
Winter 2023 ASPHER Newsletter



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Table of Contents

[MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT](#)

[MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT](#)

[EPH CONFERENCE REPORTING](#)

[Young Researchers' Forum Dublin](#)

[Plenary Session 3: Building the One Health Workforce](#)

[Joint meeting of the ASPHER Task Forces on War and PH Emergencies](#)

[ASPHER Meetings during EPH](#)

[ASPHER NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM UPDATES](#)

[The Next Chapter for ASPHER Fellowships](#)

[ASPHER YPP Call for ASPHER Member Mentors and Advisors](#)

[CLIMATE AND HEALTH](#)

[ASPHER at COP28 including reflections from the event by ASPHER delegate Balázs Ádám](#)

[ASPHER COP28 Statement calling for action on Climate Change and Health](#)

[One Health Conference – One Health for All, All for One Health](#)

[Dark Forces are Acting on Climate Change Policies in Europe, and the World](#)

[ASPHER-GCCHE European Climate Change and Health Course](#)

ASPHER TASK FORCES AND WORKING GROUPS - JOIN IN!

[Task Force on War and Public Health](#)

[Statement of the ASPHER Task Force on War and PH on the conflict in Israel/Palestine](#)

[Task Force on Public Health Emergencies](#)

[Technical Report: Examining the COVID-19 pandemic's unequal Burden of Disease](#)

[Technical Report: The COVID-19 Pandemic Lessons Learned \(Part 1\)](#)

[Further Reading on COVID-19 Lessons Learned](#)

[Digital Public Health Working Group](#)

[Public Health Undergraduate Education Working Group](#)

ASPHER NEWS & EVENTS

[Carlo Signorelli Elected President of APHEA](#)

[Tallinn Charter 15th Anniversary Health Systems Conference:](#)

[Trust and transformation – resilient and sustainable health systems for the future](#)

[The Schools of Public Health and Social Participation in Health Systems Functioning](#)

ASPHER PROJECTS

[VAX-ACTION: Tackling Effectively Vaccine Hesitancy in Europe](#)

[EARLY: Evaluating, Identifying & Reducing determinants MHC in Youth](#)

[SEEEPHI: Sharing European Educational Experience in Public Health for Israel](#)

ASPHER DEANS' & DIRECTORS' RETREAT

[ASPHER 2023 Deans' & Directors' Retreat Statement published](#)

[ASPHER 2024 Deans' & Directors' Retreat Porto, Portugal](#)

MEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

[International Conference: Society for Bayesian methods in Epidemiology and Diagnostics \(SBED\): 31 January – 2 February 2024, Brussels, Belgium](#)

[Survey on Opinions and Experiences about Medical Mediation](#)

[Call for Abstracts: Swiss Public Health Conference on "Strengthening the Culture of Public Health Surveillance": 3 - 4 September 2024, Fribourg](#)

[Jeffrey Levett awarded Lifelong Achievement and Fellowship of the Int Academy of Ethics](#)

[HTADS Continuing Education Program Courses | Hall in Tirol](#)

PARTNER NEWS

[Europubhealth+ 2024 Intake](#)

[Securing Stronger Action against Racism and Discrimination to Achieve Health Equity](#)

[Creating Conditions for Resilient Communities - Applying Public Health Approaches to the Emergency Management Continuum: January 18, 2024, 3.30pm - 5pm CET](#)

[12th IUHPE European Conference on Health Promotion: 17-18 June 2024, Lodz, Poland](#)

[European Pillar of Social Rights Flashcard Tool](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

[EU4Health 2024 Work Programme](#)

[Call for papers: Eurosurveillance annual theme 2024:](#)

[Share the ASPHER newsletter!](#)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Esteemed members of ASPHER, dear colleagues and friends,

As we are gathered to celebrate the joyous season of Christmas and the New Year, I extend my warmest greetings to each and every one of you. It is with a heart filled with gratitude and pride that I reflect upon the achievements and successes of the past year under the banner of our association.

This year has been a testament to the collective efforts and dedication of our members and our office. I am pleased to share that our financial stewardship has been exemplary, with a positive budget reflecting prudent management and strategic investments, continuing on from the Presidency of John Middleton.

The success of the World Congress on Public Health in Rome set a precedent, being co-organised by ASPHER with WFPHA, with the participation of the Global Network for Academic Public Health. We expect to make the participation of SPHs and their regional associations visible in future Congresses under the GNAPH banner. The [Deans' and Directors' Retreat](#) in Dublin welcomed many of you with renewed emphasis on SPHs and member engagement as we face the '[new normal](#)' in public health and for this I'd like to again thank Mary Codd and her collaborators for their efforts! ASPHER also continued partnership with EUPHA for the [EPH Conference](#) and we look forward to strengthening this collaboration for the future. All of these events stand as proof to the collaborative spirit that defines our community.

Our [task forces and working groups](#) have demonstrated excellence in their endeavours, tirelessly working towards advancing the field of public health education. The commitment to research projects has been commendable, reflecting our shared vision to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and the improvement of public health practice.

As we embrace the spirit of Christmas and move on to close out the year, let us not only rejoice in the accomplishments of the past but also look forward to the opportunities that the future holds. In the next semester we will close the invaluable work of the new core curriculum; we will organise a [European course on the health effects of climate change](#) after attending the [COP28](#); we will inaugurate the new ASPHER office in the centre of Brussels; we will prepare an interesting programme for the next [Deans' and Directors' Retreat in Porto](#) under the supervision of Henrique Barros; and we will try to enhance and make more synergic the work of [APHEA](#), the accreditation agency that I have now the honour and the responsibility of leading, thanks to your support.

I express my sincere appreciation to each of you for your contributions, commitment, and enthusiasm. Together, we have strengthened ASPHER, and together, we will continue to make significant strides in shaping the future of public health education.

I hope all enjoyed a Merry Christmas and I wish you and your loved ones a Happy New Year!

Carlo Signorelli,
ASPHER President

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

This year end edition of the ASPHER newsletter is dispatched from our interim office overlooking the European Quarter of Brussels. We are hosted here by the Brussels branch of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) while we wait for our new shared offices with University of Maastricht Brussels Campus to be ready.



After reporting back to you about the Dublin Deans' & Directors' Retreat in our [autumn newsletter](#), we now bring you up to date on happenings and meetings from the [European Public Health Conference](#).

Our young generation agenda was active at Dublin EPH, with a top notch [Young Researchers Forum](#) and several ASPHER Young Professionals, including YP Programme Coordinator and EB Member Ines Siepmann, in attendance. The YPs have closed applications for the 2024 intake – if you have [projects that could interest](#) them be sure to let us know! We also have [reflections from ASPHER Fellow Rok Hrzic](#) on the value of the ASPHER Fellowship programme and how he sees it can develop to contribute even more.

Most recently, ASPHER was happy to participate at the [Tallinn Charter 15th Anniversary Health Systems Conference](#), where we were proud of and inspired by how schools of public health are contributing to trust and transformation for resilient and sustainable health systems. [President-elect Henrique Barros reflects](#) in detail on schools' social participation in this newsletter. While, ASPHER has also been busy following many other meetings over the autumn semester including [European Health Forum Gastein](#), [ESCAIDE](#) and anniversary celebrations for the [European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies](#) and [EPHA](#); as well as a series of professional development opportunities involving ASPHER members - [OMI Salzburg Seminars](#) and WHO trainings with a [Public Health Leadership Course at University of Bordeaux](#), [Autumn School on Quality of Care and Patient Safety at NOVA National School of Public Health in Lisbon](#), and the [Barcelona course on health financing for universal health coverage](#). Planning for 2024, includes putting together the Public Health Training hub for our new website to make sure members can make the most of what is on offer.

Otherwise ASPHER's content agenda has been very, very busy. Especially the [Climate and Health Working Group](#) featured in this issue with attendance at [COP28](#) and an [ASPHER Statement calling for action on Climate and Health](#) issued on the COP28 Health Day, a high-level [EC conference on One Health](#), and coordination for a free online [European Climate Change and Health course](#) in partnership with GCCHE scheduled to start in February 2024 – the course is open to all, so be sure to share widely with your network and students.

Meanwhile, the [Task Force on War and Public Health](#) has held a series of [meetings on the Israel-Hamas conflict](#), including ASPHER members from the region. They have issued a [Task Force statement](#) that we hope will stimulate thoughtful discussion. Other [task forces and](#)

[working groups](#) continue to meet regularly and the [Public Health Emergencies Task Force](#) has produced two new technical reports on the [Burden of Disease from Covid-19](#); and on [Lessons Learned from Covid-19](#). All ASPHER Members are welcome to join these groups. Contact us at office@aspher.org to register your interest, engage and be part of the ongoing exchange of dialogue, knowledge and activities.

After our focus on members, a key priority for ASPHER is the strengthening of partnership and synergy with other organisations and we are pleased to now be serving in committees with our key partner in the wider public health workforce professionalisation agenda, IANPHI. IANPHI, along with ASPHER, is also a member of APHEA and we are gratified to announce that [ASPHER President Carlo Signorelli has been elected as President of the Agency](#). In his manifesto, he has pledged to align APHEA's missions and strategies with the Agency's members. Henrique Barros will also join the APHEA Board of Directors. We thank both John Middleton who served as APHEA President over the past term, and Mary Codd, who is stepping down from the Board of Directors; for their terms serving as ASPHER representatives.

We are pleased to be kicking off ASPHER participation in two new member-led [projects](#) this month: EU4Health project [VAX-Action](#) and Horizon project [EARLY](#). Many other ASPHER members and partners help make up the project consortiums, strengthening contacts and collaborations. The Erasmus [SEEEPHI](#) project continues as well under difficult circumstances, but we are assessing how best to move forward. If you are applying for projects, be sure to consider how ASPHER could be a part of it!

And as usual there is plenty of [Member](#) and [Partner](#) news and events you should not miss!

We wish all of our dear Members a happy, healthy and peaceful holiday season. See you in the New Year with updates on the 2024 agenda in the next issue!

ASPHER Secretariat

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EPH CONFERENCE REPORTING

Below you will find a listing of some of the ASPHER highlights during the Dublin European Public Health (EPH) Conference. We were on site as usual with the stand and it was great to catch up with many members onsite who were involved in presentations and sessions throughout the conference!

Young Researchers' Forum Dublin

As usual, the [ASPHER Young Researchers' Forum](#) was a high point during the EPH pre-conferences in Dublin. We always enjoy the event and are struck by the enthusiasm of some of the best and most motivated early career researchers in public health.

We congratulate all who participated in what was a very competitive edition of the YRF! And we offer special congratulations to the winners of best oral presentation and best poster presentation.



Best oral presentation for Dublin YRF was awarded to **Shevaun Teo of University College Dublin, IRELAND** for the presentation of her work on Investigation of Associations between Maternal Sociodemographic Factors with Placental Outcomes using Partial Least Squares Regression in the Lifeways Cross-Generation and PEARS Cohorts

Best poster presentation went to **Diana Juanita Mora Arias from Andalusian School of Public Health, SPAIN** for her poster of Effective Awareness Concerning Antimicrobial Resistance in Granada, Spain: A Field Study.

In addition to the organisation by ASPHER, the Dublin YRF was supported by EUPHA and the journal [Public Health Reviews](#). As a prize from PHR and the Swiss School of PH (SSPH+), oral presentation winner Shevaun Teo has received an APC waiver to publish in the journal!

We especially thank the YRF chairs Mary Codd and Ines Siepmann; John Middleton and Kasia Czabanowska for their mentoring interventions; and the YRF Dublin Jury and Abstract scoring team: Henrique Barros, Andy Mabhala, Alison McCallum, Alena Petrakova, Polychronis Kostoulas, Mirjana Kujundžić Tiljak, Oliver Razum and Karolina Lyubomirova.



Plenary Session 3: Building the One Health Workforce

ASPHER co-organised Plenary 3 at this year's EPH Conference with the European Health Management Association (EHMA) bringing together representatives for the public health and health workforces to speak to 'Building the One Health Workforce'.

ASPHER Executive Board Member and Core Curriculum Lead provided a keynote highlighting developments of the [ASPHER Core Curriculum](#) as relates to training for public health professionals in One Health; alongside a keynote from EHMA's Executive Director George Valiotis, on the [BeWell project](#) and One Health green and digital skills for health professionals.

Thanks to ASPHER President-elect Henrique Barros and EHMA's Board of Directors member Todorka Kostadinova for moderating and great insights from the panellists: Lucy Nugent, President - European Association of Hospital Managers and Chief Executive of Tallaght University Hospital, Ireland; Patrick Wall, Professor - School of PH, Physiotherapy and Sports Science, University College Dublin, Ireland; Monica Georgiana Brînzac, EUPHANxT Coordinator and Research Assistant - Department of PH, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania; Milka Sokolović, Director General - European PH Alliance; and Victoria Stanford, PH Registrar - PH Directorate of Shropshire Council, United Kingdom.



In particular, Milka Sokolović reminded of the relevance of the [ASPHER-EPHA 2023 WCPH Manifesto on Advancing the Public Health Advocacy and Call for Action](#).

Don't miss reading the Plenary 3 companion article [Building the Future One Health Workforce](#), in the special [EUROHEALTH Conference publication](#).

Joint meeting of the ASPHER Task Forces on War and PH Emergencies

A special joint meeting of the ASPHER Task Forces on War and Public Health Emergencies was held as a closed meeting during the EPH Conference on the Israel-Hamas conflict. In addition to those attending onsite, ASPHER Member Colleagues from Israel and Palestine joined online. The meeting was gently led by ASPHER Task Force on War Lead Oliver Razum, but the focus was to give the floor to hear from local ASPHER members in the region and the colleagues they brought to the meeting. The meeting was difficult and intense, but the participants showed real courage to come together from all sides during such a troubled time.

In take away since the meeting, the ASPHER Task Force on War has taken on the arduous task of [drafting a statement on the conflict](#). It is now available on the ASPHER website. We hope it will open further dialog. ASPHER continues to consult regularly with our affected members and is looking into sending a delegation to the region in January.

ASPHER Meetings during EPH

ASPHER took the opportunity of the EPH Conference to hold a series of in person meetings to advance on key aspects of the ASPHER Agenda. These included a meeting of the ASPHER Executive Board, the Climate and Health Working Group led at this meeting by member Chiara

Caddedu, the Digital Public Health Working Group led by ASPHER Fellow Rok Hrzcic, the Public Health Emergencies Task Force Vaccination Subgroup led by Alison McCallum and a special meeting to update and consult on developments of the Core Curriculum Programme with Lead Mary Codd and ASPHER Fellow Karl Conyard.



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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 YPs and continuing and new ASPHER Fellows and Interns expected.

Don't miss outcomes from the Dublin Young Researchers Forum in our reporting from the EPH conference [here!](#)

The Next Chapter for ASPHER Fellowships

The ASPHER Fellowships are pivotal for mid-career public health professionals keen on contributing to innovation in public health training and instrumental for ASPHER in advancing its mission to enhance public health education and training across Europe. The synergy between the fellows' ambitions and ASPHER's goals creates a fertile ground for both individual professional growth and collective advancement in public health education. Take, for instance,

the achievements of Rana Orhan and Tara Chen, the climate-health fellows. Rana and Tara have been at the forefront of integrating climate and health considerations into public health training. They have contributed to developing [ASPHER's Climate and Health Competencies for Public Health Professionals in Europe](#) and led the initiation of the [Climate and Health Education in Europe Thematic Network](#). Their example is a testament to the tangible change these fellowships can foster.

The next phase for the ASPHER Fellowships needs to focus on enhancing effectiveness and connectivity. The primary focus should be structuring the fellowships to better support the activities and professional development of the fellows. This includes fostering stronger ties between the fellows and ASPHER members and bolstering the Executive Board's oversight capabilities. Practical steps towards these goals could involve establishing a more transparent process for nominating and appointing fellows, organising regular fellows meetings to synchronise activities and develop leadership capacities, and designating a dedicated liaison to bridge the gap between the network of fellows, the Young Professionals Programme, and the Executive Board. I look forward to working with you all to transform these aspirations into tangible realities and further our pursuit of excellence in public health training and education across Europe.

Rok Hrzic, ASPHER Digital Public Health Fellow

ASPHER YPP Call for ASPHER Member Mentors and Advisors

Applications for the next cohort for the ASPHER Young Professionals Programme are now closed and submissions are being assessed. The new cohort will kick off their activities in early 2024. **In the meantime we are always looking for ASPHER Members who can propose work for the YPs! 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).

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CLIMATE AND HEALTH

ASPHER at COP28



Thanks to the efforts of ASPHER Climate and Health Lead Laurent Chambaud, Climate and Health Fellow Tara Chen, and the Climate and Health Working Group, ASPHER was admitted to COP28 as an NGO with official observer status. ASPHER was represented onsite by Working Group member Balázs Ádám from Associate Member School United Arab Emirates University, who [shares his reflections from the event below](#). Laurent, Tara and ASPHER President Carlo Signorelli attended COP online.

For the first time at COP an entire day was dedicated to Climate and Health which added to the importance of giving a voice to the concerns of Schools of Public Health onsite. ASPHER, through the Climate and Health Working group, issued a [statement for COP28 calling for action on Climate Change and Health](#).

[Learn more about ASPHER's Climate and Health Agenda here.](#)

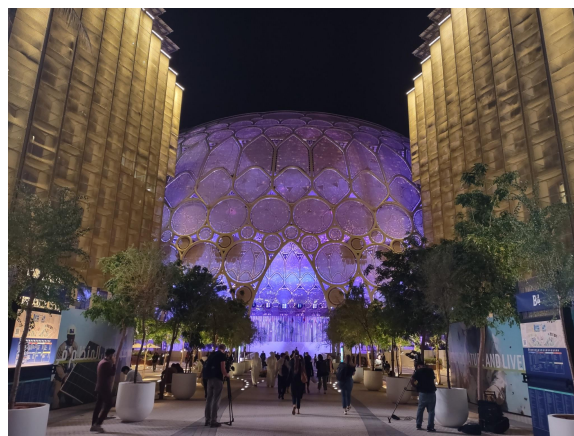
Reflections from COP28 by ASPHER delegate Balázs Ádám

The major climate action event of this year, the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28), was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The country had high ambitions with hosting COP28 and provided excellent facilities on the previous grounds of Dubai Expo. With more than 80,000 delegates in the blue zone between 30 November and 12 December 2023, this COP received the highest ever number of attendees in COP's history, which signifies the extensive attention and expectations on immediate and efficient climate action, as it is becoming more and more obvious that humankind is lagging behind with timely and effective solutions to combat climate change, which endangers the goal of the Paris Agreement to limit the temperature increase well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels.



In addition to the events organized by the United Nations (UN) in the blue zone, the UAE held several climate change-related activities in the publicly accessible green zone, where the number of registered green-pass holders exceeded 400,000. The figures clearly show the substantial interest in the issue of climate change not just from the related professional community but also from the general public.

I had the privilege to personally attend COP28 as a delegate of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER). It was ASPHER's first time as an official observer NGO to COP, as well as my first time at such a high-level UN event, which filled me with excitement and interest. Both me and colleagues in ASPHER who followed COP28 online and supported my attendance (special thanks to Tara, Laurent, Lore and Robert) had to learn how to navigate in the rather complex and frequently confusing series of events.



One of the main issues on the agenda of COP28, which has never been so pronounced before, was definitely health. We had the first COP Health Day on the 3rd of December, replete with programmes about the various direct and indirect health effects that populations face as a consequence of climate change. It is clear that without immediate and extensive evidence-based action, these effects will grow more and more severe. Putting health officially on the table of climate-related political negotiations is a big achievement and I believe it increases the weight of arguments for quicker and stronger actions.



We, public health experts are convinced that in the health sector, public health is the field that understands and can do the most to tackle climate change, hence the participation of ASPHER on COP is a very timely and important mission. For the Health Day, [ASPHER prepared and released its statement that calls for action on climate change and health in seven points](#) that range from recognition of the linkages between climate change and health, through the need for training and capacity building to advocate on this important issue. The statement, together with links to ASPHER's Climate Agenda, to a climate education survey and to information about the upcoming [European Climate & Health Course](#), was distributed to several international and national climate and health organizations, such as the Global Climate and Health Alliance, the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education, the WHO European Office, the Global Institute for Disease Elimination, and the Climate Change Research network of the UAE. Strengthening collaboration among organizations concerned about climate change and health will certainly improve their coordinated effort.



All in all, COP28 in Dubai was a great experience and good opportunity for ASPHER to have its voice heard and to expand its network so as to ensure its increasing contribution to climate action. Although COP28 has been extensively criticized due to the background of the chairperson as well as because the inevitable need for phasing out of fossil fuels was finally not included either in the Declaration on Climate and Health or in the Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People, the establishment of a considerable fund for and bringing health in the forefront of climate action were undeniable achievements paving the road to the very needed international commitment to changing our societal and economic systems for the sake of a healthy future.

ASPHER Statement calling for action on Climate Change and Health

On Sunday the 3rd of December, on the occasion of the first ever COP Health Day, ASPHER issued a statement calling for urgent action on climate change and health in seven points.

For the first time at this COP28 on Sunday the 3rd of December, a full day was devoted to Climate Change and Health. The impact of climate change on health is an urgent and demanding public health emergency.



The 'ASPHER Statement for COP28: A call for action in seven points' outlines the perspectives of Schools of Public Health concerning the measures required on Climate Change and Health to limit the impact for human populations, ecosystems and the future of our planet.

Populations are already living with the effects and suffering the health consequences of global climate disruption. Continued procrastination will only exacerbate this planetary challenge.

The '[ASPHER Statement for COP28. A call for action in seven points](#)' has been published in the journal Public Health Reviews. [The pre-publication version is available here along with translations to several languages](#). If you wish to translate it to your language, please let us know so we can make it available.

Contact:

Laurent Chambaud, ASPHER Climate and Health Lead – Laurent.CHAMBAUD@aspher.org

Tara Chen, ASPHER Climate and Health Fellow – Tara.CHEN@aspher.org

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

On the 13th of November, the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety held the 'One Health for All, All for One Health Conference' to take stock together and to discuss the future of 'One Health' in Europe.



ASPHER Climate and Health Lead, Laurent Chambaud and Director Robert Otok attended with particular interest to gather input for ASPHER participation at COP28 and to explore One Health's relationship to the Climate Crisis and how to incorporate both into the Public Health core curriculum and wider professionalisation agenda.

[Recordings, documents and other resources from the conference are now available here.](#)

Dark Forces are Acting on Climate Change Policies in Europe, and the World - blog by ASPHER past-President John Middleton

The world is burning and drowning. In this year of record temperatures of the air, the atmosphere and the sea, we are witnessing [extreme climatic events](#) from Acapulco to Libya, from northern China to East Africa. In Europe we have seen catastrophic forest fires and floods over the last three summers, affecting Greece, Portugal, Spain, and France. Climate records are [being continuously broken](#).

Climate breakdown is happening before our eyes. More than 190 countries accept climate change as a real and existential threat and signed the [Paris Agreement](#) to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels collectively. We seem unable to take the necessary international action to tackle climate breakdown, by reducing our carbon footprints and stopping burning of fossil fuels. The situation is urgent. We are in a climate emergency. The only climate deniers at government level are now Russia and North Korea. So why is there so little evidence of shared concerted action towards an internationally recognised problem, and an internationally agreed treaty? Why and how has climate denial been allowed to reassert itself? And why is it still being given a platform? There are various actors, dark forces for climate denial, including political parties, industries, and think tanks, that are funded extensively by the fossil fuel industry. They are actively engaged in preventing action for reducing carbon emissions and are contributing to the likelihood of climate catastrophe. This paper describes some of the actions of these dark forces for climate disaster and examines strategies to address their influence.

[Read the full blog here.](#)

ASPHER-GCCHE European Climate Change and Health Course

Online, Tuesdays (Feb 6th, 2024 - April 9th, 2024) from 12:00-13:30 CET

ASPHER and the [Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education \(GCCHE\)](#) are offering a free online responders course open to all professionals with an interest in climate change and health.

The goal of this course is to act as a flagship initiative to engage and educate the public health, wider health workforce, and other professionals interested in climate change and health to facilitate participation and engagement in policy and advocacy related to climate adaptation and mitigation as well as research that supports decision making across sectors.

Participants who attend >70% of sessions and pass a test at the end will be awarded a certificate in climate and health from ASPHER/GCCHHE.



Sessions: FEB 06: Climate Change and Health | FEB 13: Extreme Temperatures | FEB 20: Wildfires and Air Quality | FEB 27: Water Supply and Sanitation | MAR 05: Vector Borne/Zoonoses | MAR 12: Sustainable Lifestyles | MAR 19: Sustainable Health Care | MAR 26: Climate Litigation and Health | APR 02: Communication, Engagement and Advocacy in Climate Change | APR 09: Europe in a Global Context: Climate Justice

The course is open to all. Please share it widely with your students, faculty and networks!

[Download the course flyer here.](#)

[Register here.](#)

Contact Tara at tara.chen@aspher.org for more information.

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.

- Task Force on Public Health Emergencies (formerly the COVID-19 Task Force)
- Task Force on War and Public Health
- ASPHER-WHO Task Force on Professionalising the Public Health Workforce
- Climate and Health Working Group
- Digital Public Health Working Group

- Public Health Undergraduate Education Working Group
- Economic Evaluation in Healthcare in Europe Working Group

Task Force on War and Public Health

Following up on the [special joint meeting on the Israel-Hamas conflict](#) during the EPH Conference, members of the ASPHER Task Forces on War and Public Health Emergencies held a series of meetings to consider follow up actions and draft a statement.

Drafting the statement was an arduous and concerted effort to bring together a diversity of viewpoints, including members from Israel and Palestine. ASPHER Task Force on War Lead, Oliver Razum firmly guided the process to reach consensus on the statement below. We hope it will open further dialog and invite anyone who wishes to voice concerns to join the Task Force on War for future meetings. [A pdf version of the Statement can be downloaded here.](#)

ASPHER continues to consult regularly with our affected members and is making plans to send a delegation to the region in January.

Statement of the ASPHER Task Force on War and Public Health on the conflict in Israel/Palestine

Oliver Razum,¹ Paul Barach,² Tomasz Bochenek³, Colette Cunningham,⁴ Nadav Davidovitch,⁵ Polychronis Kostoulas,⁶ Jutta Lindert,⁷ Henrique Lopes,⁸ Vladimir Prikazsky,⁹ John Reid,¹⁰ Mirjana Kujundžić Tiljak,¹¹ John Middleton,¹² for the ASPHER Task Force Public Health and War

1. Bielefeld University; Lead, ASPHER Public Health and War Task Force
2. Thomas Jefferson University
3. Jagiellonian University; ASPHER Public Health and War Task Force
4. University College Cork; ASPHER Public Health and War Task Force
5. Ben Gurion University of the Negev; Lead, ASPHER Public Health Emergencies Task Force
6. University of Thessaly; ASPHER Public Health Emergencies Task Force
7. University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer; ASPHER Public Health and War Task Force
8. NOVA University Lisbon; ASPHER PH and War Task; ASPHER PH Emergencies Task Force
9. ASPHER Public Health Emergencies Task Force
10. University of Chester; ASPHER Public Health Emergencies Task Force
11. Andrija Stampar School of Public Health, University of Zagreb
12. University of Wolverhampton, ASPHER Public Health Emergencies Task Force

The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) reaffirms its condemnation of the terrorist attacks by Hamas that killed or abducted several hundred civilians in Israel on October 7th, 2023.^[1] We call attention to the statement by the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) who said that the atrocities committed by Hamas were “some of the most serious international crimes that shock the conscience of humanity”, and that the ICC is ready to prosecute those responsible.^[2] We also call attention to the Hamas Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement, originally issued on August 18, 1988,

that calls for the destruction of Israel, killing all Israelis, and calls for jihad on the Jewish people.^[3] As public health professionals we condemn dehumanization and acts of genocide. We support Israel's right to armed self-defence within the limitations of international humanitarian law.^[4] At the same time, we emphasise that Palestinians have legitimate aspirations to live with equal measures of security, freedom, justice, opportunity, and dignity.^[5] This applies to all the people of the region and beyond.

We urge the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas. We particularly condemn all gender-based violence^[6] and support UN calls for an investigation of the numerous accounts of sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas.^[7] At the same time, we express our grave concerns about the millions of displaced people in Gaza and Israel as a consequence of the war. We call for all displaced persons to be enabled to return to their homes, with adequate support. We are concerned about the destruction of Gaza, in particular of hospitals and other civilian infrastructure, and the loss of life which has been inflicted on the people of Gaza, including women, children, and other non-combatants.^[8] We are alarmed by the lack of water supply and sanitation, increasing the risk of communicable disease outbreaks. While we recognize the State of Israel and Palestinian jurisdictions, we assert that international bodies will need to sit in judgement on the conduct of Hamas and Israel as it relates to following international humanitarian law and the Geneva Convention.⁴

We believe the current humanitarian catastrophe is a testimony to years of neglect and abandonment of the people who should have been served by their governments. There has also been a failure on the part of the regional and global community. All could have done more to actively pursue peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians, fulfil their legitimate rights and aspirations, and enable harmonious development.

We believe there must be rapid, visible diplomatic efforts to create trust building practical steps towards peace and security for both sides. The conditions of ceasefire must be built upon, and massive humanitarian efforts must be allowed into Gaza, to enable urgent treatment for wounded civilians, and towards rehabilitation and recovery for the civilian population. There must be guarantees for the security of Israel who continues to suffer daily rockets and missile attacks. There must be moves towards a UN brokered multi-national peacekeeping effort in the region.

ASPHER is a public health organisation with more than 120 member schools including in Israel and Palestine. Our primary responsibility in war as in peace is saving lives. Public health leaders have moral and professional responsibilities to speak out about conflicts, and to contribute to prevention, limitation, and resolution of conflicts.^{[9],[10]} Peace is more than the absence of war. Peace is an active process which requires all parties in conflict to desist from violence, and to seek peaceful solutions to their disagreements.

ASPHER is deeply committed through its members to assist all people and organisations affected by the conflict who are seeking to save lives and restore conditions for security and development. 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 make resources available to build bridges between Israelis and Palestinians. As health professionals we advocate diversity and respect.^[11] We vigorously oppose antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred, gender-based and sexual violence, and all other hate-based violence. As Schools of Public Health, we commit to developing the curriculum and

competencies for the role of public health in the prevention of violence, for response, rehabilitation, and recovery after conflict. We commit also to supporting our students and our staff by speaking up in the face of injustice and in protecting them from the harmful impacts of conflict and enabling them to play their roles in the public health response to violence.

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Task Force on Public Health Emergencies

The ASPHER Public Health Emergencies (PHE) Task Force continues to meet weekly on Thursdays at 09:30 CET, discussing and examining a varied topical agenda of public health challenges and how they relate to public health education, research and training.

Technical Report:

Examining the COVID-19 pandemic's unequal Burden of Disease

How can Burden of Disease (BoD) measures that were used in the pandemic help in Examining European Health Inequalities (BoD-EEHI)?

This review was undertaken to identify which Burden of Disease (BoD) methods and metrics have been used in understanding the pandemic so far. Secondly, we wished to examine how BoD is usually measured and what are the strengths and weaknesses of the various metrics/methods. Thirdly, we also were interested in how BoD tools were applied during the COVID-19 pandemic and what initial studies told us for European populations and our vulnerable groups and how BoD evidence can inform us to help with assessing and reducing pandemic health inequalities and promoting equity. Finally, we also considered how BoD approaches might develop in future and what are ASPHER's priorities and recommendations to our members and to our partners, including further developing necessary teaching concepts and public health workforce competencies.

We recognised that five main tools were used to estimate population health losses, from early reliance on excess mortality measures, through life expectancy and Years of Life Lost (YLL) metrics, through to using YLD and DALYs as estimates of pandemic related disability.

Findings from the review shows that little explicit attention was drawn to health inequalities for deprived and minority population subgroups within most European countries, with some exceptions such as in Scotland. Better data systems will be needed in future pandemics to be able to assess these BoD inequalities more quickly.

The review discussed conceptual models and how future competencies could be developed in MPH courses and in public health training.

A series of 40 recommendations for future action are made. Delivering these actions would be a considerable challenge.

We are grateful to colleagues from the European Burden of Disease Network (Burden-EU) for presenting to us on their work. As health inequalities considerations may be implicit or have been overlooked in Burden of Disease studies of Europe's pandemic, it may be that a specific inequalities focus is needed in Europe - 'BoD EEHI' - Burden of Disease Examining Health Inequalities.

A joint statement between ASPHER and Burden-EU is in preparation to highlight the importance of continuing to further strengthen Burden of Disease systems before future pandemics and disasters.

[Download the Technical Report on COVID-19 Burden of Disease here.](#)

Technical Report: The COVID-19 Pandemic - Why we need to pursue the many public health lessons learned across European countries

Part 1. Sixteen priority lessons and recommendations for action during 2024-2026

Since 5th May 2023 Covid-19 is no longer considered a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), rather “an established and ongoing health issue”.¹ But is now the time to forget about it, or the opportunity to learn the deep lessons for future pandemics and for shaping our teaching and our public health systems?

The WHO DG Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, recognised the end of this emergency depicted a moment to celebrate some achievements, such as the dedication of healthcare workers but also a time for reflection on the many mistakes made.² Globally, as of 12th October 2023, there are 6,961,014 deaths due to Covid-19 and 771,191,203 confirmed cases reported to WHO.³

These large-scale numbers, even though they likely seriously underestimate the global burden, nevertheless signify a catastrophe for humanity and signal various global failures. Such failures include inadequate cooperation internationally, insufficient governmental examination of scientific evidence and hesitancy to adopt effective strategies, not ensuring equitable supplies and distribution of funding, technology and tools, and lack of concerned action to face disinformation and more.

Nevertheless, after acknowledging all the mistakes, it is time to learn from the past and act to take advantage of the window of opportunity that is still open before the next large-scale global health emergency. Our 16 key lessons learned and our recommendations draw from three broad sets of influences below, all of which overlap but none of which are sufficient on their own.

1. Findings from seven important international reports from other agencies (Chapter 2).
2. Perspectives of ASPHER PHE Task Force members and subgroups who were part of a large number of ASPHER meetings and reviews during the pandemic (Chapter 3).
3. Country experiences and perspectives from ASPHER PHE Task Force members (see Lesson Learned report Part 2 to follow).

[Download the technical report on COVID-19 Pandemic Lessons Learned \(Part 1\) here.](#)

Further Reading on COVID-19 Lessons Learned

Hervada Vidal X, Pérez Romero C, Rodríguez Artalejo F, Urbanos Garrido R. (2023) Evaluacovid-19. Evaluación Del Desempeño Del Sistema Nacional De Salud Español Frente A La Pandemia De Covid-19: Lecciones de y para una pandemia. (In Spanish) URL:

https://www.sanidad.gob.es/areas/alertasEmergenciasSanitarias/alertasActuales/nCov/documentos/EVALUACION_DEL_DESEMPENO_DEL_SNS_ESPANOL_FRENTE_A_LA_PANDEMIA_DE_COVID-19.pdf

Translation of Executive Summary in English [available here.](#)

von Alexander Bogner H. (2023). Nach Corona Reflexionen für Zukünftige Krisen Ergebnisse aus dem Coronaaufarbeitungsprozess. Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna (In German) URL:

https://austriaca.at/0xc1aa5576_0x003eac20.pdf

Translation of main report findings in English [available here.](#)

Digital Public Health Working Group

ASPHER established a working group focused on examining the impact of digital transformations on public health education and training. Since its inaugural meeting in March 2023, this working group has been led by Rok Hrzic (r.hrzic@maastrichtuniversity.nl), Assistant Professor at Maastricht University and an ASPHER Associate Fellow in digital public health.

An early achievement of the group includes developing a set of principles for revising public health curricula considering digital transformations, showcased at the Deans' and Directors' Retreat in Dublin in September.

Underpinning the working group's efforts is a four-pillar strategy encompassing reviewing public health curricula, identifying training needs arising from digital shifts, monitoring existing educational offerings, and reviewing digital skills certifications.

Recently, the working group further expanded its scope by launching a subgroup dedicated to understanding the impact of social media on public health.

As we continue our work in 2024, we invite collaboration with ASPHER members, hoping our collective efforts will prepare public health education and training in Europe for the opportunities and challenges of the digital era.

Public Health Undergraduate Education Working Group

The Public Health Undergraduate Education Working Group meets on a regular basis under the leadership of Kai Michelsen, Fulda University of Applied Sciences.

The working group is currently working to put together a comprehensive listing of undergraduate offers at ASPHER member schools. They are also considering how undergraduate education in public health can contribute to lifelong learning.

ASPHER NEWS & EVENTS

Carlo Signorelli Elected President of APHEA



The Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Carlo Signorelli as its new President, effective 14th December 2023.

As an experienced leader with a proven track record in public health, Professor Signorelli – Director of the School of Public Health (Igiene e Medicina Preventiva) in Vita-Salute San Raffaele University of Milan (Italy) – brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the Agency.

Professor Signorelli begins his term of office by stating that, “accredited schools and courses of public health play a pivotal role in training the workforce needed to strengthen public health

systems. As we all know APHEA is committed to assuring and improving the quality of education and training activities. By aligning missions and strategies with the Agency's members, the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) and the International Association of Public Health Institutes (IANPHI), APHEA will be able to ensure that our efforts complement each other to deliver the full potential for quality assurance in public health education”.

“I have the ambition for APHEA to become one of the foremost contributors to global and European public health education, courses, programmes, schools and academic institutions”.

Along with Professor Signorelli, APHEA also sees the appointment of Professor Henrique Barros (Portugal) and Professor Colleen Fisher (Australia) to the Board of Directors. The entire APHEA community extends its gratitude to Professor John Middleton and Professor Mary Codd for their years of dedicated service as President and Treasurer respectively. Under their leadership, APHEA achieved significant milestones, and we wish them continued success in their future endeavours.

Please join us in welcoming Professor Signorelli to APHEA. For media inquiries or to schedule an interview, please contact the APHEA Office at office@aphea.be or by phone +32 466 900 013.

Tallinn Charter 15th Anniversary Health Systems Conference: Trust and transformation – resilient and sustainable health systems for the future

On 12–13 December 2023 WHO Europe and the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies hosted 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.



The Observatory generated evidence to inform each of the Tallinn meetings: evidence on the dynamic relationship between health systems and economic development; on the benefits of health systems strengthening and all-of-government and all-of-society approaches; and on how to include, invest and innovate. For the 2023 conference, it has produced [a suite of five policy briefs in support of the key themes of trust and transformation](#) collecting key messages together. The briefs themselves are available for consultation and will be revised and published in light of the conference discussions.

ASPHER President-elect and Director, Henrique Barros and Robert Otok were pleased to attend and take inspiration from how schools of public health contribute to the agenda on resilient and sustainable health systems for the future. **Following here, [Henrique provides his reflections from the event.](#)**

The Tallinn Conference also allowed for reflection over the ongoing discussion on public health and primary care, which was then focus of another high level conference on [Implementing Policy and Practice for Primary Care - Celebrating the 45th anniversary of Alma-Ata and 5th anniversary of Astana declarations](#) and subsequent Observatory webinar on [Integrating public health and primary health services: building strong foundations for population health](#).

Extra reading of a freshly released [European Commission synthesis report](#) on country health profiles will help inform relevant discussions going forward.

The Schools of Public Health and Social Participation in Health Systems Functioning - conference notes by ASPHER President Henrique Barros

Health challenges are ever changing and societies are evolving accordingly. Individuals increasingly ask for more intelligent, more comprehensive and timelier decisions regarding the way health systems are structured, funding is decided and human resources are trained.

Emerging issues related to the delivery of care as access to innovation may finally, on a daily basis, be more relevant than the concerns with emerging health threats. They are perceived as major turning points in the process of evaluation of health systems, through the eyes of users. The perception of the functioning of health services, and the extent of citizens involvement in the whole process, influences trust and consequently needed transformation. Every movement can be seen as a missed or gained opportunity to global improvement and to a more person-centred, human-rights respectful way of dealing with citizen/patient – health professional encounters.

To a certain extent all this is mainly a question of health literacy. It has to do with the way health education and communication is handled in societies and how behavioural insights are perceived.

Thus, if we take this perspective, the central role of training the health professionals, in particular the public health workforce, becomes clear. And we underline the public health professionals because they are pivotal in promoting health, designing and implementing preventive programmes and organising the management of the different levels of care. And by doing it, public health has a most relevant role in defending the health care systems, as it leads to avoid preventable situations while making the always limited resources available to face the more severe and demanding situations.

Schools of Public Health, especially those organised as ASPHER members, play a fundamental role in responding to the need of well trained and educated professionals. Training the workforce, valuing skills and competences in health education and communication, influences directly and indirectly the health literacy capital of the communities and empowers individuals to make more rational choices. Particularly if children and youth are targeted so that sustainable life course gains are expected.

ASPHER has been engaged in developing competency goals for public health professional training standards, in accrediting schools and programmes through the work of APHEA, in building a professionalisation roadmap, in close collaboration with WHO Europe, it is now

defining an ambitious core curriculum programme, and looks at the organisation of life long education schemes.

Decades of work, we believe, contributed to technically prepare a strong public health European community able to respond to increasingly complex challenges. But it is time to recognize that new skills and new approaches are needed so that co-creation can be seen as a desirable and the public is actively present in public health decisions and evaluations – as true subjects and not mere objects of top-down actions. ASPHER is committed to lead such process involving professionals and citizens in the organised community effort that defines public health, and valuing both the knowledge and commitment of people in a truly solidary, shared global world.

Henrique Barros
ASPHER President-elect

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ASPHER PROJECTS

December 2023 sees the start of two member-led projects that ASPHER is taking part in: VAX-Action and EARLY. ASPHER is happy to be able to support member-led projects through activities such as consortium building, dissemination, evaluation and training - don't hesitate to consider a role for ASPHER for your projects.

VAX-ACTION: Tackling Effectively Vaccine Hesitancy in Europe

VAX-ACTION, which is co-funded by EU4Health, aims to support EU Member States and relevant stakeholders to implement a combination of tailored, evidence-based interventions aimed to reduce vaccine hesitancy. It addresses the need to understand what type of interventions are now available, which are effective, how to translate effective interventions to new contexts, and to explain the unsuccessful ones to create opportunities for learning and redesign.

VAX-ACTION is coordinated by IHMT, NOVA University Lisbon, PORTUGAL under the lead of Prof Tiago Correia and builds on previous EU projects in the area. It brings together a consortium of ASPHER member schools, including University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, ITALY; EHESP School of Public Health, FRANCE; National School of Public Health, Management and Professional Development, ROMANIA; Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Rome, ITALY; Institute of Public Health, University of Porto (ISPUP), PORTUGAL; Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education (IPVZ), CZECHIA; and University of Pavia, ITALY. ASPHER is responsible for the work package on dissemination.



Co-funded by
the European Union

The project held its kick off meeting on the official project start date on 1st of December and will regroup in early January to sign off on our partnership agreement. We'll keep you posted on developments.

EARLY: Evaluating, Identifying & Reducing determinants MHC in Youth

The EARLY project aims to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases such as mental health conditions (MHC), especially depression, anxiety, stress disorders, substance use disorders and identify and reduce risky modifiable exposures for these conditions in youth. EARLY will pursue this goal through developing a comprehensive exposure matrix which can be adapted to emerging new risks, to understand youth, parents', and stakeholders' perceptions, we will conduct qualitative, interviews, by providing representative, multinational data on youth MHC and through developing, implementing and evaluating a multicomponent intervention. This will serve as an innovative model for promoting mental health and preventing MHC.

EARLY, which is co-funded through Horizon, is coordinated by the Technical University of Applied Sciences in Emden/Leer, GERMANY with Prof Jutta Lindert leading. Other ASPHER members involved in the consortium include Tirana Medical University, ALBANIA; University of Bremen, GERMANY; Medical University of Gdansk, POLAND; University of Porto, PORTUGAL; and University of Novi Sad, SERBIA. ASPHER will be tasked with development of mental health training activities tailored for youth and carers.



Co-funded by
the European Union

The project, which started on 1st of December, held an introductory meeting of partners on 13 December. The kick off meeting is planned for 11-12 January in Emden, Germany.

SEEEPHI: Sharing European Educational Experience in PH for Israel

Unfortunately, the SEEEPHI project is facing disruptions due to the conflict in Israel since 07 October. All Universities remain closed, medical personnel are unable to travel, and many partner leads are involved in both required and voluntary duties related to support efforts. We were finally able to gather partners together for a Zoom call on 19 December to assess the situation and take stock of where things stand with the project.



Public Health
SEEEPHI
harmonization, employability,
leadership and outreach



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

As a result we are seeking a project extension in order to complete all activities. ASPHER is also working on plans to send a delegation to Israel and Palestine under the SEEEPHI project umbrella - working on how public health training applies under conflict.

ASPHER DEANS' & DIRECTORS' RETREAT

ASPHER 2023 Deans' & Directors' Retreat Statement published

The ASPHER Statement on the 2023 Deans' and Directors' Retreat theme of the New Normal is now published in *Public Health Reviews*. A New Public Health Curriculum for a "New Normal". If you missed it before, be sure to read the [ASPHER Statement: A New Public Health Curriculum for a "New Normal"](#).

Codd M, Barros H, Davidovitch N, et al. 2023. ASPHER Statement: A New Public Health Curriculum for a “New Normal”. Public Health Reviews 44.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/phrs.2023.1606539>

ASPHER 2024 Deans’ & Directors’ Retreat Porto, Portugal

The 2024 ASPHER Deans’ and Directors’ Retreat #ASPHER2024 will 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. President-elect Henrique Barros looks forward to welcoming all members to Porto!

[Be sure to keep up on all important information and register for Porto 2024 here.](#)

Download the Porto Retreat flyer [here](#).

MEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

International Conference:
Society for Bayesian methods in Epidemiology and Diagnostics (SBED)

31 January – 2 February 2024, Brussels, Belgium



HARMONY
Novel tools for test evaluation and
disease prevalence estimation

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the Society for Bayesian methods in Epidemiology and Diagnostics (SBED); an international society, for the application of Bayesian Latent Class Models (BLCMs) in life sciences in order to promote collaboration of scientists working in the field and the harmonized reporting of relevant research.

The society’s 1st activity will be the organisation of an international conference that will take place 31 January – 2 February 2024 in the vibrant city of Brussels, Belgium. The event is under the auspices of the [HARMONY COST Action](#), which is chaired by Polychronis Koustolas of the University of Thessaly, ASPHER Executive Board member.

Whether you’re an epidemiologist, clinician, veterinarian, psychologist, environmental health expert, or an enthusiast in BLCMs, your participation is vital.

ASPHER will be onsite with a stand and funding is available to support two ASPHER Fellows and/or YPs to join the event. Please contact office@aspher.org to be considered.

Don’t miss this opportunity to become a member in shaping the future of epidemiology and diagnostics!

[Learn more and register for the conference here.](#)

Survey on Opinions and Experiences about Medical Mediation

The Department of Public and One Health, School of Health Sciences, University of Thessaly is conducting a survey on medical mediation as part of a Ph.D. research project and would greatly appreciate your input.

This questionnaire aims to gather insights from healthcare professionals regarding their experiences and opinions on medical mediation. Your participation will contribute significantly to this important field of research.

[Access the survey here.](#)



ΤΜΗΜΑ ΔΗΜΟΣΙΑΣ
ΚΑΙ ΕΝΙΑΙΑΣ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
AND ONE HEALTH

ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΙΑΣ UNIVERSITY OF THESSALY

Call for Abstracts: Swiss Public Health Conference on "Strengthening the Culture of Public Health Surveillance"

3 - 4 September 2024, Fribourg

In the "infodemic" and "big data" age, access to diverse data has increased enormously, opening up new possibilities for surveillance. At the same time, Switzerland is struggling to define what is needed for a reliable and efficient health information system. How should we assess cancer burden or environmental risks? How do we monitor the quality of health care? What surveillance tools do we need and want? And what about governance?

Public health surveillance lies at the interface between applied public health, population-based health sciences, and epidemiology, and therefore concerns all actors who want to protect and promote the health of the Swiss population.

We would like to invite you to submit an abstract either for a 10-minute oral presentation at one of the parallel sessions, for a topical workshop or for a poster.

The submission deadline for abstracts is 1 February 2024 (12pm CET).

[Learn more and submit abstracts here.](#)



Jeffrey Levett awarded Lifelong Achievement and Fellowship of the International Academy of Ethics

We congratulate former ASPHER President, Dr. Jeffrey Levett, who was recently decorated with the Academy Award for Lifelong Achievement in Literature and Philosophy and the lifetime Fellowship of the International Academy of Ethics.

The awards were conferred in the Honours Session, of the recent 5th World Poetry Conference, organised jointly by Aazaad Foundation (Regd) and International Academy of Ethics. Over the course of three days, about a hundred poets met from around the world to roll out poems which one after the other, dwelt on the fault lines of our civilization.

[Read more here.](#)

HTADS Continuing Education Program Courses



Introduction to Health Technology Assessment and Health Economics

29 - 31 January 2024, online certified course

The 3-day introductory course in Health Technology Assessment and Health Economics combines lectures, discussions and case study group works in the key elements and methods of Health Technology Assessment (HTA), Health Economics (HE) and Health Decision Science.

Online booking for this courses is available via www.htads.org

Winter School in Clinical Epidemiology

12 - 16 February 2024, Hall in Tirol

This extraordinary course is taught by Prof. Dr. Albert Hofman, Head of the Department of Epidemiology, Harvard Chan School of Public Health, for more than 10 years at UMIT TIROL. It covers the key elements and methods of clinical epidemiology and combines theoretical concepts with practical applications using real world case examples.

For more information please [click here](#).

Further Reading

Czabanowska K, Feria PR. (2023) Training needs assessment tools for the public health workforce at an institutional and individual level: a review. *European Journal of Public Health*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad183>

Czabanowska K, Feria PR, Kuhlmann E, Kostoulas P, Middleton J, Magana L, et al. (2023) Professionalization of the public health workforce: scoping review and call to action, *European Journal of Public Health*.

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Middleton JD. (2023). A healthy state? Geopolitics, health, and safety: A keynote presentation for the European Conference of Law Enforcement and Public Health. *Journal of Community Safety and Well-Being*, Vol 8(4). URL: <https://www.journalcswb.ca/index.php/cswb/article/view/352/999>

Seifman R, Laaser U. (2023). The Peacekeeping System of the United Nations and its Potential Role in One Health. Looking at its Principles, Policies, and Key Technical Entities. *South Eastern European Journal of Public Health*, 1-8. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.56801/seejph.vi.416>

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PARTNER NEWS

Europubhealth+ 2024 Intake

The Europubhealth+ Programme is an [Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree](#) that has been supported and recognized as a Master of Excellence by the European Commission since 2006.



The Europubhealth+ Master Programme is made for you:

- a 2-year multidisciplinary Master course in PH with 7 different specialisations on offer;
- delivered by a consortium of 7 European Universities, leading to an internationally recognized double Master's degree;
- an intercultural environment of study, in up to 3 languages: English, Spanish or French.

All Europubhealth+ prospective students are invited to a webinar organised in collaboration with the Europubhealth Students and Alumni association (EPHSA) on Wednesday 10th January, from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM (CET). [Register here](#).

Application deadlines:

24 January 2024 (23:00 CET): results released mid-March

27 March 2024 (23:00 CET): results released mid-May

07 May 2024 (23:00 CET): results released mid-June
(recommended for European students only or students who do not need a visa).

[Learn more and apply here](#).

Securing Stronger Action against Racism and Discrimination to Achieve Health Equity

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and the DisQo network are excited to share [the DisQo manifesto](#) with you. Your support in spreading the word and endorsing the manifesto is immensely valuable.



Additionally, we are pleased to share the publication of a [comprehensive summary](#) of our recent conference on "Racism, discrimination, and health: a human rights-based approach."

Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited to continue our collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and look forward to upcoming events and initiatives on racism and health. Your continued support and participation will be integral to the success of these endeavours.

Creating Conditions for Resilient Communities - Applying Public Health Approaches to the Emergency Management Continuum

January 18, 2024, 3.30pm - 5pm CET

The International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI), in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), is pleased to invite all IANPHI Members and Partners to a webinar "Creating Conditions for Resilient Communities; Applying PH Approaches to the Emergency Management Continuum".



From COVID-19 to extreme weather events, emergencies are becoming a part of our daily lives. With this reality comes a shift in how we think about preparing for emergencies by looking beyond immediate response efforts. Effective emergency management must prioritize health equity, community engagement, and influence social structures that can withstand shocks.

With a focus on creating conditions for community resilience and advancing the application of health promotion concepts across the emergency management continuum, there is an opportunity to assemble public health leaders for a panel discussion focused on:

- Describing key elements and sharing tangible examples of how health promotion approaches can be applied to the emergency management continuum;
- Considerations on how National Public Health Institutes and public health professionals can influence policy, systems, and funding mechanisms for lasting impact;
- Elevating key messaging to appeal to decision makers and emergency management leaders for a place at the table;
- Envisioning innovative approaches to applying health promotion to emergency management for improved and equitable health outcomes.

Moderated by Dr. Tracey Cooper, Chief Executive of Public Health Wales and newly elected IANPHI Executive Board Member, this webinar will address these issues from multiple perspectives. She will be joined by several experts and will seek to have engaging discussion with participants.

[Register for the webinar here.](#)

12th IUHPE European Conference on Health Promotion

17-18 June 2024, Lodz, Poland

As a premier event for the global health promotion community, the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) conference organizers invite professionals (e.g. researchers, health promotion practitioners in



community settings, civil servants working on health-promoting policies and programming) from around the world for in-person participation, fostering direct engagement, networking, and collaboration.

The [12th IUHPE European Conference on Health Promotion](#), with the theme Health Promotion: Cultivating Change Through the Lifespan is co-organized by the Medical University of Lodz in collaboration with the Foundation for the Medical University of Lodz. These meetings evaluate the current state of knowledge and practice of health promotion, highlighting future challenges and shaping the agenda for progress in the field. The conference will play a significant role in disseminating health promotion research with an emphasis on facilitating health transformations at every stage of life.

[Learn more here.](#)

European Pillar of Social Rights Flashcard Tool

The European Pillar of Social Rights sets out pathways for concrete progress on health, equity and wellbeing! EuroHealthNet has developed a [Flashcard Tool](#) that sets out how the Pillar can help public health professionals and decision-makers take action for health and wellbeing. Each flashcard offers practical examples, illustrating how public health actors can implement the Pillar's principles to strengthen social protection, health and wellbeing.



OPPORTUNITIES

EU4Health 2024 Work Programme



The European Commission has adopted the [2024 EU4Health work programme](#), with a €752.4 million budget that will boost its development and provide funding to address important health-related issues across the EU.

This includes increasing crisis preparedness through the European Health Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), ensuring the rollout of key digital initiatives such as the European Health Data Space (EHDS), strengthening resilience to cross-border health threats, delivering the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, and support for emerging policy initiatives with a special attention to mental health, global health and the developments in medicinal products.

More information can be found [here](#) and on the [factsheet](#).

If you or your programme is pursuing this or other calls, please know you may always contact ASPHER at robert.otok@aspher.org to consult your planning.

Call for papers: *Eurosurveillance* annual theme 2024:



Eurosurveillance editors are inviting submissions on the annual theme of changing urban environments and effects on infectious diseases and their epidemiology, surveillance, prevention and control. They invite article submissions relevant for Europe, that:

- address how urban environment changes toward SDGs and resilience are affecting or might affect infectious disease epidemiology, surveillance, prevention and control;
- address if or how communicable disease surveillance, prevention and control activities may have to adapt to these urban changes or to innovate to remain responsive or become more effective;
- include relevant examples of urban transitions toward SDGs and/or emergency preparedness, which have taken infectious disease epidemiology into account, or examples of adapted surveillance, prevention and control of communicable disease as a result of such urban transitions.

If you would like to submit a paper [learn more here](#).

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The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER)
ASPHER Brussels | T: +31 (0) 433 884 398 | S: [asptherskype](#) | E: office@aspher.org