



Usher Institute
University of Edinburgh
Old Medical School
Teviot Place
Edinburgh
EH8 9AG

April 25th 2021

Dear Professor Middleton

Re: Usher Institute membership application

Please find attached our application for membership of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region.

I thought it would be helpful to provide some additional information for colleagues who may be less familiar with the Usher Institute, particularly more recent developments. The Institute sits within the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine at the University of Edinburgh and includes the Centres for Population Health Sciences, Global Health, Medical Informatics, Biomedicine, Self and Society and the Clinical Trials Unit. It also hosts the Asthma UK Centre for applied research, the UK National Institute of Health Global Health Research units on Respiratory Health and Research on Tackling Infections to Benefit Africa and the Cochrane Vascular Review Group. Together, these cover the major domains of public health. Clinically qualified staff have honorary NHS contracts all specialties have contributed to research, teaching, policy, practice, expert advice to governments and public communications to support local, national and global efforts to control the Covid-19 pandemic.

The University of Edinburgh established the first Chair in Public Health in 1898 (the Bruce and John Usher Chair) and I am the current post holder. The Usher Institute was designated as a WHO collaborating centre on Population Health Research and Training in 2013 and is due for redesignation in 2021. Since 2015, the Usher Institute has increased its emphasis on learning and teaching, and the online MPH obtained APHEA designation earlier in 2021 following a successful submission and site visit. All but two of the sub-criteria were met and we are currently working through the action plan that we have drawn up based on the recommendations. Of particular note was recognition that the programme was 'structurally sustainable', 'particularly progressive', and tailored to the needs of learners, enabling them to link research and real-world issues in practice. The expertise of the learning technologists in enabling the production of high-quality learning materials was also noted.

In terms of research, as you will see from the attached documentation, the Institute currently holds 114 active research grants from 37 funders on behalf of Principal Investigators and programme leads. Of these, 6 are international research councils or European Union research funds, 8 are Scottish or UK research councils or equivalent, 15 are charitable foundations, 3 are government or health service bodies, one is the UK biobank, two are industry funded and two are multi-organisational consortia or partnerships.

Our staff, researchers, and students contribute public health expertise across and beyond the University through formal collaborations and individual research programmes on public health topics. Examples include the 10 University research consortium that I lead - <https://www.ed.ac.uk/spectrum>. This includes a SPECTRUM Academy for early career researchers. The Academy provides access to learning across the domains of public health research and policy and helps Early Career Researchers to build skills beyond their initial focus and to broaden their career opportunities in public health.

While the research activity listed includes the funding to set up new research centres, core infrastructure is funded separately. Examples include the funding for the joint NHS/University Research and Development infrastructure and the University of Edinburgh Research and Development infrastructure. The University of Edinburgh also hosts one of the national secure data provisioning and linkage services for research and statistical purposes, including for NHS Scotland (which includes Public Health Scotland) (<http://www.epcc.ed.ac.uk/research/data/eidf>), as well as the University's own secure research data services.

For all of the above reasons, we are delighted to be in a position to apply for membership of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region and collaborate more closely with our colleagues from across WHO European Region.

Yours sincerely

Professor Linda Bauld

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Bauld', written in a cursive style.

Bruce and John Usher Professor of Public Health, University of Edinburgh
Email: Linda.Bauld@ed.ac.uk PA: Mrs Kate Massie, Kate.Massie@ed.ac.uk, 0736 824 5477