

PROFESSOR JUDIT SIMON, MD, BSc, BA, MSc, DPhil, FFPH
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Biography

Professor Judit Simon is Deputy Head of the Center for Public Health and Head of the Department of Health Economics at the Medical University of Vienna in Austria. She additionally holds Visiting Professorships at the University of Oxford, UK and Corvinus University Budapest, Hungary. Prior to her current appointments, she worked at UCL, LSE and the University of Oxford in the UK.

By training, she holds an MD (summa cum laude), a BSc in Economics, and a BA in Medical Translation (University of Szeged, Hungary), an MSc in Health Economics (University of York, UK), and a DPhil in Public Health/Health Economics (University of Oxford, UK).

She has been elected Fellow through Distinction of the UK Faculty of Public Health (FPH) in 2014 and currently is member of the FPH Global Health Committee plus she co-chairs its Europe SIG. In 2024, she has been selected for the new multi-disciplinary Advisory Committee on Public Health Emergencies (ACPHE) of the European Commission.

Professor Simon has multiple executive board functions including the Austrian Medical Society for Public Health and Public Health Service (ÖFGPHÖGD), the Austrian Health Economics Association (ATHEA), and the Austrian Chapter of ISPOR. Furthermore, she is scientific advisor to the Austrian National Public Health Institute (GÖG) and Statistics Austria. She has been scientific reviewer and advisor to over 20 national and international organisations and over 30 scientific journals. Currently she is senior editor at BMJ Mental Health, BJPsych Open and Bipolar Disorders.

Her main expert areas include health economics assessment (alongside clinical studies and modelling), health services and systems research, evidence synthesis and decision science with special interest in mental and public health. She has been principal/co-investigator for 23 grants (>39 million € funding), and has over 200 full-text publications with >5000 citations and a Google Scholar h-index of 34.

Professor Simon has extensive international teaching and curriculum development experience in public health, health economics and relevant research methods at undergraduate, master, doctoral and professional levels. So far she has formally supervised 18 doctoral students and ~20 other students (MPH, MBA, MD). She has been the coordinator of the Doctoral Programme for Public Health at the Medical University of Vienna since 2017.

ASPHER contributions

Judit Simon has been representative of the Medical University of Vienna, Center for Public Health on the ASPHER Deans & Directors Board since 2020. The same year, she joined the ASPHER Public Health Emergencies (earlier COVID-19) Task Force and has been actively contributing since. Furthermore,

she is member of ASPHER's Working Groups on Economic Evaluation and on Public Health Simulation. She provided expert advice to the ECDC Core Competencies in Applied Infectious Diseases Epidemiology project (2020-2022), was Steering Group member for the ASPHER Core Competency Framework for Simulation Modelling in Public Health (2022-2023), and was part of the ASPHER Core Curriculum Expert Advisory and Consultative Groups including leading on the 'Economics in Public Health' core subject area (2023-2024). She is co-author of multiple ASPHER publications and was principal investigator and supervisor for the 2022 Best Presentation Award Winner project at the ASPHER Young Researchers' Forum.

Manifesto

We live in a time when public health is still perceived as a fragmented and heterogenous field. Decision-making in public health is too frequently influenced by personal opinions and vested interests rather than grounded in data and evidence. Moreover, the title of 'public health expert' is not always supported by relevant training, skills, or practical experience.

To strengthen the professional standing of the public health workforce and enhance recognition of public health as a discipline, we must prioritize multidisciplinary, evidence-informed decision-making based on rigorous methods. This includes harmonized and accredited education across key subject areas—bridging clinical and academic public health, and integrating both medical and non-medical professionals.

ASPHER plays a vital role in advancing these priorities across its extensive network of member schools, working in close collaboration with other relevant organizations and networks. Since becoming involved with ASPHER, I have been deeply impressed by its commitment to inclusivity, openness, and collaboration—particularly its distinctive efforts to actively engage young professionals in its work.

It would be a privilege to contribute to this mission as a member of ASPHER's Executive Board. With a dual background in medicine and economics, hands-on experience with public health systems and education in four European countries, and a track record of relevant roles in both national and international organizations, I bring a unique combination of skills, perspectives, and connections that I believe would add meaningful value to the Executive Board's work.