

ASPHER Executive Board Meeting

05 July 2023, 16:45-19:30 CEST and 06 July 2023, 09:15-12:30

Venue: ASPHER Headquarters,
Av de Tervueren 153,
BE-1150 Brussels

Draft Minutes

Present Day 1, 05 July 2023:

Executive Board:

Carlo Signorelli (President), Henrique Barros (President-elect) Mary Codd (online), Polychronis Kostoulas, Andi Mabhala, Oliver Razum, Ines Siepmann (online)

Secretariat: Lore Leighton (online), Robert Otok

Observer: John Middleton (immediate past-President)

Apologies: Nadav Davidovitch, Mirjana Kujundžić Tiljak, Karolina Lyubomirova

1. Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

CS opened the meeting welcoming participants and thanking all who were present.

RO recorded apologies

No Dols were made at this time (see agenda point 4.1. for JM Dol)

2. Summary of the last meeting and any immediate updates – minutes from 02 May and 06 June approved

2.1. ASSETS 2023 (<https://www.aspher.org/download/1429/assets-2023-programme.pdf>)

The ASSETS event is in progress with 6 participants following a similar format to the 2019 programme. More participants were expected, but several had to drop due to travel visa issues.

Decision: Considering the effort and investment, ASSETS must be promoted more with enrolment process starting earlier and following clear procedures.

2.2. World Congress on Public Health 2023 – CS reported

The WCPH had seen a good financial outcome providing 50,000 EUR for ASPHER

Some issues did arise that were communicated to the Professional Conference Organiser (PCO): Poor quality of food; Communication issues for some speakers

Discussion on sponsorship by pharmaceutical companies:

CS - OR's concern about participation of commercial companies was communicated, but the PCO did not answer to this. However, the Congress did adopt the WFPHA ethical code which is similar to ASPHER's.

OR - it was not necessarily an ethical question, but rather poor policy to invite pharmaceutical companies when the public is critical of public health and health care taking money from vaccine manufacturers.

CS - different decisions may be made in the future, but according to the WFPHA code, sponsorship is allowed if it is made transparently. However, there were issues at WCPH with some promotion that was not carried out in a clear transparent way as to what events were sponsored.

HB - for conferences to be profitable, money must come from companies as governments no longer provide support

CS - EPH Conference accepts pharmaceutical money, but the question then is how to use it

OR - worried about the term 'profit'

CS - ASPHER is not linked to the contributions

JM - The funds received are not a 'profit' for ASPHER, but rather payment for professional fees

3. **ASPHER 2023 Deans' & Directors' Retreat and CCP progress update with discussion – MC reported**

There will be no conference fees thanks to Irish participation (tourist board and UCD)

79 participants are registered

UCD is in contact with other Irish schools – including Galway which is interested in ASPHER membership

The programme theme title will be on the 'New Normal'.

Decision: write an editorial authored by the EB on the Retreat theme to publish in PHR as a society statement

MC presented the programme draft

Three CCP panels to reflect on structure and the curriculum with commentary on how to use/implement the CCP and consider any gaps

Discussion on CCP panels:

RO – need to brainstorm over the next two months with EB members to have a clear idea of the CCP structure before the Retreat. A regular weekly time should be set to allow anyone who is available to contribute

AM – how does the CCP compare to previous competency lists and to the UK 10 competency areas?

MC – the lists are not the same, she would be happy to have the EB involved over the summer

MC – should the panels be run as breakout sessions or held all together?

PK – suggested using 3-4 pillar areas (e.g. basic science, social science) and organize within pillars

HB – If the CCP output is close to final, then the Retreat panels should be used to present the materials not as a discussion for further input

RO – it will be important to provide a final format that reconcile maps with curriculum and will not be challenged, the current maps are not enough as members will seek for more assistance in implementation

JM – consider the WHO global RM which is to be endorsed this week

Awards

Research and Stampar awardees will be onsite.

Check with the Early Career awardees about attendance and support needed for travel. They can be engaged to co-Chair sessions.

Final Session with Stampar Medalists

Anders Foldspang and Mike Ryan are confirmed

Laurent Chambaud is essential for input on several initiatives as ASPHER climate lead and should be included

Jose Martin Moreno may not be available - to discuss and confirm in next 2 weeks

JM for contribution from Honours Platform

Actions: attention to be given to CCP from EB over the summer to back up the shape of the final project with good proposal from HB to show delivered structure at Retreat.

RO to work with MC in next 2 weeks on the structure of D&D Retreat meeting to submit complete agenda proposal to EB.

4. ASPHER agenda/work plan I

4.1. Professionalisation, including proposal for membership validation arrangement as part of the benefits offer to members (Annex)

RO presented ASPHER membership validation proposal as a concrete benefit to members to be made possible by ASPHER joining the relevant European infrastructure offered through ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education)

Discussion:

JM declared interest on this agenda point as President of APHEA. CS made further note that he is present at the meeting only as an observer

JM comments:

It would be difficult for ASPHER to join ENQA as it is not a quality assurance agency

There is a possibility to synergize relevant APHEA and ASPHER plans

Propose to hold this item for discussion in Dublin with Julien Goodman and Sue Babich present

PK – it shows strength to be recognised at a European level

RO – The proposal strengthens ASPHER position by giving recognised status concerning two major points of interest for ASPHER: Validation benefit for members and advancing professionalisation. He would like to do this in partnership with APHEA as a middle ground to co-create validation mechanism

AM – supports validation if it does not make the work of APHEA redundant and does not require substantial increase of burden on members

CS decision to table the discussion after making the following points:

He supports the idea of providing membership validation as an important investment for ASPHER. The question is how to do it. More will be learned after relevant meetings planned to explore different options

ASPHER still needs to nominate two members to the APHEA Board of Directors

4.2. Global Network for Academic Public Health – JM reported

JM has been elected the next GNAPH President to follow Laura Magaña in 2 years. LM will be in Dublin for the ASPHER Retreat;

Steering Committee of WHO Headquarters on Global Workforce meeting this week in Rome. JM and Kasia Czabanowska unable to attend due to ASSETS (JM) and EuroPubHealth meeting (KC). However, LM is there for GNAPH representative, and Gaetano Privatera and Geneviève Chêne are present for European perspective.

Next GNAPH meeting is scheduled for September with JM and RO expected to attend.

5. AOB, closing and next day agenda – CS Adjourned the meeting

Present Day 2, 06 July 2023:

Executive Board:

Carlo Signorelli (President), Henrique Barros (President-elect), Nadav Davidovitch (online), Polychronis Kostoulas, Oliver Razum

Secretariat: Lore Leighton, Robert Otok

Apologies: Mary Codd, Mirjana Kujundžic Tiljak, Karolina Lyubomirova, Andi Mabhala, Ines Siepmann

1. Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

CS re-opened the meeting welcoming participants

RO recorded apologies

No Dols

2. ASPHER agenda/work plan II: Overview of 2023/2024

2.1. See OG2023 proposal (unsuccessful) for reference ([Annex](#)). RO presented as guide for ASPHER overview of work for 2023-2024.

2.2. EPH Conference - Dublin 2023 & Lisbon 2024 – RO reported

2.2.1. Plenary with EHMA:

Title: Building the future One Health workforce

Keynotes: MC on CCP; BeWell project

Co-moderators: HB from ASPHER; Bulgaria representative from EHMA

Panel: Health Managers Network, Pat Wall, young generation rep, one more Short piece in EuroHealth to be delivered by September

Actions: Outline to be sent to EB in follow up; EB to give attention to make more use of 2024 Lisbon Plenary

2.2.2. Other Conference involvement: Young Researchers Forum (pre-conference), SEEPHI event/activity, ASPHER Booth

Action: Organise bridging to EPH from D&D Retreat

2.2.3. EPH Lisbon planning meeting on 7 July at 10:00

Action: Add CS and HB to mailing list

2.3. ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat - Porto 2024 – HB reported

Proposed dates were presented.

Decision: Porto Retreat to be held 13-14 June 2024

Theme on lifelong learning and how to use ASPHER to cooperate + health diplomacy

Opportunity for tour of Porto with emphasis on plague history

2.4. Regular business decisions including treasurer & different representative positions.

2.4.1. Treasurer – RO presented secretariat suggestions:

HB for synergy and continuity with Carla Lopes leaving the position; or ND as SEEPHI lead

HB accepted to take the position

CS noted that it is not ideal to have incoming President as Treasurer but makes sense in this exceptional case for continuity from CL

Decision: HB to take position as ASPHER Treasurer

2.4.2. ASPHER representation in APHEA Board of Directors and GA

Current ASPHER BoD representatives: JM (APHEA President) and MC (APHEA treasurer) – both declaring conflicts of interest despite ASPHER’s steering role. The representation has been limited with a lack of communication to the ASPHER EB.

Misrepresentation of APHEA General Assembly as meeting of Board of Directors - officially it is ASPHER President (or the President’s chosen delegate) who represents ASPHER in APHEA GA.

Discussion:

OR - more information is needed about the conflict of interests from financial side

PK – can APHEA be incorporated into ASPHER? It would be a disaster if accreditation split into 2 organisations. Things must be set straight while ASPHER has controlling majority.

OR – we must find way to collaborate not compete

CS – a diplomatic way forward is needed – It is a safe statement that ASPHER wants to be steering APHEA with global outlook

Decisions:

CS and HB to represent ASPHER in APHEA BoD; CS to meet with JM to explain changes

CS and HB to follow up with JM on steering role and how APHEA can be more relevant on Europe level

GA representation: ASPHER must assume that no APHEA GA has been called at this time as CS has not received an invitation.

2.4.3. European Board of Public Health Fellows (proposal developed out of discussion on APHEA representation and membership validation)

PK proposed for ASPHER to create a Board of Fellows with PH graduates of schools belonging to ASPHER becoming eligible for European Fellows of PH credentials. All graduates of validated schools could apply with exam to the Board of PH Fellows being de facto members

HB – proposal would be game changer and deserves attention

OR – propose to have outline(s) to consider for future meetings

3. AOB, next meeting and closing

- 1.1. Updates from Climate and Health group challenge – RO reported on COP28 planning and climate/health responders course from Global Consortium on Climate and Health (Columbia university) – to be rolled out through regional networks. LC is leading for Europe for ASPHER
- 1.2. ASPHER partners with member led projects – 2 projects funded
VxAction on vaccination hesitancy (EU4Health) with IHMT NOVA leading on ASPHER member consortium
EARLY on mental health intervention training (Horizon) with Emden-Leer leading
- 1.3. Next EB meetings:
Online meeting end of July/early August to confirm D&D Retreat programme: meeting set for Friday 11 August 16:00-18:00 Brussels time
Dublin meeting on Wednesday 30 August 15:00 – 17:00 Dublin time (or 16:00-18:00). (note: MKT, KL, IS and OR not in attendance in Dublin)
- 1.4. CS thanked the EB and closed the meeting