



**PROF MZWANDILE (ANDI) MABHALA,  
University of Chester, United Kingdom  
Candidate for ASPHER Executive Board**

Standing for election 03 May 2023  
ASPHER General Assembly  
Rome, Italy



Mzwandile Mabhala is a Professor of Public Health Epidemiology in the School of Medicine at the University of Chester in the UK. He previously lectured at the University of Liverpool, the University of Oxford Brookes, and the University of Oxford. He has extensive expertise in the socioeconomic determinants of inequalities in health and social justice. More specifically, his research predominantly focuses on marginalised population groups, including the homeless, new psychoactive substance users, and food bank users. He also has an interest in students' determinants of health. His work has been published widely in international peer-reviewed journals and won several awards. For example, his research on homelessness won a 2018 Educate North award. He also co-edited two books: "Health Improvement and Wellbeing: Strategies for Action", which was nominated for the British Medical Association's Medical Book Awards 2015; and 'Key Concepts in Public Health' in 2009. He has also acted as principal investigator (PI) and co-investigator (CI) in large interdisciplinary research projects, including the UKPRP-funded PETRA network on Trade and Health.

He regularly provides his expertise on health inequalities and social justice to national and international organisations, including the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), and the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER). For example, Professor Mabhala is regularly invited to facilitate the (WHO) and (MSF) global partnership programme for research and training in tropical diseases - Structured Operational Research and Training Initiative (SORT IT). He is an active member of ASPHER's COVID-19 Task Force, the Inequalities and Vulnerabilities Sub-group.

He has held several board-level roles. In particular, he is a trustee in Sir Halley Stewart Trust (one of the UK research funding organisations), a member of the Cheshire and Merseyside Population Health Board and a member of the Cheshire and Merseyside Marmot Community



Advisory Board. He also chaired the external Advisory Board established to support the IDLO-led initiative on healthy diets and human rights in East Africa, and specifically Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

At the University of Chester, he has established several postgraduate public health programmes, including the Master of Public Health, the Master of Science in Global Health and the Doctorate of Public Health. His work was also instrumental in the establishment of the Department of Public Health and Wellbeing, the second-largest department within the Faculty of Health, Medicine, and Society.

### **Andi Mabhala ASPHER Executive Board Manifesto**

Given this background, Professor Mabhala's contribution to ASPHER could be significant and multifaceted. He has a strong track record of curriculum development, public health capacity building, research on socioeconomic determinants of health inequalities, and committee work/governance. He is happy to lend his public health expertise and international network where they are most helpful.

ASPHER has a key function of educating and training public health professionals from different sociocultural backgrounds; therefore, it needs to recognise that understanding public health principles of social justice is embedded and shaped by sociocultural contexts. The more diverse sociocultural backgrounds are represented within ASPHER's education and training, the richer and deeper our understanding of public health; I bring to ASPHER executive board my sociocultural background as a South African and 26 years of experience as a public health specialist, academician and researcher. These sociocultural backgrounds and experiences shaped and deepened my commitment to research and teaching social justice as a foundation for public health strategy to tackle health inequalities.

ASPHER operates in a rapidly globalised society; its education provision needs to reflect a global outlook. In my 22 years as a senior academician established a track record of curriculum development and decolonisation of the curricula.

ASPHER is deeply committed to tackling health inequalities and advocating for vulnerable populations; this has been more evident during the ongoing SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. I bring extensive research advocacy expertise in the socioeconomic determinants of health and social justice inequalities.