
Autumn 2023 ASPHER Newsletter



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Share the ASPHER newsletter!

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to thank Executive Board Member and Retreat Chair Mary Codd, the whole team at University College Dublin, ASPHER secretariat and the entire ASPHER community for making the [ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat in Dublin](#) a terrific success. It is always a pleasure to meet with my esteemed colleagues from schools and institutions of public health and Dublin was no exception. The Retreat highlighted the ['new normal' in public health](#) – linking it to developments on the highly anticipated ASPHER Core Curriculum for Public Health. I commend the [Retreat statement](#) to you and we look forward to launching the Core Curriculum in early 2024. This Retreat was also meant to focus on members and membership engagement and we hope you came away with new connections and a sense of purpose within ASPHER.

We are now bridging into the annual [European Public Health \(EPH\) Conference](#), also in Dublin. Foremost amongst ASPHER activities at EPH will be the joint ASPHER-EHMA Plenary 3 on 'Building the Future One Health Workforce'. Discussion on the new normal with reflection of the One Health contribution and how it is incorporated as a key component in the Core Curriculum will be continued with Mary Codd providing the keynote on ASPHER's behalf. As always, we look forward to the Young Researchers Forum during Wednesday afternoon pre-conferences. If you arrive in Dublin early, join us to support the upcoming generation of public health researchers! The ASPHER Executive Board will come together in Dublin and the Secretariat will be onsite as usual – we look forward to meeting with any of you who will be back again in Dublin.

Our world continues to move through difficult times as we continue to receive heartbreaking news of [flooding](#), extreme heat, [terror atrocities](#) and conflict on several fronts. My thoughts are with all our members, colleagues and their friends and family who are affected and I trust that schools of public health will step up to do the best they can to ease the suffering and improve the conditions of the people in their regions. ASPHER is here to respond and support, so please reach out.

ASPHER is also moving forward on important developments with our satellite organisations, Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA) and the journal Public Health Reviews (PHR). Negotiations are underway to improve offers and incentives to ASPHER members. President-elect Henrique Barros and I will be joining the APHEA Board of Directors. For PHR, EB Member Nadav Davidovitch and I have joined the Editorial Team as Associate Editors and past-ASPHER President Kasia Czabanowska will officially take on the role to represent ASPHER at the journal in her continuing capacity in the Senior Editorial Board.

Although we seem to be cursed to live in interesting times, we will continue our efforts to contribute to the health, wellbeing and tranquillity of all.

Carlo Signorelli,
ASPHER President

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Following up on Prof Carlo Signorelli's [President's message](#), ASPHER is also bridging these two Dublin conferences with continued work with University College Dublin on the Public Health Core Curriculum Project (CCP) including a [meeting at the EPH to update on CCP progress](#) and CCP lead [Mary Codd's keynote for the EPH Plenary 3](#) on Friday and two thematic groups meeting up in Dublin on [Climate and Health](#) and [Digital Public Health](#). This will be a major effort over the coming months and we now have a [CCP website](#) set up – we hope all members will engage on this important final push for the Core Curriculum!

We have been deeply concerned about the situation in Israel and Palestine and with ongoing and increasing conflicts in the European Region in Ukraine and Israel, a [joint meeting has been called of the ASPHER War and Public Health Emergency Task Forces](#). The meeting will be held during the conference with the intention to hear perspectives of members and colleagues directly affected.

The [ASPHER next generation agenda](#) will receive attention in Dublin with Young Professionals Programme (YPP) Coordinator and Executive Board representative, Ines Siepmann onsite as well as Rok Hrzic supporting further development of the ASPHER Fellowship Scheme. Exciting developments are ahead in 2024 including the [intake underway of the next YPP cohort](#). Likewise, the ASPHER Honours Platform (HP) agenda will be discussed with HP Chair John Middleton in Dublin. ASPHER is proud of the meaningful and genuine connection across generations of our schools' community.

The [ASPHER stand](#) will be up and running in the EPH exhibition area for anyone with questions or wanting to engage. We hope to catch up and speak with any members onsite and develop new links, ideas, projects... be sure to stop by!

We are also pleased to inform that through the concerted efforts of ASPHER Climate and Health Fellow Tara Chen, [ASPHER will be officially represented at COP28](#) in Dubai. For the first time COP will dedicate a full day to issues of Climate and Health making it all the more relevant for ASPHER to be there and voice the concerns of Schools of Public Health as we continue to see and respond to the effects of extreme weather, most recently with [catastrophic flooding in Thessaly](#). We also encourage you to fill out the [Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education \(GCCHE\) survey](#) on how climate and health knowledge and skills are integrated into academic public health.

If you missed out on attending the Deans' and Directors' Dublin Retreat in September or just wish to reminisce, be sure to check our [reporting here from the Retreat](#). And get ready to [join us in Porto in 2024](#) from 06-08 June! #ASPHER2024

Otherwise, within these pages, you will find much more on [ASPHER](#), [member](#) and [partner](#) events, projects, activities and [opportunities](#).

ASPHER Secretariat

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ASPHER STATEMENT CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACKS ON CIVILIAN POPULATIONS

On 10 October 2023, in the immediate aftermath of the Hamas terrorist attacks, ASPHER released the following statement of condemnation. Developments of the situation in the region is being closely monitored and debated by ASPHER in consultation with members in both Israel and Palestine, which we expect will result in further commentary soon. Schools of Public Health can take an active role for promoting peace which is critical for health and wellbeing as laid out in the previous statement: [How can Schools of Public Health Actively Promote Peace?](#)

ASPHER strongly and unequivocally condemns the terrorist attacks on civilians in Israel perpetrated by Hamas. To date, Hamas has killed over 900 civilians including women, children, and 260 young people who attended a music festival. ASPHER considers these attacks as a severe violation of human rights and an infringement of international law. As a public health association, ASPHER is deeply concerned about the many lives lost and the negative repercussions on the physical and mental health of individuals and communities.

ASPHER is fearful for the wellbeing of about 150 non-combatant civilians taken hostage by Hamas, including children, disabled and elderly persons. Their lives, as well as their physical and mental health, are at great risk. ASPHER calls for their immediate release. ASPHER calls for rapid intervention on their behalf by organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

ASPHER is concerned about non-combatant civilians in the Gaza strip. They deserve protection like civilians everywhere.

This latest atrocity by Hamas has only added to the cycle of violence in the region. ASPHER appeals to all parties involved to seek for peaceful lives together, respecting the rights of all people in the region.

ASPHER is a membership organisation representing more than 120 schools and institutions of public health education and training in 43 countries (www.aspher.org). ASPHER again stresses the need for peace work. [ASPHER has previously outlined the roles and actions Schools of Public Health can take](#), guided by the principles for peacebuilding, to support civil society with critical skills and competences during conflict. ASPHER greatly values colleagues in schools of public health in the region. We know that you have in the past sought to work harmoniously together in the interests of health and peace. ASPHER will support you in all your further efforts.

[Download a pdf of the statement here.](#)

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ASPHER EPH CONFERENCE PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Below you will find a listing of some of the ASPHER highlights during the Dublin European Public Health (EPH) Conference. In addition to the ASPHER events, many ASPHER members will be involved in presentations and sessions throughout the conference. Keep an eye on the [conference programme](#) to attend sessions and support colleagues!

There will be several meetings of ASPHER thematic Task Forces and Working Groups, including Climate and Health, Digital Public Health, War and Public Health Emergencies throughout the Conference. [See here to learn more about the meetings taking place and how to join.](#)

Regular ASPHER business will also take place with the ASPHER booth, ASPHER Executive Board, meet-ups and socialising with members and partners onsite. **Be sure to stop by the booth, have a chat and learn about the 2024 Porto Deans' & Directors' Retreat!**



Young Researchers' Forum

13:30 – 17:00 Wednesday 8 November preconference. Location: Ecocem

ASPHER received a record number of highly competitive abstracts for the 2023 Young Researchers Forum (YRF) Dublin. All are welcome to join the event. If you are arriving in Dublin early on Wednesday, come join us to support this inspiring cohort of Young Researchers! Registration is available onsite for only 20 EUR including the networking lunch at 12:30.

YRF Dublin is supported with sponsorship from EUPHA and the journal [Public Health Reviews](#).

Chairs: **Mary CODD**, ASPHER Executive Board; University College Dublin; **Ines SIEPMANN**, ASPHER Executive Board; ASPHER Young Professionals Programme Coordinator.

Mentorship Interventions: **John MIDDLETON**, ASPHER Immediate Past-President; UK Faculty of Public Health Past-President; **Kasia CZABANOWSKA**, Public Health Reviews Senior Editorial Board; ASPHER Past-President; University of Maastricht

Jury: **Henrique BARROS**, ASPHER President-elect; University of Porto; **Alison MCCALLUM**, University of Edinburgh; **Andi MABHALA**, ASPHER Executive Board; University of Chester.

Oral Presentations: AI Chatbots in Public Health Medical Education: insights from an AI-assisted Vaccination Training in Italy **Francesco BAGLIVO**, University of Pisa, ITALY; Demand for internet-based interventions for depressive symptoms during the COVID-19 pandemic **Sophie EICHER**, Free University Berlin, GERMANY; Epidemiological Transmission patterns and use of Whole genome sequencing in investigating campus based COVID-19 outbreaks during the second and third waves of SARS-CoV-2 infection **Jwenish KUMAWAT**, University College Dublin, IRELAND; Developing a competency framework for economic evaluation expertise of public health professionals: a scoping review **Arianna MAVIGLIA**, Maastricht University, THE NETHERLANDS; Kidney Stones, Gallstones, and Chronic Kidney Diseases and the Risk of Prostate Cancer: Results from the EPICAP Study in France **Melissa SAWAYA**, University Paris-Saclay, UVSQ, INSERM & CESP, FRANCE; Wholesome sex education and sexual knowledge associated with complete physical and mental well-being of young people in Ireland **Pratiksha NAGAR**, University College Dublin, IRELAND; A Code of Conduct for the European Public Health Workforce: A scoping review and grounded theory study **Lena STROHMAIER**, Maastricht University, THE NETHERLANDS; Influenza vaccination uptake in people with diabetes mellitus in Spain based on the EHIS 2020 **Eric TWOMEY**, Andalusian School of Public Health, SPAIN; Investigation of Associations between Maternal Sociodemographic Factors with Placental Outcomes using Partial Least Squares Regression in the Lifeways Cross-Generation and PEARS Cohorts **Shevaun M. TEO**, University College Dublin, IRELAND; The complex interplay between economic conditions and being sedentary among Italians in the period 2019-2022: data from the National Surveillance PASSI **Virginia CASIGLIANI**, University of Pisa, ITALY.

Poster Presentations: Exploring Respiratory Tract Infections in Acute Irish Hospitals (2016-2021): A Clustering Approach **Doaa AMIN**, University College Dublin, IRELAND; Medical Doctors Practices Regarding Gestational Diabetes Screening and Diagnosis in the United Arab Emirates **Maryam M. BASHIR**, United Arab Emirates University, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES; Weight gain curves during pregnancy in women with gestational diabetes and compliance with the new recommendations for weight gain in pregnant women from the Brazilian National Health System **Kadhija CHERUBINI**, University of Porto, PORTUGAL & Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, BRAZIL; Communication, Advocacy, Public Health Literacy and Infodemiology in Public Health Curriculum: An Evolving European Perspective **Karl CONYARD**, University College Dublin, IRELAND; Building towards vaccine acceptance –community co-design framework **Shane CREAGH PIPER**, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, IRELAND; Perceptions on information consumption among healthcare professionals and journalists in Bulgaria during the COVID-19 emergency **Zhivka GETSOVA**, National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, BULGARIA; Towards Effective Awareness Concerning Antimicrobial Resistance in Granada, Spain: A Field Study **Diana Juanita MORA ARIAS**, Andalusian School of Public Health & Virgen de las Nieves University Hospital, Granada, SPAIN; Exposure to outdoor artificial light at night and breast cancer risk: The findings from CECILE study (France) **Nirmala PRAJAPATI**, University Paris-Saclay, UVSQ, INSERM & CESP, FRANCE; Mental health and cancer symptoms: a Vignette Study on help-seeking and diagnostic testing **Flavia PENNISI**, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, ITALY; Association of Atrial Fibrillation with ischaemic stroke severity in Ireland; a secondary data analysis of the Irish National Audit of Stroke **Aileen CALLANAN**, University College Cork, IRELAND.

[Download the YRF Dublin programme here.](#)

Plenary Session 3: Building the One Health Workforce

10:30-11:30 Friday 10 November by ASPHER/EHMA Location: Auditorium



A 'new normal' in public health and healthcare has arisen with socioeconomic shifts, technological developments, political strife, climate change, environmental degradation, and COVID-19. Challenges cannot be solved by one discipline or profession alone, but requires multiple sectors coming together, combining knowledge, expertise and methods. One Health is an integrated epidemiological and economic approach aiming to sustainably optimise the health of people, animals and ecosystem.

Read the article [Building the Future One Health Workforce](#), in the special [EUROHEALTH Conference publication](#) to learn more background for Plenary 3 on the roles of Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) and European Health Management Association (EHMA) and the concrete steps needed to address skills for One Health.

Moderators: **Todorka Kostadinova**, Professor at the Department of Economics and Healthcare Management, Medical University of Varna, Bulgaria; Member of the EHMA Board of Directors; **Henrique Barros**, President-elect ASPHER, University of Porto.

Keynote speakers: **Mary Codd**, Associate Professor, School of Public Health Physiotherapy and Sports Science, University College Dublin, Ireland; **George Valiotis**, Executive Director European Health Management Association (EHMA).

Panellists: **Lucy Nugent**, President European Association of Hospital Managers (EHAM) and Chief Executive of Tallaght University Hospital, Dublin, Ireland; **Patrick Wall**, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science, University College Dublin, Ireland; **Monica Georgiana Brînzac**, EUPHANxt coordinator and Research Assistant, Department of Public Health, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; **Milka Sokolović**, Director General European Public Health Alliance (EPHA); **Victoria Stanford**, Public Health Registrar, Public Health Directorate of Shropshire Council, United Kingdom.

ASPHER Core Curriculum Programme (CCP) Meeting

15:10 – 16:40 Friday 10 November (hybrid) Location: Liffey Meeting room 4

CCP lead Mary Codd, will present updates and developments on the ASPHER Core Curriculum.

If you are interested in joining remotely, please contact Karl at karl.conyard@aspher.org.

ASPHER DEANS' & DIRECTORS' RETREAT

ASPHER Retreat Statement:

A new Public Health Curriculum for a 'new normal'

Mary Codd, Henrique Barros, Nadav Davidovitch, Oliver Razum, Mzwandile Mabhala, Polychronis Kostoulas, Mirjana Kujundžić Tiljak, Karolina Lyubomirova, Ines Slepmann, Karl F. Conyard, Olalekan Popoola, Maly Morshad Ahmad, Lore Leighton, Robert Otok, Carlo Signorelli

This is a pre-published version of the ASPHER 2023 Retreat statement in press with the journal *Public Health Reviews*.

Introduction: What is the 'new normal'?

The constant state of change that epitomizes our existence inevitably results in new phenomena that impact on individuals, professions and society. In the context of public health (PH), the 'new normal' of our time has been, and is being, shaped by demographic and socioeconomic shifts, scientific and technological developments, political strife, upheaval and

migration, climate change and environmental degradation, food and water insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, the 'new normal' refers to a constant state of risk necessitating a state of 'preparedness' for change which cannot be fully contained or overcome, but which calls for recognition and regulation [1]. The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) recognizes this 'new normal' for PH and the challenges it poses for PH education, training and practice.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated an evolving series of health crises in an increasingly unstable world [2]. It highlighted issues of trust in science and expertise among the public in general, governments, politicians and health care workers. It capitalized on rapid developments and dissemination of information, and exposed the potential of mis and disinformation. It emphasized the need for competent leadership and informed decision-making, and it highlighted the growing inequities of our time. Any acceptance of this 'new normal' as being inevitable or hopeless must be addressed, and its potential for positive change must be embraced [3].

In many respects, addressing the pandemic was basic PH, comprising epidemiology, surveillance, contact tracing, implementing interventions of isolation and vaccination. These must be maintained and strengthened as essential PH services [2]. However, expertise and skills above what have been traditional tenets of PH are also required [4] affirming ASPHER's endorsement of a multi-disciplinary approach, particularly for preparedness [5]. While current PH education may be constrained by conventional instructional approaches and challenges in the integration of theoretical knowledge with practical applications, essential competencies for an informed PH workforce are evolving [6].

For these reasons ASPHER, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, has undertaken to review a Core Curriculum for PH to address the 'new normal' and to underpin the attainment of necessary competencies by PH graduates. This is the theme of this year's ASPHER-member conference, the 2023 ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat.

What is needed to prepare PH for the ‘new normal’?

ASPHER, adhering to its mission to improve and protect the public by strengthening education and training of PH professionals for practice and research, must address the competencies required of the PH workforce for the ‘new normal’. Previous frameworks and roadmaps [7-9] act as guides; however, we continuously seek to identify and fill gaps in skills and knowledge.

The PH Workforce: Multidisciplinary, interprofessional and cross-sectoral

A multidisciplinary PH workforce must work in interprofessional and cross-sectoral contexts recognising the skills, values, languages and methodologies of other disciplines. Interventions critical to PH, such as vaccination or food regulation, rely on collaboration across specialisms, an understanding of political, societal and ethical contexts, and the leadership to engage stakeholders, create consensus and make tough decisions. The pandemic disrupted every facet of existence; exposed underlying social and structural factors which influenced exposure, testing, access to healthcare, vaccination and survival; and identified political, cultural, religious and philosophical beliefs which impacted on interventions [10].

Politics, and how it influences inequalities, is fundamental to PH. Political decisions determine funding for national health systems and health agencies; how guidelines and regulations are enforced, how vaccine and health workers are apportioned, and ultimately how morbidity and mortality vary by social status, race, gender and ethnicity [10]. Political strife due to increasing populism, conflict and war, and distrust in science serve to amplify the need for PH professionals to engage with politics and policy-makers in the interest of the health of the public [11].

The PH Workforce: The sustainability agenda and digital advancements

Climate change affects ecosystems which impact health via altered disease patterns, food security and natural disasters. PH professionals must be prepared for environmental threats, honing green skills, promoting sustainability and engaging One Health strategies. PH professionals must devise holistic strategies to promote and preserve health, prevent risk and design solutions for human, animal, and environmental well-being coupled with social contexts. One Health informs traditional PH disciplines with advancements in identification and surveillance of zoonotic agents, genomics and development of vaccines and therapeutics [12].

Developments in digital technologies offer a wealth of resources to PH for data management and research. PH professionals must be equipped with knowledge and skills required to respond to, and use, big data and artificial intelligence [13].

The PH workforce must act ethically

PH ethics is specific to the field, differs from bioethics approaches, and essential to guide PH decision-making and action. The principles of PH ethics, often circumvented in emergencies as evident during the pandemic, require PH professionals to address the fundamental causes of disease justly and fairly. It ensures that interventions, policies, and programmes prioritise the well-being of populations while respecting individual rights and values. It addresses complex moral dilemmas, promotes fairness, transparency, and community engagement, helping prevent potential harms, inequities, and unethical practices.

In the 'new normal' PH ethics is needed more than ever, to introduce solidarity for local and global questions, and how to practice PH understanding of the role of diversity, social justice and communities. PH professionals must be ready to balance these tensions, grasping the dynamics of challenges and the constant need for reflection [1].

The ASPHER Core Curriculum supporting PH preparedness for the 'new normal'

COVID-19 and other crises have ushered in a 'new normal' as it relates to PH practice. It is incumbent upon us to evolve our teaching accordingly. Integrating the concept of the 'new normal' into PH curricula is essential to equip PH graduates to effectively navigate strategies and interventions in response to health crises in an ever-changing world, thereby protecting and promoting the health and welfare of the global population and planet. As a necessary step to a prepared PH workforce, and to ensure that ASPHER-member PH programmes are fit-for-purpose, the ASPHER Executive Board in collaboration with WHO has undertaken a wide-ranging review of PH curricula across 150 member schools and beyond. From these consultations we will profile a Core Curriculum for the 'new normal' PH, to be introduced at the 2023 ASPHER-member conference.

References

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ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat - Dublin 2023 reporting highlights



ASPHER was thrilled to be at University College Dublin with over 125 delegates representing 60 member schools, and partner organisations for the 2023 ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat - all dedicated to improve public health education and training to build up professionals ready to confront the new normal!

The 2023 ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat in Dublin opened with addresses from ASPHER President **Carlo Signorelli** with emphasis on ASPHER Members' shared commitment to

advancing public health education, and from our gracious host and Retreat Chair Prof **Mary Codd** wishing everyone ‘Céad Míle Fáilte’.



They were followed up by a Keynote from UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences Principal, and Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) Dean of Faculty of Public Health Medicine **Cecily Kelleher**, as well as kind words from UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science Head **Catherine Blake**, RCPI President **Mary Horgan** and Global Network for Academic Public Health (GNAPH) President **Laura Magaña**.



Developments on the ASPHER Core Curriculum was the theme of Day 1 of the Retreat. The discussion was kicked off with ASPHER Core Curriculum Programme (CCP) lead **Mary Codd** setting the stage with the process and vision behind the work.

Panel discussions followed to address selected subject areas of the Core Curriculum to confront the new normal in public health with particular focus on Climate and Health, One Health, Preparedness, Diversity, Nutrition, Politics, Equity, Digital Public Health, Communication, Public Health Ethics and Law.



The afternoon was dedicated to the Core Curriculum in context with relevance at different educational levels and for accreditation; synergy with World Health Organization work at the European and global level to promote public health professionalisation and leadership; and for academic public health globally with the GNAPH.



Day 1 of the Retreat came to a close with the Gala Dinner held in the beautiful University College Dublin Faculty Club, which hosted the ASPHER 2023 Awards Ceremony.

Highest honours went to the 2023 *Andrija Stampar Medalist*, **Anders Foldspang**, Professor Emeritus of Aarhus University and Past-President of ASPHER for his tremendous contributions to public health education and core competencies. Past-President of ASPHER, **Charles Normand** from Trinity College Dublin graced us for Anders' laudatio. Another *Stampar Medalist*, **David Byrne**, former European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection was also in attendance for the meal.



Congratulations also went to *Research Excellence* awardee Professor **Mohamud Sheek Hussein**, of UAE University. Distinctions were bestowed on the **School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science University College Dublin** with the *Teaching & Practice Excellence* award.

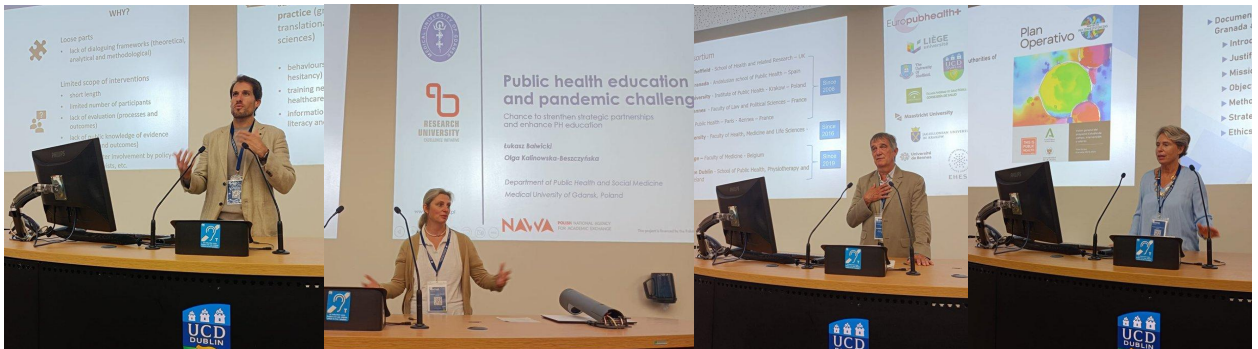


Finally, we were happy to recognise five inspiring *Early Career Excellence* awardees: **Lorenzo Blandi**, University of Pavia, Italy; **Paula Meireles**, University of Porto, Portugal; **Brian Wong**, University of Maastricht, The Netherlands; **Flavia Pennisi**, University Vita Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy; and **Lisa Wandschneider**, University of Bielefeld, Germany.



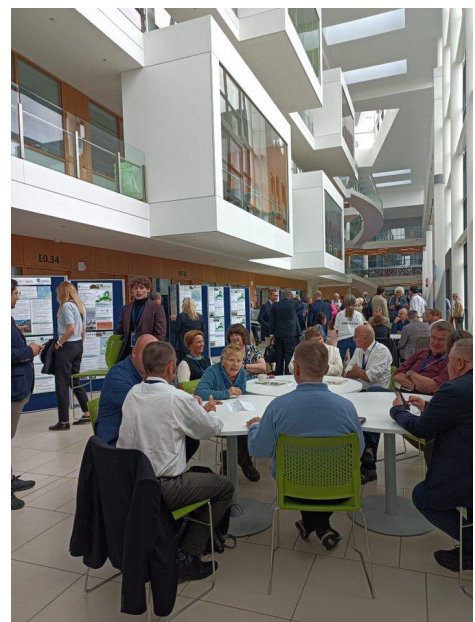
ASPHER President Carlo Signorelli and Director Robert Otok set the stage for Day 2 of the Deans' Retreat, which focussed on members, their collaboration and engagement with ASPHER. The session included the signing of a letter of commitment for collaboration between ASPHER and EuroNet MRP with EuroNet MRP Vice President **Ambrogio Cerri**.

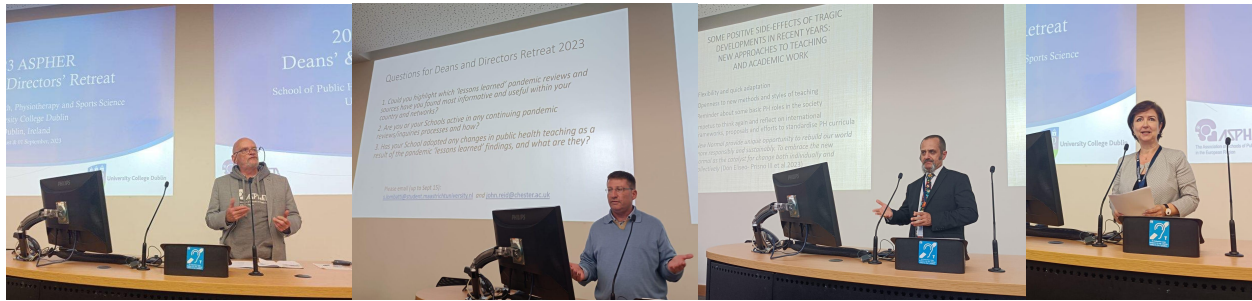
The first half of the morning on Day 2 of the Retreat continued with a selection of presentations of ASPHER-enhanced collaborative projects including UCCLAIDE, VxTrain/VxAction, EuroPubHealth+, NAWA and TIPH global.



Following up after coffee, with the assistance of UCD ambassador students, ASPHER delegates had the opportunity to leave the lecture hall and get to know each other and their schools better in a lively poster - speed dating session. The Erasmus+ SEEPEHI project kicked off the afternoon with an animated presentation and discussion on implementing simulations for innovative public health training with Dr **Paul Barach** and **Nadav Davidovitch**, Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Thanks to **Fiona MacLeod**, from partner school University College Cork for introducing the project.

Opportunities for collaborations across schools were presented such as Erasmus joint masters, Horizon Europe, and COST actions. We hope this sampling will stimulate Member schools to find ways to work together after the Retreat, making the most of the network.





John Middleton and **Nadav Davidovitch** reflected on ‘What is the New Normal? And how do we integrate preparedness for it into the public health curriculum? ASPHER member **Tomasz Bochenek**, Jagiellonian University and **Zuzana Vatrlova**, International Organization for Migration of Ireland gave examples of ways they are responding. Follow up continued after the retreat with a consultation of ASPHER members to learn how others have responded.

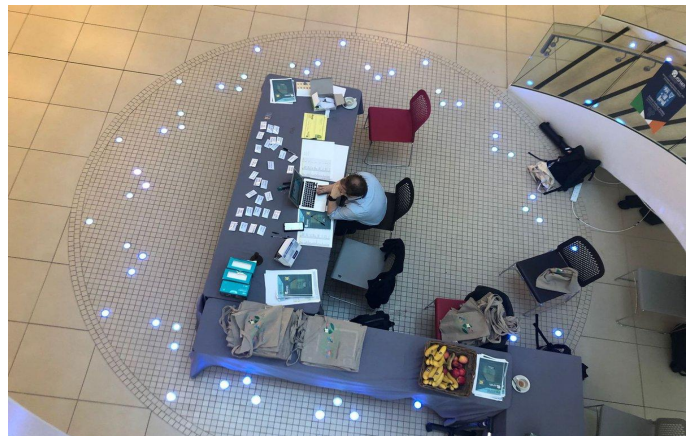


We were privileged to wrap up with an extended Q&A with Dr **Mike Ryan**, WHO for the final keynote of the ASPHER Dublin Retreat. He provided thoughts on the 'New Abnormal' and permanent crisis. He emphasised that public health must be activist and must lead by translating science into action. Academic Public Health is uniquely positioned to make a difference! We were very pleased to present Dr Ryan with the newly published [4th Edition of the New Public Health textbook](#) authored by the venerable **Ted Tulchinsky**.

Throughout the Retreat we were treated to a terrific social programme in Dublin! UCD spoiled us with the gorgeous Palestrina Choir Recital, elegant University Club Gala Dinner, a romping time at Johnnie Fox's Pub, and the beautiful Newgrange World Heritage Site.



We were tremendously grateful to our terrific hosts, ASPHER Dublin Retreat Chair Prof **Mary Codd** and her entire team at UCD including the **fabulous UCD and EuroPubHealth students** supporting the whole event! We thank them all for their warm reception. We especially wish to extend our immense gratitude to ASPHER Fellow **Karl Conyard** who handled ASPHER Mission Control with his characteristic class and good humour.



ASPHER 2024 Deans' & Directors' Retreat Porto, Portugal



Before the Dublin Retreat drew to a close, **Carla Lopes** presented plans for the 2024 ASPHER Deans' and Directors' Retreat **#ASPHER2024 to be held at ISPUP in Porto, Portugal from 06-08 June 2024**. The 2024 Retreat will emphasise life-long learning, and the public health research agenda. Carla and President-elect **Henrique Barros** look forward to welcoming all members to Porto!

[Be sure to keep up on all important information for Porto 2024 here.](#) Download the Porto Retreat flyer [here](#).

ASPHER NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM UPDATES

The ASPHER Next Generation Platform continues to be engaged as a key asset of ASPHER's operations. There will be developments to come in 2024 with increased exposure for a new cohort of YPP's and continuing and new ASPHER Fellows and Interns expected. While at EPH, don't miss the Dublin Young Researched Forum - see the full line up of speakers [here](#). Get in touch with the ASPHER office at office@aspher.org if you have students, graduates or junior faculty who wish to get involved!

ASPHER's Young Professionals Programme 2023-2024 Intake

Applications are open October 6th - December 1st

Anyone who self-identifies as a public health young/early career professional (YP) and is in some way affiliated with an [ASPHER Member School](#) is invited to apply to the ASPHER Young Professionals Programme (YPP). We currently have a group of 15 YPs from all over the world with a variety of public health backgrounds.

The YPP is a great opportunity to join a supportive community of other young public health professionals, and provides the potential to join research collaborations with researchers from around the world.

The goal of the YPP programme is to incorporate public health students and professionals early in their career with the ASPHER network. The programme does this by:

- Building a network within the YPs that is maintained through monthly meetings and provides a medium for advice, feedback, and future collaboration.
- Incorporating YPs into ASPHER research collaborations to provide opportunities to gain relevant experience.

YPs are expected to engage in monthly YPP meetings and actively participate in ASPHER research projects for a minimum of one year. By applying, you agree to commit to this.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our YPP recruitment officer Luis Beltran at lgbg500@york.ac.uk.

Please distribute this call to your students, alumni and early career faculty! Applications are due by December 1st, 2023. [Download the flyer here](#).

ASPHER YPP Call for ASPHER Member Mentors and Advisors

Are you an ASPHER member? Do you have new projects brewing and need more hands on deck? Do you love the YPP and want to support the learning goals of ASPHER young professionals?

Provide project opportunities for ASPHER YPP members! The YPP aims to both build a network of YPs as well as provide opportunities for YPs to be incorporated into ASPHER's research collaborations to gain relevant experience. However, to meet this mission we need

ASPHER members to proactively share opportunities that they have for YPs to engage with. The YPP cannot function in a vacuum, and so if you've ever sent a student to the YPP and encouraged them to join, please also consider how you can support these YPs in gaining the advertised relevant experience!

There is a great level of flexibility on how YPs may be involved. In the past three years, YPs have been involved in over 30 projects ranging from full-length research collaborations to commentary articles, covering topics from contact tracing technology to vaccine nationalism.

Please submit project opportunities to ASPHER YPP Coordinator, Ines Siepmann (isiepmann97@gmail.com), stating the following: (i) Overarching goal; (ii) Learning objectives; (iii) Brief background; (iv) Planned outcome; (v) Proposed timeline; (vi) Involved ASPHER members; (vii) Involved YPs (if some are already involved, if none yet, please list ideal number).

We will be looking for projects on a rolling basis, but having 2-3 opportunities established in advance of the 2023-2024 cohort intake would be highly appreciated to get YPs active right as they join us!

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CLIMATE AND HEALTH

Updates from the ASPHER Climate-Health Task Force

Recently, Europe saw [a historical climate change case](#) in the European Court of Human Rights as young activists are taking 32 European governments to court for failing to adequately address climate change. It is the first climate change case filed with the court, increasingly seen by activists as a strategy to hold governments to account. New research also found that collective action can have a direct effect on society, reporting that almost a third of Swiss people changed their daily environmental habits as a result of young activist, [Greta Thunberg's Fridays for Future climate strikes](#).

Within the health realm, COP28 UAE President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber has committed that health will be at the centre of climate discussions, where WHO and several countries will be hosting the first-ever Health Day and climate-health ministerial this year in Dubai. **We are excited to announce that ASPHER has been accepted as an NGO-observer to COP28 and will be sending a delegation (in-person and virtual) to Dubai.** This is an important milestone for the ASPHER Climate-Health Working Group, as it opens the door on climate change governance, participating in framing issues, providing information and expertise, and lobbying government delegates. We look forward to providing more details on the delegation.

In other news, the sub-group on climate-health education is working with the Global Consortium on Climate-Health Education to produce the first European Responder Course. This course is intended for all public health and wider health professionals on the basic foundations of climate-health. **If your school is interested in joining us as a partner, please reach out! [Register for the ASPHER/GCCHE Climate Change and Health Course here.](#)**

Climate and Health survey: how climate and health knowledge and skills are integrated into academic public health

We invite you to participate in a brief 5-15 minute survey aimed to understand how climate and health knowledge and skills are integrated into academic public health worldwide. The survey will inquire about courses on climate change at your institution and how those concepts are assessed.

This survey was developed by the [Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education \(GCCHE\)](#), based at Columbia University, with support from the Global Network for Academic Public Health and the Capacity Building Subcommittee of the WHO Civil Society Working Group to Advance Action on Health and Climate Change.

Your response, along with colleagues from across the globe, will contribute to an annual indicator to track the integration of climate change into the curriculum of public health institutions globally. As educators and professionals in the field of public health, it is crucial that we equip ourselves and our students with the knowledge and skills to address the health implications of climate change effectively.

Additionally, the GCCHE may identify institutions needing support and offer training and enrichment programs on climate and health topics. The GCCHE has been actively engaged in the endeavor to establish a climate-prepared global health sector by promoting training, forging partnerships, developing protocols, facilitating resource-sharing, advocating for change, and fostering academic collaborations among health institutions worldwide.

Participation in the survey on behalf of institutions is entirely voluntary and responses will be kept confidential and anonymous. This study protocol has been approved by Columbia University Institutional Review Board (IRB) review committee (protocol number AAAU7307). The GCCHE will collect and analyze the survey data in a secure platform, and it will be anonymized prior to reporting publicly. No Institution name will be publicly reported.

This survey should be completed by the following individuals:

1. Faculty members, academics and/or course coordinators who design or teach climate and/or planetary health related content and curriculum.
2. Faculty members, academics and/or course coordinators who are familiar with climate and/or planetary health related content currently being taught at the school.

We ask that you kindly complete this survey by December 1, 2023.

The survey is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#).

[Download the survey flyer here.](#)

Appointment of Dr. Chiara Cadeddu to ESHPM for Planetary Health

The Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management (ESHPM) is happy to announce that as of 1 October Dr. Chiara Cadeddu joined ESHPM in the Planetary Health theme of the School. Chiara is a Public Health specialist, who worked until recently at Università Católica del Sacro Cuore in

Rome, Italy and has closely collaborated with ASPHER projects, including the Climate and Health Task Force. While her main area of experience is in vaccines and healthcare education, she gradually moved into planetary health when she took up the role of Scientific Coordinator of the Italian Institute of Planetary Health.

In addition to the Climate & Health Task Force, Chiara is also member of the Planetary Health Alliance (PHA) and its European Hub, the Steering Committees of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) Environment and Health section and HTA section, and the Working Group on Climate Resilience of Health Systems of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

Her appointment is the first appointment as part of the ESHPM investment agenda, strengthening her presence in sustainable healthcare workforce, global health and planetary health. [Learn more about Chiara Cadeddu's appointment here.](#)

ASPHER Task Forces and Working Groups - Join in!

ASPHER Task Forces and Working Groups are a great way for our members to take part in and direct the ASPHER agenda. Below is a list of groups that are meeting regularly. Contact us at office@aspher.org if you or colleagues at your school would like to participate or if you would like to propose a working group.

- Public Health Emergencies Task Force (formerly the COVID-10 Task Force)
- ASPHER-WHO Task Force on Professionalising the Public Health Workforce
- Climate and Health Task Force
- Digital Health Task Force
- Task Force on War
- Public Health Undergraduate Education Working Group
- Economic Evaluation in Healthcare in Europe Working Group

Several Task Forces and Working Groups will meet during the EPH Conference in Dublin. See what is happening below and get in touch if you want to participate in any of the meetings.

ASPHER Public Health Emergencies Vaccination Subgroup meeting

10:00-10:30 Irish time, Thursday 9 November, Dublin and online: Liffey Meeting room 4

The Vaccination Subgroup of the Public Health Emergencies Task Force will meet on Thursday morning from 10:00-10:30. If you are interested to join, please contact Alison McCallum at alison.mccallum@ed.ac.uk.

Joint meeting of the ASPHER War and Public Health Emergencies Task Forces in Dublin

09:00-10:30 Irish time, Friday 10 November, Dublin and online

ASPHER's War and Public Health Emergencies Task Forces will hold a joint meeting during the EPH Conference in Dublin from 09:00-10:30 Irish time to discuss the Israel-Hamas conflict. Emphasis will be placed on hearing from members and their contacts from the region. Seating in the room is limited, but if you wish to join the meeting in person or online, please contact War Task Force Chair, Oliver Razum at oliver.razum@uni-bielefeld.de.

ASPHER Climate and Health Task Force meeting in Dublin

14:00-15:00 Irish time, Friday 10 November, Dublin and online: Liffey Meeting room 4

The ASPHER Climate and Health Task Force will hold a hybrid meeting during the EPH Conference in Dublin from 14:00-15:00 at the Conference Centre Dublin Liffey Meeting room 4. Let Tara know at tara.chen@aspher.org if you wish to join.

Our Climate-Health Working Group is getting started with monthly meetings to open the doors for collaboration on these topics. If you have interest to get involved and join the group, please do not hesitate to reach out to Tara at tara.chen@aspher.org!

ASPHER Digital Health Task Force meeting in Dublin

16:40-17:40 Irish time, Friday 10 November, Dublin and online: Liffey Meeting room 4

The ASPHER Digital Health Task Force will hold a hybrid meeting during the EPH Conference in Dublin from 16:40-17:40 at the Conference Centre Dublin Liffey Meeting room 4. Let Rok Hrzic know at r.hrzc@maastrichtuniversity.nl if you wish to join.

ASPHER NEWS & EVENTS

NAWA best practice teaching seminars

Online: 25 October - 14 December

You are cordially invited to participate in a set of free online seminars on best academic teaching practices developed at the partners' universities participating in the project 'Public health education and pandemic challenges'.

The project is financed by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), supported by ASPHER and is led by the Medical University of Gdansk in cooperation with: Maastricht University, EHESP School of Public Health, Andrija Stampar School of Public Health, Institute of Public Health (ISPUP) of University of Porto and Jagiellonian University Institute of Public Health.

The schedule of the seminars is as following:

25 October 2023 seminar hosted by Andrija Stampar School of Public Health, CROATIA

30 October 2023 seminar hosted by Maastricht University, NETHERLANDS

15 November 2023 seminar hosted by EHESP School of Public Health, FRANCE

21 November 2023 seminar hosted by Jagiellonian University Institute of Public Health, POLAND

14 December 2023 seminar hosted by Institute of Public Health, University of Porto, PORTUGAL

We invite you to pre-register [here](#).

For more information contact: anna.tyranska-fobke@gumed.edu.pl

Download a PDF version of the announcement including details for the first two seminars [here](#).

SEEEPHI partners meeting, Cork

Partners from the Sharing European Educational Experience in Public Health for Israel (SEEEPHI) ERASMUS+ Capacity Building Project were pleased to continue their time in Ireland after the Deans & Directors Retreat with a Project meeting at University College Cork. The SEEEPHI project was recently granted a six-month extension and will now wrap up in July 2024. Discussion was held by partners on how to make use of the extra time allotted to make the best impact on Public Health training in Israel – including hands on problem based learning and simulations.



Given the current situation in Israel, further discussions and contingencies are underway on how to make the most of the remaining time for SEEEPHI including online participation in leadership and media trainings at the University of Maastricht.

SEEEPHI partners will be joining the [Task Force on War and Public Health Emergencies joint meeting](#) during the EPH Conference to contribute about the ongoing conflict.

VAX-ACTION project

The VAX-ACTION project ‘effectively tackling vaccine hesitancy in Europe’, was recommended for co-funding by the European Union through the EU4 Health Programme (EU4HP). The project is made up of a consortium of ASPHER member schools and coordinated by the

Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (IHMT), NOVA University Lisbon under the lead of Global Health and Tropical Medicine Professor and Researcher Tiago Correia. In addition to IHMT, the consortium brings together the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart Rome; the National Institute of Health Services Management (INMSS), Bucharest; the Institute of Public Health at the University of Porto (ISPUP); the Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education (IPVZ), Prague; the University of Pavia, the University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan (UNISR); the Institute Pasteur, Paris; and ASPHER.

Vaccine hesitancy – the delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite their availability – is a problem increasingly being recognized globally and poses an academic and political concern. Its main implication reflects in lower-than-expected vaccine uptake rates. VAX-ACTION aims to support EU Member States and relevant stakeholders to implement a combination of tailored, evidence-based interventions aimed to reduce vaccine hesitancy.

The project addresses the need to understand what type of interventions are now available, which are effective, how to translate effective interventions, and to explain the unsuccessful ones to create opportunities for learning and redesign. VAX-ACTION's key relevance is to design and implement interventions and recommendations built on sound theory, existing evidence, and best practices of principles in health evaluation. The interventions – designed and evaluated in two settings per target region – will be conducted in target regions in Portugal, Italy, France, Romania, and Czechia.

[Read more on the project from the IHMT announcement here.](#)

PHIRI 3 Years Anniversary Conference

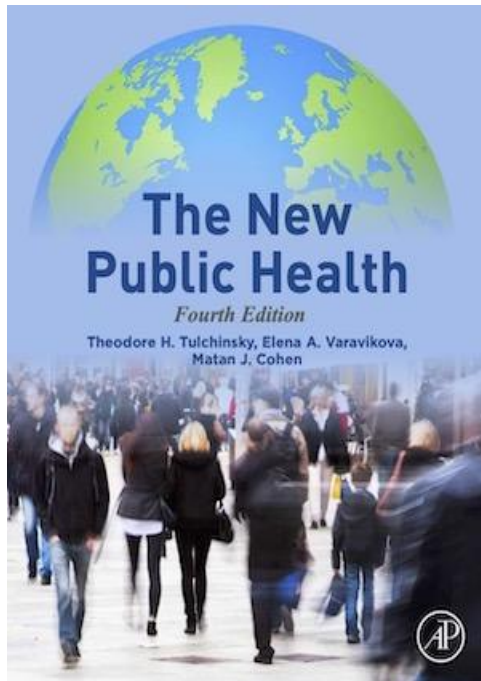
The Population Health Information Research Infra- structure (PHIRI) project is the roll-out of the research infrastructure on population health information that aims to facilitate and generate the best available evidence for research on health and well-being of populations as impacted by COVID-19. In doing so, PHIRI is laying the foundation to build a Research Infrastructure on Population Health to be used to overcome future crises. The intent is to support research across Europe through the identification, access, assessment and reuse of population health and non-health data to underpin public health policy decisions. This is achieved through a close collaboration with 41 partners across 30 countries over a period of 36 months (November 2020 - November 2023).



On Friday 22nd of September, the PHIRI project held its 3 Years Anniversary Conference welcoming over 100 in-person participants in Brussels, and many more online to the event. ASPHER Director Robert Otok participated along with colleagues from NOVA University Lisbon and the European Observatory to offer insights for the panel on ‘Strengthening the European Health Workforce’.

[A recording of the event is available here.](#)

Call for Translations: The New Public Health 4th Edition.



In agreement with the authors, Elsevier allows translation and publication of the New Public Health 4th Edition text without copyright charges for use in teaching programs. The contract with Elsevier gives authors the right to make such arrangements and previous editions were translated and strengthened new or revised schools of public health in Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan.

Read about the New Public Health 4th Edition [here](#).

Interest for translation into Bulgarian has already been expressed. Learn more about what is required for translations [here](#).

Contact Ted Tulchinsky at tulchinskyted@hotmail.com if you are interested to translate the New Public Health 4th Edition.

OHCHR working meeting on anti-racial forms of discrimination

On 13 July, ASPHER along with other members of the EPHA DisQo network on anti-discrimination & health equity took part in a working meeting of the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) aiming at addressing racial discrimination issues which current EU or national policies do not seem to resolve.

During the first meeting, the mandate of the Anti-Racial Discrimination Advisor was introduced and participants elaborated on their areas of work to identify areas of mutual interest and activity. Capacity building in particular was identified as necessary.

For more on ASPHER's position, read the [ASPHER statement on racism and health: racism and discrimination obstruct public health's pursuit of health equity](#).

ASPHER will continue to follow developments of particular interest to public health.

Public Health Reviews

The journal [Public Health Reviews](#), which is published by the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) and edited in partnership with ASPHER is proud to have received an Impact Factor (IF) of 5.5. In addition, it has a CiteScore of 5.6, ranking 1/40, 98th Percentile (Community and Home Care) and 122/577, 78th Percentile (Public Health, Environmental & Occupational Health).

The Gold open access, independent society journal accepts manuscript submissions in all areas of public health, both local and global scope.

Further reading

Christoffersen A, Lai A, Meer N (editors). (2023) Advancing Racial Equality in Higher Education. Published by The University of Edinburgh in collaboration with the RACE.ED network and Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2218/ED.9781912669585>

Middleton J, Southon P, Fairburn J. (2023) The Impact of Environmental Provisions in Trade Agreements on Non-Communicable Disease. Produced for the PETRA* Network, Chester University.

<https://petranetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/20230824-NCDs-environmental-provisions-in-trade-agreements-FINAL.pdf>

Middleton J, Happy 175th birthday to public health. BMJ 2023; 382

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.p2001>

Rodríguez-Feria P, Czabanowska K, Babich S, et al. (2023) Divergence and Convergence of the Public Health Leadership Competency Framework Against Others in Undergraduate Medical Education: A Scoping Review. Public Health Reviews, 44.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/phrs.2023.1605806>

Sandhu Harman S, Otterman V, Tjaden L, et al. (2023) The Governance of Core Competencies for Public Health: A Rapid Review of the Literature. Public Health Reviews, 44.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/phrs.2023.1606110>

Schaefer GO, Atuire CA, Kaur S, et al. (2023) The importance of getting the ethics right in a pandemic treaty. Lancet Infectious Diseases.

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(23\)00364-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(23)00364-X)

World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. The ongoing journey to commitment and transformation: digital health in the WHO European Region, 2023. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2023.

<https://www.who.int/europe/publications/m/item/digital-health-in-the-who-european-region-on-the-ongoing-journey-to-commitment-and-transformation>

MEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

The Faculty of Public and One Health of the University of Thessaly support the Flood Victims of the Municipality of Karditsa



ΤΜΗΜΑ ΔΗΜΟΣΙΑΣ
ΚΑΙ ΕΝΙΑΙΑΣ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
AND ONE HEALTH

ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΙΑΣ UNIVERSITY OF THESSALY

ASPHER has been following developments from member school, Faculty of Public and One Health of the University of Thessaly and is in regular communication with ASPHER Executive Board member Polychronis Kostoulas about the

devastating flooding in the region. Despite much of the infrastructure of the University itself being flooded, the Dean of the Faculty of Public and One Health, Eleni Lachana, has written to tell us about the fast action and volunteer efforts of One Health faculty and students to respond to the disaster crisis.

From the first 24 hours following the devastating passage of Storm Daniel through Karditsa and its adjacent regions, the Faculty of Public and One Health (FOH) of the University of Thessaly took immediate and organized action. While search and rescue operations by the relevant services were still underway, our Faculty commenced its support and relief efforts for the affected residents by taking several key actions.

The faculty established reliable communication channels to gather accurate information about the evolving situation. Student volunteer activities were carefully coordinated under the Department's supervision, with a focus on ensuring the safety and physical well-being of all participants. After conducting an on-site evaluation and gathering immediate information on the crisis management efforts in Karditsa, we identified two main areas for involvement: a) Voluntary actions of a humanitarian nature by our students in the city of Karditsa, and b) Targeted interventions in the city of Palamas, specifically at the Municipality's indoor gymnasium and the Palamas Health Center, which suffered extensive damage. In coordination with Municipal Authorities they helped collect and distribute supplies to meet the most immediate and practical needs, particularly concerning the preservation of public health. The Department remains vigilant and continues to consult with the municipal authorities of Palamas and the relevant healthcare facilities. Preparations are already being made for the next batch of supplies.

Special thanks are extended to the students, faculty, and particularly to Assistant Professor C. Tsiamis, who coordinated the efforts, as well as to the administrative staff for their steadfast support and commitment. Our deepest gratitude also goes to Professor Billinis, the Rector of the University of Thessaly, for his invaluable assistance and support from the very beginning.

Read the [full communication](#) from the Faculty of Public and One Health of the University of Thessaly in the ASPHER blog.

If you can offer support or donations, please contact Eleni Lachana, elahana@uth.gr and Polychronis Kostoulas, pkost@vet.uth.gr.

13th Conference 'MY CAREER – QUO VADIS': Healthcare professionals at the centre of digital transformation in health care

24 November, Ljubljana, Slovenia and online

Healthcare professionals (HCPs) are the core of Digital Transformation in Healthcare. The digital transformation of health is dramatically requesting the use of digital technology in European healthcare systems. HCPs are core in accelerating the digital transformation of health. The EU Joint Action on Health Workforce Planning and Forecasting states digital skills are an important future skill for healthcare workers. Healthcare professionals will require knowledge on how to transfer their health-related skills to the new digitalized healthcare paradigm.

At the conference we will point out: the importance of digitalization at healthcare; digital competences of healthcare professionals – needs analysis in international perspective; organisational analysis of digital transformation; promotion of the digital transformation among healthcare professionals: policy recommendations. The conference will also serve as a platform for the final conference of the [DELIVER](#) (Digital Educational programme Involving hEalth pROfessionals) project, which aspires to enhance the digital skills of HCPs by supporting the digital transformation of health within European regions.

See the full event programme [here](#).

There is no registration fee, but we kindly ask that you register [here](#).

Usher Institute New Frontiers in Health and Social Care events

Annual Lecture and Showcase 2023

On 21 September 2023 Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh held a New Frontiers in Health and Social Care held its Annual Lecture and Showcase with focus on pandemic preparedness.

The event included poster sessions and showcases of work from across the Usher Institute. ASPHER thanks Prof Alison McCallum for showcasing ASPHER!

Learn more about the [event programme here](#); the [showcases and posters here](#); and [watch recordings here](#).

Women in Healthcare Data Science

On 11 October, the Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh held a New Frontiers in Health and Social Care event on Women in Healthcare Data Science.

The panel discussion brought together women from a wide range of healthcare data science backgrounds to share their experiences and cutting-edge work.

The event aimed to inspire and encourage collaboration across the University and beyond and to support opportunities for women in healthcare data science. The event was of interest to anyone working in healthcare data science.

[Learn more](#) and [watch a recording](#) of the Women in Healthcare Data Science panel.

Happy 50th Anniversary to NOVA University Lisbon



Once upon a time, in 1973, [a new university was born in Lisbon](#) to be open and accessible to all, in an innovative way – NOVA. Now that it is celebrating its 50th anniversary, what we want is to continue to be young and creative in the way

we teach, research and create value for society, leaving an indelible mark for future generations.

On 3rd October, the National School of Public Health contributed to the year long celebrations with a conference on Leading the Way to a Healthy Future/Innovation to Service Public Health.

[Learn more about the conference programme here.](#)

Call for papers:

Indigenous Practices that Promote Women's Empowerment in Africa

Guest Editors: Leah Okenwa Emegwa, Swedish Red Cross University College; Beth Maina Ahlberg, Uppsala University; and Mwenya Mubanga, Karolinska Institutet.

Gender-based prejudice and discrimination has a large impact on public health and well-being of women and girls, in terms of their human rights, mental health, economic rights, and social development. Providing evidence to women in patriarchal societies and areas of discrimination will allow for optimism and increased action towards gender equality which is a society-wide issue, and will be imperative to improving women's overall health. Emerging evidence and surviving practices in many parts of Africa suggest that there are indigenous traditional practices that promote women's empowerment to a larger extent than what is currently known or seen in the literature.

A lot has changed since colonization and the introduction of new religions like Christianity and Islam, all of which introduced Victorian-era views on women and more restrictive places for women respectively. Although many of the practices are vanishing, a lot have survived. The aim of this research topic is to actively engage in knowledge production and agency of women empowerment from an African perspective by exploring and documenting indigenous traditional practices that empower women in African societies. Scientific papers such as (but not limited to) empirical studies, literature reviews, discussion papers, opinion pieces, and others are all welcomed. Some of the themes we are interested in include but are not limited to:

- Educating societies about indigenous traditional practices
- Promotion of women empowerment practices to improve the health of women and girls
- Practices in African communities that have proven to benefit women's health
- Gender roles and their impact on the health of their communities

[Learn more here about the collection](#) in *Frontiers in Global Women's Health*.

Call for Papers:

Health Disparities: The Emerging Trends and Pressing Challenges

Guest Editor: Prof Keren Dopelt, Department of Public Health, Ashkelon Academic College, Ashkelon, Israel. Deadline for manuscript submissions: 31 March 2024.

Health disparities have a profound influence on communities and individuals, shaping their overall health, wellbeing, and social dynamics. Health disparities are often deeply rooted in societal inequities related to factors such as race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education,

and access to resources. While it is true that there have been increasing efforts to address health disparities in recent years, the persistence and complexity of these disparities present ongoing challenges. Continued research, data collection, and evaluation are essential to inform effective strategies and monitor progress in reducing health disparities.

The aim of this Special Issue of the [European Journal of Investigation in Health, Psychology and Education](#) is to raise awareness about the existence, magnitude, and impact of health disparities within specific populations or across various dimensions such as race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, or geographic location, to explore and deepen the understanding of the determinants of health disparities and to inform and influence policy development and healthcare practice.

[Download the call flyer here.](#)

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PARTNER NEWS

Charlotte Marchandise named EUPHA Executive Director

ASPHER is delighted to extend our welcome to Charlotte Marchandise as the new European Public Health Association (EUPHA) Executive Director.



Charlotte Marchandise is an international expert, trainer, and policy advisor specialising in Health, Climate, and Democracy. She has been working closely with organisations, cities, and countries to provide support and guidance in developing effective strategies That not only speak to present needs but also forecast future requirements, towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Charlotte is well known to ASPHER, having taken part in the ASPHER Retreat in Rennes, France to share her work on Healthy Cities. This includes her time as Deputy Mayor for Health in Rennes, President of the WHO Healthy Cities French Network and Chair of the Political Vision Group of European Healthy Cities.

Most recently, we were honoured to have Charlotte join us and the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) at the World Congress on Public Health in Rome to launch a [manifesto on Advancing the Public Health Advocacy](#): A united call for public health action and advocacy centred on: people and planet, evidence, trust, partnership, investment.

She champions a unified approach and ASPHER welcomes an era of bringing together relevant European focussed public health associations for ever closer cooperation and collaboration.

[Read the EUPHA announcement here.](#)

16th European Public Health (EPH) Conference

8-11 November, Dublin

EPH 2023 is scheduled to deliver a content rich-agenda, and we invite you to join us and be part of the discussion. Advocating the theme **‘Our Food, Our Health, Our Earth: A Sustainable Future for Humanity’**, the conference explores links between the science and practice of public health driving public sector initiatives, placing health and wellness at the forefront of policy debate and industry collaboration.

[See the line up of ASPHER EPH highlights here.](#)

[Learn more here.](#)

One Health Conference – One Health for All, All for One Health

Luxemburg and online, Monday 13 November, 09:00 - 17:45 (CET)

The recent epidemics and pandemics, in particular COVID-19, have made it unmistakably clear that human, animal, plant and environmental health cannot be dealt with separately, but need to be addressed in a ‘One Health’ approach. Their interdependencies need to be better acknowledged and require work at the interfaces in a multisectoral, transdisciplinary and an integrated approach. Mainstreaming ‘One Health’ means that we can better prevent, predict, prepare for, detect, and respond to global health threats at both global and EU level.

In view of this the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety would like to invite you to the ‘One Health for All, All for One Health Conference ’ on the 13th of November, 2023 a to take stock together and to discuss the future of ‘One Health’ in Europe.

[Learn more here.](#)

Second WHO European Public Health Leadership Course

Bordeaux, 13 – 24 November

WHO Europe and the University of Bordeaux are gearing up for the second edition of the WHO European Public Health Leadership Course, designed to strengthen public health professionals' leadership competencies. The second iteration of the Leadership Course has been co-developed with the University of Bordeaux, specifically its School of Public Health (ISPED) and the graduate programme on Digital Public Health (DPH), in collaboration with the Bordeaux Population Health Research Centre of the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) and the Care and Public Health Research Institute (CAPHRI) of Maastricht University. The Leadership Course is designed for and tailored to public health professionals, and professionals working in public health organisations and public health-related fields, in the public sector or non-profit organisations.

[Learn more here.](#)

European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) Conference

22-24 November, Barcelona and online

The European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) conference will be held in Barcelona and online from 22-24 November.

You can [find general information about the conference here](#), read the latest [news announcements about ESCAIDE 2023](#) and [follow us on social media or subscribe to our newsletter](#) to stay up to date with announcements.

Tallinn Charter 15th Anniversary High-level Conference “Trust and transformation: resilient and sustainable health systems for the future”

12-13 December 2023, Tallinn, Estonia

On 12-13 December 2023 WHO/Europe and the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia will co-host a high-level health systems conference titled “Trust and transformation: resilient and sustainable health systems for the future” to commemorate 15 years of the Tallinn Charter: Health Systems for Health and Wealth.

Adopted in 2008 by all WHO European Region Member States, the Tallinn Charter recognized that health, health systems and economic development are closely intertwined, and that spending on health was an investment rather than a cost. The Charter reaffirmed countries’ support for universal health coverage (UHC) and enshrined solidarity, equity and participation as shared values which underpin European health systems. Adopted in a social and economic climate that differs greatly from today’s, the Charter addressed the needs of the time.

Now, in 2023, the 15th Anniversary Conference is set against the backdrop of the legacy and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and takes place in a much-changed geopolitical, social and economic landscape.

Health systems across the Region are struggling to respond to new challenges and crises. Among them are an ageing population and increased comorbidities, the uptake of digital tools in the health sector, the emergence of expensive novel medicines and technologies, the impact of climate change, and growing patient dissatisfaction – all of which seem to be pushing countries away from, rather than towards, UHC.

The principles agreed during previous Tallinn health systems conferences (2008, 2013 and 2018) are enduring, and this year’s event offers an opportunity to reflect on the challenges that countries face, while looking at how they can develop resilient, responsive and sustainable health systems needed in the 21st century.

Learn more about the event [here](#) and register [here](#). Download the Information circular [here](#).

Global Public Health Week

8 – 12 April 2024

Global Public Health Week (GPHW) is an initiative of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) that aims bringing together institutions, communities, and public health actors from around the world to recognize the contributions of public health and its workforce.

This 3rd edition of GPHW will take place on 8 – 12 April 2024 with the theme "Fostering Peace as a Prerequisite for Equitable Health".

Whether you are a public health association, a health organisation, an institution, a health professional, a student, or an ordinary citizen interested in one of this year's five GPHW themes, you are invited to participate.

ASPHER aims to take part in GPHW under the umbrella of the Global Network for Academic Public Health (GNAPH).

For more information please visit the [GPHW page](#): or send an email to: secretariat@wfpha.org.

73rd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

24–26 October, Astana, Kazakhstan

Health ministers and high-level delegates from the 53 Member States of the WHO European Region, as well as representatives of partner organisations and civil society, met in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 24–26 October 2023 for the 73rd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC73).

In 2023, WHO marked its 75th anniversary, 45 years since the signing of the historic Alma-Ata Declaration on primary health care (PHC), and the mid-point of the European Programme of Work (EPW) 2020–2025 – “United Action for Better Health in Europe”. RC73 was an opportunity for delegates to reflect on the current state of health and well-being across the Region, take stock of progress in delivering the EPW, celebrate public health milestones over the past 75 years, and discuss what is needed to address current and future challenges.

[Learn more here.](#)

DisQo Workshop on Racism, discrimination, and health: a human rights-based approach

Monday 6 November 10.00-16.30 CET, hybrid

On Monday 6 November, EPHA DisQo and the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) held a Workshop on Racism, discrimination, and health: a human rights-based approach (part 1).

DisQo
anti-discrimination & health equity

This event brought together key stakeholders across sectors and policymakers across EU Institutions with the aim to 1) present how racism and discrimination impact mental and physical health and what the available evidence is, 2) give an overview of the national and European (policy) challenges, and 3) demonstrate how the 'right to health' can be used as a framework for concrete policy solutions.

For more information, contact Raymond Gemen raymond.gemen@epha.org.

OPPORTUNITIES

Call for experts for the European Commission Advisory Committee on Public Health Emergencies (PHE)

DG SANTE is launching an Open Call to invite independent experts of 16 different economic sectors to submit their applications for the multidisciplinary expert group “Advisory Committee on public health emergencies” in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation 2022/2371 on Cross-border Threats to Health.

The Advisory Committee on Public Health Emergencies will help the Commission and the Member States to determine when a public health emergency formally exists. It will provide advice on the measures to be taken in response to the epidemic. A call for experts will be issued shortly, and the committee is due to start work in spring 2024.

Deadline: 15 November 2023, 23:59 (CET)

[Learn more and apply here.](#)

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