

Abstract

The world is changing, which presents new challenges to population health. Public Health is centrally placed to protect and enhance human health and is a key component of national security. This Colloquium seeks to gain consensus on the adaptive ways forward for the discipline by bringing professional associations, international organizations, expert stakeholders and citizens together. The intent is to enhance existing public health curricula in the face of global and emerging threats to population health. Population and global health are challenged by unprecedented population growth, human migration and urbanization, natural disasters and climate change, warfighting and conflict, and novel disease emergence.

Enhanced curriculum development, informed by the emerging field of disaster medicine, can assist public health practitioners, both direct and in supportive roles, to better address dynamic and complex problems threatening the public's health and welfare. The lessons of recent pandemics, warfare returning to the European continent, and population dislocation demand a fresh look at public health education and training and to build on the decades of development of the public health specialty discipline from academic institutions, organizations and associations.

Subject matter experts, academics, and leaders from across Europe will convene in a high level meeting to launch development of an enhanced curriculum to better address current and future challenges. This colloquium will draw from the WHO / ASPHER competency framework and build essential ingredients to strengthen the public health discipline as viewed from the lens of changing geopolitical events creating a nuanced understanding of the intersections between Mass Violence, War, and Disaster for public health practitioners of the future.

Successful implementation around these complex challenges require large-scale collaboration, trust and meaningful engagement. We will bring together the capability, perspectives, data and power that often sit in separate organizational boundaries.

The Colloquium

This colloquium will serve as a pivotal platform to address complex challenges by synthesizing knowledge and expertise, addressing current violent conflicts and future threats and offer the opportunity for individual and organizational learning needs analyses.

Operating under Chatham House Rule¹ and drawing from the broad constituencies of three sponsoring organizations, ASPHER, WADEM and ECDM, this inaugural convening will establish an augmentative framework to build on collective and individual institution's public health curricula development with a starting point the WHO/ ASPHER 2020 competency framework. We will create a high-trust environment within which these collaborations thrive. This alliance building initiative is constructed organically out of necessity within and across our many sectors.

The outcomes will pave the way for transformative public health courses that prepare professionals to navigate the intricate landscape and unique challenges of the 21st Century, ultimately contributing to resilient societies in Europe and beyond. The one-day colloquium is a convocation of thought leaders and subject matter experts and help to launch and create a robust framework for novel curriculum development. The resultant working group methodology will entail ongoing meetings, workshops, in depth conversations and content development.

¹ Under Chatham House Rule participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.