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June 2020 ASPHER Newsletter



Pictured: Carillon du Mont des Arts, Brussels. Image by [Lawrence Lippke](#) from [Pixabay](#)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The world is in peril. Pandemics of COVID-19, racism and political incompetence threaten us all. A perfect storm of pandemic disease, crop failure, economic austerity and civil unrest confronts many of our countries. And the threats that seemed so urgent BC – Before Covid – have not gone away. Climate breakdown has been slowed, [but still continues](#). Although [air pollution has improved](#), other [pandemic related pollution](#) gets worse. The [plagues of locusts](#) which the public health world did nothing about at the start of the year, now threaten India. And the appalling brutal murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis has [reignited protest in America](#) and in [London, Berlin and elsewhere](#). BLACKLIVESMATTER has never been more relevant in the context of the pandemic – as black people are more [exposed to the virus in their key working roles](#), they suffer more with the disease, are [more likely to die with it](#) and [less likely to get well treated when ill](#). Layer on top the continuing institutional racism against black people, not just in America, and you have an explosive combination. There has to be legitimate peaceful protest and the public health community needs to see racism as one of the forms of discrimination we must be active against. Schools of public health need strong statements of their anti-racist commitment, their coverage of racism as a cause of health inequality, in their teaching and research, and in our own school's policies on recruitment, employment and values statements. Racism cannot be tolerated and must be addressed wherever it surfaces.

The pandemic is now taking off in [previously less affected parts of the world](#) – South America, Africa, and surging in India. For those countries previously most affected, the climb out of lock down is a dangerous and precarious journey. Pity my poor nation, where [politics has now completely subverted](#) an orderly planned route out of lockdown. Social distancing [has all but collapsed](#). Today, June 1st, [Schools return](#), parliament returns, [shielded people are allowed out](#). Already there is a [spike in London 2 weeks](#) after the disastrous 'Magic Monday' headlines leaked by the government before VE day celebrations. [One hospital closed its doors to emergencies](#) recently due to an overload of COVID patients.

Since I last wrote, the United States has taken on the [mantel of shame as top of the COVID deaths league table](#). The UK has followed up, to take over [the highest number of deaths](#), and become the sick person of Europe. [Coming out of lockdown](#) to be nice to the people, coming out of lockdown to regrow the economy – these populist motivations are deadly. The countries which follow them risk continuing international isolation, physical, social, economic for a very long time to come, because they didn't keep to the tough path when they needed to. While countries which have managed well will need to be very wary of us. The Greek government has rightly said Brits will [need to go into quarantine](#) for 2 weeks if they wish to go to Greece. Which government across the globe will welcome our business people into their boardrooms? Which truck drivers from Ireland and France will want to cross our increasingly unfriendly and bureaucratic borders? And which tourists from overseas will want to visit our stricken land?

The [ASPHER COVID Task Force](#) has been extremely active on your behalf over the past month. I do not need to repeat their contributions here – [they follow in the newsletter](#). I commend to you the courage and commitment of our schools, their close cooperation with health and local government services across Europe, and their influence on many national government policies. But as you work your way through the newsletter, there are for me a number of highlights which I will list here.

[ASPHER statement on the novel coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) outbreak emergency.](#)

[ASPHER comment on the Physicians for Human Rights – Israel Statement of 7th April 2020.](#)

[ASPHER statement on masks.](#)

[ASPHER statement on the use of masks by children](#)

[Face masks for the public during the COVID-19 crisis BMJ Rapid response.](#)

[Now is not the time to undermine the World Health Organisation. May 5th, 2020.](#)

[Public health must be strengthened for a healthy post COVID world. EPHA newsletter. April 30th 2020.](#)

[ASPHER statement on COVID-19 testing.](#)

[UK's alternative scientific advisers put public health first BMJ 27th May 2020.](#)

[Virtual lecture to Wolverhampton, public health students and faculty May 22nd, 2020: a pandemic of international cooperation.](#)

[ASPHER statement on inequalities and vulnerable populations](#)

[ASPHER web platform on de-escalation policies](#)

[ASPHER handbook on basic epidemiology definitions: 'How to count illness?'](#)

I commend my colleagues in the ASPHER Secretariat for their tireless work; although I say this each time, it is always true, and during the current crisis they have really gone the extra mile on all our behalves. Thank you, Lore, Robert and Naomi. As we go into our virtual annual [Deans' & Directors' Retreat](#) meeting tomorrow, we should all welcome our renewed commitment to international cooperation between schools of public health on five continents. On May 15th, I was pleased to take part on ASPHER's behalf, in the [first meeting of the Global Network for Academic Public Health](#), convened by the North American Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH). This will be followed up by a meeting in our virtual Retreat which we hope will push the agenda of international schools' cooperation even faster. There has never been a more important time, in the history of public health, for schools to come together, in professional expertise, in joint advocacy and in solidarity.

Yours in Health,

John Middleton,
President ASPHER

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Greetings to all our Members from the ASPHER Secretariat.

Welcome to our first monthly newsletter and what a busy month it has been! We seem to have filled as much space during the month of June as we've brought to you in the past in our quarterly newsletters.

We are excited that the new monthly format will keep you up to date to give you a better opportunity to engage with ASPHER activities as they are happening and to promote and spread news from your schools.

Over the coming months, in addition to the usual news, we will feature two special items in each newsletter. The first will bring you one of our TIPH Europe Campaign winners so you will have a chance to see what great initiatives they have come up with and perhaps find inspiration from their campaigns for use in your own school context. The first one to be presented here is from Jagiellonian University, Krakow.

The second item will spotlight COVID-19 work from a number of our Members showing the variety of ways SPHs are contributing to the fight against the pandemic. This month we bring you a report from University College, Dublin with their experience setting up and training volunteers for a Contact Tracing Call Centre.

Importantly this month, you will also find information on the ASPHER 2020 Virtual Retreat. The full schedule is available [here](#) and we look forward to connecting with you all on Tuesday 2 June from 13:00-16:00 CEST (Brussels time). The event will be live-streaming so pass the information on to your colleagues!

It has been terrific to find so many ways to engage with a young generation of public health professionals over the past months through the TIPH Campaigns and now with a motivated group of young researchers engaged with the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force. We will be working to keep that momentum going by bringing in young researchers for other projects beyond COVID-19, through the ASPHER 2025 Strategy, and the ASPHER Advance forum!

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 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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ASPHER 2020 DEANS' & DIRECTORS' VIRTUAL RETREAT



Unfortunately, we will not be meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria this year as planned, but we hope you will join us tomorrow, Tuesday 2 June from 13:00- 16:00 CEST (Brussels time) for the 2020 Deans' & Directors' Virtual Retreat. See the schedule below and we look forward to seeing you next year in Sofia!

The event will be livestreamed on [ASPHER's Facebook page](#). The direct livestream link will go live at 13:00 CEST: <https://www.facebook.com/ASPHERoffice/live/>. A Facebook account is not required to access the livestream.

Retreat Programme

Tuesday 2 June 13:00 - 16:00 CEST (Brussels time)

Session 1: 13:00 – 14:45 CEST

Welcome Address: Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe

Welcome Address: Tzekomir Vodenicharov, Founding Dean, SPH Medical University Sofia

Welcome Address: Walter Ricciardi, President Elect, World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)

Keynote Address: If schools of public health disappeared, would anyone notice?

Alex Jadad, Founder of the Centre for Global eHealth Innovation at the University Health Network, and Professor and Director of the Institute for Global Health Innovation and Equity in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Moderated by John Middleton, ASPHER President & Walter Ricciardi, WFPHA President Elect

COVID-19: Sharing Stories from ASPHER and selected SPHs

John Middleton, ASPHER President: Actions of the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force

Carlo Signorelli & Anna Odone, SPH Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan: Reporting from the frontlines

Oliver Razum, SPH Bielefeld University: COVID-19 outbreaks in refugee accommodation in Germany

Laurent Chambaud, EHESP School of Public Health, Rennes: Role of SPHs in outbreak containment;

Mary Codd: SPH University College Dublin: Establishing, training and running of a Contact Tracing call centre

This is Public Health – Europe campaign 2019/2020 highlights - Naomi Nathan, ASPHER Fellow & ASPHER Advance Forum

Session 1 Closing Remarks - John Middleton, ASPHER President & **Invitation to 2021 Sofia D&D Retreat** - Karolina Lyubomirova, SPH Medical University Sofia

----- Break -----

Session 2: 15:00-16:00 CEST

Panel of School of Public Health Associations: Reflecting on global collaboration - Where we are 10 years after the [World Summit of Schools of Public Health Declaration](#), Amsterdam 2010. Panelists:

John Middleton, President, ASPHER;

Laura Magaña, President, Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)

Wah-Yun Low, President, Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH)

Philip Baba Adongo, President, Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa (ASPHA)

Salman Rawaf, President, Arab Public Health Association (ArPHA)

Rocío Sáenz, President & Karol Rojas, Latin American Alliance for Global Health (ALASAG)

Closing Remarks - John Middleton, ASPHER President

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Further Member only Retreat events will follow later in the year:

Later in June (TBA) for discussion of the ASPHER 2025 agenda

Thursday 10 September ASPHER General Assembly

For those of you who submitted Abstracts for the original Retreat, we are considering setting up thematic sessions later in the year. Stay tuned!

We look forward to connecting with you on Tuesday!

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COVID-19 NEWS

ASPHER COVID-19 Initiatives from our Members and Partners

Each month over the coming months, ASPHER will be featuring a more in depth look at COVID-19 actions taken by select Member Schools. This month we hear from University College, Dublin which set up a contact tracing centre in Ireland.

If your school has an interesting initiative related to COVID-19 let Lore know at lore.leighton@aspher.org.

Contact Tracing for COVID-19 at the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (SPHSS), Dublin, Ireland

The first case of coronavirus in Ireland was reported on 29 February 2020. By 12 March there were 70 cases, school colleges and childcare centres were closed and outdoor gatherings of 500 or more were cancelled. This included the annual St. Patrick's Day festivities on 17 March. Plans for all phases of the response were underway, including a much-needed increase in coronavirus swabbing and testing capacity nationally, engineering for anticipated acute hospital facilities and establishment of a national contact management programme by the Health Services Executive (HSE). Contact tracing centres (CTCs) were established in nine locations. The CTC at the UCD School of Public Health,



Physiotherapy and Sports Science was the first of these satellite centres. Led by epidemiologist and Associate Dean of Public Health, Mary Codd, and Professor of Public Health, Patrick Wall, supported by President Andrew Deeks and the University Management Team, operations began in mid-March with recruitment of volunteers from across the university. Caller training materials, developed by HSE and a computerised data access and management system for identification of cases and documentation of call outcomes, were made available. In a matter of days over 240 volunteers at all levels in the university from professor to undergraduate, trained as callers and systems support personnel, were actively engaged in calling index cases, informing their test results, providing advice and guidance on recommended practices, self-isolation and return to work scenarios, establishing their contacts and calling close contacts of cases.

Notably, the volunteer corps at UCD comprises several faculty members from public health, nursing, occupational safety and health, physiotherapy, dietetics and nutrition, veterinary medicine and agricultural sciences. Their professional backgrounds have proven invaluable in handling complex clinical and situational issues that have emerged. Examples include: the competence of senior nursing colleagues with in-depth knowledge of the



workings of acute hospitals and residential care settings such as nursing homes, hospice facilities and intellectual disability services; the breadth of knowledge and networking capacity of public health colleagues to engage with traveller communities, direct provision centres and homeless health services; the specialist knowledge of veterinary medicine and agricultural science colleagues of processes and work practices in the meat and other industries where workers are at risk. This on-site expertise has resulted in the UCD centre becoming a recognised specialist CTC for training and contact tracing. And it emphasises the value of co-location of specialist academic faculties and the pivotal role of Public Health in bringing the expertise together to address an unanticipated and multifaceted public health crisis. This has also been a significant learning experience for several of our current MPH class and other Master level students in Dietetics and Physiotherapy, who are actively engaged with contact tracing, systems support and mathematical modelling of the infection, thus witnessing 'Public Health in Action'.



Running a CTC in the context of a pandemic necessitates rapid development of work practices and routines while adhering to national protective guidelines. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for volunteers addressing personal and spatial hygiene practices, social distancing, self-care, illness reporting and availability of psychological support services were developed and continue to evolve. SOPs also extend to telephone and caller etiquette, confidentiality

issues and policies on escalation of calls to specialist handlers. Daily briefings of volunteers appraise them of updates to national policies, changes to testing criteria and updates to work instructions for emerging scenarios. This is also the opportunity to encourage an

investigative attitude towards establishing circumstances in which infection is acquired, while at all times maintaining empathy with the persons and situations encountered.

At the time of writing just under 25,000 cases of coronavirus have been documented in Ireland; 1,652 people infected with the virus have died (31 May 2020). Recognising that contact tracing is just one of the components of a comprehensive response to the coronavirus pandemic, a brief overview of lessons learned from this activity would include the following:

- Coordination is key and is best provided by public health professionals with appropriate training, experience and networking skills;
- Professional backgrounds, life skills, experience and training of callers matter;
- Oversight, monitoring and evaluation of call centre processes matter;
- Vigilance is paramount; early recognition of circumstances in which the virus is spreading rapidly is key; this may be known first to callers in a contact tracing centre; public health authorities need to be notified rapidly and need to act on such notifications;
- Time is of the essence in managing outbreaks. Anything that militates against the most rapid response possible has to be overcome.

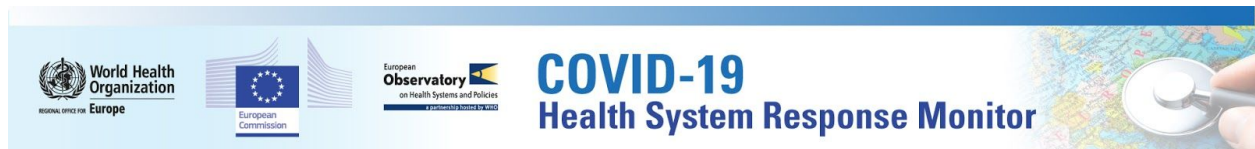
As ASPHER engages with the next iteration of the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals it is important to incorporate what we have learned as a community of public health schools and professionals about preparedness for emergencies and for communicable disease control in conjunction with agencies such as the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. While the COVID-19 pandemic is a catastrophic event for our societies it is important that Schools of Public Health step up and have their voices heard, showing the governments, decision makers and the public what public health can do. *“(it) 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” (Laurent Chambaud, Director of the EHESP School of Public Health).

Pictured here: UCD CTC Leads: Associate Dean of Public Health, Mary Codd, and Professor of Public Health, Patrick Wall, with their Support Team!

Health System Response Monitor



The [ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force](#) is teaming up with the COVID-19 [Health System Response Monitor](#) (HSRM) to provide rapid reporting for [Cross Country Analysis](#) on policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis. HSRM is a joint undertaking of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the European Commission, and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

We are looking for motivated young researchers to help produce rapid reports. If you have junior colleagues, students or alumni who might be interested please contact Naomi Nathan at naomi.nathan@aspher.org.

ASPHER declares its support for the World Health Organization

Jose M. Martin-Moreno, ASPHER Honours Committee Chair and John Middleton, ASPHER President have co-authored an article in support of the World Health Organization in The BMJ Opinion. The piece has become even more relevant in recent days as [Donald Trump has announced that the United States will withdraw from the WHO](#) in the midst of a global pandemic that has already [cost more than 100,000 lives in that country alone](#).

As excerpted from the piece:

During the covid-19 pandemic we have seen within our countries all kinds of [recreminations](#) and finger pointing, including at, among others, the government, the opposition and various expert committees.

And we have also observed the same behaviour on the international stage, with other countries and multiple [international organisations harshly criticised](#) or directly accused... and the World Health Organization (WHO) singled out with particular fierceness.

The [full editorial](#) details a sampling of the many important actions and responsibilities shouldered by WHO during the COVID-19 crisis, finding inspiration in their work and the initiatives that are supporting it.

When we are facing a great crisis, it is when people (leaders, professionals, family members, friends, or in short, all fellow citizens) must help each other, that synergy and the deepest affection can and must prevail.

Now is not the time to undermine the World Health Organization. Let's focus on the solutions! WHO has launched a Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund to help fight COVID-19. Find information on how to donate [here](#).

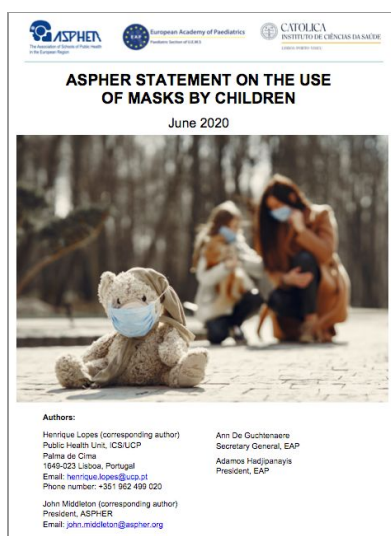
[Read the full editorial here.](#)

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.

You can look forward to reporting from the COVID-19 Task Force during the Virtual Retreat on Tuesday. If you or a colleague from your school would like to get involved please contact Robert at robert.otok@aspher.org.

Mask use by Children



In the course of developing the [ASPHER Statement on the Strategic Use of Masks](#), it became evident that very little is known regarding the use of face masks by and with children. In order to address this gap in knowledge the Task Force sub-group on masks has developed a Statement on the Use of Masks by Children co-authored by the [European Academy of Paediatrics](#) and the [Institute of Health Sciences, Catholic University Portugal](#).

The Statement provides recommendations on Masks use by age group and comes with a useful infographic.

[Download the Statement on the Use of Masks by Children here.](#)

Report on COVID-19 Testing

The [ASPHER Statement on the COVID-19 Testing](#) is now available!

Testing is essential to understand the dynamics of COVID-19 in the population, to plan preventive measures, and to provide the basis for appropriate therapeutic measures. After the identification of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the clinical definition of COVID-19, there was a rapid development of diagnostic and screening tools. Their accuracy needs to be assessed carefully as the interpretation of results could have profound impacts on individual and public health decision-making. We reviewed the information available on the

performance of existing tests to identify the virus (molecular tests) or its immunological expression (serological tests).

The major findings and concerns are highlighted in the [Statement](#), which links to an in-depth technical report: [COVID-19 testing: a reflection on test accuracy in the real world](#) and a [decision tree](#) to help guide testing decisions.

Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Task Force subgroup on de-escalation planning and aftermath has developed a page of the ASPHER website dedicated to policies and descriptions of the [state of the emergence from lockdown and recovery](#) from the pandemic in different countries.

It includes: background material and examples of recommended measures; cross-country analysis with epidemic curves overlaid by lockdown measures; conclusions thus far; further and ongoing work; and key references.

It is a dynamic page - material will be published there as it becomes available. If you would like to contribute, please contact the ASPHER secretariat.

Handbook of Basic Epidemiological Concepts

With the COVID-19 pandemic there has been an explosion in reporting, political discussion and public interest surrounding epidemiology, but there is much misunderstanding of basic terms and concepts. In response, the ASPHER COVID-19 Epidemiology Subgroup has put together a [Handbook of Basic epidemiological concepts for understanding the COVID-19 epidemic, entitled "How to Count Illness"](#).

ASPHER President, John Middleton prefaces the work:

There are over a hundred definitions of epidemiology. The one I use is "the study of disease in populations". It's simple and easy to remember.... Epidemiologists will probably question if it's right...

There has never been a greater interest in epidemiology than right now in the COVID-19 pandemic. There are have-a-go epidemiologists from all walks of life – people who use numbers for a living – mathematicians, statisticians, geographers, philosophers computer programmers, even accountants and quantity surveyors can be found showing their insights on the twitter sphere. There is some brilliant stuff out there, and new ways of presenting data hopefully giving us all new knowledge to keep people safe and stop the spread of this terrible virus. Our major newspapers have built up extensive repositories of data often shared for free, sometimes ahead of academic institutions and national governments. And in the common parlance, who would have imagined three months ago we would all be talking "epidemiology", " R_0 ", " R_t ,"prevalence", "incidence", "predictive value" and many more terms. But we must also encourage our politicians and public to get beyond a superficial

understanding of the terms they are using and recognise some of the pitfalls, misconceptions and potential errors inherent in what we do.

It is necessary for us all to understand what we mean by these terms. Colleagues in the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) - the oldest Association of PH - represent the great teaching engines of public health in Europe and beyond. This rapidly constructed compendium will hopefully help journalists, business consultants, other stakeholders and also members of the general public to develop their knowledge and expand the power of citizen science. We are all citizens of the world now, and we must all play our part in controlling and preventing the further spread of this pandemic.

I commend this glossary to epidemiology, translated in five languages, to you all.

[Download “How to Count Illness” here.](#)

Inequalities and Vulnerable Populations

The subgroup working on inequalities and vulnerable populations during COVID-19 has drafted their first Statement and set up a [web platform](#) to work on specific issues within this topic:

COVID-19 – How and why is the pandemic exacerbating and amplifying health inequalities and vulnerabilities in Europe?

A grim picture is emerging globally and in Europe but sustained modern public health approaches could offer more hope and better outcomes for the most vulnerable groups.

This first ASPHER statement on inequalities and vulnerable populations recognises the global phenomenon that many extra health inequalities are arising globally and that vulnerable populations are suffering across the world. ASPHER is committed to identifying whatever COVID-19 related information is being produced for these populations across the European Region.

The statement identifies three significant further epidemics with three causations impacted by COVID-19 and makes a call for concerted action.

[Read the full draft of the First Statement here.](#)

Other Sub-Group Topics

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

- Children’s issues
- Surveillance and tracking apps - implications on the use of electronic tracking applications during the pandemic and how they will be used after.
- Public Health Erosion

- 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.

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 rapid 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.

A Pandemic of International Cooperation?

On 22 May, ASPHER President John Middleton shared his thoughts on the control of Covid-19 and interventions to control future pandemics. On the one hand we have seen the very best in decisive political leadership, public service and personal sacrifice, on the other hand we've seen the continuing failure of nations to respond sufficiently and peddle fake news. The gap between rich and poor gets wider, within countries and between countries, and between continents...

This seminar explores how public health organisations such as ASPHER are working together with public health practitioners and Universities such as Wolverhampton towards better interventions for the control of COVID-19, improving knowledge and sharing information, and building better public health training and capacity for the next wave, or the next pandemic?

The seminar is available on youtube [here](#) and you can find the slideshow from his talk [here](#).

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.

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

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.

ASPHER COVID-19 Resource Webpage

ASPHER continues to maintain 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 with any relevant material or links.

Calls for your blogs and 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 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, if interested.

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

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 with your material.

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.

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 so we can feature them at the ASPHER [COVID-19 Resource page](#) and in the next ASPHER newsletter.

Publications:

Chambaud L. [Distanciation sociale, masques, flot de données: les informations sont-elles pertinentes ?](#) The Conversation. 11 May 2020 (In French)

Middleton J. UK's alternative scientific advisers put public health first. A good start and cautious welcome for new Independent SAGE. BMJ 2020;369:m2056 <https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/369/bmj.m2056.full.pdf>

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THIS IS PUBLIC HEALTH (TIPH) EUROPE CAMPAIGN



Each month for the ASPHER newsletter we will be featuring one of the This is Public Health (TIPH) European Campaign winners. We hope these features will be an inspiration to all our Members to draw upon for how your schools can make use of the TIPH Campaign and contribute to the recognition and visibility to public health and the work of SPHs. The first featured campaign we are bringing to you comes from Jagiellonian University, Krakow.

TIPH Krakow report

Public health is the future!

By Ilona Nenko, coordinator of TIPH campaign, Krakow

Public health is the future! That is the title of the This Is Public Health (TIPH) Campaign conducted in Krakow at the [Institute of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences at Jagiellonian University Medical College](#). Our campaign had two important goals: (1) to enhance the visibility and understanding of public health in Poland, especially among secondary school students; (2) to show and promote among young people the opportunities and challenges for professional careers in public health. TIPH, Krakow focused its activities on highlighting the most up to date public health topics. In order to show the multidimensionality of public health and achieve the first goal we published a series of popular science articles on different public health issues:

1. **Psychosocial determinants of cardiovascular diseases (CVD)** in which Magdalena Kozela, Andrzej Pająk and Michał Zabdyr-Jamróż showed how important it is to look wider into risk factors of CVD – it is not only smoking, lack of physical activity and poor diet that are associated with elevated risk of CVD. Significant increase in mortality risk due to CVD is also seen among people with low social status, symptoms of depression or low sense of control.
2. **Impact of indoor air quality on health** by Bartosz Balcerzak. In recent years, awareness of the negative impact of air pollution on human health has increased. Importantly, many types of air pollution are released from products and objects found in the home. The situation is aggravated by the fact that people spend a significant amount of their time indoors and consequently are exposed to harmful factors over a long duration of time.
3. **Electronic medical documentation** by Mariusz Kielar, Szczepan Jakubowski and our graduate Monika Kukla (Business Solutions Consultant in Comarch Healthcare). Electronic medical documentation is a crucial factor in the development of a modern health care system. Electronic medical documentation as a source of knowledge about the patient is the "heart" of a modern health care system, therefore, due to its implementation it is possible to further develop other elements

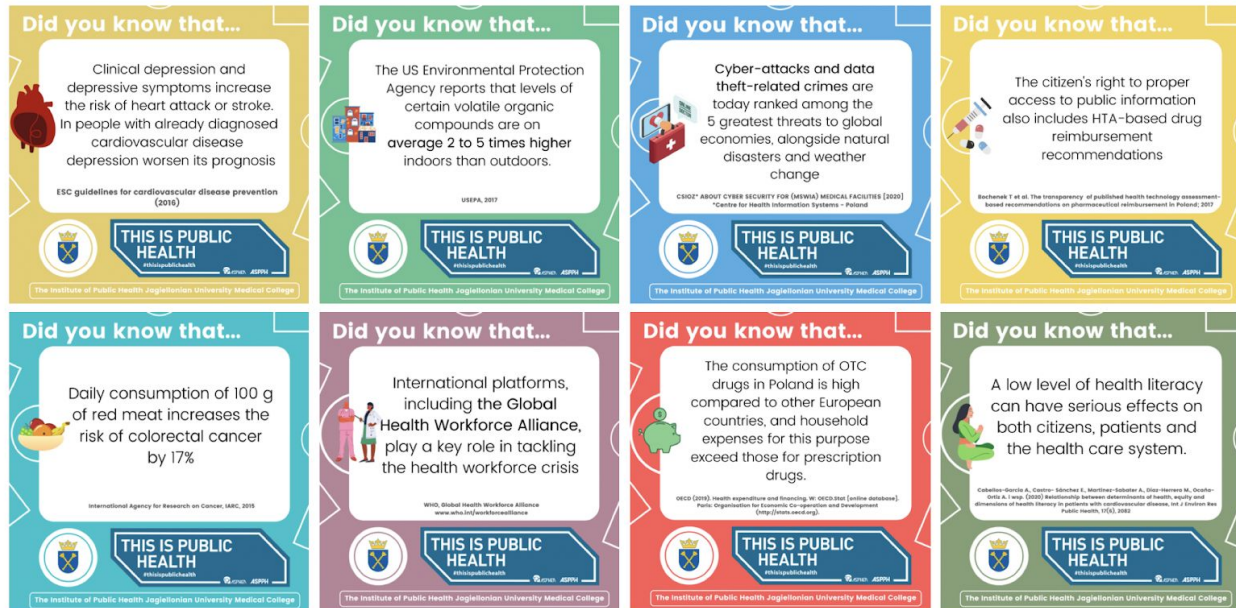
based on medical information systems.

4. **Health Technology Assessment (HTA)** by Tomasz Bochenek. HTA helps to answer the critically important question of how to spend the always limited amounts of money on very much needed health care services, medicines and medical devices. A combination of knowledge of medicine, pharmacy, economics, law, ethics and other disciplines helps to achieve public health goals.
5. **Obesity prevention** by Ewa Błaszczuk-Bębenek and Maria Kret (Polish Dietetic Association). Noncommunicable disease (NCD) is the primary health problem worldwide. Obesity is a modifiable risk factor for chronic NCD, and therefore prevention is an important goal for public health.
6. **Growing shortage of medical staff in Poland** by Alicja Domagała. Shortage of medical staff is currently the main challenge for Polish policy-makers and health care managers. Poland is characterized by the lowest number of practicing physicians and nurses per 1.000 population amongst European Union countries. Medical staff deficits cause many serious problems, including limited access to healthcare for patients and decreasing quality of services.
7. **Patient out-of-pocket payments for health** by Marzena Tambor, Olga Partyka (national Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene), Aleksandra Czerw (Warsaw Medical University). Patients commonly pay out-of-pocket for health care services and medicines. In Poland, nearly 9% of households – approx. 3.7 million people – have very high expenditures on health, i.e., large enough spending so that people have to cut down on other necessities such as food, clothing or fuel used for cooking and heating.

6 months 8 Public Health issues

 <p>TO JEST ZDROWIE PUBLICZNE INSTYTUT ZDROWIA PUBLICZNEGO UJCM</p> <p>IZPWNZ.CM.UJ.EDU.PL Czy zły nastrój może spowodować zawał serca? O p... chorób sercowo-naczyniowych Więcej informacji</p>	 <p>TO JEST ZDROWIE PUBLICZNE INSTYTUT ZDROWIA PUBLICZNEGO UJCM</p> <p>IZPWNZ.CM.UJ.EDU.PL Gorsze niż smog? Co wdychamy we własnym domu Bartosz Balcerzak: W ostatnich latach wzrosła świadomość społeczeńst...</p>	 <p>TO JEST ZDROWIE PUBLICZNE INSTYTUT ZDROWIA PUBLICZNEGO UJCM</p> <p>IZPWNZ.CM.UJ.EDU.PL Cyfrowe zdrowie jako metoda nowoczesnego leczenia pacjentów</p>	 <p>TO JEST ZDROWIE PUBLICZNE INSTYTUT ZDROWIA PUBLICZNEGO UJCM</p> <p>IZPWNZ.CM.UJ.EDU.PL Ocena technologii medycznych (HTA): Czyli jak mądrze wydawać pieniądze z NFZ?</p>
9 December 2019	30 December 2019	20 January 2020	17 February 2020
 <p>TO JEST ZDROWIE PUBLICZNE INSTYTUT ZDROWIA PUBLICZNEGO UJCM</p> <p>IZPWNZ.CM.UJ.EDU.PL Czego nie wiedzieli Venus z Willendorfu – słów kilka o otyłości Ewa Błaszczuk-Bębenek i Maria Kret: Dziś już wiemy jakie konsekwencje...</p>	 <p>TO JEST ZDROWIE PUBLICZNE INSTYTUT ZDROWIA PUBLICZNEGO UJCM</p> <p>IZPWNZ.CM.UJ.EDU.PL Fakty i mity na temat braków lekarzy i pielęgniarek w Polsce Więcej informacji</p>	 <p>TO JEST ZDROWIE PUBLICZNE INSTYTUT ZDROWIA PUBLICZNEGO UJCM</p> <p>IZPWNZ.CM.UJ.EDU.PL Za co w ochronie zdrowia płacimy z własnej kieszeni? Marzena Tambor, Olga Partyka, Aleksandra Czerw: Każdemu z nas pewni...</p>	 <p>TO JEST ZDROWIE PUBLICZNE INSTYTUT ZDROWIA PUBLICZNEGO UJCM</p> <p>IZPWNZ.CM.UJ.EDU.PL Definiowanie kompetencji zdrowotnych oraz ich wpływ na podejmowanie decyzji związanych ze zdrowiem</p>
9 March 2020	30 March 2020	20 April 2020	11 May 2020

8. **Inadequate health literacy** by Karolina Sobecka and Sylwia Wójcik. Research shows that low health literacy increases the risk of mismanaging medication, lack of understanding of diseases and conditions, needing emergency care and being hospitalized. Thus, one of the most important aims for modern public health and health promotion should be to provide guidance on how people may improve their health literacy.

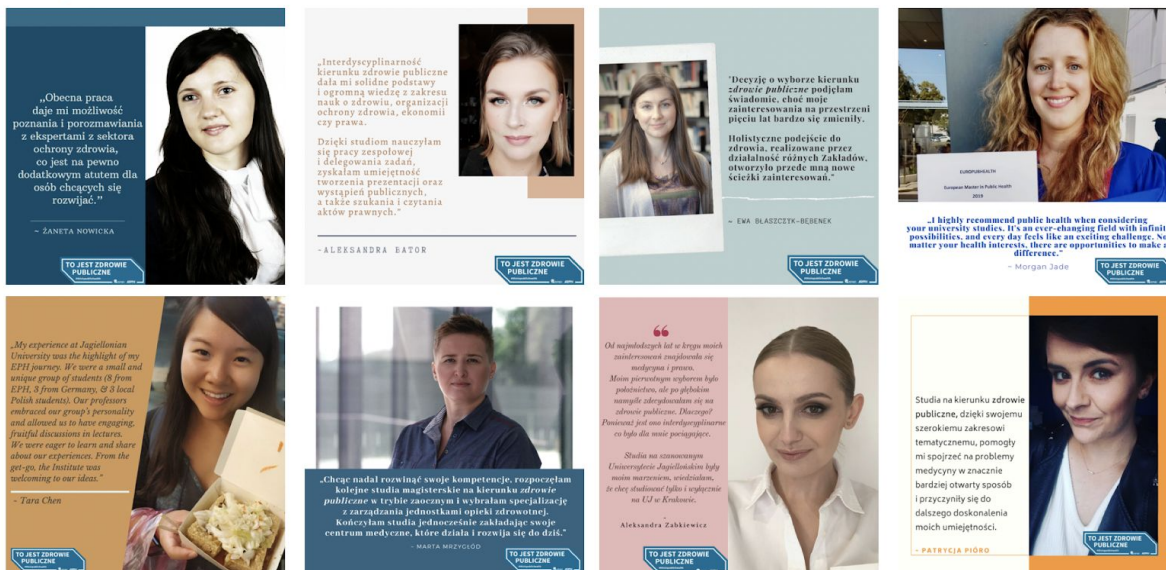


All TIPH Krakow articles were published on the [Public Health Blog](#) established in April 2018 by Michał Zabdyr-Jamróż. Each article was further promoted on the Institute's social media ([Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)) in order to reach as wide an audience as possible. On Instagram every third post was a special simple graphic related to a published article. Moreover, to achieve the first goal of the campaign, TIPH Krakow planned lectures for secondary school students from southern Poland. We met with student groups starting in January and before lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic we gave seven lectures to nearly 300 pupils.



TIPH, Krakow's second goal was to show and promote the opportunities and challenges for professional careers in public health among young people. Over the past months we published 15 interviews with public health graduates. Their stories show the very

interesting and successful occupations of our alumni working in various positions within the health care systems in Poland, USA, and Taiwan. Interviews were published on our Public Health Blog and further promoted on social media. Thanks to our Facebook page alone, we were able to reach 270 000 people!



All of the TIPH, Krakow activities were made possible due to the hard work of the staff of the Institute of Public Health: Bartosz Balcerzak, Ewa Błaszczyk-Bębenek, Tomasz Bochenek, Katarzyna Dubas-Jakóbczyk, Alicja Domagała, Maciej Furman, Szczepan Jakubowski, Mariusz Kielar, Karolina Sobecka, Marzena Tambor, Beata Piórecka, Sylwia Wójcik, Michał Zabdyr-Jamróż.

We would like to thank our external collaborators Monika Kukła, Maria Kret, Olga Partyka, and Aleksandra Czerw, who contributed to selected articles published on the Public Health Blog.



Through the TIPH, Krakow Campaign, we see even clearer now that Public health is the future! We hope and aspire to continue our work in the following days, months and years.

#ThisIsPublicHealth #TIPHEurope #ASPHERCampaign #ASPPHgoesglobal

Report from TIPH Europe webinar

TIPH Europe campaign grant holders were featured during a special webinar on Monday 11 May from 16:00-18:00 CET. The seminar considered the changing focus of TIPH campaigns in light of COVID-19. ASPHER President, John Middleton contributed along with colleagues from ASPPH, EUPHA, and WFPHA. The event was organised by the School of Public Health, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University in Milan.

SSPH+/ETZH TIPH Lecture Series

The Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) has completed its series of TIPH Lectures. A series of 13 lectures now available covering issues such as combating fake news, public health and law, cost/benefit of health care interventions, personalized health, health inequalities, data and much more!

Videos of the seminars are available from the [website](#) as well as slides and additional reading. The series was developed as part of their 15th Jubilee events.

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

What and who makes up Public Health is often not well understood by people outside of the field. 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!

We therefore encourage our Member Schools to label their COVID-19 actions with the This is Public Health (TIPH) Europe brand.

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

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REGULAR ASPHER BUSINESS

ASPHER General Assembly

The 2020 ASPHER General Assembly will be going virtual. 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 soon and we will plan a virtual meeting for ASPHER Members only to discuss Strategy developments.

ASPHER is planning for a Members Only discussion meeting on the ASPHER 2025 Strategy to be held later in June (TBA). We will be in touch through our regular mailings to let you know the time and date.

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..

For more about Carlo, see the [ASPHER Spring 2020 Newsletter](#). 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 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 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 by 30 June 2020.

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OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Launching the Global Network for Academic Public Health

On 15 May 2020, ASPHER met with representatives around the World to 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.

ASPHER is moving the momentum forward with a Panel Discussion during the the ASPHER Virtual Deans' & Directors'Retreat event on 2 June for a Panel Discussion reflecting on global collaboration - Where we are 10 years after the [World Summit of Schools of Public Health Declaration](#), Amsterdam 2010.

Key partners from the Global Network will make up the Panel: Laura Magaña, President of the [Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health \(ASPPH\)](#); Wah-Yun Low, President of the [Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health \(APACPH\)](#); and Philip Baba Adongo, President of the [Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa \(ASPHA\)](#) will

be joining ASPHER President, John Middleton. They will be joined by Salman Rawaf, President of the Arab Public Health Association (ArPHA) and Rocío Sáenz, President & Karol Rojas of the [Latin American Alliance for Global Health \(ALASAG\)](#).

We expect it to be a lively Panel to help provide direction for how to move forward over the next 10 years. ASPHER also expects it to inform priorities for the global collaboration pillar of the ASPHER 2025 Strategy.

Human Rights in Patient Care Collection at *Public Health Reviews*

The Special collection of articles on [Human Rights in Patient Care](#) is now complete at ASPHER's Journal, [Public Health Reviews](#). The Collection was edited by Tamar Ezer and Judy Overall.

Legal, ethical, and human rights norms are an increasingly important component of the delivery of quality medical care. For society's most marginalized, health care settings are too often places of punishment, coercion, or violations of basic rights to consent and confidentiality, rather than places of treatment and care. At the same time, health practitioners may be unaware of how to incorporate ethics and human rights norms into their work and may suffer from a lack of independence, decent working conditions, and due process protections.

The concept of human rights in patient care brings together the rights of both patients and health care providers and refers to the application of general human rights principles to the context of patient care. It focuses on systemic issues and the role of the state.

This article collection explores various aspects of human rights in patient care. This includes state responsibility in private health facilities, intersections with palliative care and reproductive health, and dimensions relevant to particular populations, including Roma, people who use drugs, and transgender individuals.

If you have an idea for an article collection contact Lore at lore.leighton@aspher.org and don't forget to consider PHRS for your next publication.

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 is still open until Wednesday 4 June and will take approximately 15 minutes to complete, so please act now! It is accessible via <https://bit.ly/2XX1IaX>. The password is ASPHERclimate20

If you have any questions, please contact Rana at ranaorhan@gmail.com.

European Public Health Week Report



Congratulations to EUPHA on a successful European Public Health Week which was held from 11 - 15 May. Promoting public health is now more important than ever in light of the COVID-19 outbreak!



As with the Deans' & Directors' Retreat EUPHW went virtual this year and ASPHER was involved with [several webinars](#) including the Global Governance for Health Seminar on the 11th May where ASPHER President John Middleton, ASPHER past-President Kasia Czabanowska and ASPHER Executive Board Member, Carlo Signorelli took part along with EUPHA, WHO, and ASPPH.

For Wednesday, Staying together for Mental Health Day, the Inequalities and Vulnerabilities Subgroup of the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force in partnership with EDUCAUS led a webinar on Inclusion of Autism in Europe. [Watch the webinar here.](#)

Thanks to EUPHA for the EUPHW initiative, which is becoming a highlight of the Public Health Calendar in Europe!

16th World Congress on Public Health

ONLINE CONGRESS: 12 – 16 OCTOBER 2020



The 16th World Congress on Public Health is going virtual with over 3,000 abstracts from 112 countries accepted and a special congress track on COVID-19. Daily sessions from 6 am – 11 pm for all time zones. Live plenary sessions, live workshops, exhibition area, reduced registration fees. [Read more](#)

Registration for the virtual WCPH 2020 is open. Registration fees have been substantially reduced, ranging from EUR 130 (students) to EUR 240 (non-members) for the full congress. Special discount is offered to attendees from emerging countries. Low rates apply until 5 August. [Read more](#)

ASPHER is proud that ASPHER President, John Middleton and ASPHER Immediate Past President, Kasia Czabanowska will be participating in WCPH as [Plenary Speakers](#).

Partner Organisations

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](#).

Share the ASPHER newsletter!



[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

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