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September 2020 ASPHER Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I hope you have all been able to get some rest and respite over the summer. For many of us, the summer has been one of continuing duties – working on our schools’ plans for reopening or virtual teaching in the autumn, planning for a second wave of COVID-19, planning for a healthier future after COVID, or watching with horror as new disasters unfold [with the continuing pandemic, the disaster in Beirut](#), and [continuing civil unrest](#) in the United States and the [demolition of Public Health England!](#) Look out for more on this in my next ‘from our UK correspondent blog’ due soon!

[ASPHER’s survey of schools’ plans for reopening this autumn](#) is a valuable piece of work and I commend it to you. My thanks to Tobias Weitzel, Pallavi Chatarajupali, Melissa Sawaya, Ranjeet Dhonkal and Ines Siepmann for their work on this.

The situation continues to be [volatile across Europe](#) with plans made one week overturned the next, and more local measures implemented. COVID infections seem to be affecting younger age groups, with fewer fatalities and serious illnesses and placing less demand on hospitals. But the virus may be just ticking over in younger populations, so we should expect [more consequences for older, iller populations later in the autumn](#).

The effect on younger populations has stronger implications for schools. It isn’t just a question of protecting our students in the classroom. The population of many university towns and cities is massively swelled by large influxes of students. Their time in class will be a very small part of their day and there will be the potential for COVID to be reignited in whole communities. The apparent impact on younger people is also not the end of the story – in examples such as Florida and Switzerland earlier in the pandemic, younger people have been affected in large numbers and have provided a spring board for infection and death of older people.

ASPHER’s statement on [planning for winter and the second wave](#) remains sound – I commend it to you. A short version [is now published](#) in the International Journal of Public Health and my assessment of the [state of winter planning in England](#) has been published in BMJ opinion. My thanks to Henrique Lopes, Kai Michelson, John Reid and Pallavi Chatarajupalli for their work on this. With Birmingham and Warwick University colleagues, we have also published a BMJ editorial on [breaking the cycle of transmission in the home](#).

The use of [‘fangcang’- field or isolation hospitals in Wuhan](#) was judged to be a major component of reducing the rate of infection earlier this year. ASPHER has prepared a cross-country comparison of how European countries are using ‘makeshift’ facilities to isolate affected persons. We will publish this shortly. Thank you to Costase Ndayishimiye our researcher on this. Isolating people with milder infections seems to be difficult or contentious in western societies but it is a missing element of our control strategies. I also commend our resources on [surveillance apps](#) to you. Excellent work from Henrique Barros, Tobias Weitzel, and colleagues. The [glossary of terms](#) is helpful and [cross-country](#)

[comparisons](#) insightful. We will soon be publishing a statement on vaccination ethics, effectiveness and availability issues. Look out for that one. Another major resource we have developed is [our dynamic epicurves with timelines for actions](#) taken by a range of countries during the pandemic. I am particularly grateful to Ranjeet Dhonkal for his great work on this.

ASPHER has been in the news with [the Portuguese article](#) on our ‘[How to Count Illness](#)’ [report](#). Thanks to Henrique Lopes for helping the journalist and thanks to Carlo Signorelli and colleagues for putting the report together. There has also been renewed interest in our [COVID testing in the real world](#) report. Politico published an article on [questions of test accuracy](#) and the international dash to test more, in which I am quoted. It would be great if more ASPHER members could use our resources actively with your own country’s journalists – national or local – and do let us know the coverage you get...

I was pleased to be able to speak at an Arab Public Health Association Webinar on COVID-19 and public health competencies on August 12th. The presentation included our key documents on public health competence – the [WHO-ASPHER competency framework for the public health workforce in the European Region](#) and the [ASPHER core competences for the public health professional, 5th edition](#). You can find my presentation [here](#). Thanks to Professor Salman Rawaf and colleagues for making this happen.

The meeting followed only a week after the terrible disaster in Beirut. With the Global Network for Academic Public Health, we have expressed [our great sadness and solidarity with the people of the Lebanon](#) who continue to suffer so much and now carrying this additional burden. We will be discussing further with Professor Iman Nuwayhid and his colleagues at the American University of Beirut about how our members in the new global network can help.

I am also pleased to note that the presentations from the most excellent Better Future for Healthy Ageing conference in Zagreb in June are now all available on Youtube. My presentation – ‘Dying young as old as possible’ is [here](#). The other presentations including excellent ones by ASPHER superstars Josep Figueras and Jose Martin-Moreno can be found on these links:

- Day 1 - <https://bfha2020.hr/day-1>
- Day 2 - <https://bfha2020.hr/day-2>
- Day 3 - <https://bfha2020.hr/day-3>

I am grateful to Mirjana Kujundzic Tiljak for her vision and commitment in making the conference happen, and to Mislav Selendic for his great technical help to me and I am sure others too.

Now as we return to more and difficult business – campaigning, teaching, planning and implementing services to protect and improve the health of the people we serve – let us all strive with new resolve to do it to our very highest standards!

I would like to thank our Secretariat Robert Otok and Lore Leighton for the immense and additional service they have given me, and ASPHER this summer. Well beyond the call of

duty. Do join us for the General Assembly on September 10th. ASPHER is your organisation. We are growing in strength with the active involvement of more of our members and more of our young professionals. Do play your part in the work of ASPHER so we can support you with greater services in future.

My very best wishes for your good health and safety in these difficult times.

John Middleton
President, ASPHER
August 28th 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

At the end of a very busy summer, ASPHER Secretariat took a bit of a break from the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force, although the individual Task Force subgroups have been keeping themselves engaged with their work, as noted in John Middleton's Message from the President. New translations of the epi-booklet 'How to Count Illness' continue to be added to the webpage – eight language versions are available with more to come soon. We encourage you to use and distribute this widely in your national contexts. The COVID-19 Member School feature this month discusses ['Boosting Public Health Resources in COVID-19 times' at the University Vita-Salute San Raffaele](#). Our Associate Member School at the [Institute of Public Health in Mexico has also sent us a report on 'COVID-19 impacts on Child Malnutrition'](#) reminding us of the repercussions of the disease on widening inequalities.

Meanwhile, during the August pause, much exciting news arrived! The ASPHER led consortium has won our [bid to update the Core Competencies on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology for ECDC](#). The project will help to kick off a new chapter in the ASPHER competency programme development, which is under the leadership of ASPHER Executive Board Member Mary Codd from University College Dublin. This timely project started officially on September 1 and will continue for 10 months. We'd also like to hint at further good news arriving from the ERASMUS+ programme that we will be able to share with members soon – once we've secured that contract as well.

The Secretariat joins our President to call on all Members to send representatives to join the upcoming [ASPHER General Assembly](#) on Thursday 10 September. We are thrilled to have [10 new members](#) joining and we are looking forward to some exciting announcements and news as outlined in this newsletter including: the [Andrija Stampar Medal](#), [Good Practice Award](#), and [Executive Board](#) and [Presidential](#) elections. Don't miss the General Assembly, be sure to register at GA2020@aspheer.org.

When you mark your calendars for the GA, we urge Members to also note several other upcoming special events we are bringing to you. These include a special [webinar on the WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework for the Public Health Workforce in the European](#)

[Region](#) and a [Conversation with the Author of the book: Well: What We Need to Talk about When We Talk about Health](#). Both webinar events are scheduled for Friday 11 September and there are many other happenings to learn about for this month in the newsletter.

In September, we will start working on the preparatory phase of the ASPHER 2025 strategy implementation in order to enable its smooth take off. Several important developments in the strategy will be considered. Among others, members can expect more news on the students and alumni agenda, as well as much more about the governance and some key portfolio context. See the strategy outline if you've missed it before, including elements on membership services.

The TIPH Europe Campaign will wrap up in September and we hope you have enjoyed our Newsletter features on the Campaigns in Krakow, Israel, and Maastricht. The [Sheffield School of Health and Related Research \(ScHARR\) Talk Public Health Campaign](#) is featured this month along with an update on the release of the [TIPH Maastricht Campaign video](#). You can expect news from the TIPH campaigns in Italy, Sofia and Kaunas to be featured in the remaining 2020 newsletters (October, November and December).

And finally we are all very excited for the approaching big public health event with next month's World Congress on Public Health. Members will be able to read a full overview of the ASPHER related WCPH happenings in the October newsletter.

We trust you will all keep safe while we approach the autumn and winter seasons. As our cover photo shows, the path ahead during the times of COVID-19 is still unclear. Be sure to keep close to ASPHER as we all navigate to find our way – read John Middleton's call – ASPHER it is your organisation and with your engagement we are better able to serve all our Members.

We look forward to seeing many of you on Thursday!

Best Wishes from the ASPHER Secretariat,

Robert Otok, Lore Leighton, Naomi Nathan - ASPHER Secretariat

Please don't forget to share your news, publications and announcements with lore.leighton@aspher.org to be included in the next regular issue of the Newsletter and on the [ASPHER website activity log](#). **We are now 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 General Assembly

We will hold the **ASPHER General Assembly online from 15:00 - 17:30 CEST (Brussels time) on Thursday 10 September 2020**. Please note this meeting date in your agenda! You can look forward to information about the President and Executive Board elections and the nominees for the Andrija Stampar Medal 2020 and the ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Good Practice Award 2020 in this edition of the ASPHER newsletter. Always check back to the [ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat webpage](#) for the most up to date information.

Agenda Highlights

Acceptance of new members

ASPHER is pleased to present our new Full Member Candidate Schools:

1. [Center for Public Health, Medical University of Vienna, AUSTRIA](#)
2. [Centre of Public Health Sciences, University of Iceland, ICELAND](#)
3. [Faculty of Public Health, University of Thessaly, GREECE](#)
4. [School of Public Health, University of Pavia, ITALY](#)
5. [School of Public Health, University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, ITALY](#)
6. [School of Public Health, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Rome, ITALY](#)
7. [School of Public Health, University of Pisa, ITALY](#)
8. [School of Health Sciences, University of Georgia, GEORGIA](#)
9. [Cluj School of Public Health, Babes-Bolyai University, ROMANIA](#)
10. [Faculty of Population Health Sciences, University College London, UK](#)

Report from the President including ASPHER 2025 strategy outline

[Link to 2025 Strategy Outline](#)

Andrija Stampar Medal 2020: Selma Šogorić, MD, MPH, PhD



Each year, ASPHER awards the prestigious Andrija Štampar Medal to a distinguished person for excellence in the field of Public Health. The 2020 medalist, Selma Šogorić has been chosen in recognition of the outstanding accomplishments during her career.

Selma Šogorić, MD, MPH, PhD is a professor at the Andrija Štampar School of Public Health, School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia. Selma Šogorić's greatest professional and scientific interest is related to the field of community health, health policy, and the organization of the health system. Internationally, Selma Šogorić is well known for her contributions to the Healthy Cities and Counties movement across Europe. Through her work with Healthy Cities and Counties projects, Selma Šogorić collaborates with local and national administration representatives, professionals from other disciplines, and public and non-governmental organizations from Croatia and abroad.

Prof. Šogorić imparts her wisdom and knowledge to a new generation of students as a lecturer and course leader for undergraduate medical (Croatian and English language students); nursing students; postgraduate students in Public Health; health management training courses for health institution managers; and continuing medical training courses. In 1994 she founded and for many years she has been executive director of the Motovun Summer School of Health Promotion in Istria, Croatia.

Selma Šogorić is also a very productive public health scientist and she has an impressive opus of papers, books, and textbooks.

Deans' and Directors' Good Practice Award 2020: Train4M&H



The ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Good Practice Award showcases the best master programmes and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses offered by members of the Association. The 2020 award goes to Train4M&H, which developed CPD training programmes for four determined target groups: health professionals, social workers, law enforcement officers or professionals with equivalent functions, and coach trainers. For the first three target groups, the training programmes aim directly at individuals who are working at local level with migrants and refugees. The training programme for coach trainers is targeted at experienced trainers who are able to further disseminate training content when the need arises.

All training programmes were conceptualised with a view to develop or reinforce skills, enhance understanding and positive attitudes, and promote a holistic approach in the work with migrants and refugees. Specifically, it aims at providing self-training materials for the targeted population, in national languages. They can be taught separately, or in a multidisciplinary setting combining several target groups.

While the action encompassed an extensive roll-out reaching over 2,000 participants across the 33 countries participating in the EU Health Programme, further use of the programmes is also supported by an e-training course.



Train4M&H was funded by the 3rd EU Health Programme.

ASPHER survey: the role of SPHs in the COVID-19 response and beyond

[Survey Report](#)

ASPHER survey: reopening SPH/university campuses

[Survey Report](#)

Election of Executive Board members

ASPHER has two superb candidates running for two vacating seats on the Executive Board, Nadav Davidovitch of Ben Gurion University of the Negev and Carla Lopes of University of Porto. Voting will be by acclamation.

Nadav DAVIDOVITCH



Nadav Davidovitch, MD, MPH, PhD is an epidemiologist and public health physician. He is a Full Professor and Director, School of Public Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel. His research interests: health policy, public health, vaccination policy, one health/ecohealth, comparative healthcare systems, health inequities, public health ethics, and global health.

Prof. Davidovitch serves on several international and national committees, among them: Governing Board, European Public Health Association; Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) COVID-19 Task Force; Israeli Advisory Board on COVID-19; Israeli Public Health Forum, Israeli Medical Association; joint committee on environmental health (Israel Ministry of Health and Ministry for the Protection of the Environment).

He authored or co-authored over 140 papers and book chapters, coedited six volumes and books and published his work in leading medical and health policy journals, such as the New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet, Clinical Infectious Diseases, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Journal of Pediatrics, Vaccine, Social Science and Medicine, and Law & Contemporary Problems.

Carla LOPES



Carla Lopes, PhD is Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health and Coordinator of the PhD programme in Public Health at the University of Porto Medical School (FMUP). She is currently a Member of the Pedagogic Council at FMUP, having served as Vice-President to the Council from 2010-2018. Carla Lopes was a Member of the Senate at the University of Porto from 2015-2018 and part of the University of Porto Coordinating Council of Improvement of Teaching-Learning from 2012-2018.

Prof. Lopes's research focuses on the relationship between dietary/lifestyle exposures and cardiovascular diseases including coronary heart disease, hypertension and obesity. She also is interested in the assessment of dietary intake, dietary patterns and its determinants, namely how early life determinants influence later food patterns and obesity. She was a Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the European network programme on Determinants of Dietary and Physical Activity (2014-2016); President of the general Council of Nutritionists in Portugal (2016-2019); Member of the Scientific Committee of "Platform against Obesity" – DGS-Ministry of Health (2009-2012); Coordinator of Nutrition in Cardiology Group of the Portuguese Society of Cardiology (2007-2011); and Consultant member of the Forensic Medicine Institute - FMUP (2006-2011). Carla Lopes is a Member of the International Epidemiological Association.

Since 2005 Carla has been involved in ASPHER activities, namely in development of Core Competences in Nutrition in Public Health and in the Working Group on Doctoral Programmes and Research Capacities.

Election of President-Elect

Carlo SIGNORELLI



ASPHER is proud to have Carlo Signorelli from Vita-Salute San Raffaele University running for ASPHER President. Voting will be by acclamation.

Carlo Signorelli, PhD is 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). He 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.

Prof. Signorelli is author of over 1300 scientific and journalistic publications (220 of which are listed in PubMed and 40 university texts). H-index: 25. Coordinator of 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.

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 Boards of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and of the Association of the Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER). He is a freelance scientific journalist and editor of the Newsletter (www.igienistionline.it).

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 selected Member Schools. **This month we hear from Italy - from the School of Public Health, University Vita-Salute San Raffaele.** If your school has an interesting initiative related to COVID-19 let Lore know at lore.leighton@aspher.org.

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.

Boosting Public Health Resources in COVID-19 times: the experience of the the Residency Programmes in Italy and at the University Vita-Salute San Raffaele

By Carlo Signorelli, Anna Odone, Roberto Croci, Beatrice Frascella

School of Public Health (Igiene e Medicina Preventiva)

University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan

The current COVID-19 pandemic has testified to the great importance of Public Health, both as an ever-changing field of biomedical culture and research and as a vital backbone for Healthcare and Health Systems. In Italy, Public Health professionals, including young professionals, have faced extraordinary challenges: most Public Health Residents rotate between University Departments, Health Directions of Hospitals and Local Health Authorities. Therefore, the pandemic has been a chance for them to engage in research activities, mainly literature reviews and original studies in cooperation with clinicians, and COVID-19-centered science communication – for instance, raising awareness about social distancing and hygienic measures in the population by spreading informative contents on both traditional and social media.



As for the collaboration with Local Health Authorities (AUSL), the role of Public Health Residents in contact-tracing and outbreak investigation has been instrumental in fighting off COVID-19 and breaking transmission chains in most parts of the country. In June, the Italian National Institute of Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità) issued an e-learning contact-tracing course specifically targeted at the Public Health Residency Programmes. Many residents of Schools of Public Health participated with enthusiasm.

Thus, the COVID-19 pandemics has proven to be an invaluable chance for current Public Health residents to learn unique skills and to help tackle a worldwide emergency.

In Italy, where almost all Residency Programmes are supported by public funds, the total number of Public Health Residency contracts rose relevantly by 136%, from 231 in 2019 to 545 in 2020. Such an increase is justified by the increasing age of medical doctors and the high impact of retirements, especially in the hospital workforce. Indeed, [a recent report](#) by the trade union “ANAAO ASSOMED” forecasted a national shortage of more than 470 Public Health specialists by 2025. This year, mainly due to the acceleration brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, has seen partial answers to the relevant need for more medical residents. Still, if the critical lack of Human Resource planning keeps progressing, the future risk of a National Health Service deadlock due to insufficient personnel cannot be averted.

In March 2020, as COVID-19 was heavily striking Northern Italy, UniSR School of Public Health in Milan was inevitably faced with the burden of the emergency. As a consequence, all Public Health residents have been involved in activities that directly or indirectly concerned COVID-19.

In hospital settings, their role has included:

- Expediting the implementation of national- and subnational-level laws and guidelines in a rapidly-changing legislative scenario;
- Helping supervise, reallocate and create ICU and internal medicine COVID-19 dedicated units and beds;
- Rearranging logistics: from ER reorganization and the definition of specific, “isolated” COVID-19 pathways for suspect or confirmed cases, to monitoring supply-chain and stockpiling of PPEs to prevent any possible disruption;
- Supervising the orderly suspension (“Phase 1”), and subsequently reorganizing (“Phase 2”), for all routine and ordinary healthcare activities.

In community settings:

- Collaborating with Local Health Authorities in COVID-19 surveillance, as well as processing, elaborating and interpreting administrative and statistical data;
- Helping Regional emergency services, with coordinating jobs ranging from telephonic triage of patients, to ambulance and inter-hospital Emergency Room management.

Furthermore, our School as many others has carried out intensive COVID-19 related academic activity, with a relevant number of publications authored as of August 2020. Among the topics dealt with are: “classic” epidemiology, with an emphasis on national-and subnational-level surveillance and mortality data, local health services and hospital response, impact of the pandemic on the general population and vulnerable subgroups, vaccine-preventable disease prevention in pandemic times, and bibliometric analyses of the literature carried out by a specific “COVID-19 Literature Task Force”.

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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. **If you or a colleague from your school would like to get involved please contact Robert at robert.otok@aspher.org.**

The ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force has produced a large body of work and recommendations, with language translations whenever possible. **We encourage our Member Schools to make use of the Task Force publications and distribute them widely!**

ASPHER Rapid Review Survey: Reopening of Schools of Public Health

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly altered the education environment. Institutions have been tasked with implementing rapid responses that allow for a continuity of education, effective course provision, and ongoing support services for students, all while keeping students, faculty, and staff healthy and safe ([WHO, 2020](#)). The constantly changing health environment makes this increasingly difficult, as does a lack of available research on best practices. The goal of this study is to gather information about the planning and preparedness of Schools of Public Health (SPH) in the European Region for reopening campuses after closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By prompting dialogue, SPH can better design and enact policies and recommendations relevant to them. Indeed, few national authorities have launched specific guidance for reopening higher education campuses. European SPH could play a critical role in policy and guideline development.

[The full Report from the July Rapid Response Survey is available here.](#) **The Survey will be repeated in September to capture the changing dynamics of the situation.**

ASPHER Survey: The role of Schools of Public Health in the COVID-19 response and beyond

The development of the COVID-19 pandemic has stressed the necessity of using all accessible resources in meeting this serious infection threat. The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) believes that SPHs are playing a critical role now and in the aftermath of the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. From contributing to the dialogue on how to best and most safely emerge from lockdown, to training the current and future generations 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 from various sources; to contributing to a more health literate public; to giving advice to political and administrative decision makers.

To throw light on this, ASPHER ran a pilot survey concerning ASPHER member schools' anti-COVID-19 activities during the period from 1st March till 31st July 2020. The pilot questionnaire was answered by members of ASPHER's COVID-19 task force and ASPHER's Executive Board, totalling 14 out of 25 eligible programmes. Thirteen out of 14 schools got involved in all four sections a) teaching, b) health communication to the public, c) research, and d) consultancy/advice, whereas one school was not involved in research.

The pilot survey has demonstrated a substantial engagement in the combat against COVID-19 within this small sample of SPHs. **A final questionnaire is in development to be circulated to all 120 ASPHER member schools in Autumn 2020.**

[Read the pilot study report here.](#)

Planning for a Second Wave, Planning for Winter

A second wave of COVID-19?

There is no clear definition of a 'second wave' of COVID-19. Many countries are grappling with resurgences in different forms. ASPHER suggests a second wave could be defined as: a resurgence of the incidence rate during a pandemic, which cumulatively presents an exponential increase in the number of cases of the disease in a given time period and specific territorial zone. This exponential increase follows from the disappearance or near disappearance of cases of the disease and may be influenced by a new behavioural characteristic of the infectious agent or a modified characteristic from another already known.

Planning for a second wave pandemic of COVID-19 and planning winter is now published at the International Journal of Public Health:

Middleton, J., Lopes, H., Michelson, K. et al. Planning for a second wave pandemic of COVID-19 and planning for winter. *Int J Public Health* (2020).

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00038-020-01455-7>

Contact Tracing Apps: Cross-Country Table

Over the course of the past few months, a myriad of contact tracing apps have been developed across the European Region. ASPHER has created a cross-country overview of all these contact tracing apps to identify common patterns and differences. Data was collected from government statements, technical reports, and privacy policies. This cross-country overview only displays government sponsored national contact tracing apps.

As of September, 60,4% of countries in the European Region are using or will use contact tracing apps. 24 national contact tracing apps are in use and six are being developed. The contact tracing apps of Norway and Slovakia have already been suspended due to privacy and efficiency concerns. 19 countries do not plan to launch an app.

70% of contact tracing apps are based on Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) and only 9% are based on GPS-Location. 15% of apps use a mix of BLE, GPS and other technologies. Most solely BLE-based apps are using the Exposure Notification System jointly provided by Apple and Google. The decentralised approach to contact tracing apps, whereby the matching of contacts happens on the phone, is used in two-thirds of contact tracing apps. Consequently, only one-third are centralised, meaning the matching of contacts happens on a central server.

In line with ethical recommendations from the WHO, the EU, and other organisations, almost all contact tracing apps are entirely voluntary – with the exception of Turkey. To ensure transparency, half of the countries have made their apps open source by releasing the source code and documentation. Additionally, almost two-thirds of countries have legislation with a sunset clause that mandates the post-pandemic dismantling of the app.

The most common deployers of these apps are the respective national Ministries of Health/Social Affairs or National Public Health Agencies. Most apps were developed by actors from the private sector.

The [cross-country table](#) will continuously be updated as new information becomes available.

Covid Impact on child malnutrition: INSP Mexico webinar



Instituto Nacional
de Salud Pública

ASPHER Associate Member, The School of Public Health (ESPM) at the National Institute of Public Health of Mexico (INSP) recently held a webinar on the terrible impact of COVID-19 on Child Nutrition. A letter summarizing the

lessons from the webinar was published as part of their ongoing series of [English Language Friday Letters](#). Read excerpts from the letter below and the [full webinar summary here](#).

“The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed not only a crisis in health systems but also an unprecedented economic and social crisis that threatens to exacerbate malnutrition and mortality in children under the age of 5 in countries of low to middle economic levels. It is anticipated that Covid will result in a higher incidence of malnutrition due to decreased income and availability and access to food for pregnant mothers and lactating mothers with children resulting in the interruption of nutrition and health protection services in an already weakened healthcare system.”

That is what Dr. Juan Rivera Dommaro, General Director of the National Institute of Public Health of Mexico (INSP) said during a recent webinar he hosted entitled, “Impact of Covid on child malnutrition.” The webinar was attended by prominent representatives in the field of national and international health who expressed concern about the effects of the pandemic on child nutrition.

“As we all know, child malnutrition increases the risk of illness and death in children and the risk of chronic diseases in those who survive. Several estimations predict that this crisis

derived from the pandemic will have great costs in lives and in the health of children under five years old in the short and medium term and, possibly, over the long term, a global excess of chronic diseases” said Dr. Juan Rivera.

The COVID-19 pandemic found Mexico with three major structural disadvantages that it seems our country has been dragging on before the pandemic:

1. Mexico’s health system was considered - according to OECD, World Bank and IDB evaluations as one of the weakest in the OECD and remains so among Latin America countries
2. Mexico is one of the countries with the highest burden of chronic diseases, which increases the risk of complications and death from Covid.
3. More than half of population in Mexico lives in poverty conditions which makes it hard to implement mitigation measures such as lockdown as people need to go out to earn a daily living.

Despite the efforts to provide a health response in Mexico, these three factors make it difficult to contain and mitigate the epidemic and to effectively treat cases. This inequity in Mexico throughout its history and the deficiencies in nutrition and health services also explain the concern about the effects that pandemic can have on the already deteriorated nutritional status of millions of children and on those who, due to the deepening poverty, find themselves in a vulnerable situation.

Concluding the webinar, Dr. Rivera urged the community to create a national plan for the protection of Maternal-Infant nutrition and, in particular, actions for the promotion of adequate infant feeding including both breastfeeding and an adequate complementary diet. With these actions, INSP underscores its social commitment to the continued efforts to improve the health of the population in Mexico that initiated long before to the COVID-19 pandemic.

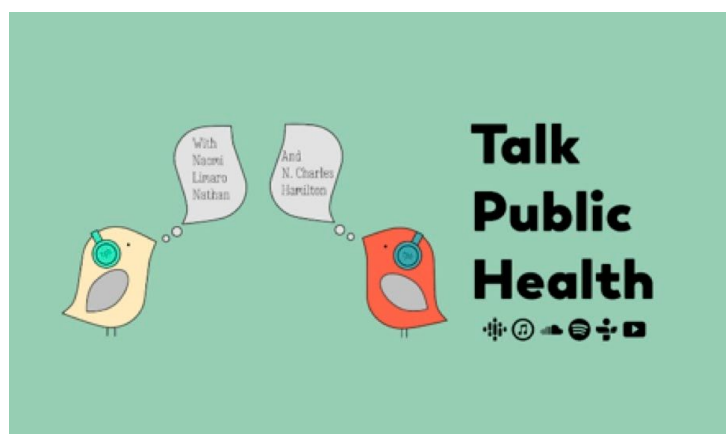
THIS IS PUBLIC HEALTH (TIPH) EUROPE CAMPAIGN



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.

[Last month](#) TIPH Maastricht reported on their campaign and we have important updates to give you below about the [release of their Campaign Video](#)! **This month’s featured campaign we are bringing to you comes from Sheffield School of Health and Related Research (SchARR).**

TIPH Sheffield Report – Talk Public Health



The Talk Public Health (TPH) Podcast is an initiative created by a team of SchARR alumni from the Europubhealth+ programme stream. Notably, the show was conceived while all team members were Master students, and the pilot season was created prior to graduation. This student project was then able to obtain official support from SchARR, which continues to champion TPH as another example

of internet-based public health communication. Recently, the podcast has been incorporated as supplementary learning material in two SchARR public health courses namely, “Key Issues in Global Health” and “Public Health Informatics.”

TPH is a podcast where we explore topics for persons looking to start a career in public health, make a change in their life or learn something new. Hosted by N. Charles Hamilton and Naomi Limaro Nathan, our dynamic team of young public health professionals offer fresh perspectives on topics including: neglected public health issues, global health affairs, and the latest updates in our field. We invite people to join the conversation beyond university public health courses and subscribe to our podcast - as we chart this journey in internet-based public health communication and education.

Objectives and Aim

The objectives and targeted audience of our main project, the Talk Public Health podcast are to:

- Highlight and explore key public health/global health topics;
- Generate discussions and apply critical thinking skills around trending and diverse discourses faced in the public health domain;
- Enhance the visibility of various areas and disciplines of public health, especially those that are outside of the scope of foundation-level public health classes;
- Encourage and explore the study and practice of public health (to build interest and encourage individuals to pursue a career in the public health workforce);
- Add to the dialogue and knowledge base around public health workforce identity and professionalization.

In addition, we developed the Public Health Learning On Podcasts and Social media (PHLOPS) research project to run alongside this season of Talk Public Health. PHLOPS explores the role of social media in self-directed continuing professional development and education among public health professionals and students using a case study through the Talk Public Health podcast

Some of the key objectives of the PHLOPS study are to:

- Understand key characteristics of the TPH podcast audience, in particular their educational attainment, career interests, language preferences, gender, age and other demographic factors;
- Explore patterns of use, and reasons behind their engagement with the TPH podcast, for example, for self-directed CPD and AE, or for entertainment, or both;
- Uncover other social media channels used for self-directed continuing professional development (CPD) and adult education (AE) in PH;
- Identify potential effects of podcast-based self-directed CPD and AE in PH;
- Determine barriers and facilitators to the use of social media-based e-learning in self-directed CPD and AE in PH.

Since Nov 16th, 2019, the Talk Public Health podcast has been accepted successfully by a broad range of [major] online podcast distribution websites, including: [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [YouTube](#), [SoundCloud](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [TuneIn Radio](#) and [Anchor](#).

Rebranding, website and social media

As part of the preparation for the current season of Talk Public Health, a reassessment of the online digital presence of the show was undertaken by the team, between mid-September to early November 2019. It was determined that it would be advantageous to undertake a full rebranding process. This was achieved with feedback from potential audience members (see Sept 23rd poll announcement). The new branding of the podcast was unveiled on 27th Nov 2019 - across a range of social media platforms (see handles below), namely:



- Facebook/LinkedIn: Talk Public Health
- Twitter: @TalkPubHealth
- Instagram: @talkpublichealth_
- Website: www.talkpublichealth.com

Activities

| Episode | Number of Plays | Top Platform |
|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Sneak Peek: Talk Public Health - Trailer (Season 1: "This Is Public Health") | 167 | YouTube |
| The Sands of Time are Running Out for Climate Action - Talk Public Health Season 1 (Episode 1) | 249 | YouTube |
| Uncovered: Whistleblowing in Health - Talk Public Health Season 1 (Episode 2) | 113 | Apple Podcasts |

| | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Talk Public Health - Behind The Scenes (#TPHBiTS) Uncovered Whistleblowing in Health (S1E2) | 14* (Subscriber Only Content) | YouTube only* |
| Special Feature - Interview w/ #SheffWHO2020 Team: Talk Public Health Season 1 (Episode 2.5) | 250* (Full Episode Uploaded to Facebook) | Facebook* Apple Podcasts |

PHLOPS research project



The initial activities for the PHLOPS project revolved around study design and documentation. In particular, a literature review was conducted, and a research proposal was drawn up, as well as the participation information sheet and consent form. Research ethics approval was formally obtained from the SchARR Research Ethics Committee. The first of four waves of online surveys were drafted and piloted, and formally released with the first episode of the Talk Public Health podcast. Currently, it remains open and continues to collect participant responses.

Social Media Engagement

Social media engagement has been the cornerstone of the Talk Public Health podcast, given that our activities are 100% web-based and involves engaging with audiences across Europe and the globe.

As noted in the previous section, Talk Public Health has established a social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Our primary/main social media channels with significant engagement has been Facebook and Twitter. The TPH team had to relaunch its Instagram page in February due to credential issues, so is regrowing it's follow.

Follower growth since beginning of #TIPH campaign (Oct 7th, 2019 - date of signed contract between ASPHER and TPH Team) until date.

| Social Media Channel | Total number of followers | Number (increase) of followers | Percentage (increase) of followers |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Facebook | 316 | 202 | 187.9% |
| Twitter | 189 | 145 | 395.2% |
| Instagram | 105 | 105 | N/A |
| LinkedIn | 31 | 31 | N/A |

We are proud of this growth in our social media and podcast channels, despite this initiative being driven by a small team of three volunteers passionate about public health education and collaboration.

Highlights

We have been proud to have been able to feature in our inaugural episode, a high-level interview with the Minister of Health of The Bahamas. This was a particularly high-impact episode, getting us noticed and referred to by:

- March for Science: a science advocacy group supported by the UN, high profile politicians and academics, which promotes evidence-based, science informed public policies (Facebook (809k followers) and Twitter (342k followers))
- Climate and Health Alliance: a coalition of organisations and individuals from a broad cross section of the sector, including health care professionals, health care service providers, institutions, academics, researchers, and health care consumers. CAHA works to raise awareness about the health risks from climate change and the health benefits of climate action (Facebook (5k followers) and Twitter (5.5k follower)).
- Lancet Countdown: A collaboration between the Lancet and Wellcome Trust – which brings together experts from across the global to track how climate change is affecting our health and how the world is responding to it (Twitter 6.2k follower).

We also see opportunities opening based on the diversity of our team and outputs to collaborate with university lecturers, Emerging Voices in Global Health, and multilateral agencies.

Collaborations

Social media and advertising collaborations:

- Student organisation partners: SheffWHO 2020 - The World Health Organisation simulation event run by the students at the School of Health and Related Research, University of Sheffield (a collaborative special feature episode of our podcast.
- Guest blogging for: Eye on Global Health - student-led initiative & digital magazine, affiliated with the School of Global Health - University of Copenhagen.
- Podcast partners: We have recently reached out to/have been approached by the following public health podcasts to plan collaboration episodes in the upcoming months:
 - Stories in Public Health - Based out of Australia.
 - Untold Health - Based out of Denmark.
 - The Intervention - Based out of the UK.
- Presentation at the “Global, European and National Response to COVID-19: This Is Public Health” webinar organised by the Core Group of the This Is Public Health Europe campaign.

Blog Posts

- [Trotting Through October](#): Announcement of our selection as the only student-led TIPH Europe project, update on coordination meetings to plan the upcoming season of TPH, teaser for rebrand and PHLOPS project proposal.

- [New Look November](#): Highlighting our podcast rebranding reveal, teaser for the 1st episode, and introduction to the PHLOPS survey.
- [Double-Achievement December](#): Highlight the release of TPH episode 1 and the opening of the PHLOPS survey.
- [Reflective Journeys of January](#): Highlighting the release of TPH episode 2, the extension of PHLOPS, and teasers for episode 3 (and subscriber only content)
- [Fan focused February](#): Highlighting the release of TPH episode 2,5 and the collaboration with SheffWHO and Eye on Global Health blog.
- [Madness March](#): Updating on the workings of the TPH Team and episodes in the pipeline.
- [Absences of April](#): Updates on the latest involvements of the TPH Team.
- [Mixed up May](#): Updating on the workings of the TPH Team and current development.

Upcoming Episodes

Over the past months, we have been working on two episodes that would be released in due time, they cover two relevant topics:

- COVID-19
- Digital Health

As a voluntary student/alumni-run project, we have encountered a number of foreseen and unforeseen challenges and opportunities in our journey so far, but we tried to keep the momentum, driving this initiative.

Update from the TIPH University of Maastricht: Campaign Video

Show the importance of public health, especially now!

Public Health students of Maastricht University (Netherlands) have launched an inspiring This is Public Health campaign. Their goal? To showcase what public health is and why it is vitally important for promoting and protecting the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Maastricht University was awarded a grant from the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) and the students of the Governance and Leadership in European Public Health programme rallied together to run the campaign. A number of key local partners supported and endorsed the campaign, including university authorities, the municipality, and various student organizations.

The creativity, ambition and knowledge of the students proved to be a perfect fit with their different academic and cultural backgrounds, which resulted in a variety of campaign outputs. A central tool was the use of blue 'This is public health' campaign stickers, which were placed on various health-promoting initiatives throughout the city to increase the visibility of public health in the local community. The students also interviewed various

public health professionals, researchers and policy makers to highlight the diverse range of projects happening in Maastricht.

In addition to promoting their campaign activities on social media, the students highlighted their activities and interviews in an overarching film project. The filming overlapped with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which offered a unique opportunity to demonstrate the importance of implementing public health measures to keep people safe during these times. The final product of this campaign is an engaging video, sparked with humour and enthusiasm, of the students showcasing the dynamic and exciting field of public health.



[This video, along with the behind-the-scenes footage of the students working together, can be found here.](#)

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 Led Consortium Wins ECDC Bid: Updating Core Competencies on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology

The importance of updated core competencies in applied infectious disease epidemiology is ever more evident in light of recent and current infectious disease epidemics and pandemics. Responsive action is key, not only to modifying incidence, but to instilling trust and mitigating population stress and panic. Shared vision through the philosophy of development of core competencies is important, not only to the development of specific knowledge and skills required for effective practice, but to the recognition that a competent workforce is critical to outcomes and the translation of knowledge into practice, policy, theory, research and effective action.

ASPHER is uniquely placed to develop this set of core competencies in applied infectious disease epidemiology, with our extensive network of over 100 Members in over 40 European Region Countries

The project complements the ongoing competences work at ASPHER as core competencies are always linked to ongoing curriculum development and training. ASPHER is also within its next phase of updating core competencies and this expedites one element of the phase transition.

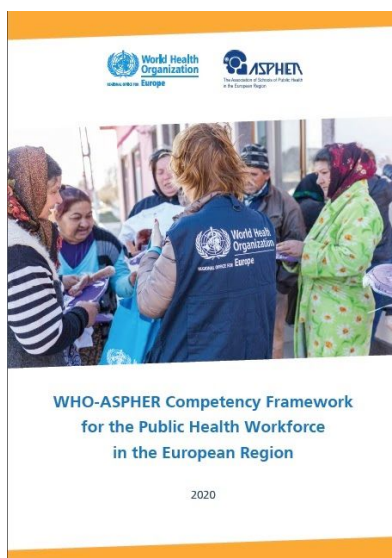
The project team hopes that the resulting innovative, integrated and all-embracing Competency Framework will support public health employer organisations and professionals in appraisal, staffing, resource management and continuous professional development, helping individual professionals identify their training needs.

The Core Steering Group responsible for overseeing the project activities includes Prof. Mary B. Codd (University College Dublin), Director Arnold Bosman (Transmissible), Prof. Katarzyna Czabanowska (Maastricht University), Prof. Nadav Davidovitch (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), Prof. Ralf Reintjes (HAW Hamburg), Prof. Darren Shickle (University of Leeds) and Prof. Patrick Wall (University College Dublin).

An Extended Pool of Experts secured from experts at several ASPHER Member Schools will function in an advisory capacity and will be instrumental in mobilizing outreach to the additional experts required for consultation of the project. **We thank all the Member Schools who put forward candidates to take part in the Pool of Experts. You were instrumental in making this a winning bid!**

Webinar: WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework for the PH Workforce in the European Region - Friday 11 September, 10:30-12:30 CEST

ASPHER and WHO Regional Office for Europe would like to invite you to an interactive webinar titled: ***The WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework for the Public Health Workforce: a tool for strengthening health systems in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.***



Explore how the WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework can be used to strengthen Public Health Workforce in the European Region. The calling question of the webinar is: *How can the WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework for the Public Health Workforce in the European Region be best applied by a wide range of stakeholders to strengthen the public health workforce in each and every Member State in the European Region?*

[Please see the flyer for further details.](#)

[Registration is required.](#)

Please feel free to disseminate to your colleagues and other networks as relevant.

Defending the Istanbul Convention is a public health priority

The Istanbul Convention came into force in 2014 and has proven to be one of the most important feminist achievements of the last couple of decades. The Convention aims to prevent violence against women and violence in domestic settings, to protect and support the survivors of domestic violence, and to ensure that perpetrators of different forms of violence (e.g. psychological, bodily, sexual) are persecuted.

In spite of its broad support, the Convention has come under attack. ASPHER is deeply concerned about some governments' intent to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention. ASPHER is convinced that the Istanbul Convention is a crucial public health instrument that enables the multisectoral response needed to effectively combat gender-based violence. ASPHER calls all its member schools of public health to actively defend the Convention. Finally, ASPHER calls all governments to keep the Convention in force or implement it immediately. The protection of women and children from violence is of highest public health priority, particularly in the COVID-19 pandemic.

ASPHER is strongly committed to the Istanbul Convention and its aims. [Read more about it here.](#)

Call to Participate: ASPHER Undergraduate Programmes Network

Does your school run undergraduate programmes in public health or related areas? Is your university planning to further internationalise your programmes? Does COVID-19 limit your current internationalisation goals and visions? Do you want to explore new options for teaching, research and academic practice and join efforts to make already the next semester more attractive for students and faculty?

ASPHER is revitalising its undergraduate training agenda to align with the ASPHER 2025 Strategy and to take advantage of the opportunities it brings. The new undergraduate agenda will be devised in the coming weeks under the strong and committed coordination of the Department for Nursing and Health Sciences at Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany, to build a network with partners being interested in the internationalisation of their programmes.

Within the ASPHER undergraduate network, we want to explore cooperation opportunities at different levels. Therefore, we

- would like to exploit online tools to back up our activities with a set of inputs (workshops, lectures, etc.) from other countries;
- want to promote international cooperation between students, e.g. working on specific seminal or smaller tasks or even thesis projects;
- are interested in starting cooperation for the development of module contents, e.g. for modules comparing health systems and policies, social and health inequalities, the global burden of disease or other global health issues;
- envision a common, more structured reflection about public health core competencies, EPHOs, our programme profiles – for the further development of our programmes and informed motivation in student exchange.

Finally, we are interested in establishing an international “practice-partner network” – to cooperate in supporting our students doing internships or thesis projects abroad, as well as for international research programs - not only but also in “applied sciences”.

If you are interested in finding partners to work on one or more issues, or if you have further ideas to develop networks for internationalizing our Bachelor programmes, please sign up for the ASPHER Undergraduate Programmes Network by contacting Kai Michelsen (kai.michelsen@pg.hs-fulda.de), Jens Holst (jens.holst@pg.hs-fulda.de) and ASPHER at office@aspher.org. We look forward to having you on board!

Well: What We Need to Talk about When We Talk about Health

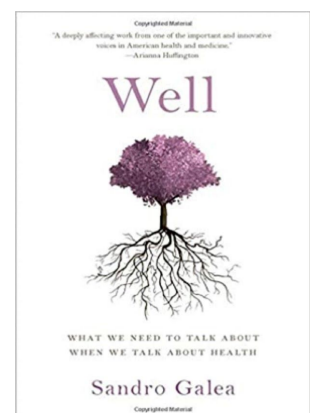
A Conversation with the Author - Friday 11 September, 8:00-9:00 AM ET

Please join us for a conversation with Sandro Galea, Dean of the Boston University School of Public Health and Chair of the ASPPH Board of Directors, about his most recent book

[Well: What We Need To Talk About When We Talk About Health](#)

Open to members of the regional associations that are part of the Global Network for Academic Public Health:

- Latin American Global Health Alliance (ALASAG)
- Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH)
- Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa (ASPHA)



- Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER)
- Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)
- South East Asia Public Health Education Institutions Network (SEAPHEIN)

[Download the flyer here.](#)

Contact globalnetwork@aspph.org to get the meeting link.

Selected ASPHER Member Publications

Bischoff A. The evolution of a healthcare interpreting service mapped against the bilingual health communication model: a historical qualitative case study. *Public Health Rev* 2020;41:19.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40985-020-00123-8>

Dyck M, Breckenkamp J, Wicherski J. et al. Utilisation of medical rehabilitation services by persons of working age with a migrant background, in comparison to non-migrants: a scoping review. *Public Health Rev* 2020; 41:17.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40985-020-00134-5>

García-Basteiro A, Alvarez-Dardet C, Arenas A, et al. The need for an independent evaluation of the COVID-19 response in Spain. *Lancet*. 2020.

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)31713-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)31713-X)

Haroon S, Chandan JS, Middleton J. Covid-19: breaking the chain of household transmission. *BMJ* 2020;370.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m3181>

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

13th International Scientific Conference: International year of the nurse and the midwife - 24th September, ZOOM



Angela Boškin Faculty of Health Care is pleased to invite you to the 13th International Scientific Conference »Responsibilities of health policy-makers and managers for the retention and development of nurses and other healthcare professionals–2020: International year of the nurse and the midwife«.

The 2020 Conference is placed in the context of the International Year of Nursing and Midwifery. It is intended to present current research and development activities of integrated prevention and health promotion in the field of health care. To this end, the European Association ASPHER will join us.

[For more information please see the event website.](#)

Second mid-term Conference: EUPHA section on Health Workforce Research - 10-11 June 2021, Lisbon, Portugal



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This second mid-term Conference seeks to critically reflect on the lessons to be learned from the COVID-19 situation and on how to build a future health workforce that is resilient, fit-for-practice and prepared for emergencies. The EUPHA section Health Workforce Research (HWR) and the **Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine-Nova University of Lisbon (IHMT-UNL)**, in collaboration with partner organisations European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, WHO Regional Office for Europe and ASPHER – Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region, will provide a forum for knowledge exchange across the European health workforce community and beyond. Taking a multidisciplinary and transnational approach, the conference aims to contribute to the breaking of professional ‘silos’ and to the establishment of health workforce governance based on solidarity, participation and on the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’.

The format follows the previous midterm conference in 2020, which combined a research workshop format based on peer-selected posters and presentations with invited panels and policy dialogue. We invite research that addresses COVID-19 related challenges to frontline staff and the management and organisation of work, professional experiences (e.g. burn-out) and policy responses to health workforce needs and demands; other themes are also welcome. Abstract submission will open on 15 January and close on 28 February 2021.

More details, including on conference fees, will follow soon at:

<https://eupha.org/health-workforce-research>.

LEPH 2021: The 6th Conference on Law Enforcement & Public Health - 22-24 March 2021, Philadelphia, USA



[LEPH2021](#) is calling for individuals and/or panels to contribute to the **Virtual 6th International Law Enforcement and Public Health Conference** scheduled for March 22-24, 2021. All submitted presentations will undergo peer review and selection

by the LEPH Program Committee. For LEPH2021, we will be partnering with Whova as the official conference app. All content will be available to conference participants online through the app. [Submission details here](#). Deadline to submit: October 16, 2020

OPPORTUNITIES

ECDC is hiring!

ECDC has published two positions in the sector of Public Health Informatics: *Group Leader Public Health Informatics (AD5)* and *Principal Expert E-health & Digital Innovation (AD8)*.

[See more about ECDC Vacancies here.](#)

World Evaluation Case Competition (WECC)

The World Evaluation Case Competition (WECC) is a synchronized effort to bring together the winners of country national competitions and provide an opportunity for those who do not have a national competition to compete against each other on the international level.

Program evaluation is an integral part of public health. It is a valuable tool to strengthen the quality of programs and improve outcomes. Through the use of real-world programs and cases, students are invited to form their own teams (3-5 students) to respond to a request for proposals over a limited time period. They can be graduate or undergraduate level. Foreign students may also apply (on the basis they are competing for the country that their university is located in). A coach (typically a professor) is required to help guide the students to prepare for the case prior to the competition. The competition is online-based. Students receive the case at an appropriate time (based on their home country) on competition day and they have a limited amount of hours to complete the task (time varies based on first language). Our judges are leaders in the evaluation field, chosen based on diversity and experience. Feedback will also be provided to each team. The winning team will be shared with national evaluation societies around the world.

Registration deadline: October 16th, 2020

For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.worldcasecomp.one/>.

Share the ASPHER newsletter!



[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

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