASPHER is proud to partner with the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) and the Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SItI) for the 17th World Congress on Public Health to be held in Rome, Italy from 2-6 May 2023.

Over 3,000 public health professionals and researchers, policymakers, and students will convene for the momentous event.

This World Congress on Public Health will be an opportunity to foster collaboration and co-creation of a vision informed by our professional knowledge and that of the communities we serve.

Empowering communities and becoming more responsive to them will lie at the heart of any attempt to move forward, to safeguard and nurture a world in need of healing and protection. [Watch the WCPH promotional invitation video.](#)

**ASPHER members are eligible to register for the event at a reduced rate.**

[Register for the 2023 WCPH here.](#)
The Young Researchers Forum (YRF) was back in person during Berlin EPH preconferences on 09 November. It was terrific to have a motivated group of YRF participants representing thirteen different countries present their work! Congratulations go to all who participated in the event! ASPHER past-President John Middleton was on hand to address the forum and present the awards.

There was unanimous agreement among the judges to award **Iris Ganser of University of Bordeaux, Inserm, BPH Research Center, France; & McGill Clinical and Health Informatics, School of Population and Global Health, McGill University, Canada** with the best presentation prize for her work on ‘Estimation of the effect of non-pharmaceutical interventions and vaccination against COVID-19 in France using dynamical models’. She receives an APC waiver to publish in the journal Public Health Reviews thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+).

Honourable mention went to **Alhadi K. Osman from Health Management Support Team (HMSTeam), Netherlands** and his presentation ‘Colliding Wars: Systematic Review on HIV Response in Conflict- Affected Settings’

ASPHER thanks the members of the Jury: Nina Adelberger, Berlin School of Public Health, Germany; Carla Lopes, ISPUP, Portugal; Polychronis Kostoulas, University of Thessaly, Greece; and Rok Hrzig, University of Maastricht, Netherlands. Great thanks also go to our generous co-sponsors: EUPHA, SSPH+, and Public Health Reviews for their contributions to the 2022 Berlin YRF!

[Download the full YRF Programme here.](#)
CLIMATE AND HEALTH

Updates from Climate-Health Fellows Tara Chen & Rana Orhan

As COP27 ended, the feeling was felt across health stakeholders that climate change's impacts on health remained in the margins throughout the conference. For those interested to reflect the global conference, a group of collaborators have released a call for submissions: Public Health at COP27: Position Paper, collecting personal and organisational perspectives on the prompt, and highlight the conversation on public health and climate change in climate negotiations.

On the public health front, ASPHER Climate & Health Team was present and engaged through various sessions at the #EPH2022 conference (read Tara’s reflections on the ASPHER blog), including the Round table: Climate emergency, health and equity education: policy and practice recommendations for Europe; organised with Ecorys (Netherlands) and EUPHA-ENV.

At the end of November, ASPHER also presented at the Joint Public Health Conference (Healthy Planet, Healthy People), which was organised by the Institute of Public Health, Public Health Agency, Queen’s University Belfast, Ulster University, University College Cork and HSE Health & Wellbeing. Two poster presentations were accepted, highlighting the Joint Statement organised by our Climate-Health Fellows Tara Chen & Rana Orhan and the updating of core competencies; including planetary health education organised by Fellow Karl Conyard and Mary Codd. ASPHER also joined the European Climate and Health Observatory Partners meeting supporting the foster of information exchange and cooperation between relevant actors from all levels.

Lastly, we want to formally welcome Laurent Chambaud as the new senior Climate and Health Education Lead for ASPHER, which also means we must say goodbye to Climate-Health Fellow Rana Orhan, and ASPHER Past President John Middleton who will be stepping back in the following weeks with their roles in supporting ASPHER’s climate and health education agenda. Thank you to both for their amazing work and perseverance to initiate the conversation, and open the doors for continuous engagement!
Planetary Health Education in Public Health Curricula: A European Perspective – Oral Poster Presentation

ASPHER Fellow Karl Conyard, University College Dublin presented the poster ‘Planetary Health Education in Public Health Curricula: A European Perspective; The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region’ at two recent conferences. The poster is based on one piece of the ongoing update to ASPHER Core Curriculum that Karl is working on under the direction of ASPHER Executive Board Member Mary Codd, UCD.

The poster was presented at the Joint Public Health Conference on Planetary Health “Healthy People, Healthy Planet” (IPH) Institute for Public Health, Ireland on the 30th of November 2022. The conference brought together public health and climate experts from across Ireland and the United Kingdom to share experience on what has worked, what hasn’t and what public health as an institution should work to in the name of planetary health.

This was followed by a presentation at the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland (RCPI) Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Winter Scientific Meeting on 07th of December 2022, which provided a great opportunity for the ASPHER CCP team to address public health medicine consultants, many of whom are directing new planetary health projects in their respected geographical areas and wanted to know more about this important topic.


Download the poster here.

Working toward a transdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning planetary health – A collective reflection

In order to educate the next generation of leaders to work at reverting the damaging effects of the Anthropocene, there is an increasing need to incorporate more environmental-related aspects in all teaching programmes, including the health-related. Planetary health is a complex field which can benefit from a transdisciplinary pedagogical approach. The aim of this research was to evaluate an approach working toward transdisciplinarity applied to a course of Planetary Health taught at the Bachelor degree Global Responsibility & Leadership of the University of Groningen through substantive feedback and reflections from the students.

Read the full article by ASPHER colleagues at Groningen and ASPHER Fellow Rana Orhan.
ASPHER TASK FORCE ON WAR

The ASPHER Task Force on War convened in March 2022 in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Check back to the Task Force on War homepage for updates.

Seminar Series (Part II): Public Health in Times of War

War in Europe was widely perceived as a problem of the past. Consequently, European Schools Public Health have taught little about war and its consequences for population health. This has changed with Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the accompanying war crimes against civilians.

This second seminar series on war wrapped up in November with lecturers from the European Region starting to fill gaps in public health curricula which have become obvious since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. When relating to the situation in Ukraine and its neighbours, and when assessing health risks, lecturers have drawn explicit parallels to relevant public health challenges in other world regions, but also to relevant non-war settings.

In the first part of the seminar series, we discussed, for example, how accommodations for refugees are organized (Dr. Joost Butenop & Prof. Dr. Oliver Razum), joint international emergency aid can function in humanitarian crisis (Prof. Dr. Dorit Nitzan, WHO), and how public health can promote peace (Dr. Angelika Claußen, IPPNW).

In the second part of the seminar series, Volodymyr Lotushko (Ukrainian Healthcare Center) showed us how war crimes against medical facilities and personnel can be documented. We also discussed ways in which hate can be conceptualized as a chronic, communicable disease (Prof. Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, Dalla Lana School of Public Health) and how (not) to deal with militarism in public health (Prof. Dr. John Middleton, ASPHER).

We thank all presenters, colleagues and students for their support and commitment to the seminar series! Please feel free to send us a message if you have any questions or suggestions.

Slide sets of all presenters can be found here.

You can access recordings for selected sessions here: Public Health as a Moral Third by Dr Yudit Namer
Hatred as a disease by Prof Dr Izzeldin Abuelaish
Public Health and Militarism by Prof Dr John Middleton and read his blog.

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Dr Lisa Wandschneider: lisa.wandschneider@uni-bielefeld.de

Blog: Swords to Ploughshares:
The Need to Convert to a Healthier, Greener Economy

The image of the beating of swords to ploughshares outside the UN in New York is a powerful one, created by the Russia Sculptor Yevgeny Vuchetich, early, and deep, in the Cold War. It evokes the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament which says:

‘He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.’

Military manufacture is the driver of military adventurism and aggression; it provides the tools for repression. During the widespread opposition to nuclear proliferation in the early 1980s, healthcare workers, under the worldwide aegis of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) campaigned against the threat of nuclear weapons, but also against the waste of money and resources. This was famously captured in Victor Sidel’s Lancet paper, ‘Destruction before Detonation. More recently, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute compared the opportunity cost of military spend with the money needed to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals; achieving the SDGs 1 and 2, to eliminate hunger, would require 13% of global military spend, SDG on education, 12% and SDG 3 on health, 5%.

Read ASPHER Vice President John Middleton’s blog on militarism here.

Further reading on Public Health and War

The role of public health in the prevention of violence:
a statement from the United Kingdom Faculty of Public Health

‘Health promotion is peace promotion’ – the activity of improving population health inherently strives to reduce inequalities, to achieve fairness, and tackle environmental, economic and social causes of ill health.

Violence is a major public health problem. We believe it has been given insufficient attention and priority in the arena of public health policy, partnerships and interventions. A public health approach to violence prevention involves, measuring health needs arising from violence, determining causes and
solutions to problems, advocating effective interventions and mobilising partnerships to improve health and prevent or control the harmful effects of violence.

These functions, in respect to violence prevention, mitigation and control, apply to all levels of violence – in domestic and local situations, with conflicts between communities, within countries and international violence. This paper sets out the roles of public health practitioners and the role of the public health system in preventing, mitigating and responding to violence.

Read the statement of the UK Faculty of Public Health.

Massive. Brutal. Deliberate: A Report by the Ukrainian Healthcare Center

The destruction of healthcare infrastructure in the Russia-Ukraine war is shocking in its scale and brutality. In the first phase of the invasion (lasting 42 days), Russian troops committed a total of 184 attacks on health facilities, on average four episodes daily. Healthcare infrastructure, including medical personnel, have special protection under international humanitarian law (IHL). Hospitals remain operational even amid active military action to ensure the continuous provision of medical aid to civilians. They are considered protected territory in a conflict, and military forces must take additional precautions to avoid putting health facilities at risk.

This report combines an analysis of the evidence gathered by the Ukrainian Healthcare Center’s team from open sources, local witnesses, and site visits.


ASPHER TASK FORCE ON PROFESSIONALISING THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

The ASPHER Task Force on Professionalising the Public Health Workforce will reconvene in February 2023.

Article: Professionalism of the public health workforce – how to make it happen?

We need a skilled, expert, recognized and regulated public health profession to protect and improve the health of people and the planet. The pandemic has highlighted the need for a strong and multidisciplinary public health workforce (PHW), whose defined professional code is to save lives, protect and improve health. The public and politicians need to have confidence in
the expertise of public health leaders, and they need to be able to put their trust in a group of people with a public health skill set.

The recently launched WHO-ASPHER Road Map to Professionalizing the Public Health Workforce in the European Region sets the direction for international and national public health system-wide action. It proposes actions to advance regulation, structures and solutions for a strong and resilient PHW and to place public health at the forefront of European health policy governance.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has followed this up with a high stakeholder document with a global outlook: Building the public health and emergency workforce: A roadmap. The authors of this important document emphasize that the ‘essential role and impact of the workforce involved in delivering public health functions has been overlooked.’ Further they recognize that there are many disparities in and across countries and regions concerning PHW policies, capacities, planning or monitoring. It makes it difficult to assess the existing PHW capacities, support and recognize them so that they can deliver essential public health functions to assure health security and improved health and wellbeing.

The two ‘road maps’ are pointing in the same direction. They highlight an urgent need to strengthen and recognize the PHW. Is professionalization a necessary step forward? Current policy discourse still focuses on numerous barriers and challenges including the definitions, interdisciplinarity and intersectorality of the PHW, which paradoxically can be viewed as its strength on the road to professionalism.


Call for Papers: Special Issue "COVID-19 and the Governmental Public Health Workforce: Adaptation, Response, and Recovery to Staffing a Global Pandemic"

In this special issue of IJERPH, we invite submissions that characterise how across the globe the governmental public health workforce adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as how the pandemic has impacted the workforce. This issue seeks to highlight especially the work of practitioners and public health systems research as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. New research papers, practice reports, brief reports, reviews, and conference papers are welcome to this issue. We will accept submissions from researchers, academic–practice teams, and encourage submissions from public health practitioners and organisations supporting public health entities.

Special Issue Editors: Dr. J. P. Leider, Dr. Beth Resnick, Dr. Heather Krasna, Dr. Katarzyna Czabanowska

See the call and submission guidelines here.
ASPHER COVID-19 TASK FORCE


Weekly Covid-19 Country Situation Reports

The ASPHER Covid-19 Task force continues to publish weekly Covid-19 Situation Reports. The reports are currently authored by ASPHER Young Professional Rok Hrzić, Maastricht University and ASPHER Covid-19 TF Chair Nadav Davidovitch, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

In addition to an evolving set of data published to get the most realistic picture of Covid-19 across the European Region, the reports now also provide highlighted articles on important developments.

Download the situation reports here.

Further Reading on COVID-19

DOI: https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192315443

URL: https://www.ssph-journal.org/articles/10.3389/ijph.2022.1605086

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1186/s13584-022-00548-3

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhip.2022.100345

ASPHER NEWS & EVENTS

The ECDC Competency Framework and Self-Assessment Toolkit for Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology

In 2008 the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) published core competencies for ‘Public Health Epidemiologists working in Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response’. There followed ‘Core Competencies for Infection Control and Hospital Hygiene Professionals’ (2013); ‘Core Competencies for Vaccine-preventable diseases and Immunisation’ (2017); and ‘Core Competencies on Public Health Preparedness’ (2017). The COVID-19 pandemic was the catalyst for updating ECDC core competencies in applied infectious disease epidemiology (UCCAIDE) to capture important developments in diagnostic methods, transmission dynamics, genomic analysis, disease modelling and vaccinology.

A steering group comprising ASPHER (Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region) Executive Board and COVID-19 Task Force members, ECDC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and selected experts undertook the updating processes. Agreed updated competencies were published in April 2022 and translated into all European languages. The framework consists of 157 competencies organised in 23 domains, mapped to 6 subject areas (A–F) as follows: A: Essential methods for applied infectious disease epidemiology (4 domains /28 competencies); B: Preparedness, surveillance and response to infectious disease outbreaks (3 domains /29 competencies); C: Communication and advocacy (4 domains /25 competencies); D: Practice of infectious disease epidemiology (5 domains /34 competencies); E: Contextual influences on infectious disease management (4 domains /21 competencies); and F: Leadership and management (3 domains /20 competencies).

To facilitate use of the competency framework, a self-assessment tool (S-AT) developed by ECDC permits individuals to analyse their proficiency level in each domain and to access training resources if desired. At the Winter Scientific Meeting of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine in Ireland, the Project Scientific Lead, Mary Codd, presented preliminary results of a pilot project of its application in an MPH class which highlighted the strengths and limitations of the tool, and proposed an adaptation to allow capture of proficiency levels of respondents anonymously. It would also facilitate assessment of proficiency before and after delivery of educational programmes. Completion of the S-AT at key points in public health education programmes can identify areas in which programmes perform well and areas for which curricular content could be enhanced. It is hoped that more detailed findings will be accepted for presentation at the World Congress of Public Health (WCPH) in Rome in May 2023.
Editorial: «I Do Not Have Time» —
Is This the End of Peer Review in Public Health Sciences?

The explosion in COVID-19 research caused an unprecedented increase in submissions and thus demand for peer review in health science journals. The publication rates of all peer reviewed public health related articles increased by 25% from 2019 to 2020, and by 21% from 2020 to 2021.

The growth in publications has brought the peer review system to the edge, as the commitment of scientists did not keep pace with the increase in manuscripts. In Elsevier’s health and medical journals the increase in peer review invitation acceptance rates from 2019 to 2020 (February to May periods) was about 50% lower than the increase in submissions. The records of IJPH provide sobering facts, too. “I do not have time” has become a leading response — and even worse: the majority does not respond at all.

The consequences of this crisis are equally bad for our authors and editors. The simple truth is: if we collectively “do not have time” to review manuscripts, there will be no peer review anymore. The editors in chief and managing editor of the International Journal of Public Health (IJPH) and the Public Health Reviews (PHR) — hope you dedicate the time to read this Editorial about the peer review crisis in public health sciences.

Please respond to this short survey to find solutions (and share it with your research community). And remember: IJPH and PHR are independent, non-profit, open-access journals owned by SSPH+. PHR is edited in partnership with ASPHER. They have independent scientific editorial boards. As the publisher, (like Springer Nature until 2020) Frontiers has no influence on editorial or peer-review decisions, policies, or article processing charges (APC). Frontiers is paid for its services (platform provision, article production, APC billing etc.) in a competitive, fair and transparent business model.

Available from URL: https://www.ssph-journal.org/articles/10.3389/phrs.2022.1605407

Blog: Happy 200th Birthday, Louis Pasteur

This month marks the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Louis Pasteur, the Father of Immunology and Vaccinology, one of the formulators of Germ Theory, a giant and hero of the public health, to his nation, France, to Europe and to the world. We owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. His life and work and legacy are celebrated in a series of papers in the December 17th edition of the Lancet.

ASPHER Vice-President John Middleton has written a special blog for the anniversary.
ASPER Projects

VXTRAIN

ASPER is pleased to announce that the training course on vaccination acceptance communication for frontline health workers has been rolled out by ECDC with the first training earlier this month in Bucharest, with participants from 10 Countries.

We look forward to keeping you updated and involving our members in upscaling this important training resource as all countries struggle to keep populations fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and up to date on regular schedule vaccination.

SEEPEHI

The ERASMUS+ CBHE project Sharing European Educational Experience in Public Health for Israel (SEEPEHI) is currently buried under our interim reporting.

We will bring you more news soon with another publication expected shortly and an upcoming partners meeting at ASPHER Brussels headquarters in January where we will take stock of the work done and look to solidify plans for the critical final year of the project.

Member Database and Social Media Accounts

The ASPHER Secretariat continues to improve its online infrastructure to serve members better. Currently we are working on updating the member database and linking members’ social media handles to their dedicated pages on ASPHER website. The Secretariat encourages all members to set up social media accounts (if you have not done so yet) and send us relevant details so we may link up with you and amplify your communications. We also encourage members to take advantage of the ASPHER blog if you have any items or reporting from your country or institution that you wish to share in more detail.

The Secretariat will ensure to screen ASPHER members’ social media accounts on a regular basis for any news which can be published in the monthly newsletters and shared within the network. Therefore, share the handles of your social media accounts with the Secretariat, if you have not done so already or follow us on social media platforms. If you are posting content, which might be of interest for the ASPHER community, feel free to tag us on Twitter: @ASPHERoffice and LinkedIn: @ASPHER.

You are always welcome to share your news, publications, comments & suggestions with Lore at lore.leighton@aspher.org to be included in the next regular issue of the newsletter and on the ASPHER website activity log.
MEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

Launch of RCSI School of Population Health

A new School of Population Health launched in October 2022 by RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Dublin will seek to better understand and address the complex and ever-changing barriers to better health, in Ireland and globally.

The School will build on the university’s legacy of impact in population and public health, which can be traced back to the 1840s. The university established a division of population health sciences in 2006 and, more recently, RCSI experts became trusted voices throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The School integrates multiple scientific disciplines, including public health and epidemiology, data science, health psychology, healthcare outcomes and global surgery. It will drive multi-disciplinary initiatives in research, develop educational programmes and work with a diverse range of national and global partners to positively impact population health.

Prof. Edward Gregg, inaugural Chair of Population Health at RCSI, said: “We are in a time of great change. We have seen how our lives, societies and economies can be upended when public health is threatened. We still face many challenges. The root causes of public health are diverse, and extend beyond genes, biology and medical care, and depend on behaviour, social, economic, environmental and ecologic factors. That is why addressing these challenges requires a multi-disciplinary approach which explores the causes, as well as developing interventions that can make a difference.”

The RCSI School of Population Health includes some 70 academic, research and professional staff, as well as 25 PhD scholars. Population health scientists and researchers at RCSI have an impressive, multi-year track record undertaking impactful multidisciplinary research and collaborating with an extensive network of international and national partners.
Special publication celebrating 50 years of the Faculty of Public Health: Public health professionals delivering better health for all

For the past 50 years, the Faculty has worked in accordance with our core charitable objects — to promote for the public benefit the advancement of knowledge in the field of public health; to develop public health with a view to maintaining the highest possible standards of professional competence and practice; and to act as an authoritative body for the purposes of consultation and advocacy in matters of educational or public interest concerning public health.

This special edition of our Journal of Public Health — a journal which first entered publication over 100 years ago as the Journal of State Medicine — brings together a collection of papers reflecting these objects and examining the journey that the Faculty, and the public health profession, has been on over the past 50 years.

In addition to many other distinguished colleagues, ASPHER past Presidents Kasia Czabanowska and John Middleton contribute a piece entitled Professionalism of the public health workforce – how to make it happen?

ASPHER congratulates our Member, the UK Faculty of Public Health on 50 Years!

Special publication celebrating 100 years of the School of Public Health of Mexico

Eduardo Lazcano and Laura Magaña are very pleased to share the content of the special monograph of the Journal Salud Pública Mex about the 100 years of the School of Public Health of Mexico.

The School of Public Health of Mexico (ESPM, by its acronym in Spanish) became a centenarian in 2022. Over time, it has transmitted a set of values in the practice of public health education, and its name is associated with leadership, tradition, innovation and cutting-edge research, education and service. Over a century, the ESPM has been recognized as an exemplary institution, leader in public health education in Latin America and the world. In this special issue of the Salud Pública de México (SPM), which celebrates the first one hundred years of ESPM, we are grateful for the contributions of many academic leaders in public health globally and
the diverse perspectives they have incorporated, whose emphasis is on the urgent need to keep transforming and advancing public health education.

**Articles include many distinguished contributions, including ASPHER Vice President John Middleton on Tradition, leadership and innovation in public health education.**

ASPHER congratulates our Associate Member, the School of Public Health in Mexico on 100 Years!

**Call for Abstracts: For the Swiss Public Health Conference on "Public health and primary care: stronger together"**

12 - 13 september 2023, Lausanne

Rapidly changing health needs of the population, the growing proportion of older people and the associated increase in chronic and multiple diseases, as well as socio-economic inequalities, constantly bring new challenges to the health system and require regular adjustments to primary health care. In order to maintain the health of the population, expand treatment options and at the same time control costs, public resources must be used efficiently.

We would like to invite you to submit an abstract either for a 10-minute oral presentation at one of the parallel sessions, for a topical workshop or for a poster.

**The submission deadline for abstracts is 1 February 2023 (12pm CET).**

[Learn more and see the call for abstracts here.](#)

**Research Project: "The Legacy of Nazi Medicine in Contemporary Mental Health Ethics" Comparing three decades of debates in Germany and Israel, 1990-2020**

**Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel and Göttingen, Germany; 2022-2025**

This joint German-Israeli project will study the legacy of Nazi medicine and the Holocaust and its impact on bioethics.

By comparing ethical debates in Germany and Israel we aim at detailed, disciplinary-reflective understandings of the historical, social, and political factors which influence the development of ethical discourse in psychiatry and mental health. Such comparative insights will prove fruitful in understanding the cultural framing of bioethical thinking. [Find more project information here.](#)
UMIT: Winter School in Clinical Epidemiology

13 - 17 February 2023

The Winter School in Clinical Epidemiology will give you a comprehensive overview of epidemiologic principles and methods to problems encountered in public health and clinical medicine. It provides important information for clinicians and health policy makers in order to identify risk factors for diseases and to determine optimal preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for individuals and populations.

Early booking deadline 09 January 2023

Detailed information about our courses and study programs is available at www.htads.org, via e-mail htads@umit-tirol.at or by phone +43 (0)50 8648-3901

PARTNER NEWS

IANPHI Stockholm Statement: The Role of NPHIs in Supporting Preparedness & Response to Emergencies Affecting Population Health

Between November 30 and December 2, 2022, National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) from around the world met in Stockholm, Sweden at the IANPHI Annual Meeting to address and find solutions to the biggest challenges to the public health security of the world's population.

The meeting concluded that there is an urgent need to apply the lessons learned from COVID-19 to address other health threats, such as the impact of climate change. Now is the time for NPHIs to step up their role in the handling of crises that affect the health of our populations with prioritization of health equity.

Read the Statement here.

ECDC Public Health Training Winter 2022 Newsletter

Download the Winter 2022 ECDC Newsletter of PH Training Quarterly announcements here.
OPPORTUNITIES

Vacancy: Inserm Junior Chair hosted in U1309 RSMS, EHESP, Rennes

Scientific domain: Research on Health Services
Duration: 5 years (then possible permanent position)

Scientific project: The scientific project will be principally oriented on the analysis of the links between the organisation of health care professionals and the overall performance, for patients, professionals, and the health system, in accordance with the overall scientific project of the research team.

Teaching project: The candidate is expected to participate to existing courses (Master's/PhD) and develop specific teaching contents consistently with his/her research topics and methods. Teaching projects will include mentorship and direction of Master and PhD students. Specific focus on public health policy, program or pilot evaluation courses, including management and/or microeconomics, and mixed methods for master degree program (notably MPH, AMOS, PPASP).

Deadline for application: January 31, 2023

Contacts for further information:
Emmanuelle Leray emmanuelle.leray@ehesp.fr and Nicolas Sirven nicolas.sirven@ehesp.fr

Download a copy of the job description

Vacancy: Research Assistant USHER Institute, University of Edinburgh

Full time 35 hours per week
Fixed Term available from 1st March 2023 for 18 months

This is a fantastic opportunity for a motivated and proactive individual to gain research, project management, and topic expertise in public health research. Working with a highly experienced team of academics and third sector colleagues, the successful candidate will gain applied experience in complex health behaviour change intervention design and evaluation, particularly process evaluation. Assisting the Principal Investigator and Research Fellows, the successful candidate will require research skills in conducting and analysing qualitative research and will have a strong organisational skills to set up and coordinate team members to assist with fieldwork. You will have a Masters degree in a relevant area and be able to demonstrate initiative, resourcefulness and a proactive approach to help plan and conduct original research with a range of stakeholders.

Informal enquiries may be directed to Dr Fiona Dobbie, Senior Lecturer fiona.dobbie@ed.ac.uk.

Click for more information and a copy of the full job description.
Vacancy: Policy Manager - Food Environments & NCD Prevention, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

Full-time position, based in Brussels, Belgium
1-year contract with the possibility of extension

As a leading voice, EPHA advocates for effective and equitable policies to advance sustainable societies with health-enabling living environments and to tackle non-communicable diseases (NCDs), Europe's foremost health challenge. We are looking for a perfect fit for EPHA's team: a highly motivated and proactive individual to advocate for the prevention of NCDs, and the promotion and improvement of health and well-being for all. The successful candidate will have experience in policy and advocacy, and good knowledge of public health.

**Deadline: 15 January 2023, 23:59 CET**

Learn more about the position here.

Applications and Scholarships Open:
Europubhealth+, European Master in Public Health

Are you looking for a career in public health? Would you like to experience living in several European countries while studying in an international environment?

The Europubhealth+ Master course is for you: A 2-year multidisciplinary Master course in public health | Delivered by a consortium of 8 European universities leading to an internationally recognized double Master's degree | An intercultural environment of study, in up to 3 languages: English, Spanish or French.

The Europubhealth+ Masters offers special scholarships for countries from Western Balkans; Central Asia; Gulf Countries; and South Africa. Don’t miss this opportunity - apply before 11 January!

The Europubhealth+ programme is an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree that has been recognized as a Master of Excellence by the European Commission since 2006.
PHD Applications Open: ACRC Academy, University of Edinburgh

The Academy for Leadership and Training in Advanced Care will develop the next generation of leaders in this field who are both excellent in their core disciplines and skilled in working widely across disciplines and sectors. We will prepare our four annual cohorts for a diverse range of pioneering and influential roles in the public, private and third sectors.

All our PhD projects are interdisciplinary, with supervisors spanning two or more colleges, and we offer students a wide range of opportunities such as academic retreats, internships, and networking events. PhD candidates studying with us will receive a variety of benefits, including:

- An initial training year that builds a strong cohort and prepares students for their PhD, followed by three years of PhD research;
- External expert input from leaders in the field of ageing and care ensures that the students are focused on urgent, real-world problems;
- Enhanced stipend, full fee coverage for home and international students, and a good consumables and travel budget

The full list of projects can be viewed here: PhD Projects | The University of Edinburgh.

ECDC Remunerated Experts: Applications open

ECDC requires the input of independent external expertise to fulfil its mandate and to deliver its work programme. The selection of external experts aims to complement ECDC’s scientific expertise and to assist ECDC with expert advice on specific tasks. ECDC’s external experts contribute to the scientific decision-making in the EU with their scientific input. Tasks requiring external expertise include contribution to ad hoc panels, working groups and committees as well as the provision of opinions or advice on other technical matters (e.g. Rapid Risk Assessments or scientific guidance) or meetings (e.g. country visits or seminars).

Applications are currently open for the following expert profiles:

- Disease-specific surveillance, prevention, and control (Ref. No. CEI/ECDC/2021/005), [profile description]. Deadline: 10-07-2026.
- Public health areas for country support (Ref. No. CEI/ECDC/2021/004), [profile description]. Deadline: 09-04-2026.
Expert to contribute to strengthening Africa CDC capacities in preparedness, surveillance, and response to health threats posed by communicable diseases (Ref. No. CEI/ECDC/DIR/2021/002), [profile description](#). Deadline: 30-09-2025.

Expert public health emergency preparedness and response capacities and capabilities in EU candidate and potential candidates (EU Enlargement) countries and European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) partner countries (Ref. No. ECDC/EX/2020/001), [profile description](#). Deadline: 31-08-2025.

**Learn more and apply here.**

**Researcher Opportunity:**
**Evaluating the Impact of Dance Resources on Long Covid Symptoms**

Are you a researcher with an interest in dance? Scottish Ballet is commissioning an external service evaluation on the impact of Emerge - a new dance health programme for people living with long Covid. Emerge provides movement resources and tools which aim to help people with long Covid to self-manage symptoms, whilst supporting them to build resilience. Emerge features resources for posture, alignment and mobility as well as creative tasks to increase confidence and self-expression. In addition to digital resources, the Emerge project includes a 10-week block of one-hour, weekly in-person dance classes which are followed by a short social café at Scottish Ballet. The commissioned external evaluation will focus specifically on the impact of the 10-week in-person element. Scottish Ballet’s Health Team has designed and developed the programme by listening to people living with long Covid as well as medical professionals working in this area. This commissioned evaluation will continue Scottish Ballet's commitment to understanding the impact of our SB Health programmes on participant experiences, whilst identifying the benefits and potential of Emerge.

**For more information on SB Health please visit:** [SB Health](#) | [Scottish Ballet](#).

**Download the flyer to learn more about the opportunity and how to apply.**

Share the ASPHER newsletter!

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**READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE**

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