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January - February 2022

ASPHER Newsletter



Image: Mother and Child, Odessa, Ukraine. Source: Pixabay

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Share the ASPHER newsletter!

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Better to jaw, jaw...



As Churchill said, 'it is better to jaw, jaw, than to war, war'. Never has that been more starkly obvious than in the Europe of early 2022. If you step out of the recently reopened ASPHER office in Brussels you come to Montgomery. Montgomery's first rule of war was: ['don't march on Moscow'](#). No-one should 'march on Moscow', literally or figuratively.

Our thoughts are with our members in Ukraine and Russia and other Eastern European countries. ASPHER is very limited in its ability to bring about world peace, but we will take the [steps we can](#). We will encourage our members to forge links across political divides. [Health promotion is peace promotion](#) and the health community can be a bridge for peace, as we suggested last year in the [Israel-Palestine conflict](#). We must avoid stereotyping and demonising and seek to find common areas of interest and concern which can lead us to deeper mutual security. I have nothing to say in

criticism of any regime that cannot now, sadly, be levelled at my own UK government: corrupt, greedy, repressive, and brutal. You can add to 'careless', 'callous', 'incompetent', 'thoughtless', 'ignorant', 'entitled'. The inept actions of [our prime-minister](#) and foreign secretary can only add to the uncertainty and fear created for people a very long way from Westminster. [Vacuous threats](#) only increase the level of tension. [Incompetence and ignorance](#) only weaken negotiation and create justifiable derision. As some Western European governments apply diplomacy, others sabre rattle irresponsibly and [posture emptily](#), playing with the futures of citizens of Eastern Europe. In the meantime, [effective actions](#) to address exported Russian wealth in other countries is barely touched, indeed there is a resurfacing of interest in collusion with [Russian business interests](#); the [disinformation war continues](#); and the [price of oil and gas](#) spirals, further threatening our cost of living. We call on governments of all sides to reject violence and strive for diplomatic solutions.

In early 2022, European governments seem to be having difficulty calibrating risk – the danger of Russian invasion being played up; the danger of the pandemic is being played down. Both judgements combine to present ever greater uncertainty and threats to the health of Europeans.

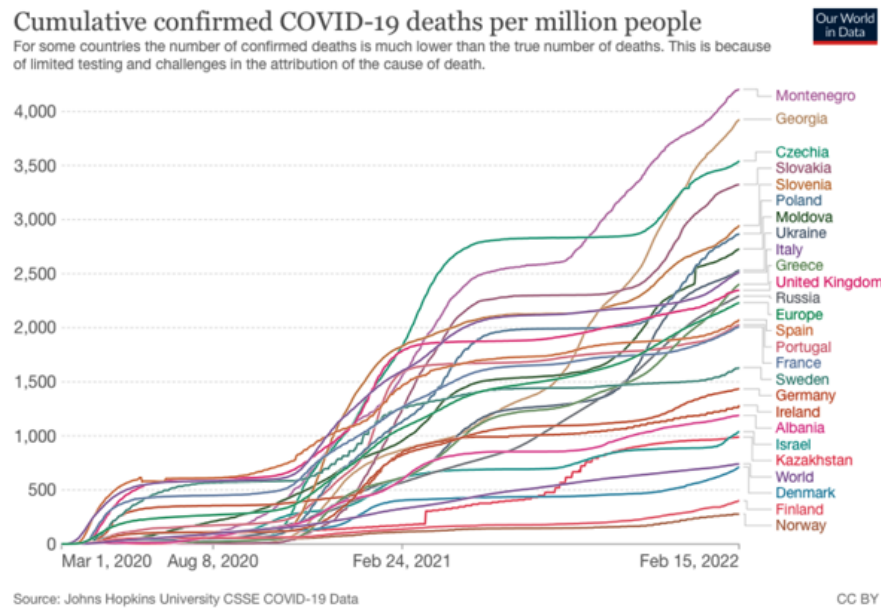
We should listen when great public health voices like Devi Sridar tell us that COVID-19 has been ['defanged'](#); when Chris Murray of the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation talks [about 'the end of the pandemic'](#); and [Tom Frieden](#) and [David Heymann](#) also prepare us for the end. But there are judgements to be made.

None of these illustrious commentators have entertained the [next variant being more severe](#), with vaccine escape, although there is no reason to believe this could not happen. I have only

part-joked that there will be a new variant of concern in March – it would be consistent with experience so far....

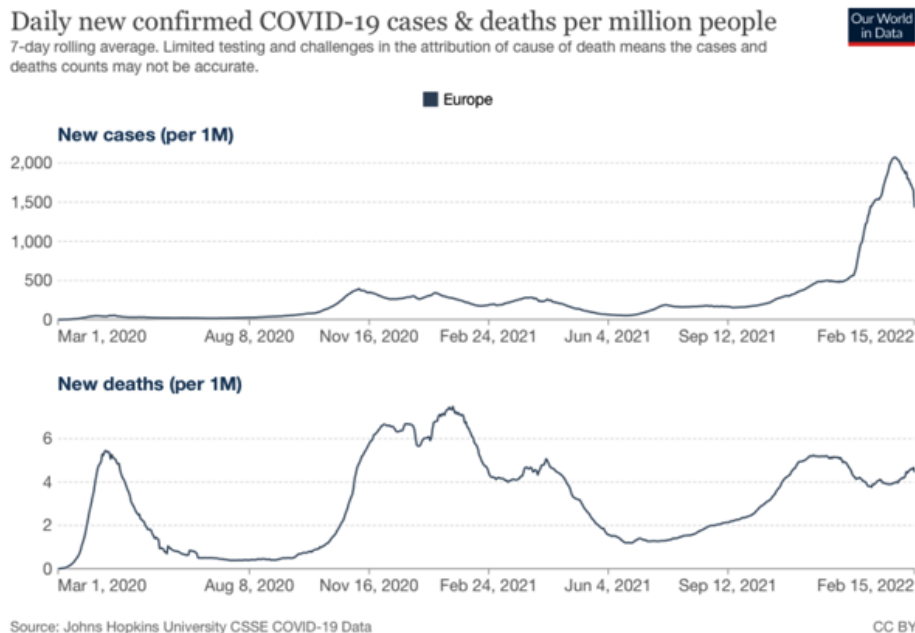
With the [United Kingdom deciding the pandemic is finished](#), and [Denmark](#) pulling all restrictions, the pressure on other countries to do the same gathers pace. Pretty soon the sacrifices millions have made over the first two years of the pandemic will be consigned to history. For the moment, they can be summarised in Figure 1 which shows the cumulative mortality in selected European countries over the last two years: human tragedy on an almost unimaginable scale.

Figure 1.



The peak of omicron may be just passing, but the deaths remain at a very high plateau (Figure 2). Numbers of cases are at and outcomes have largely been more mild because of the protective effect of vaccines.

Figure 2.



Children are paying a high price from omicron with [high levels of children's hospital admissions](#) and deaths. The acceptance of these is extraordinary and unbelievable. The '[adverse childhood experience](#)' of the pandemic is now a direct adverse childhood experience of COVID infection. There are high levels of hospital activity, exhausting for health care staff, and preventing other treatments being done. There continue to be high levels of sickness absence in key sectors. Vaccine effectiveness is waning. There are still high levels of unvaccinated young adults. Indeed, the announcement of all restrictions ending creates the message that the pandemic is all over; the vaccination programme has all but ground to a halt in England and [France](#). Suggestions about reducing isolation periods and ending protective measures threaten to allow a second spike of omicron infections. The [US Veterans Administration study shows](#) evidence of increased risk of thrombotic disease, which may be a 'long COVID' mechanism, or may be a late complication. A second recent study also reports [late and persistent sequelae](#) of COVID-19.

ASPHER remains of the view that 'living with COVID' means recognising that what we previously called 'restrictions' should be called 'protections'. Living with COVID might not mean living a 'pre-covid normality' if there was ever such a thing. There are helpful behaviours people adopted and governments mandated during the first waves of the pandemic, and which we should keep, to protect our health in winter in the future, whether from COVID or other respiratory viruses. They are in the box:

Good lessons from the COVID pandemic

- Presenteeism – just don't go to work if you are ill.
- Work from home if you can – Reduces congestion, reduces CO2 emissions good for people, good for business, and good for the planet.
- Wash your hands – good for any infection prevention.
- Wear a well-fitting N95/FFP2 mask – protects user and others from respiratory infection.
- Improve indoor air quality in classrooms, businesses and homes.
- Have your health care consultation by remote means if you can - reducing nosocomial infection, reducing traffic.
- Of course there are more – please add to the list.

ASPHER also recognises the need to learn from the new phase of the pandemic and [strengthen primary and community services](#), school health and occupational health. 'Living with COVID' also means '[Vaccines plus](#)' – no single measure can protect us from COVID-19 so we need to have all our armoury of measures available at the same time to reduce transmission, disease and deaths.

Other ASPHER activities this year

In other news I presented my take on the pandemic and other planetary health concerns to a group of doctors in Norfolk UK, on January 21st 2022. [HERE](#).

ASPHER and WHO EURO successfully launched the [road map for professionalisation](#) of public health, on February 8th 2022. You can find more later in the newsletter. ASPHER is working with

colleagues in the Global Network for Academic Public Health and the World Health Organisation Geneva to develop this work for the global stage and a presentation for a future World Health Assembly. We owe it to all our excellent young professionals to develop and establish careers and a recognised, respected professional position in the health systems of all countries. We owe it to the public to ensure we grow a generation of expert, caring and committed public health professionals.

I am going off to explore a mystery shopping experience in the NHS so I will be out of action for a few weeks., I thank everyone for their good wishes. I thank as ever, our wonderful secretariat for their incredible hard work for all of us and for doubling that workload to get things done before my time out. Thank you all.

Professor John Middleton
President ASPHER, February 16th 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

ASPHER Secretariat hopes that you have had a good start to 2022! We are facing the year head on with an ambitious [ASPHER work plan](#) that we are pleased to share with you. We invite all members to contact the secretariat if you wish to express interest in any area.

There are several exciting opportunities for members to get involved, such as our plans with Department of Public and One Health, Thessaly University to submit an Erasmus+ application for a [proposed project harmonization for the future of Public Health Education in Europe](#); or the integration of diversity into public health curriculum. We always invite you to get involved with ASPHER working groups and [COVID-19 Task Force](#). If there is something we are missing, we welcome you to co-develop or propose a new working group! There are also upcoming opportunities through partner events such as [European](#) and [Global](#) Public Health weeks. **We encourage you to make 2022 a year to engage, the more ASPHER members take part the better our agenda can serve all of you!**

We are happy to start the year with two new provisional members coming on board. Please welcome the Research and Innovation Center for Public Health and Health Services Research at Paracelsus Medical University, Austria; and International Academy of Public Health (IAPH), Amman, Jordan (associate member). We look forward to learning more about their programmes when they present at the ASPHER General Assembly.

ASPHER is also welcoming new interns [Dr. Costase Ndayishimiye](#) and [Desmond Aji](#) who are both based at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Meanwhile [Tara Chen](#) is joining us as a new ASPHER Fellow to assist and take on some responsibilities from Rana Orhan on the [Climate and Health education initiatives](#). And we have a cadre of [Associate Fellows](#) to assist in several ASPHER agenda items including: Lisa Wandschneider, Bielefeld University for Diversity and Public Health Education agenda; Keren Dopelt, Ben Gurion University of the Negev focused on Social Accountability of Schools of Public Health; and Rok Hrzic, Maastricht University is advancing on Simulation Models in Health Policy Decision-Making, digital health and big data. Be sure to keep an eye out for reporting on their work in future newsletters!

We have been advancing with enhancements of ASPHER policies towards members including a [new awards and distinctions policy](#) – more will come on that when we call for nominations! ASPHER will of course continue to maintain our prestigious [Andrija Štampar award](#) – **don't miss the 2021 Andrija Štampar medal ceremony on Tuesday 22 March for Dr. Michael J. Ryan.**

Another signature ASPHER event is our annual Young Researchers' Forum. Last year it was hosted for the first time at one of our Member events as part of the [Krakow SPH Jubilee conference](#). We are excited to continue this format, with the **Young Researchers' Forum joining the 15th International Scientific Conference: Digitalisation and Education in Health Sciences hosted by Angela Boškin, Faculty of Health Care in Bled, Slovenia on Thursday 9 June.** We will be calling for abstracts soon – stay posted!

Public Health Workforce professionalization is an ongoing mission for ASPHER and currently on top of the agenda with the launch of the [WHO-ASPHER Professionalization Roadmap](#). Many of you joined us for the launch webinar on 8 February, but in case you missed it, [the recording is available here](#). We will be taking the Roadmap and professionalization forward with WHO EURO, while also working hard with IANPHI and other partners to promote developments at the global level.

Speaking about ASPHER's global involvement, we have an exciting piece of news that ASPHER has been confirmed as a co-organiser of the [17th World Congress on Public Health](#) (WCPH) scheduled for Rome in 2023; together with WFPHA and SITl/Italian Public Health Society. This is a tremendous opportunity for the Association and our members. We will involve the Global Network for Academic Public Health in the event and work to set up a sustainable formula for future WCPHs to co-organization with regional SPHs associations. We are proud to have ASPHER set the historical precedent of SPH involvement on this global stage!

We are also pleased to present a wide range of [Member](#) and [Partner](#) news in this edition of the newsletter. Don't miss the opportunity to see what is going on and be sure to send your news for future newsletters and the ASPHER blog.

Finally, we must acknowledge that this is a moment of great tension with possible turbulent times for some in Europe. We hope everyone will stay safe and that ASPHER and our members may act for a better, healthier and peaceful tomorrow.

ASPHER Secretariat

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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ASPHER COVID-19 NEWS

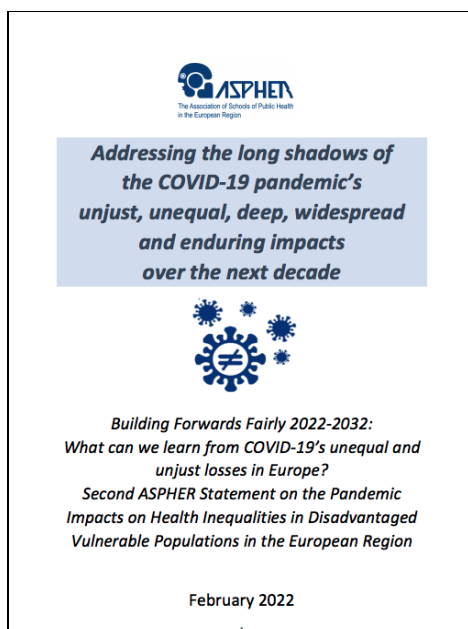
ASPHER Statement: Invest in primary health care and public health for the pandemic and beyond

Decision-making and actions by governments through the COVID-19 pandemic have usually been reactive, determined by the characteristics of each SARS-CoV-2 variant and the structural or circumstantial weaknesses of health systems. Western governments and health services were unprepared for the pandemic. Preparedness was further weakened by the chronic under-funding of prevention, primary health care and community services which predated the pandemic. The first wave triggered a disorderly race for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), materials and ventilators. In the peak of the first wave, many health services closed non-emergency diagnostic and rehabilitation services.

In the second and third waves, elements of immediate response seemed to be under control, at least in high-income countries, but elective surgery and other non-emergency clinical activities were restricted. Space, facilities, and staff were freed up to provide COVID-19 related care. There were ruptures in responsiveness and difficult choices that impacted adversely on patients and their families. Alongside spikes in COVID-19 mortality, excess mortality in all countries increased due to fewer timely presentations, diagnoses, treatment, and follow-ups of patients with multimorbidity. This phase also saw an increase in mental health concerns: anxiety, depression, and what has been called pandemic fatigue in adults and children.

Continue reading [here](#).

2nd ASPHER Statement on the Pandemic Impacts on Health Inequalities



The COVID-19 pandemic has already led to, and will probably further lead to, a large-scale loss of life, health and well-being for the most disadvantaged vulnerable population groups – on a European scale as well as globally. It is time to draw lessons from past developments necessary to inform public health policies, practice, education and research over the next ten years and possibly beyond.

This statement follows [ASPHER's first statement on COVID-19 related inequalities](#) in June 2020, 'COVID-19 – How and why is the pandemic exacerbating and amplifying health inequalities and vulnerabilities in Europe? Here ASPHER's second statement highlights our continuing concerns about the multiple dimensions of this pandemic's inequalities and the anticipated enduring impacts over at least the next ten years.

[Download the ASPHER Statement: Addressing the long shadows of the COVID-19 pandemic's unjust, unequal, deep, widespread and enduring impacts over the next decade.](#)

School Reopening Survey, Phase 3

Builds upon the surveys sent to ASPHER members in July 2020 and January 2021, this survey will complete the three-survey school reopening project. Reports from the first two surveys can be found here ([Phase 1 report](#) and [Phase 2 report](#))

We thank everyone who filled out the first two surveys and request that all members take the time to fill out the final survey. The goal is to collect information regarding campus reopening procedures to better understand how schools of public health (SPHs) and programmes offering public health education and training are responding to COVID-19. The current survey is divided into three parts: a retrospective capture of the spring/summer 2021 semester, key lessons learned from the first full academic year under pandemic conditions (2020-2021), and plans made for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The information will be disseminated as a report, and will seek to increase the level of understanding and communication between SPHs about what policies and plans are in place and possible.

[Take the school reopening survey here.](#)

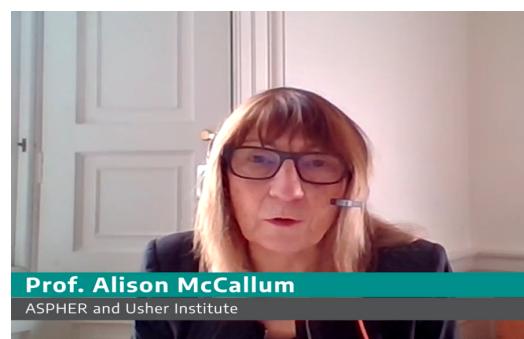
COVID-19 Task Force Country Situation Reporting

For the past year, the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force has been producing weekly [European country situation reports](#). The reports take a snapshot of what is happening in terms of the pandemic across regions of Europe and how governments are responding. It has proved most useful in Task Force discussions to stimulate conversation and timely response on the most pressing issues arising from the pandemic.

ASPHER Associate Fellow [Rok Hrzic](#) has taken over responsibility for the weekly reports streamlining the content. [Don't miss the latest report and check in for updates each week here.](#)

COVID-19 Task Force Member viewing

Recent videos from ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force Members are available for viewing. See Nadav Davidovitch from Ben Gurion University of the Negev brief on the [COVID-19 situation in Israel](#) for the Jerusalem Press club; and Alison McCallum from Usher Institute, Edinburgh University speak on [Vaccine Equity](#) as a part of the [WFPHA #NGO4Equity Video Series](#).



Further COVID-19 Reading

Greenhalgh T, Griffin S, Gurdasani D, Hamdy A, Katzourakis A, McKee M, Michie S, Pagel C, Roberts A, Yates K. Covid-19: An urgent call for global “vaccines-plus” action BMJ 2022; 376 :o1
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.o1>

Sadjadi M, Mörschel K, Petticrew M. Social distancing measures: barriers to their implementation and how they can be overcome – a systematic review. European Journal of Public Health, Volume 31, Issue 6, December 2021, Pages 1249–1258.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckab103>

Wong BLH, Ramsay ME, Ladhani SN Should children be vaccinated against COVID-19 now? Archives of Disease in Childhood 2021;106:1147-1148.
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/archdischild-2020-321225>

ASPHER NEWS & EVENTS

Andrija Štampar Award Ceremony

Save the date: Tuesday 22 March, 2022 16:00 - 17:00 CET



On Tuesday 22 March 16:00-17:00 CET, **Dr Michael J Ryan**, Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme will be presented with the ASPHER Andrija Štampar Medal for excellence in the field of public health. The ceremony will include a laudation of his achievements.

Please save the date! We'll be announcing more details soon.

Updating the ASPHER Award and Distinction Policy

ASPHER Executive Board has recently adopted a new ASPHER's awards and distinctions policy taking into consideration diversity, transparency and clarity; with ASPHER 2025 values as guiding principles, nominations timeframe, the selection committee, diversity of the nominees and awardees, and the award ceremony. Details will be announced in the March Newsletter!

Launch of Roadmap to Professionalizing the Public Health Workforce

The Roadmap offers pragmatic recommendations for action to professionalize the public health workforce as a response to growing public health needs; it puts forward levers that can be engaged to do so.

On February 8th, 2022 WHO Regional Office for Europe and ASPHER held a webinar to launch the Roadmap to Professionalizing the Public Health Workforce. The aim of the webinar was to introduce the Roadmap and discuss how it will be used with different stakeholders. The participants at the seminar looked into ways to synergize the roadmap with other relevant projects and identify professional efforts at the European Region and Global levels.



ROADMAP TO PROFESSIONALIZING THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE IN THE EUROPEAN REGION

Participants at the webinar included government officials, institutes of public health, ministries of health, public health authorities, professional organizations, schools and training centres for public health, employers and public health and health professionals.

ASPHER is establishing a Task Force on Professionalization of the Public Health Workforce. We are calling for all interested members to please contact Kasia Czabanowska kasia.czabanowska@maastrichtuniversity.nl and Robert Otok robert.otok@aspher.org.

Watch the [recording of the launch webinar](#).

Download the [Roadmap to professionalizing the public health workforce in the European Region \(2022\)](#). More information on the WHO-ASPHER Roadmap to Professionalization [here](#).

ERASMUS+ Project for the Harmonization for the Future of Public Health Education in Europe and Beyond.

The project will be submitted for Erasmus+ funding in response to the current challenges faced by Public Health Education across Europe - non-standardized training and diversified curricula in terms of scope, context and duration.

The project will aim to:

- Map the field of public health education in Europe and beyond.
- Propose an updated framework for the content of Public Health curricula.
- Produce indicative training material.
- Issue a guide on the continuous, life-long training of public health experts.

The project is an initiative of ASPHER and the Department of Public and One Health, Thessaly University.

Contact Polychronis Kostoulas and Robert Otok if you wish to be involved pkost@vet.uth.gr and robert.otok@aspher.org.

Integrating diversity in public health education – call to review the curriculum

Diverse social identities – e.g., sex/gender, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation – and their intersections shape health inequalities in societies. Yet, a systematic, critical integration into public health curricula is lacking, especially in the European region. To address this gap, we developed a curriculum on social identities and their importance for public health.

The curriculum enables students to identify mechanisms of privilege and oppression related to diverse social identities, to learn how to determine biases within public health structures, and to self-reflect on these structures. Moreover, it equips them with tools and skills to address and change biases in their practices to ultimately reduce health inequities.

We conceptualized the curriculum in an iterative and participatory process in a group of students, young professionals and senior researchers from different countries in Western Europe and North America. The curriculum covers three core elements: 1) the introduction of concepts and terminology on diversity, equity and social identities in relation to health inequalities, 2) the reflection on the role of public health professionals and their responsibility within this system; and 3) spotlights on specific social identities, e.g., sex/gender or social class. In addition, it provides guidance on teaching methods to empower a broad range of public health professionals to engage with the course materials more easily.

To review the curriculum material, ASPHER is inviting members with expertise in health inequalities, diversity, decolonization, public health teaching or curriculum development.

The review process starts in March 2022. It will include a careful revision of the material provided (or parts of it) and eventually a workshop in May with the working group and the review board members. Your contribution will be recognized in the final product.

Please contact Lisa Wandschneider at Bielefeld SPH (lisa.wandschneider@uni-bielefeld.de) to indicate your interest to become part of the review board.

ASPHER Partnership: European Public Health Week

Health throughout the life course: 16-20 May 2022



ASPHER is excited to be an official partner for Day 1 (Monday 16 May) of the next [European Public Health Week](#) on the theme of: A healthy youth and health literate youth!

We encourage ASPHER members to come to us with your ideas! Based on the topic of Day 1, we hope to work closely to engage with students, as well as schools working with high schools and other relevant topics.

If you wish to be added to the EUPHW mailing list for updates, please email euphacommunications@eupha.org with the subject "subscribe EUPHW".

ASPHER Partnership: 17th World Congress on Public Health

ASPHER is proud to announce that we will be a partner with the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) and SItI/Italian Public Health Society for the 17th World Congress on Public Health (WCPH) to be held in Rome in May 2023.

This presents an exciting opportunity to provide a platform for the schools and training agenda during this high level event. ASPHER will be working closely with the Global Network for Academic Public Health (GNAPH) to ensure that our sister organisations remain involved when the WCPH comes to their continents in the future.

Still to come this year, ASPHER will also be working with WFPHA for Global Public Health Week. [Learn more about Global Public Health Week here.](#)

Update on Climate and Health in ASPHER

By Rana Orhan

[“Europeans see climate change as top challenge for the EU”](#). That is great, because a year ago, ASPHER started the fellowship on climate and health. Since February 2021, I have been contributing to ASPHER’s visibility in the European climate debate. We strengthened our members’ efforts by linking them with each other. While there is still a lot to do, I am proud to share some of our activities. Also, as a starting public health professional, I gained a lot from the fellowship – both in getting to know excellent and kind people, as expanding my knowledge in climate and health. I am honoured to have been given the chance to continue the fellowship in 2022, this time joined by [Tara Chen](#).

- ASPHER, together with a consortium of member schools led by NOVA Lisbon, applied for the Jean Monnet Module. The grant was denied, but this was the first step towards building a strong group of members. We connected with some exemplar member schools involved in climate-health education. With next year’s plans, we would like to make sure that we optimise the strength of this group of members.
- The Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education core competencies on climate and health were adapted to the European context and launched during a special webinar. The collaboration with GCCHE has been strengthened (e.g., by inviting the GCCHE Director Cecilia Sorensen to speak at the launch of the ASPHER competencies).
- Best practices of member schools were shared during the launch of the core competencies.
- We applied and got selected as one of the European Commission’s thematic networks of 2021-2022. This network will lead to a joint statement by Spring 2022 and further actions afterwards.
- During the EU Green Week and EUPHA Public Health Week, we organised a webinar. Due to the small group, this turned to be a nice discussion between some of our stakeholders.
- Regular meetings were held with ASPHER President John Middleton and ASPHER Director Robert Otok. Support from them and Lore Leighthon played a big role in the successes of the fellowship.

- ASPHER was able to support my attendance at COP26. Unfortunately, we could not attain a badge but there was enough to do outside the COP venues. We will apply for observer status at COP28.
- During COP26, I was invited to join the UK FPH's Special Interest Group on Sustainable Development.
- I was invited to the WHO EURO Working Group on Health in Climate Change (HIC) which took place in May 2021.
- We applied and succeeded to become a Climate Pact Ambassador. This is initially until mid-2022. If it adds to our agenda, we will put efforts into extending the ambassadorship to a longer period.
- Progress was reported towards the members via the ASPHER newsletters.
- A session on climate-health education was delivered during the D&D Retreat.
- Ad hoc research projects were joint, which contributed to my personal development.

ASPHER Fellows

ASPHER has been working to formalize the ASPHER Fellow offer. Two types of fellowships are available under the scheme: regular fellowship and associate fellowship. The common feature of all fellowship agendas is that they align to ASPHER's programme on competencies and curriculum development. Under the regular fellowship, the fellow is directly affiliated with and remunerated by ASPHER. The regular fellowship is open to graduates of ASPHER member institutions. Associate fellowship is open to ASPHER member institution-based individuals in doctoral, postdoctoral or junior faculty positions for whom there is an interest in the opportunity to work in alignment with the ASPHER agenda in their area of focus. A call will go out for potential intake of new fellows later this year.

Here we introduce you to the current cohort of ASPHER Fellows and Interns.

Tara Chen



Tara will be joining the ASPHER team to work with [ASPHER Fellow Rana Orhan on the climate-health agenda](#). She is a young public health professional working to strengthen health systems with a vision that “everything & everywhere is public health”. She holds a Bachelor of Health Sciences from Western University in Canada and a dual Masters of Public Health (Europubhealth+) in Governance and Health Economics (studying with our partners at the University of Sheffield, Jagiellonian University, and EHESP). For the last 6 years, she has been travelling abroad to explore health systems, with her most recent experience in Taiwan. In her spare time, she leads the Health Literacy Explorers Group with the International Health Literacy Association, and

various organizations. She has an active interest in health systems, SDGs, planetary health, ageing populations, health literacy and cross-sectoral collaborations. Tara is also a member of the ASPHER YP Programme, proving to be a strong advocate for amplifying young voices in

dialogue, research and practice. She is very excited to challenge the narrative of climate change towards resilient, climate action in her PhD in Canada this fall.

Tara's contact details:

E-mail: tara.tchen@gmail.com

Twitter: @TaraTChen

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tara-chen/>

Associate Fellows

Lisa Wandschneider, Bielefeld University is working on the ASPHER Diversity and Public Health Education agenda under the direction of Oliver Razum. See her call to [review and integrate diversity in public health education](#).

Keren Dopelt, Ben Gurion University of the Negev is focused on Social Accountability of Schools of Public Health in collaboration with Nadav Davidovitch. She and Lisa are working in contact to synergize their complementary agendas and they expect to send a combined survey to members soon - stay posted.

Rok Hrzic, Maastricht University will advance an agenda on Simulation Models in Health Policy Decision-Making, while also working with Mirjana Kujundzic-Tiljak on Digital Health and big data. Rok also takes responsibility for the [weekly country situation reporting](#) with the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force.

Be sure to keep an eye out for reporting on their work in future newsletters!

ASPHER Interns

ASPHER is pleased to introduce its new interns Dr. Costase Ndayishimiye and Desmond Aji.

Costase Ndayishimiye



Dr. Costase Ndayishimiye is a medical doctor who is passionate about health care management, economics, policy, and public health. He believes that current medical training alone is increasingly becoming inadequate to perform specialized public health work. Dr. Costase upgraded to a European Public Health Master (Europubhealth+, University of Liège, Belgium), with a specialization in the Governance of Health Systems in Transition (Jagiellonian University Medical College, Poland).

His prior experience working with ASPHER's COVID-19 Task Force motivates him to describe ASPHER as the best place for professional placement, to expand (public) health expertise, to grow professionally, and for networking. He is eager to work with ASPHER's professionals, experts, and networks on programs/projects addressing health care management, policy, and/or public health in the

context of health emergencies (particularly health facility capacity, adaptation, and planning for better response to current and future pandemics).

Desmond A. Aji



Desmond Aji is a current master's student in Governance of Health Systems in Transition at the Jagiellonian University (JU) Medical College, Kraków (Poland). He is a graduate student from the University of Sheffield (UK). Prior to coming to JU, he has worked as the regional coordinator to strengthen health systems in resource limited settings under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) project in West Africa. Also, he holds a master's in Epidemiology and control of infectious diseases from the University of Buea, Cameroon. He

hopes to work with the 'Public health' and 'emergency' workforce team on the classification, mapping, competency-based education, and lifelong learning. Desmond enjoys travelling, reading books and football.

ASPHER Young Researchers Forum at the 15th International Scientific Conference: Digitalisation and Education in Health Sciences

Hybrid event in Bled, Slovenia and on Zoom: 9 June, 2022



Digitalization
and Education
in Health
Sciences

ZOOM or
Hotel Astoria Bled
9 June 2022



ASPHER is pleased to announce that the next ASPHER Young Researchers' Forum will be hosted by [Angela Boškin, Faculty of Health Care](#) at the 15th International Scientific Conference: Digitalisation and Education in Health Sciences in Bled, Slovenia (and on Zoom).

We will be sending out a call for abstracts in the next week to - please keep an eye on your inbox and aspHER.org for more information to share with your students, recent graduates, postdocs and junior faculty!

The conference will emphasize the importance of digitalisation and new approaches to health sciences education. It brings together the practice of health sciences, facilitates collaboration between different health disciplines and introduces a modern approach to the holistic treatment of the individual. It is dedicated to presenting the current research and development work in the field of digitalisation of health sciences and the implementation of new educational methods in nursing care, health promotion, physiotherapy, and other health sciences.

[Find more information about the conference here.](#)

ASPHER Projects

UCCAIDE

ASPHER's project with ECDC to Update Core Competencies in Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (UCCAIDE) wrapped up in December 2021. Documents are being prepared for publication by ECDC; we will let you know when they are available.

UCCAIDE results should feed nicely into [ASPHER's work for the 6th edition of ASPHER's European List of Core Competences for the Public Health Professional](#).

VxTrain

ASPHER's ongoing [VxTrain project](#) with ECDC to create a curriculum on vaccine acceptance communication for frontline health workers is moving ahead. The background work is completed and will be made available by ECDC as a report.

ASPHER and the project leads met in December with other ongoing European level projects working in vaccine hesitancy. The projects will be coming together on a regular basis and in smaller working groups to ensure good synergy in all these efforts.

Meanwhile, the consortium has been working intensively in a series of meetings with ECDC to hammer out the vaccine acceptance communication curriculum framework.

SEEEPHI



The [Sharing European Educational Experience in Public Health for Israel \(SEEEPHI\)](#) held a partners meeting online in January as we wrapped up year 1 and moved into year 2 of the Erasmus+ Capacity Building project. Moving forward SEEEPHI will integrate the preparatory findings on workforce needs and higher education offers in Israel

from year one in order to implement the development deliverables for the following two years.

SEEEPHI was featured at the launch event of the [WHO-ASPHER Roadmap to Professionalizing the Public Health Workforce](#) and will be an early user and beneficiary of the Roadmap. We will look for opportunities to put similar projects into action in other countries and regions. As ASPHER President John Middleton is fond of saying, 'every country needs its own SEEEPHI'!



Member Database and Social Media Accounts

The ASPHER Secretariat continues to improve its 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

IPH Public Health Webinar on The Global Brain Health Survey

Tuesday, 22 February 2022, 19:00 (UAE time)

Webinar link: <https://uae-u-ac-ae.zoom.us/j/82953842110>

Dr. Isabelle Budin Ljøsne (PhD) is a bioethicist and senior advisor at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. She holds an MA in research ethics from the Keele University in the United Kingdom and a PhD in research ethics from the University of Oslo, Norway. She has over the years been involved in several European projects in the field of genetic epidemiology and is currently a work package leader in the EU-funded project Lifebrain.

Isabelle's research explores ethical and societal challenges associated with health research and the conduct of longitudinal cohort studies.

For more news and information from the Institute of Public Health, College of Medicine and Health Science, UAEU, please read their [latest newsletter](#).

Public Health and Care Research Leadership Programme (2nd edition)

Deadline for application: 15 March, 2022

Being a leader in the field of public health and care research requires more than being a good leader, and it requires more than being a good scientist. It requires a combination where you have competences concerning content, but also knowledge, skills and tools to understand and manage the context. The Public Health and Care Research Leadership Programme was designed to support future leaders in the field of public health and care research to become excellent leaders with a mission.

During a two-year learning journey, participants will engage in educational modules, individual coaching sessions, mutual learning groups, and build their own Leadership Development Portfolio.

UMIO | Maastricht University proudly partners with The Netherlands School of Public Health and Care Research (CaRe), Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences (NIHES) at Erasmus MC, and Cambridge Institute of Public Health (CIPH) at the University of Cambridge to offer a second edition of the Public Health and Care Research Leadership Programme, with the next cohort starting in July 2022.

Those interested in becoming a leading researcher in the public health and care research domain can [send in their application until 15 March](#).

Advanced Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis

07 - 09 April 2022

Early booking deadline 21 February 2022

This advanced three-day virtual course for health professionals is designed to provide an introduction to advanced methods for conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses. The course is interactive, with a mixture of lectures and hands-on practicals. Participants learn to design, conduct and report systematic reviews and advanced types of meta-analyses and program analyses in computer software.

Topics covered in this course include:

- Steps in developing a meta-analysis and analysis plan
- Frequentist and Bayesian meta-analysis
- Meta-regression, subgroup analyses, and methods to investigate heterogeneity
- Indirect treatment comparisons and network meta-analysis (NMA)
- Meta-analysis of diagnostic studies
- The role of meta-analysis in clinical guideline development, HTA and decision making

You can book your place on this course via [registration](#).

Congress Poverty and Health 2022: What Matters Now

Online event 22-24 March, 2022

The Poverty and Health Congress has been raising awareness of health inequalities in Germany since 1995. On three days of the event, actors from politics, science, health care, practice and self-help exchange ideas on topics of health inequality. Current research results will be discussed and deepened as well as new strategies, solution approaches and experiences. The past congresses have already initiated a large number of new cooperations and initiated developments and discussions.



The Poverty and Health Congress 2022 is organized by [Gesundheit Berlin-Brandenburg eV](#) in cooperation with the [German Society for Public Health eV](#), the [Berlin School of Public Health](#), the [Health Economics Center Berlin](#) and [the Institute for Vocational Education and Training](#) at the [Technical University of Berlin](#)

To check out the programme and to register for the event, please [sign up here](#).

Public Health beyond the Pandemic

Swiss School of Public Health+

Life since the pandemic has shown the importance of preparation in understanding how to fight against health emergencies, as well as learning to live alongside them. The 'Public Health beyond the Pandemic' session, held on 1 February 2022, featured health experts from Switzerland, who gave their insights about a range of important considerations for life in the pandemic era and beyond.

[The recording of the session is available here.](#)

Special Announcements

School of Public Health of the Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education (IPVZ)



Congratulations to Prof. Assoc. Alena Petrakova for being appointed as the new Head of the School of Public Health of the Institute of Postgraduate Education, IPVZ, Prague as of January 1st, 2022.

Assoc. Prof. Petrakova has over 30 years experience in global health. She is a medical doctor with postgraduate specialty diplomas in paediatrics, medical genetics and public health, and Ph.D. degree in medical sciences. She has long-term experience in education of health professionals at both national and international level.

She worked for over 15 years in international organisations (World Health Organization and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) where she gained know-how in health development and global public health.

Since 2016 she has been teaching public health in General Medicine, Dentistry and Public Health programmes at the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, Palacký University in Olomouc. She is Past-President of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and a former member of the Executive Board of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER). Prof. Assoc. Petrakova is a member of the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force and a Co-chair of the ASPHER V4 (Visegrad countries) working group.

Fee Waivers for First Authors from Low and Middle Income Countries for Public Health Reviews and IJPH

The International Journal of Public Health (IJPH, Impact Factor 2020: 3.38) and Public Health Reviews (PHR, CiteScore 2020: 6.80) - owned by the Swiss School of Public Health - publish all content open access.

Both journals offer fee waivers for first authors from low and middle income countries including many countries in Central and Eastern Europe! This is made possible by the GLOBEQUITY project, funded by swissuniversities (until 2024, details for [PHR](#), [IJPH](#)).

Selected ASPHER Member Publications

Ecker F, Kutalek R. 'I'm not an anti-vaxer!'—vaccine hesitancy among physicians: a qualitative study. *European Journal of Public Health*, Volume 31, Issue 6, December 2021, Pages 1157–1163.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckab174>

Hoffmann A. Joint Efforts Towards Capacity Building in International and Global Health. *Public Health Reviews*, January 2022.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/phrs.2022.1604688>

Wong B, Maaß L, Vodden A, van Kessel R, Sorbello S, Buttigieg S, Odone A. The dawn of digital public health in Europe: Implications for public health policy and practice. *The Lancet Regional Health Europe*, Volume 14, 100316, March 2022.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepe.2022.100316>

Wong B, Siepmann I, Rangan A, El-Omrani O, Davis D, Arias-Casais N, Saminarsih D, Gems D. Involving Young People in Healthy Ageing: A Crucial Facet to Achieving the Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030). *Frontiers in Public Health*, Volume 9, December 2021.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.723068>

PARTNER NEWS & EVENTS

News from the WFPHA

Global Public Health Week: 4-8 April 2022

During [Global Public Health Week \(GPHW\)](#), the WFPHA brings together institutions, communities, and public health actors from around the world to recognize the contributions of public health and its workforce. This annual event engenders discussion on the best practices and missing gaps fundamental to disease prevention and the promotion of health and wellbeing.

GPHW commences on April 4th 2022, with the theme “Public Health Matters: Building the New Future”. It will be a hybrid event, combining face to face and digital gatherings worldwide.

In addition to the week’s theme, each day will focus on a specific theme:

- Monday, 4 April: Building COVID-19 Resilience
- Tuesday, 5 April: Reversing Climate Disaster
- Wednesday, 6 April: Achieving Health Equity
- Thursday, 7 April: Strengthening Public Health Associations and Communities
- Friday, 8 April: Preventing the Next Pandemic

For more information please send an email to: secretariat@wfpha.org

#NGO4Equity Video Series

The coalition of international NGOs for equity is committed to engaging with other organisations, governments, and key stakeholders to achieve a coordinated response to the pandemic. The organisations dedicate themselves to continue compiling resources, sharing evidence-based best practices, and using their collective voice to advocate for those who are disproportionately harmed by the pandemic, including chronically ill patients, individuals lacking access to health care services and medication, and marginalized communities.

See below the information on #NGO4Equity Video Series.

- [Key Actor to Manage a Pandemic \(WFPHA\)](#)
- [Key Actor in the Fight against a Pandemic \(IFSW\)](#)
- [The Biggest Threats Facing the Distribution of the COVID-19 Vaccine \(EMPHNET\)](#)
- [Ensuring Vaccine Equity \(ASPHER and Usher Institute\)](#)

OpenWHO Course: Infodemic Management 101

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone around the globe and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The rapid overflow of information, combined with information voids and confusing messaging, have all together created an "infodemic" that is making it hard for people to find trusted information and know what actions to take to protect their health and their communities.

This is a self-paced course designed for anyone interested in understanding what an infodemic is, how it dramatically affects public health and what we can do about it now and into the future. Participants can expect to be exposed to a broad range of infodemic management skills and topics and learn the basics on how to decrease the negative impact of misinformation and disinformation on public health.

The course comprises an introduction, five modules and three skills lab covering an overview of the COVID-19 infodemic that we’re all facing, strategies and tools to navigate through it, expose tactics employed by malicious actors in the infodemic, and support friends and family with building resilience against misinformation and disinformation.

For more information about the modules, learning objectives and registration process, please [read here](#).

Health Inequality Portal

Addressing health inequalities will always be at the core of EuroHealthNet's work. In 2021, the partnership launched the new [European Health Inequalities Portal](#), an information hub covering health inequalities data, policies, research, and practices. It maps the organisations and actions happening across Europe focusing on health equity.

This year the portal will continue to grow and develop, for example with the results from the [Joint Action on Health Equity in Europe](#) (JAHEE).

Do you have a project or publication on health equity? Add it to the [resource database](#)

ECDC's New Training Catalogue 2022

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has launched a new interactive training catalogue. The catalogue is available in an [interactive PDF](#) and [EVA](#) versions.



It offers access to all e-learning courses, instructor-led trainings, webinars, and training materials to a particular thematic area. The PDF version provides a comprehensive view of all training activities and enables you to navigate from one course to other related activities. Following the same structure as the catalogue in EVA, one can quickly navigate between sections, using links built in the document connecting the courses by their common tags. The document can be also printed.

Health as a Lever for Action on Climate Change

Save the date: 8 April, 2022



A day of discussion devoted to climate change and public health, an event organized on the occasion of the French presidency of the Council of the European Union.

This event aims at promoting a better awareness of the links between climate, biodiversity and health in public policies and encourage concrete actions at the local, national and European scale. Accessible free of charge by registration. The target audience: public health professionals, environmental professionals, decision-makers, researchers and stakeholders.

The programme includes interdisciplinary and intersectoral interventions on knowledge, debates on challenges and lever for action, and feedback from European cities dedicated to

climate, biodiversity and health. The event will include speakers from all over Europe and a French and English translation will be provided.

For any questions, please contact climatechangeevent@formulemagique.com

OPPORTUNITIES

Vacancy: Director of the Institute of Management at Ecole des hautes études en santé publique (EHESP), Rennes, France



Ecole des hautes études en santé publique (EHESP) is looking to fill in the position of the Director of the Institute of Management.

This is an important position to strengthen the School's place in training, research and expertise activities in the field of management and administration in public health. For more information about the role and on the application procedure, please [read more here](#).

The deadline for application is 31 March.

Share the ASPHER newsletter!



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