

2022 ASPHER General Assembly

Minutes (draft)

Tuesday, 7 June, 13:00-16:30
Venue: Zoom

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

ASPHER President John Middleton, welcomed ASPHER Members and opened the meeting

2. Approval of minutes from the 2019 ASPHER General Assembly

The 2021 ASPHER GA minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Acceptance of new members

3.1. Full membership

Paracelsus Medical University, Center for Public Health and HSR, AUSTRIA

Presented by: Tim JOHANSSON

Full membership was approved unanimously.

East European University, Tbilisi, GEORGIA

Presented by: Kakhaber George LAZARASHVILI

Full membership was approved unanimously.

Centre of Postgraduate Medical Education, School of Public Health, POLAND

Presented by: Janusz KOCIK

Full membership was approved unanimously.

Powiślanski University, POLAND

Presented by: Anna TOMKIEL

Full membership was approved unanimously.

Collegium Prometricum – European School of Administration and Public Health, POLAND

Presented: Piotr SZYNKIEWICZ

Full membership was approved unanimously.

University of Valencia, Master Program of Public Health and Health Management, SPAIN

Presented by: José-Luis ALFONSO

Full membership was approved unanimously.

Natural Sciences Department, Middlesex University, UNITED KINGDOM

Presented by: Carmen ACEIJAS

Full membership was approved unanimously.

University of Skövde, Department of Public Health - School of Health Sciences, SWEDEN

Presented by: Gabriele EIBEN

Full membership was approved unanimously.

University of Nottingham, Academic Unit of Population and Lifespan Sciences, UNITED KINGDOM
Delegate Emma WILSON experienced technical difficulties connecting to the meeting and was unable to present the programme.

Full membership was approved unanimously on recommendation of the Executive Board.

3.2. Associate membership

International Academy of Public Health (IAPH), Amman, JORDAN

Presented by: Haitham Bashier

Associate membership was approved unanimously.

4. Election of Executive Board members

4.1. ASPHER Executive Board elections 2022 (by acclamation)

Mary CODD, University College Dublin, IRELAND

ASPHER executive board member Mary Codd presented her candidacy for the ASPHER Executive Board, standing for re-election to a second term. She presented her work over the course of her first term, which included the ECDC UCCAIDE project, Covid-19 Response and contact tracing at UCD, nomination and laudation of Andrija Stampar Medalist Mike Ryan, Work with Young Researchers Forum. Her immediate planned work for her second term would be to complete the 6th edition update to the ASPHER Core Competencies beginning in July 2022 and expected to be completed for September 2023.

Oliver RAZUM, Bielefeld University, GERMANY

ASPHER executive board member Oliver Razum presented his candidacy for the ASPHER Executive Board, standing for re-election to a second term. He presented his work over the course of his first term, focused on leading the ASPHER diversity and ethics agendas, which has produced statements on racism and diversity teaching as well as an ongoing development of a diversity curriculum. In recent months he is also leading the ASPHER Task Force on War. In his second term he will continue his work leading on war and public health, and diversity.

Mary Codd and Oliver Razum were re-elected to the ASPHER Executive Board by unanimous acclamation.

4.2. Welcome to the co-opted members

Statute changes voted at the 2021 GA allow the ASPHER EB to co-opt members. The GA was introduced to the two co-opted members.

Polychronis KOSTOULAS, University of Thessaly, GREECE who will lead on an ERASMUS call application to unify Schools of Public Health curriculum

Ines SIEPMANN, ASPHER Young Professional, BELGIUM coordinates the ASPHER Young Professionals Programme. Her co-option is part of ASPHER's commitment to representation at all levels as part of the Association's next generation agenda.

5. Presidency handover: October 2022 – Sofia, Bulgaria

5.1. Presidency handover change of venue to Deans' & Directors' Retreat

ASPHER President John Middleton put forward to the GA the proposal to reschedule the handover of the Association Presidency, which would usually take place at the General Assembly until the time of the Deans' & Directors' Retreat in October 2022. He explained that for both personal reasons and continuity of work, he and President-elect Carlo Signorelli had reached this decision as the best course of action and that the ASPHER EB was in agreement. Scheduling the handover for Sofia would also allow for the proper ceremony for the occasion at an in person event.

The decision to hold the Presidency handover at the Deans' & Directors Retreat in Sofia, Bulgaria was approved unanimously

5.2. Deans' & Directors' Retreat, Sofia Bulgaria

ASPHER Executive Board Member Karolina Lyubomirova, Medical University Sofia reported on the planning for the Deans' & Directors' Retreat which will be held in a hybrid format in Sofia, Bulgaria from 14-16 October 2022. The Faculty of Public Health, Medical University Sofia looks forward to welcoming the ASPHER Membership. Additionally she announced that the Retreat meeting had secured the official patronage of the President of Bulgaria.

6. Report from the President

6.1. COVID-19 Task Force

ASPHER Executive Board Member and COVID-19 Task Force Chair, Nadav Davidovitch, Ben Gurion University, ISRAEL reported. The Task Force has now had more than 100 meetings and many important papers. It represents a unique combination of countries with real time situation briefings of pandemic developments. The Task Force divides into subgroups for specific topic areas and works closely with ASPHER YPPs. The work on Covid-19 continues and all interested ASPHER members are welcome to join.

John Middleton thanked Nadav Davidovitch for recently taking over the Chair of the Task Force.

6.2. Next Generation Platform

6.2.1. Young Researchers Forum 2022

Bled 2022 9 June, Angela Boškin Faculty of Health Care: The event will be held on Thursday 9 June continuing the new format of offering the YRF at ASPHER member events

Berlin 2022, EPH Conference satellite event

6.2.2. Young Professionals Programme and ASSETS 2022

ASPHER Executive Board member and Young Professionals Programme Coordinator Ines Siepman reported that YPP's have now been involved in more than 30 ASPHER publications and several events such as EUPHW. The YPP is starting its intake for its 3rd year (2022-2023). The new cohort will be welcomed at an ASSETS meeting planned for 7-9 July. Members are encouraged to send applicants

6.3. ASPHER competencies programme

ASPHER Executive Board Member, Mary Codd, University College Dublin, Ireland reported on plans for updating the ASPHER Core Competencies over the course of the next year for the 6th edition. The public health landscape is ever changing and the core competencies need to be reviewed regularly to remain current and relevant for future requirements. The project aims to identify the core curriculum needed to support the ASPHER-WHO competency framework. Member schools will be called on to consult their curricula and areas of specialty as well as for review and comment. It would be useful to have a key contact person at each school. The 6th edition is planned to launch at the 2023 Deans' & Directors Retreat in September 2023.

Laurent Chambaud, EHESP French School of Public Health congratulated ASPHER and Mary Codd for embarking on this key piece of core ASPHER work. He suggested creating strong liaison with other organisations such as ASPPH in North America and WHO EURO.

John Middleton confirmed the strong support from WHO EURO thanks to the work of past –President Kasia Czabanowska, University of Maastricht.

6.4. Honours Committee > Platform

Honours Platform Chair, Jose Martin-Moreno, University of Valencia reported giving thanks to his co-Chair ASPHER past-President Kasia Czabanowska. Jose will step down as Honours Platform Chair, but remains committed to assist the Platform’s work.

6.5. Professionalisation Task Force

ASPHER pas-President and Professionalisation Task Force Chair Kasia Czabonawska, University of Maarticht, Netherlands reported on the Professionalisation Task Force. The Task Force met for the first time last week on 31 May as a joint effort with the WHO Regional Office for Europe. It will promote relevant exchange of knowledge and experience, providing sign posting and stimulating research for the public health workforce whilst promoting the WHO-ASPHER Professionalization Road Map.

6.6. Task Force on War

ASPHER Executive Board Member and Task Force on War Chair Oliver Razum, Bielefeld University, Germany reported on the Task Force on War. The Task Force was initiated after the start of the war on Ukraine, but ASPHER was active in the area in the past with publications on peace promotion, war as a manmade health problem, and commentary on other specific conflicts. The Task Force on War will be active in three main areas - 1) Scientific advisement; 2) Neighboring countries and refugee context; 3) Training and broader academic context. The Task Force has already generated a Road Map of Action document and there is an ongoing seminar series and a recent special conference meeting in Gdansk on 20 May.

6.8. World Congress on Public Health 2023

ASPHER President-elect Carlo Signorelli, University Salute-Vita San Raffaele, Italy reported on the World Congress on Public Health 2023 entitled ‘A World in Turmoil’ taking place in Rome from 2-6 May 2023. This is a rescheduled event after the cancellation of the 2020 WCPH in Rome. The World Federation of Public Health Associations approached ASPHER with a proposal to co-organise WCPH2023 along with the Italian Society for Public Health (SIItI). The ASPHER EB reviewed and accepted the proposal. The partnership comes with no financial risk to ASPHER and has benefits such as space for ASPHER meetings, working groups and the General Assembly.

ASPHER President John Middleton thanked Carlo Signorelli for organizing the involvement of ASPHER in the historic Congress.

6.9. Report from the President

ASPHER President John Middleton thanked everyone for contributing to the reporting. He went on to inform the Assembly that much of what he has to report can also be found in his President’s message in the current June issue of the ASPHER newsletter. He noted that 2021-2022 had been another difficult year for public health, but that ASPHER was moving forward on important advocacy for investment and preparedness. Focus on strategic partnership development has made ASPHER into a major player in public health in Europe and globally. He has been happy to contribute to the Association’s improved Secretariat capacity, member relations, financial stability and statutes. Most of all he is pleased to see ASPHER developing into a lively and robust organization that people want to be a part of.

ASPHER Executive Board Member Mary Codd, thanked John Middleton for his incredible hard work and insightful presidency.

The President's Report was approved unanimously.

7. Report from the Treasurer

ASPHER Executive Board Member and Treasurer Carla Lopes, ISPUP, University of Porto, Portugal presented the Treasurer's report for 2020-2021 and key considerations and budget for 2022.

The period of 2020-2021 showed improving the financial position and budgetary management for ASPHER with clearance of all outstanding accounts. Financial stability was on course over the period with growing membership and new projects (ERASMUS+ SEEEPFI project, ECDC UCCAIDE, ECDC VxTrain) allowing for a build up of reserves.

The 2022 budget prediction is for an income of 300,000 EUR with 200,000 in membership fees plus 100,000 brought forward from the previous year. Expenditures have been budgeted for 230,000 EUR creating a remaining reserve of 70,000 EUR.

Key considerations moving forward will be to continue to improved the accounting and financial management routine, while developing further membership growth strategy, policy on services and events and policy on projects (association- & member-led) with secretariat capacity matching workloads particularly in terms of projects and the amount of extra work it generates for staff versus the income received.

The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

8. Report from the Secretariat

ASPHER Director Robert Otok reported on the work of the ASPHER Secretariat in 2021-2022 fulfilling the key Association functions of coordination and synergy, support and advice, member and partner relations, and communication and online infrastructure. To contribute to the sustainability of the Association, the Secretariat has been following an ambitious agenda with a growing and dynamic membership network. To ensure this continues, there is a need for strong governance and organization as has been part of the President's agenda and further development of the offer to members.

The Secretariat capacity has been improved with the addition of Tatiana Caftea in 2021 and contracted accounting, tax & legal support. ASPHER will move into new expanded office space at the UM Campus Brussels which will allow for better operations and capacity for visiting interns and fellows. The functioning of the Secretariat has also been greatly aided by the Next Generation Platform providing Young Professionals, fellows and interns for support and the enhanced and strategically targeted roles undertaken by the Executive Board working as a team. Finally, the involvement of ASPHER members in the agenda and projects has been essential.

Looking ahead, a major agenda item that remains to be resolved is the ASPHER website to provide additional online infrastructure. There is budget and YP support allocated to the work and the new site is expected to be unveiled at the Deans' & Directors' Retreat in Sofia in October. In addition to the 2022 Retreat, the secretariat is looking ahead to the EPH Conference in Berlin 2022, the WCPH Rome in 2023 and the Deans' & Directors' Retreat and EPH Conference in Dublin in 2023.

As mentioned, the Secretariat benefits from several ASPHER Fellows working on key Association agenda areas. Including, Tara Chen & Rana Orhan on Climate and Health; Lisa Wandschneider for Diversity and Public Health Education; Keren Dopelt for Social accountability and Schools of Public Health; and Rok Hrzic Simulation Models in Health Policy Decision-Making.

Tara Chen updated the General Assembly on the on going work on Climate and Health including the EUHPP joint statement on Climate and Health education.

Lisa Wandschneider presented the ongoing work on the diversity curriculum. She announced the upcoming survey to support the implementation process and called on ASPHER members to respond.

Robert Otok thanked the Secretariat staff: Lore Leighton and Tatiana Caftea; ASPHER YPP's – especially Ines Siepmann; and all ASPHER Fellows and Interns.

ASPHER President John Middleton thanked Robert Otok and the Secretariat for their work.

The Secretariat's report was approved unanimously.

9. Communications

9.1. Awards 2022

Lore Leighton, ASPHER Secretariat described the ASPHER awards. The new award policy includes the Andrija Štampar Medal; a revised ASPHER Teaching & Practice Excellence Award, which replaces the Good Practice Award; and two new awards: the ASPHER Research Excellence Award, and the ASPHER Early Career Excellence Award.

She invited members to send nomination/s by Monday 5 September accompanied by a short endorsement letter to office@aspher.org.

9.2. Member announcements

Alena Petrakova made an announcement on behalf of the two member schools from Czechia. Alena will be leaving Palacký University Olomouc, where she has been a member of the faculty and the ASPHER contact to take over as Head of the School of Public Health at the Institute of Graduate Medical Education, Prague. The current vice-Dean of International Relations at Palacky University Olomouc will take charge of the school's ASPHER agenda.

10. Closing of the meeting

John Middleton thanked the ASPHER Membership for their attendance and closed the meeting.