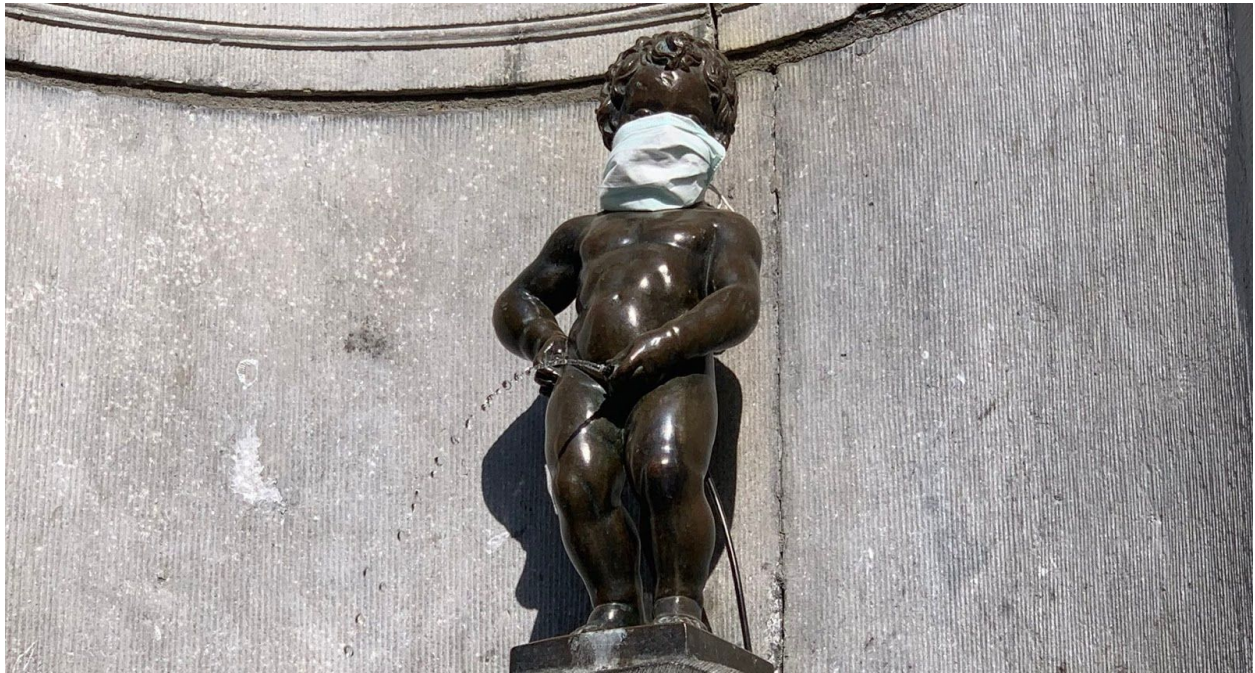


## Spring 2020 ASPHER Newsletter



Pictured: Manneken Pis, Brussels

### Table of Contents:

[MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT](#)

[MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT](#)

[COVID-19 NEWS](#)

[ASPHER Statement on the Novel Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Outbreak Emergency](#)

[ASPHER COVID-19 Resource Webpage](#)

[ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force](#)

[ASPHER Statement on the Strategic Use of Masks](#)

[Report on COVID-19 Testing](#)

[Other Sub-Group Topics](#)

[Call for Young Researcher collaborators on COVID-19](#)

[ASPHER in EPHA News: Public health must be strengthened for a healthy post-COVID world](#)

[COVID-19 on the ASPHER Blog](#)

[Physicians for Human Rights - Israel Statement](#)

[Make use of the TIPH label for your COVID-19 Actions!](#)

[Call for videos: ASPHER calls on Members to share their COVID-19 experiences](#)

[ASPHER COVID-19 Initiatives from our Members and Partners](#)

[Calling on ASPHER Members - Looking forward: What happens next?](#)

[Selected COVID-19 Publications:](#)

#### UPDATES TO REGULAR ASPHER BUSINESS

[ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat](#)

[ASPHER General Assembly](#)

[ASPHER 2025 Strategy](#)

[ASPHER Presidential Election](#)

[Calls for Nominations Extended until 30 June](#)

[ASPHER Executive Board Nominations](#)

[Andrija Stampar Medal 2020 Nominations](#)

[This is Public Health \(TIPH\) Europe School Campaigns extended](#)

[Andrija Stampar Summer Educational & Tutoring School \(ASSETS\)](#)

#### OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

[Launching the Global Network for Academic Public Health](#)

[ASPHER Survey: Climate action at public health schools in the European region](#)

[Europubhealth+ European Public Health Master](#)

[European Public Health Week](#)

[Joint WHO Europe and IANPHI technical seminar \(Chisinau, 9-10 April 2019\)](#)

[16th World Congress on Public Health](#)

[Partner Organizations](#)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The COVID-19 pandemic presents many of us in public health with our greatest challenge. Swine flu presented something of a global false alarm – a relatively mild illness causing fatalities similar to seasonal flu, with a false promise of an antiviral treatment and world health care systems mobilised disproportionately. [There have been pandemics](#) we have not alarmed ourselves unduly with in the past – Hong Kong flu and other ten-yearly flu A waves stretched us less, because there were no treatments and no vaccines. [Spanish flu](#) was a disaster of extraordinary proportions, which we seem to look to most in this current pandemic. Ebola, SARS and MERS were deadly but burned themselves out rapidly...

Now we are confronted with a coronavirus that spreads easily and rapidly and carries significant mortality. We discover its new rules too slowly to prevent spread... some questions still unanswered. Are children silent spreaders? Levels of asymptomatic cases? Length of time of virus excretion?

ASPHER commends and celebrates our colleagues working tirelessly in all countries. It also laments the cuts to public health systems and services in many countries over many years and for the disdain of politicians towards expertise in population health (see box below on decision of the Trump Administration to defund WHO). There will be a time for a reckoning on the failures of global response. [Ted Tulchinsky's COVID blog](#) reminds us of the erosion of public health capability and the need to reinstate this for the future.

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ASPHER deplores the [decision of the Trump administration to withdraw funding for the World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) in the middle of this pandemic. The US calls for an investigation into the conduct of the WHO creates uncertainty and added disruption at a time when all governments and international organisations should be collectively focused on tackling the coronavirus. ASPHER Honours Committee Chair, Jose Martin-Moreno eloquently describes the role of WHO and the need for this international health organisation in a soon to be published piece in [BMJ Opinion](#); keep a lookout for when it becomes available. Our international agencies are our major resources with oversight of how this virus is crossing borders, killing people and destroying lives, and what we must all do to stop it. There will be a time for reflection, audit, critical, legal and public inquiry, bringing our leaders to account, leaving no stone unturned. Right now our task is to work together, fearlessly and tirelessly to defeat this killer virus.

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For now, our efforts must be focussed entirely on ending this pandemic. [Jeffrey Levett](#) reminds us of the perils of not learning from pandemics of the past. Recent stunning evidence [from Wuhan](#), and from our dear [colleagues in Italy](#) and [France](#) show the effectiveness of lockdowns in the current pandemic. The Wuhan report also shows the effectiveness of centralised quarantine of sick patients. The Italian study suggests that lockdowns in lesser affected areas can be highly protective and beneficial to those areas. And the French analysis shows that in absence of any control measures, the COVID-19

epidemic would have had a critical morbidity and mortality burden in France, overwhelming in a matter of weeks French hospital capacities.

ASPHER has set up a task force on COVID-19 with members from more than 10 countries. Our early work produced the ASPHER statement which is still open to signatories. A major review of use of masks supports a hierarchy of use, with supplies for health and care workers to be protected, but we support the idea of public use as part of the [‘precautionary principle’](#). We are reviewing evidence on testing. We have also joined with [Physicians for Human Rights Israel](#), in calling for collaborative efforts between Israel and Palestine to secure an effective response to COVID-19 in the West Bank and Gaza. We are looking as well to assembling the [evidence of widening inequalities](#) between rich and poor in coping with the lockdown and at [the adverse effects on minorities and vulnerable groups](#) – please forward any reports to the secretariat for this neglected area of action during the pandemic.

We congratulate Anna Odone and colleagues on their production of an engaging video on coronavirus for children, available now in both [Italian](#) and [English](#); part of our [TIPH #THISISPUBLICHEALTH](#) European campaign. There is mounting concern over the [mental health of children](#) during lockdown, and clearly wide-ranging [negative impacts on health and inequalities](#) through all ages.

The ASPHER Task Force is also putting together an inventory of issues to be addressed in de-escalation from lockdown and formulating recommendations. The [COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor](#) from the European Observatory, could be a powerful resource for us all. Check it out, and help us and our partners, to keep international comparisons up to date and accurate.

With the vast actions of our members responding to the outbreak, it is vital that there is also some thinking space for strategic planning – [for de-escalation from the peak](#) and for the management and prevention of a second wave. We must also be thinking about the end of the outbreak. We will be building the log of public health services cut, resources lost, education and training devalued, science and expertise ignored or rejected. We are also planning for a strengthened public health function – colleagues have been working through this time of frantic activity putting together a proposal for enhanced competencies for communicable disease control for consideration by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

In addition to working for a better public health system, we will continue to advocate for better public health. How can gains made in terms of reduced [air pollution and energy use](#) be maintained? How can [streets turned over to walking and cycling](#) be kept in place? How can homes made for [homeless and vulnerable people](#) be made sustainable beyond lockdown? How can we rebuild our economies without returning to wanton destruction of our environment and over-reliance on fossil fuels, how can we create social welfare and economic systems which acknowledge the true ‘key workers’ and are more equal and fairer? Can we reward citizenship more equally as with Spain’s leadership on the [universal basic income](#)? The [Secretary General of the UN](#) has called for global ceasefire during the pandemic – and who knows? Perhaps beyond? We must plan for a world built on values

which are central to better public health – for a world free from violence; for more equal societies; for more sustainable economies and environments; for fairer social welfare systems; and for health services which are built on prevention of ill health, protection of health and primary care.

Dear Colleagues - keep up the great work serving and protecting the people we serve and keep yourselves and your loved ones safe.

John Middleton,  
President ASPHER

## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

ASPHER Secretariat hopes all ASPHER Members are in good health and holding up in these strange times. The COVID-19 pandemic is a catastrophic and ongoing event, but it is an important opportunity for Schools of Public Health (SPH) to step up, have our voices heard and show the public, governments, and decision makers what public health can do as we roll up our sleeves and tackle this challenge, both in the short- and long-term.

To this end, we have convened the [ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force](#) which has been reflecting on and actioning the ASPHER response and SPH perspectives on the pandemic. You can read more about the Task Force, its achievements and ongoing activities below. We encourage all interested Members to get involved with the overall Task Force or any of its [topical sub-groups](#). The Task Force is also [looking for students or alumni](#) from Member Schools who wish to lend their time and hone their skills reporting on specific COVID-19 related topics. The ASPHER Secretariat sees this as an opportunity to begin to co-create the regular network of students and alumni outlined in the [ASPHER 2025 Strategy](#).

We are encouraging Members to make COVID-19 activities at your schools recognisable as being part of the greater actions of public health by branding them with the [This Is Public Health \(TIPH\)](#) logo and to let us know when you do. You'll find more on why we think this is important and how to get electronic logos later in the newsletter. Also, don't miss the upcoming [webinar on 11 May on the changing nature of the TIPH campaign](#) after COVID-19, it will feature the winning TIPH campaigns and several of our partner organisations. We'd also like to ask you to send [short informal videos](#) of what your School has been doing during the crisis so we may showcase them at [aspher.org](#)!

ASPHER is keeping up with our partner organisations and coordinating and sharing COVID-19 related resources. This includes a highlight below on [video webinars from IANPHI](#) and an [opinion piece from ASPHER](#) on strengthening the public health workforce in light of the pandemic in EPHA's blog/newsletter.

Meanwhile, time is moving on and we are beginning to return attention to the usual business of ASPHER. We were deeply disappointed to have to postpone the [2020 ASPHER Deans & Directors Retreat in Sofia](#). The Retreat is always the highlight of ASPHER's year, but we are making contingency plans to stay engaged with an online programme on

Tuesday 2 June. We look forward to socializing with everyone from a physical distance, so mark your calendars!

Perhaps the most important piece of ASPHER news is the [nomination of Carlo Signorelli for the ASPHER Presidency](#). Carlo has a history of serving in the field of public health with excellence, coming to us from Vita-Salute San Raffaele University of Milan and currently serving on the ASPHER Executive Board. The ASPHER Executive Board highly endorses Carlo's candidature and we look forward to his confirmation by acclamation at the ASPHER General Assembly.

In addition to the virtual Retreat, the [ASPHER General Assembly](#) will be held online on Thursday 10 September. This will give us time to take a more considered approach to the second draft of the [ASPHER 2025 Strategy](#). We will be circulating that to you later this month for a second round of feedback. With the later date for the General Assembly, we are also extending the deadline calls for currently unfilled [nominations](#) for the [ASPHER Executive Board](#), [Andreja Stampar Award](#), and [Good Practice Award](#). Make sure to send us your nominees!

ASPHER is thrilled to announce that on 15 May, along with the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), we will be launching the [Global Network for Academic Public Health](#). The Global Network will bring together Schools of Public Health Associations from all corners of the World. At this time it is more critical than ever that we come together and this is a great leap forward. ASPPH (North America), APACPH (Asia-Pacific) and ASPHA (Africa) will also be joining us at the online ASPHER Retreat on 2 June.

We usually prefer to wait until the Retreat to welcome new ASPHER Members, but given the current conditions the Secretariat would like to welcome new provisional member schools: [Department of Health Care Management, School of Health Sciences, University of Georgia](#); [Centre of Public Health Sciences, University of Iceland](#); [Faculty of Population Health Sciences, University College, London](#); and [Center for Public Health, Medical University of Vienna](#). With the delayed General Assembly, we'd like to welcome even more, so if you have colleagues at other schools who would benefit from joining the ASPHER family, please encourage them to apply!

ASPHER Intern, Rana Orhan has launched a survey on [Climate action at public health schools in the European region](#). Read more on that below and be sure to help make her project a success by filling out the information from your school.

Finally, with everything going on please don't forget about the upcoming [European Public Health Week](#) beginning 11 May. EUPHA and all the participants made it a great success last year and there is still time now to register an activity at your school or country.

Very best wishes and good health,

Robert Otok, Lore Leighton, Naomi Nathan  
ASPHER Secretariat

Please don't forget to share your news with [lore.leighton@aspher.org](mailto:lore.leighton@aspher.org) to be included in the next regular issue of the Newsletter or on the ASPHER website activity log. **We are planning to start publishing more regular monthly newsletter reports which will better ensure timely release of your announcements to the ASPHER Membership!** Finally, we always appreciate any comments and/or suggestions for improvements for us to consider for the newsletter - let us know!

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## COVID-19 NEWS

### ASPHER Statement on the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak Emergency

The [ASPHER Statement on the Novel Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Outbreak Emergency](#) was published on 29 March in the International Journal of Public Health.

The ASPHER Statement calls for:

- All countries to strengthen the role and resources available to the WHO and to align with WHO policies.
- Sustaining and strengthening the ECDC mandate for international action.
- Europe's governing bodies, the European Commission and individual countries: to recognize the specific expertise of public health professionals involving them in decision-making to effectively coordinate European and in-country action; to invest adequate funding and resources in health systems, essential public health operations, planning and preparedness; and to include health in all policies.
- An allocation of resources toward specific emergency training on COVID-19 and for a renewed long-term investment in public health education and training at all levels.

We encourage our Members to disseminate, repost, translate and use the ASPHER Statement wherever relevant. Translations are already available in [Italian](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Georgian](#).

The Statement has been endorsed by our counterpart associations of schools of public health in North America, Asia and Africa (ASPPH, APACPH, ASPHA). We welcome individual member schools to join as signatories to the Statement at [aspher.org](http://aspher.org).

If your school would like to sign the statement or if you are able to provide a translation please contact Robert at [robert.otok@aspher.org](mailto:robert.otok@aspher.org).

If you repost or translate the Statement, please make sure to use the original citation:

Middleton, J., Martin-Moreno, J.M., Barros, H. et al. ASPHER statement on the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak emergency. *Int J Public Health* (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00038-020-01362-x>

## ASPHER COVID-19 Resource Webpage

ASPHER has been maintaining a [COVID-19 Resource Webpage](#) with links to Members' initiatives, relevant sources for COVID-19 information, and COVID-19 and Infectious Disease online training material.

Please let us know how your school is responding so we can link to your initiatives and materials (both in English and local languages). By sharing our Members' activities, we hope to help spread Best Practices and promote collaboration between Schools and countries.

Please also send any relevant links for information or training materials in your country or elsewhere so we may make the resources as comprehensive as possible.

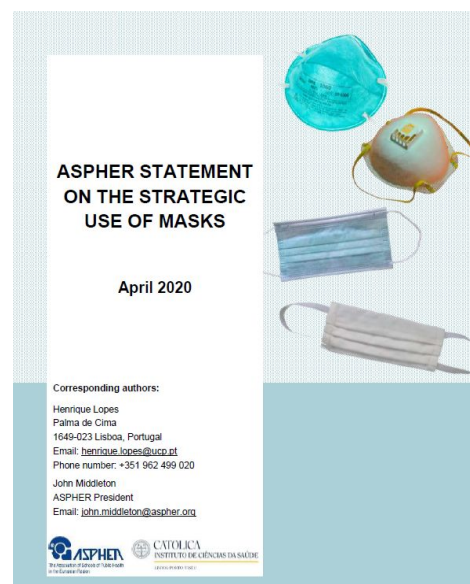
Contact Lore at [lore.leighton@aspher.org](mailto:lore.leighton@aspher.org) with any relevant material or links.

## ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force

ASPHER has convened a [COVID-19 Task Force](#) to facilitate relevant networking necessary to respond to the pandemic emergency. The task force holds biweekly meetings and is working to identify priority areas related to the COVID-19 emergency and aftermath where ASPHER and Schools of Public Health may play a role.

## ASPHER Statement on the Strategic Use of Masks

The most developed example of a Task Force initiative is the [ASPHER Statement on the Strategic Use of Masks](#). It aims to contribute a critical reading of the evidence so that decisions made by National or International Health Authorities may be more informed and effective with 12 conclusions of the Task Force on the use of masks that take into account clinical, social, psychological, behavioural, ethical, economic and political considerations. The Statement is backed up by an extensive technical report from the Task Force and the Public Health Unit of Catholic University, Lisbon: "[Strategic use of masks as an element of a non-pharmaceutical measures set for a pandemic](#)". The Report includes a literature review on the state of the knowledge on masks and recommendations for when





and how they should be used in a viral epidemic. Both are supported by an [infographic](#) which summarizes the findings. The infographic is currently available in English and efforts are underway to translate to other languages.

The Statement and Report on masks have already been disseminated among partner organisations and others internationally. A press release went out this week in order that the best scientific evidence available may be taken to make the decisions that affect the health of whole populations.

### **Report on COVID-19 Testing**

Another initiative that is well underway is a reflection on the accuracy of COVID-19 testing in real world situations. Testing is essential to understand the dynamics of COVID-19 in the population, to plan preventive measures, to allow appropriate therapeutic measures. The accuracy of screening tools is essential to individual and public health decision-making. The review of the information available on the performance of existing RT-PCR and serological tests will be available very soon, make sure to check back at [aspher.org](http://aspher.org)!

### **Other Sub-Group Topics**

Many other topics are being tackled by Task Force sub-groups, including:

- Inequalities and vulnerable populations - both in terms of infection rates and in vulnerabilities due to lockdown.
- De-escalation planning and aftermath measures
- Surveillance and tracking apps - implications on the use of electronic tracking applications during the pandemic and how they will be used after.
- Epidemiology
- Young Professionals sub-group to provide rapid reviews for the European Observatory [COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor](#).

If you wish to participate in the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force or any of the sub-groups, please contact Robert at: [robert.otok@aspher.org](mailto:robert.otok@aspher.org).

### **Call for Young Researcher collaborators on COVID-19**

The ASPHER COVID-19 Taskforce is looking for motivated young researchers, students and alumni from our member schools who would be interested in contributing to time to specific topics related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Depending on their interest, this may be by working with the Young Professional sub-group to produce short 1000-word reports or more in depth collaboration with other sub-groups on longer ASPHER reports and position papers. Please disseminate this information to your best and brightest students and alumni and ask them to contact Naomi Nathan at [naomi.nathan@aspher.org](mailto:naomi.nathan@aspher.org).

**The ASPHER COVID-19 sub-group for de-escalation planning is looking for your help!** If you have information or references on regulations in your country or region, please let Ranjeet know at [Ranjeet.Dhonkal@haw-hamburg.de](mailto:Ranjeet.Dhonkal@haw-hamburg.de).

## ASPHER in EPHA News: Public health must be strengthened for a healthy post-COVID world

ASPHER President John Middleton and ASPHER Director Robert Otok provided a guest article in the latest edition of the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)'s newsletter entitled "Public health must be strengthened for a healthy post-COVID world". The piece argues that the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis has brought to bare the urgency of a strong and concerted effort to cultivate training, research and capacity in public health in order to develop and maintain a prepared cadre of public health experts and professionals and features highlights of the work of some of our Member Schools.

Read the article online [here](#) and subscribe to EPHA's Newsletter [here](#).

## COVID-19 on the ASPHER Blog

One way our Members are sharing their COVID-19 activities is through the ASPHER Blog.



COVID-19 EMERGENCY - Three Residents of the Vita-Salute San Raffaele University School of PH - where the campaign THIS IS PUBLIC HEALTH is underway - are placing a gel dispenser.

We have learned about the courageous efforts of [Italian Public Health Residents](#); the Swiss School of Public Health shared an open letter for students to be a [Strong Public Health Leader](#); and Honours Committee Members, [Ted Tulchinsky](#) and [Jeffrey Levett](#) have posted their reflections in two separate opinion pieces.

The ASPHER blog is a terrific forum to quickly publish and share accounts of your activities, best practices and opinions or

highlight new publications. Members may publish posts through their accounts or contact Lore at [lore.leighton@aspher.org](mailto:lore.leighton@aspher.org) with your material.

## Physicians for Human Rights - Israel Statement

On 7 April 2020, Physicians for Human Rights - Israel (PHRI) issued a [Statement](#) calling on Israel to take measures to save lives and meet patient's needs in the face of a potential COVID-19 outbreak in the Gaza Strip. ASPHER President John Middleton signed the Statement on behalf of the Association and has further issued an [ASPHER Comment to the Statement](#).

We ask that ASPHER Member Institutions consider signing to lend their support to the ASPHER comment. If you wish to do so, please contact the ASPHER Secretariat at [office@aspher.org](mailto:office@aspher.org).

## Make use of the TIPH label for your COVID-19 Actions!



What and who makes up Public Health is often not well understood by people outside of the field. This has been eloquently expressed by Laurent Chambaud, Director of the EHESP School of Public Health in his recent piece on “[Fundamentally](#)

[Rethinking the Concept of Public Health](#)” (in French). We at ASPHER believe that the COVID-19 crisis has presented us with a unique moment in time for public health to make itself more visible and show the world what Public Health is really about and how action is taken to protect the health of the population.

If Public Health is to emerge stronger from this crisis, we must be able to have influence with decision makers, advocate for better funding for education and training, and recruit the best and the brightest of our young people to careers in Public Health. But in order to do so our actions must be recognized! [As stated perhaps best by ASPHER Executive Board Member Carlo Signorelli](#): “It is perhaps appropriate to start a campaign that finally makes clear to the public (and perhaps even at some political level) the usefulness, indeed the indispensability, of our discipline.” We therefore encourage our Member Schools to label their COVID-19 actions with the This is Public Health (TIPH) Europe brand.

We will be featuring all the TIPH campaign grant holders during a **special webinar on Monday 11 May from 16:00-18:00 CET**. The seminar will consider the changing focus of TIPH campaigns in light of COVID-19. ASPHER President, John Middleton will contribute along with colleagues from ASPPH, EUPHA, and WPHA. The event is organised by the School of Public Health, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University in Milan. Please check back at [aspher.org](http://aspher.org) for information on how to connect.

Official TIPH campaign logos are available [here](#). And don't forget to use the hashtags: #ThisIsPublicHealth, #TIPHEurope, #ASPHERcampaign, #ASPPHgoesglobal

## Call for videos: ASPHER calls on Members to share their COVID-19 experiences

ASPHER would like to showcase our Members' COVID-19 work, experiences and reflections with a series of videos. We would like to have short, informal videos that can be from anyone at your school - directors, faculty, student or alumni. We're not looking for

professional quality videos, just what you may film with your mobile phone or other electronic devices.

All videos will be posted at [aspher.org](http://aspher.org) and disseminated widely with the TIPH Brand so we can showcase involvement of SPHs to combat and COVID-19 and its related effects. Please contact Robert at: [robert.otok@aspher.org](mailto:robert.otok@aspher.org), if interested.

## ASPHER COVID-19 Initiatives from our Members and Partners

Many of you have been sending links and information to COVID-19 initiatives and actions at your schools. Below is a sampling of some of what we have received. If your school would like to report on your work - on COVID-19 or other topics - let Lore know at [lore.leighton@aspher.org](mailto:lore.leighton@aspher.org).

**The School of Public Health of Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Italy:** [Residents' activities](#) included the production, evaluation, interpretation and implementation of guidelines in the community and hospital setting; supervision of the reallocation and creation of beds in intensive care and COVID-19 units; research activities on the epidemiology of COVID-19 in Italy and Europe.

A scientific dissemination and health education project specifically dedicated to children and young primary school students to explain the "Coronavirus emergency" in a correct and fun way; [Italian Version](#) & [English Version](#). Find out more about the project and the collaboration with [@Maga Animation Studio](#) on the website: <https://bit.ly/LeoandGiuliaUsJustLikeYou>

**The EHESP School of Public Health, Rennes, France:** EHESP academics are committed to research projects and crisis management units at national and local levels. EHESP developed [short videos for health professionals](#) for the French Ministry of Health. The School trains healthcare system managers, with many students who are civil servants involved in the response at hospitals, nursing homes, etc.

**The Pettenkofer School of Public Health, Munich, Germany:** As a WHO Collaborating Centre for Evidence-Based Public Health, PSPH is part of the WHO-led Evidence Collaborative for COVID-19 to complete systematic reviews on specific priority questions. Nationally, it is providing policy advice through scientific statements/reports. It is also involved with COVID-19 modelling and conducts small-scale research projects related to the pandemic.

**University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland:** UCD is part of a network of [contact tracing call centres](#) established across Ireland. Call teams contact persons confirmed or presumed to have or been in contact with COVID-19. They provide information about contact tracing, advice and guidance, and find out who they have been in contact with for follow up.

**London School of Health and Tropical Medicine, London, UK:** LSHTM is involved with the [Health System Response Monitor \(HSRM\)](#) to collect and organize up-to-date information

on how countries are responding to the crisis. Early on, the school organized an [online course to understand the emergence of COVID-19](#). And School Director, Peter Piot has [been answering questions on COVID-19](#) for TEDMED.

**The Institute of Public Health, University of Porto, Portugal:** ISPUP has created an open online forum for the public to ask questions about COVID-19 and have them answered by ISPUP researchers: [ISPUP COVID-19 Forum](#). The Institute is also curating a [series of scientific texts on COVID-19](#) written by a wide range of experienced authors infectious diseases and public health.

**The Management Center Innsbruck, Austria:** MCI has produced a series of video discussion on the COVID-19 situation in Tyrol/Austria with Martin Sprenger from the University of Graz: [Muss in Zeiten von COVID19 anders gestorben werden als sonst?](#); [Warum wir unsere Pflegeheime und Pflegegeldbezieher mit aller Kraft schützen müssen?](#); [Wie wird die „kurve“ zur bewältigung von Covid19 berechnet?](#); [Schützen wir gemeinsam unsere Omas und Opas](#).

**HAW Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany:** HAW Hamburg is developing a comprehensive database to provide information on treatment options to COVID-19: “COVID-19 Therapy Options Database” (COVID-19-TOP). It will allow medical staff an overview of treatment patterns and outcomes on an international scale, supporting their decision-making. The database will be designed with inputs from engineers, virologists, medical doctors, economists and public health professionals (the “experts group”) and is aimed at clinical personnel at hospitals and health centres, other health care organizations, health insurance companies, and governments.

**Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) and PHL Working Group:** The SSPH+ proposal will study the effectiveness of health policy during pandemics and aim to create an objective framework to analyze and identify the socio-epidemiologic contextual elements predictive of effective risk-mitigation policy. The study will focus on three research questions:

1. *What happened and where?* Describing the development of the COVID-19 pandemic across several key countries representing distinct socio-legal-epidemiologic contexts.
2. *How did we respond and when?* Identifying the socio-epidemiological “breaking points” at which the various mitigation strategies and health policies were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. *What worked and why?* Quantify the impact each of the major mitigation strategies had on the progression of the epidemic as well as their estimated socio-economic and health effects.

**IANPHI COVID-19 Webinars:** The International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) has made available resources from the IANPHI-hosted webinars featuring IANPHI members' senior public health leaders sharing their experience responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Watch the videos [here](#).

## Calling on ASPHER Members - Looking forward: What happens next?

ASPHER believes Schools of Public Health will have a critical role to play in the aftermath of the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. From contributing to the dialog on how to best and most safely emerge from current lockdowns, to training the current and next generation of public health professionals on how to respond to the next disease outbreak, to synthesizing and understanding the vast amount of data currently being generated for various sources, to contributing to a more health literate public. We are currently working on a position paper or statement to address how we see the way forward.

ASPHER would also like to have your input on key questions:

- How is the wider public health workforce in your countries - including SPHs graduates and students - involved in responding to the current pandemic?
- How are their role and efforts recognized and possibly incentivized?
- Do you think the current situation provides an opportunity for strengthening the position of schools and training of public health and higher recognition of the public health workforce? Perhaps this is already taking place? If so, give examples.

Please send your replies and relevant reflections to Robert at [robert.otok@aspher.org](mailto:robert.otok@aspher.org).

### Selected COVID-19 Publications:

Below is a set of selected publications from ASPHER Members and others related to COVID-19. Don't hesitate to share your publications and other materials with Lore at [lore.leighton@aspher.org](mailto:lore.leighton@aspher.org) so we can feature them at the ASPHER [COVID-19 Resource page](#) and in the next ASPHER newsletter.

#### **Publications:**

Anderson M, McKee M, Mossialos E. (2020) Covid-19 exposes weaknesses in European response to outbreaks. European countries must work together in the common interest. BMJ 220. <https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/368/bmj.m1075.full.pdf>

Chambaud, L. (2020) Repenser fondamentalement le concept de santé publique (Fundamentally rethinking the concept of public health). The Conversation. In French. <https://theconversation.com/repenser-fondamentalement-le-concept-de-sante-publique-136311>

McKee M. (2020) Words have consequences, especially during a pandemic. Thebmjopinion. <https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2020/03/30/martin-mckee-words-have-consequences-and-especially-during-a-pandemic-politicians-must-avoid-saying-things-that-stir-up-hatred-of-others/>

Roux J, Massonnaud C, Crépey P. (2020) COVID-19: One-month impact of the French lockdown on the epidemic burden.

<https://www.ehesp.fr/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Impact-Confinement-EHESP-20200322v1-1.pdf>

Signorelli C, Scognamiglio T, Odone A. (2020) COVID-19 in Italy: impact of containment measures and prevalence estimates of infection in the general population. *Acta Biomed* 91(S3):177-181. <https://doi.org/10.23750/abm.v91i3-S.9511>

Maastricht University Care and Public Health Research Institute (CAPHRI) has published a special edition of their newsletter dedicated to COVID-19 related material with commentary, blogs and update on recently initiated COVID-19 related projects. Read the CAPHRI Newsletter [here](#).

### **Key de-escalation resources from WHO Europe and the European Union:**

European Commission. (2020) Coronavirus: European roadmap shows path towards common lifting of containment measures.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_652](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_652)

WHO, Regional Office for Europe. (2020) Strengthening and adjusting public health measures throughout the COVID-19 transition phases. Policy considerations for the WHO European Region.

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/440037/Strength-AdjustingMeasuresCOVID19-transition-phases.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/440037/Strength-AdjustingMeasuresCOVID19-transition-phases.pdf)

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## UPDATES TO REGULAR ASPHER BUSINESS

### ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat

After much deliberation, the ASPHER Executive Board has taken the decision to postpone the in person ASPHER Deans' & Directors Retreat until 2021. The intended location will remain the same and the Retreat location schedule will be pushed back one year. Thus, the Retreat will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2021 hosted by Medical University Sofia, followed by Dublin, Ireland in 2022 hosted by University College Dublin.

However, ASPHER is still planning for virtual activities at the date of the originally scheduled 2020 Retreat. In these times of enforced physical distances we think it is more important than ever to come together as a community and stay connected and engaged. Being an Association of Institutions of Public Health on the frontlines of the COVID-19 battle, it will be especially important to regroup, synergize and organize.

**We therefore ask that you block Tuesday 2 June 2020 in your calendars for a special online edition of the 2020 Deans' & Directors' Retreat!**

## ASPHER General Assembly

The 2020 ASPHER General Assembly will be going virtual as well. Given the delays in usual business caused by COVID-19, both for ASPHER and our Members, we have postponed the meeting until September. We have also extended nominations for the Executive Board, Andrija Stampar and Good Practice Awards until the end of June (see below).

**Please mark your calendars for Thursday 10 September 2020 to take part in the online 2020 ASPHER General Assembly.**

## ASPHER 2025 Strategy

Many thanks are in order for everyone who participated in the first round of consultation on the ASPHER 2025 Strategy! Our timeline to get this back to you has been delayed, but we are currently working to incorporate your feedback.

The second round of consultation will go to all Members and Partner Organisations later this month.

## ASPHER Presidential Election



Carlo Signorelli, PhD, Full Professor of Hygiene and Public Health at the Vita-Salute San Raffaele University of Milan and Director of the School of Public Health (Igiene e Medicina Preventiva) is standing for election for the next term as ASPHER President. Carlo holds degrees in Medicine & Surgery, Law and Political Sciences. Master and PhD in Epidemiology from the University of London (LSHTM) and PhD in public health.

Carlo has authored over 1300 scientific and journalistic publications (220 of which are listed in PubMed and 40 university texts); H-index: 25. He actively coordinates research projects including EU Commission H2020 on economic and social aspects of COVID-19. He has been and is a member of several commissions and working groups including the COVID-19 Technical Scientific Committee of the Lombardy Region and the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force.

He gained teaching experience in various universities including Polytechnic of Milan, Bocconi, Sapienza, Parma, LIUC, and LSHTM. He is Past-President of the Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health and currently a member of the Executive Board of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA). He is a freelance scientific journalist and editor of the Newsletter ([www.igienistionline.it](http://www.igienistionline.it)).



Carlo has been a member of the ASPHER Executive Board since 2018, where he has been actively involved in Association business and direction. He is an excellent, highly qualified and motivated candidate.

As there is only one candidate standing for election, the General Assembly will vote by acclamation in September.

## Calls for Nominations Extended until 30 June

### **ASPHER Executive Board Nominations**

ASPHER is looking for two new Executive Board members. We have not yet received official candidate nominations and are extending the deadline until 30 June. Send us your nominations for the best amongst you to guide ASPHER into the future of the 2025 Agenda.

Send your nominations for ASPHER Executive Board to Robert at [robert.otok@aspher.org](mailto:robert.otok@aspher.org) by 30 June 2020.

### **Andrija Stampar Medal 2020 Nominations**

Each year, ASPHER awards the prestigious Andrija Štampar Medal to a distinguished person for excellence in the field of Public Health. ASPHER is now looking for nominations for the 2020 Andrija Stampar Medal.

Click [here](#) for more information and a list of past Stampar medalists.

Send your nominations for the Stampar Medal to Robert at [robert.otok@aspher.org](mailto:robert.otok@aspher.org) by 30 June 2020.

### **ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Good Practice Award 2020 Nominations**

This yearly award, in which all ASPHER members are invited to participate, will showcase the best master programmes and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses offered by members of the Association. Three main characteristics of the programmes and courses will be assessed: impact, internationalisation, and innovation. These characteristics will be assessed by a panel of independent experts. The aim of the award is to promote excellence in public health education and training across Europe by encouraging ASPHER member schools to share their best practices and success stories.

Click [here](#) for more information and a list of former winners.

Send your nominations for the Good Practice Award to Robert at [robert.otok@aspher.org](mailto:robert.otok@aspher.org) by 30 June 2020.

## This is Public Health (TIPH) Europe School Campaigns extended

Many of the winning TIPH school campaigns were planning for happenings this spring. Understandably, it has been a disappointment to our campaigners to have to cancel or postpone their events and many of the students and faculty are being deployed elsewhere in the COVID-19 fight. This was eloquently summed up in a [blog](#) from University of Sheffield School of Health and Related Research (SchARR)'s [Talk Public Health](#).

We will however be featuring all the TIPH campaign grant holders during a special webinar on Monday 11 May from 16:00-18:00 CET. The seminar will consider the changing focus of TIPH campaigns in light of COVID-19. ASPHER President, John Middleton will contribute along with colleagues from ASPPH, EUPHA, and WPHA. The event is organised by the School of Public Health, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University in Milan. Please check back at [asper.org](http://asper.org) for information on how to connect.



ASPHER is working individually with the campaigns to find the best possible solutions for how to continue in light of the COVID-19 and shutdowns. In the meantime we are encouraging all our Members to label their COVID-19 activities with TIPH in order to make Public Health actions recognizable during the crisis. As you should too!

Official TIPH campaign logos are freely available to ASPHER Members [here](#). And don't forget to use the hashtags: #ThisIsPublicHealth, #TIPHEurope, #ASPHERcampaign, #ASPPHgoesglobal

## Andrija Stampar Summer Educational & Tutoring School (ASSETS)

ASPHER, the Andrija Stampar School of Public Health and ASSETS Director Jose M Martin-Moreno have regrettably taken the decision to postpone the next session of ASSETS until 2021. Apart from the COVID-19 crisis, the Andrija Stampar School of Public Health was also hit by the earthquake in Zagreb on 22 March which caused damage to the school's campus and buildings.

However there has already been much advance planning which should make the next edition in Zagreb in 2021 even stronger!

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## OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

### Launching the Global Network for Academic Public Health

We are very excited to announce that on 15 May, ASPHER and Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) in North America will launch the Global Network for Academic Public Health! Now more than ever it is clear that we must come together globally to address the complex challenges to the health of our populations and planet.

The official launch on 15 May will coincide with the final day of ASPPH's Virtual Annual Meeting. Their meeting has been ongoing since 13 March. You can access their online content [here](#).

### ASPHER Survey:

#### Climate action at public health schools in the European region

Human-induced climate change is putting the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at risk. To achieve a climate-neutral Europe by 2050, uptake of climate actions is needed across all sectors. Current gaps and uncertainties can be bridged by including health aspects of climate change in the public health schools' curricula. By bringing skills and knowledge to the future public health workforce, the risks and impacts of climate change for the health and well-being of European citizens can be reduced.

We invite all member schools of ASPHER to take part in a study with the following objectives:

1. To explore how ASPHER can take climate action in their institutions
2. To assess the implementation of climate education in ASPHER members

This research is being conducted as part of the master thesis of Rana Orhan, MPH MSc candidate at the University of Sheffield and Maastricht University. The survey results will be used to explore how ASPHER can take climate action in their institutions and to assess the implementation of climate education in ASPHER members. For more details see the [Participant Information Sheet](#).

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and is accessible via <https://bit.ly/2XX1IaX>. The password is ASPHERclimate20

If you have any questions, please contact Rana at [ranaorhan@gmail.com](mailto:ranaorhan@gmail.com).

### Europubhealth+ European Public Health Master

Applications for self-funded students for the September 2020 intake are still open until 6 May 2020. The Europubhealth+ Master course is for you:

- a 2-year multidisciplinary Master course in public health
- delivered by a consortium of [8 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.

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

For more information on the 2019 programme see the [leaflet](#). For application details and selection procedures click [here](#).

## European Public Health Week

EUPHA's second European Public Health Week will be held from 11 - 15 May. Promoting public health is now more important than ever and in light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the European Public Health Week (EUPHW) will focus on 'Joining forces for healthier populations'.

Governments, scientists, health professionals and the civil society must work together to tackle the pandemic and raise awareness about public health.

EUPHA invites you to host an online event where you can share knowledge and experiences about [COVID-19](#) and/or any of the other [5 EUPHW themes](#). [Submit your event](#) by 6 May or find other ways to [get involved](#).



## Joint WHO Europe and IANPHI technical seminar (Chisinau, 9–10 April 2019)

The WHO Regional Office for Europe and the International Association of National Public Health Institutes held a joint meeting focusing on further developing national public health institutes through a merger process. The aims of the workshop were to follow up on the current status of establishing the national public health institutes in Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine and to provide case-based strategies in strengthening the capacity of merged national public health institutes. This interactive meeting also focused around developing the public health workforce in the national public health institutes and discussing proposed tools national public health institutes can use, such as the WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework for the Public Health Workforce in the European Region. Read the meeting report [here](#).

## 16th World Congress on Public Health

These are unprecedented times that require unprecedented measures. The coronavirus pandemic is having its repercussions on the way the international scientific community is organizing its meetings as well. The nationwide lockdowns imposed on many countries have already required the cancellation or postponement of several global congresses. It is in this light that the Congress Management Committee (CMC) has decided to move the World Congress on Public Health (WCPH), held from 12 to 17 October in Rome, into a virtual congress. What this entails for all planned congress activities will be discussed in the coming weeks. [Read more here](#).



## Partner Organizations

Don't forget to visit our partner organizations' websites and newsletters to see what they are up to! [EUPHA](#), [EPHA](#), [EPH Conference](#), [ASPPH](#), [IANPHI](#), [EuroNet](#).

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Share the ASPHER newsletter!



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