



The Association of Schools of Public Health
in the European Region

ASPHER MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire should be returned to:

ASPHER Secretariat, Avenue de Tervueren 153, 1150 Brussels, Belgium

E-Mail: office@aspher.org and lore.leighton@aspher.org

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1. **Institution Name which applies for membership** Centre of Public Health Sciences, University of Iceland,
 2. **Address:** Saemundargata 2
 3. **Town:** Reykjavík
 4. **Postcode:** 101
 5. **Country:** Iceland
 6. **Phone:** +354 5254000
 7. **Fax:** +354 552 1331
 8. **Website address:**

 9. **Name of Dean or Director:** Arna Hauksdóttir (professor)
 10. **Address:** Sturlugata 8
 11. **Town:** Reykjavik
 12. **Postcode:** 101
 13. **Country:** Iceland
 14. **Phone:** +354 5254956
 15. **Fax:** N/A
 16. **E-mail:** arnah@hi.is; publichealth@hi.is

 17. **Name of ASPHER contact person:**
 18. **Address:**
 19. **Town:**
 20. **Postcode:**
 21. **Country:**
 22. **Phone:**
 23. **Fax:**
 24. **E-mail:**

 25. **Number of Equivalent Full Time Staff (Full time + Part time + Temporary staff):** 18:
5 professors, 2 senior lectures, 1 adjunct lecturer, 5 post-docs, 2 project managers, 1 database administrator and 2 research assistants.

 26. **Number of Undergraduate Students (Average for the two last Academic years):** N/A



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27. Number of Postgraduate Students (Average for the two last Academic years): On average, 60 students are enrolled in our programs during any given semester.

Around 15 Master's and PhD students and 15 postgraduate diploma students are admitted yearly. From 2007 (when the program started), 233 students have graduated from our programs (94 Master's students + 119 postgraduate diploma students + 20 PhD students). For the last two years, 19 Master's students + 28 postgraduate diploma students + 2 PhD students.

28. Start date of the Academic Year: August 15th – September 2nd.

29. Date of the Exam period in your Institution: December and May are standard exam periods. Examination in courses that are taught during the first half of a semester take place at the end of each course.

30. Mission statement: The objective of the Centre of Public Health Sciences is to:

- Provide high-quality graduate education: Training in health promotion, population health and disease prevention, and training in the process, methods and interpretation of public health research
- Conduct high-quality research, based on sound scientific methods (epidemiology, biostatistics) in collaboration with national and international researchers, to publish project results in peer-reviewed journals, and in accordance with the UI Open Access Policy.

31. Source(s) of Funding: The University of Iceland is a public higher education institution. Finances fall under the Icelandic State's Act on Public Finances.

In addition to state funding, the Centre of Public Health Sciences manages several research projects that are funded by competitive grants, of which the largest are from the European Research Council, Nordforsk, and The Icelandic Centre for Research.

32. Ordinary Budget in Euros: Around 680 000 for 2019.

33. Statute of your institution (University/Non-university structure, Public/Private):

Centre of Public Health Sciences is a research institution at the University of Iceland, a public higher education institution.

34. Programmes provided by your institution (name and duration for each, attach file/provide weblink with the curricula):

The Centre of Public Health Sciences currently coordinates 5 interdisciplinary study programs. We plan to add doctoral level programs in Epidemiology and Biostatistics within the next year.

Full time studies are 30 ECTS per semester, 60 ECTS per academic year.



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- Public Health Sciences, Postgraduate Diploma, 30 ECTS
<https://ugla.hi.is/kennsluskra/index.php?tab=skoli&chapter=content&id=41578>
- Public Health Sciences, MPH, 120 ECTS
<https://ugla.hi.is/kennsluskra/index.php?tab=skoli&chapter=content&id=41574>
- Epidemiology, MS, 120 ECTS
<https://ugla.hi.is/kennsluskra/index.php?tab=skoli&chapter=content&id=41809>
- Biostatistics, MS, 120 ECTS
<https://ugla.hi.is/kennsluskra/index.php?tab=skoli&chapter=content&id=41812>
- Public Health Sciences, Doctorate, 180 ECTS
<https://ugla.hi.is/kennsluskra/index.php?tab=skoli&chapter=content&id=41573>

35. Does your institution participate in the ECTS project? (Yes/No): Yes

36. Areas of interest/expertise of your institution: Currently, our largest research projects include cohort studies on the effects of psychological trauma on health and on effects of drug treatments during pregnancy and its effect on birth outcomes and child development.

37. Projects run by your institution (title, funding body and timeframe for each, attach file/provide weblink for detailed info):

The following research projects are examples of what is currently ongoing:

The Stress and Gene Analysis Cohort (Saga Cohort). The Saga Cohort is world-wide one of largest study ever conducted on the role of trauma in women's health. Its' objective is to generate new knowledge on the prevalence of various trauma and violence among women in Iceland, the link between trauma and various health outcomes and the potential genetic underpinnings of varying trajectories of health after exposure to such trauma. The target population was all Icelandic-speaking women, 18-69 years old, who resided in Iceland in February 2018. First wave of the data collection started in March 2018 and finished July 1st 2019 with around 32 000 women in Iceland registered (almost 1/3 of the target population). Participants answered an extensive web-based questionnaire on trauma history and various health indicators, and will then be prospectively followed for diagnoses of major physical diseases and mental disorders. The project is conducted in collaboration with Decode Genetics entailing genetic data for a large proportion of the population. The study's principal investigator is Unnur Anna Valdimarsdóttir, professor at our program. The study is funded by grants from the European Research Council and The Icelandic Centre for Research. <http://afallasaga.is/en/>

The International Pregnancy Safety Study (InPreSS/ NorPreSS) is a collaboration of researchers from the five Nordic countries, the United States and Australia with access to large-scale quality databases to study the safety of medications in pregnancy. The researchers have received several



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international grants, including roughly 130 million ISK from NordForsk, to provide real-world evidence of the effects of medications on birth outcomes and longer-term child development, including academic performance. Additionally, the study examines the consequences of discontinued medication treatment on maternal health. On board the team of scientists are numerous researchers from the Center of Public Health, led by Professor Helga Zoega.

NORDRESS is a Nordic research collaboration on natural disasters and safety of communities. Icelandic researchers lead this collaboration, and Arna Hauksdóttir, professor at our program, leads one of the work packages, which is focused on long-term health following natural disasters, children in natural disasters – health and risk management and psychosocial support and intervention following natural disasters. The project is ongoing 2015-2020, and has until now generated several publications. <http://nordress.hi.is/>

The Transdisciplinary Prostate Cancer Partnership (ToPCaP). ToPCaP is an international, multi-disciplined, organized consortium of prostate cancer researchers with access to a unique combination of facilities, data, biobanks and equipment that are pursuing the most urgent prostate cancer questions. Professor Unnur Valdimarsdóttir is a member of the steering group for this project and co-investigator. The ToPCaP medical research institutions reside in seven countries, e.g. The University of Iceland, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Boston), Dana Farber Cancer Institute/Brigham and Women's Hospital (Boston), Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (New York), Örebro University (Sweden) and Karolinska Institutet (Sweden). <http://topcapteam.org/>

The Lung Cancer Stress and Survival study (LUCASS). This research project is funded by The Icelandic Centre for Research and includes an extensive data collection through questionnaires, stress-biomarkers and tumor tissue collection from 170 patients diagnosed with lung cancer. The aim of the study is to address the role of the psychobiologic stress-response to a lung cancer diagnosis in lung cancer progression and survival. Unnur Valdimarsdóttir, professor, Hrönn Harðardóttir, pulmonologist and PhD student, lead the project which is conducted in collaboration with the National University Hospital (Landsspítali-Háskólasjúkrahús), and scientists from from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Iceland, Harvard School of Public Health, Reykjavik University, Karoliska Institutet, TU Dresden and Örebro Universitet.

CoMorMent (Predicting comorbid cardiovascular disease in individuals with mental disorder by decoding disease mechanisms) is newly-funded multicenter Horizon 2020 project (Principal Investigator Ole Andreassen, University of Oslo) with the principal aim of characterizing the epidemiological and genetic association between psychiatric disorders and cardiovascular disease. Professor Unnur Valdimarsdóttir is a co-investigator in this project with CPHS as one of the study centers.



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