

# Personal Statement – ASPHER Executive Board Candidacy

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## Dr. Polychronis Kostoulas

Professor of Epidemiology

Email: [pkost@uth.gr](mailto:pkost@uth.gr) | Phone: +306977881857

[LinkedIn](#) [Google Scholar](#)

## Personal Statement

Public health in Europe is entering a decisive decade: complex zoonotic threats, accelerating climate change and an unprecedented explosion of data call for bold, integrative leadership. My career has been devoted to building exactly the bridges that ASPHER now needs to cross:

1. **A track-record of analytical innovation.** As an epidemiologist I have consistently pushed methodological frontiers – especially in Bayesian latent-class models for diagnostic test evaluation, early warnings for epidemics and most recently coupling deep learning with traditional surveillance to predict epidemic tipping-points. I will champion similarly rigorous, open-source innovation across ASPHER schools, so evidence informs policy in real time.
2. **Pioneering One Health education.** Recognising early that human, animal and environmental health are indivisible, I led the establishment of Greece's *first* School of Public & One Health and crafted with colleagues its interdisciplinary curriculum which serves now a national reference model. Scaling such curricula region-wide will be central to my work on the Board: facilitating shared syllabi, faculty exchanges and joint micro-credentialing so that every European public-health graduate is fluent in One Health thinking.
3. **Building capacity through data & AI.** As Founder of the Laboratory of Epidemiology, AI & Biostatistics I direct research that harnesses machine learning. I envision an ASPHER that helps its members responsibly leverage AI: developing teaching modules, ethical guidance and a repository of harmonized datasets that smaller schools can tap into.
4. **Delivering through collaboration & governance.** Serving on the current Executive Board has taught me the value of ASPHER's collective voice. If renewed, I will focus on:
  - a. **Methodological excellence**
  - b. **One Health mainstreaming**
  - c. **Digital transformation**
  - d. **Regional equity**

I would be honored to receive the Assembly's confidence and to continue working with you for a healthier, smarter and fairer Europe.

# Short CV

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Dr Polychronis Kostoulas is Professor of Epidemiology and Vice-Dean of the newly established Faculty of Public & One Health at the University of Thessaly, Greece. He spearheaded the design and launch of Greece's first dedicated School of Public & One Health, creating a multidisciplinary curriculum that fuses population medicine, environmental health and data science. He has also founded and directs the Laboratory of Epidemiology, Artificial Intelligence & Biostatistics.

Dr Kostoulas completed a PhD in Epidemiology in 2006 and his research centers on Bayesian methods for diagnostic-test evaluation, true-prevalence estimation, and early-warning systems for epidemics. He has produced more than 150 peer-reviewed publications and secured over €10 million in competitive funding across 23 international projects, serving as coordinator or principal investigator in nine of them