

# Report of the ASPHER Honours Platform for the Annual General Assembly, Deans and Directors Retreat, Porto, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2024.

## Introduction

The ASPHER Honours committee was set up in 2005, comprising the Association's Past Presidents and Andrija Stampar Medallists.

<https://www.aspher.org/honours-committee.html> The terms of reference for the group changed in 2021, to become the ASPHER Honours Platform. Honours Platform internal rules statement: [https://www.aspher.org/download/785/gr-2\\_rule20-aspher-hp\\_rd-07-2021.pdf](https://www.aspher.org/download/785/gr-2_rule20-aspher-hp_rd-07-2021.pdf)

In 2023-2024 the Honours Committee has been co-chaired by Prof Selma Sogoric, Andrija Stampar Medallist, 2020, and Professor John Middleton, Immediate Past President of ASPHER.

At its meeting of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, a proposed programme of work was set out:

1. A programme of Honours lectures –online or in person.
2. A calendar of major landmarks in European public health
3. Influencing the Pandemic Preparedness Treaty International Negotiating body –in support of PH capacity and workforce; and shared intelligence on Pandemic Fund bids.
4. ASSETS meeting July 3-5<sup>th</sup> 2023.
5. Support online resources for the New Public Health textbook, edition 4.

### **1. A programme of Honours lectures –online or in person**

A substantial number of Honours Platform members signalled their willingness to present a lecture, to be filmed, in person or online, for the ASPHER website or YouTube channel. It was recognised that this could only start in the later part of the year, and within the available Secretariat resources. Mike Ryan (Stampar Medallist, 2021) delivered an inspirational and engaging address to the Deans' Retreat in Dublin, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. There is considerable potential for us to build on these lectures by our eminent members.

Laurent Chambaud, Stampar Medallist 2022 has taken on the role of ASPHER champion for Climate change and health education and has undertaken a number of lectures on ASPHER's behalf in this capacity. He and ASPHER young professional Tara Chen have also delivered the astonishingly successful series of climate change education for public health responders course this year, with Global Consortium for Climate Change and Health Education (GCCCHE)

<https://www.aspher.org/download/1490/aspher-gcche-eur-course-speakers.pdf>

## **2. A calendar of major landmarks in European public health**

In 2021 and 2022, ASPHER did mark the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Louis Pasteur <https://www.aspher.org/articles,4,159.html> and the same landmark for Rudolf Virchow <https://www.aspher.org/articles,4,131.html>

The co-chairs of the Honours Platform marked the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of the World Health Organisation in their BMJ opinion piece: <https://www.bmj.com/content/381/bmj.p812.long> and in their illustrated blog for ASPHER. <https://www.aspher.org/news,97.html>

But we missed the birthday of Jenner, and I am sure many others. So how can you remember when significant anniversaries are upcoming? And make sure you don't miss the occasion to honour these heroes and their legacies. The Honours Platform has been working with young professionals Victoria Stanford, and Jaoa Martins to compile a spreadsheet which can help us plan our diaries of celebrations. At the appendix of this report is an abstract of this work that we are not now able to make at the Deans Retreat this week. A working prototype Excel spreadsheet has now been set up, and can be viewed here.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/eaz2elfa5za6i6516wdr1/ADGM-zd4K57gZyHZxNWrTp8?rlkey=ipx0hii5g4cfk7r57e85fzs2v&dl=0> ... We need your help with the landmarks we should include we know it is too Anglo-centric at present. Mainly we need technical and software developer expertise to iron out some of the bugs and move us to a less limited tool than Excel – ideas and volunteers welcome.

## **3. Influencing the Pandemic Preparedness Treaty International Negotiating body –in support of PH capacity and workforce; and shared intelligence on Pandemic Fund bids.**

The Honours Platform has not delivered collectively in relation to the Pandemic Treaty, but individual members have been active. On specific issues:

Honours platform members (Jose Martin-Moreno, Kasia Czabanovska, and John Middleton) have been influential in the development of major WHO resources launched at the World Health Assembly May 2024, taking forward the public health and emergencies workforce capacity road map. These resources, “Building the national workforce for essential public health functions (EPHFs): A Roadmap for aligning WHO and partner contributions. The introductory web page can be found here. <https://www.who.int/teams/health-workforce/PHEworkforce/1>

Re: the first wave grants from the Pandemic Fund: John Middleton has been following this up with schools in beneficiary countries. Member blog: Progress on the WHO public health and emergency road map: check out the Pandemic Fund! <https://www.aspher.org/articles,3,165.html>

ASPHER has just produced a statement on the current state of the Pandemic Treaty: Reid J, Bauernfeind A, Middleton J et al The Pandemic Agreement: A Springboard for Urgent Progress or a Safety Net for Basic Commitments? ASPHER statement. May 27<sup>th</sup> 2024. Available at: [https://www.aspher.org/download/1530/aspher-briefing-document-and-statement\\_pandemic-agreement\\_24\\_05\\_24.pdf](https://www.aspher.org/download/1530/aspher-briefing-document-and-statement_pandemic-agreement_24_05_24.pdf)

#### **4. The Andrija Stampar Summer Educational & Tutoring School (ASSETS)**

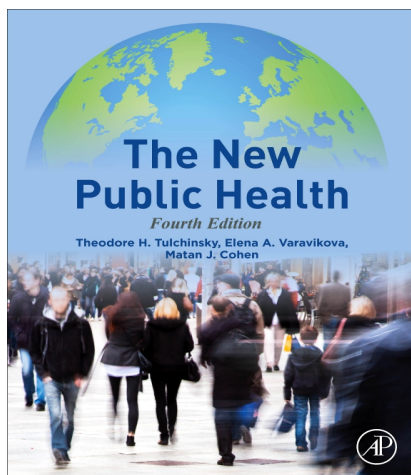
A successful event was held July 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 2023, providing a small group of young public health professionals with an in-depth, intensive mentoring experience presenting their own work and contributing to group mentoring and peer review.

<https://www.aspher.org/events,220.html> Academic Faculty was Honours Platform members Jose-Maria Martin-Moreno, Selma Sogoric and John Middleton. The group also received presentations from European public health organisations, based in Brussels and Gastein. ASSETS for this year has been re-evaluated with potential young professional applicants, and will be presented in October 2024.

#### **5. Support resources for New Public Health edition 4.**

New Public Health edition 4 was published in 2023, one of its editors is Professor Ted Tulchinsky, Stampar Medallist, 2008. Details of the publication can be found here:

<https://shop.elsevier.com/books/the-new-public-health/tulchinsky/978-0-12-822957-6>



Honours committee members have contributed series of blogs for the electronic version, online teaching resources of the NPH4.

<https://educate.elsevier.com/book/details/9780128229576>

These can be viewed on the ASPHER NPH4 case studies web page:

<https://www.aspher.org/new-public-health-4-case-studies.html>

## **Conclusion**

The Honours Platform has made considerable progress this year, with some notable outcomes, but also some other aspects of its work which need to progress more rapidly and visibly. John Middleton will be standing down as co-chair at the meeting of the General Assembly on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2024, and as the constitution dictates, his place will be taken by Carlo Signorelli, as Immediate Past President and Vice President of ASPHER. A meeting for the Honours Platform will be set up in due course to enable the handover.

John Middleton, Selma Sogoric

Honours Platform Co-chairs

**Appendix** please see section 2.

**Abstract: A tool to recognise major anniversaries in the history of public health**

Possible conference themes for this:

- Social participation for health and the role of schools of public health.
- Or
- Open topic on schools of public health, their interests and challenges.

Public health students, starting out in their careers, or presidents of public health bodies, have in their heads, key dates in the history of public health: the English Public Health Act perhaps? the birthday of the Italian National Health service? Virchow in Silesia? Or major discoveries: Snow on Cholera? Goldberger on pellagra? Bateson on insulin? Or events in our governance: the establishment of WHO? The International Convention on Human Rights? The Framework convention on climate change?

But do you have the awareness to know when the big anniversaries are coming up? For ASPHER in recent years, we have just managed to mark the bicentenary of Rudolf Virchow, the bicentenary of Louis Pasteur, and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of WHO. We missed the bicentenary of Edward Jenner.

Possibly you want to mark an upcoming anniversary with a blog for your school of public health? or for ASPHER? Or for a formal publication? Perhaps it is such a big and significant anniversary you want to put on a celebration conference? This may require you to reflect on the legacy of a discovery; you may wish to send out trailers for your meeting well in advance, and build a list of key speakers who may only be available a year or so ahead?

To assist you in your planning, we have developed a simple spreadsheet tool to alert you to big anniversaries coming up. We will present the tool, not as a finished article, but a work in progress. This your opportunity to enable us to recognise and lay down markers for the major anniversaries in our public health histories within countries, within Europe and globally. And it enables us to celebrate and honour the heroes of public health in whose footsteps we follow.

Victoria Stanford, Specialty Registrar in Public Health

Jaoa Martins, Specialty Registrar in Public Health

John Middleton, Past President, ASPHER, Vice President, Global Network for Academic Public Health