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July-August 2021 ASPHER Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the climate crisis season

Greetings to all our ASPHER members this summer. Are you heading anywhere nice for your holidays? [Mendacino](#) sounds nice.

Or [British Columbia](#)? For adventure, perhaps [Siberia](#), [China](#) or the [Indian ocean](#). Maybe you are staycationing – in the [Euroregion Meuse–Rhein](#) perhaps? Or [Evia Island, Greece](#)?

As Wells Run Dry, a Tourist Town Fights for Survival

Businesses on California's North Coast forced to truck in potable water.

MAANVI SINGH

Bio



The Mendocino coast attracts visitors from all over the world. George Dines/Catery



Ahead of the COP21 [Climate Summit in Glasgow](#) this autumn, the world is being given a heads-up on what climate breakdown looks like. ASPHER's Young Professionals [Rana Orhan and Tara Chen](#) ask the question: are our political leaders up to the task of making the real interventions that will tackle climate breakdown? Evidence from British politicians suggests not: Prime-minister Johnson will [open new oil and gas fields off Shetland](#). His spokesperson in charge of the COP conference arrangements advises us to freeze bread to stop it going off – to save energy – and says [she doesn't fancy an electric car just yet](#). Our leaders have failed to address one single major global disaster, the pandemic. Can we now expect them to do [any better faced with multiple and unpredictable global disasters](#)? Rana is our ASPHER fellow and is leading [ASPHER's efforts to enhance climate change and public health education](#) – [she describes some of her recent successes and invitations](#) to join our work later in this newsletter.

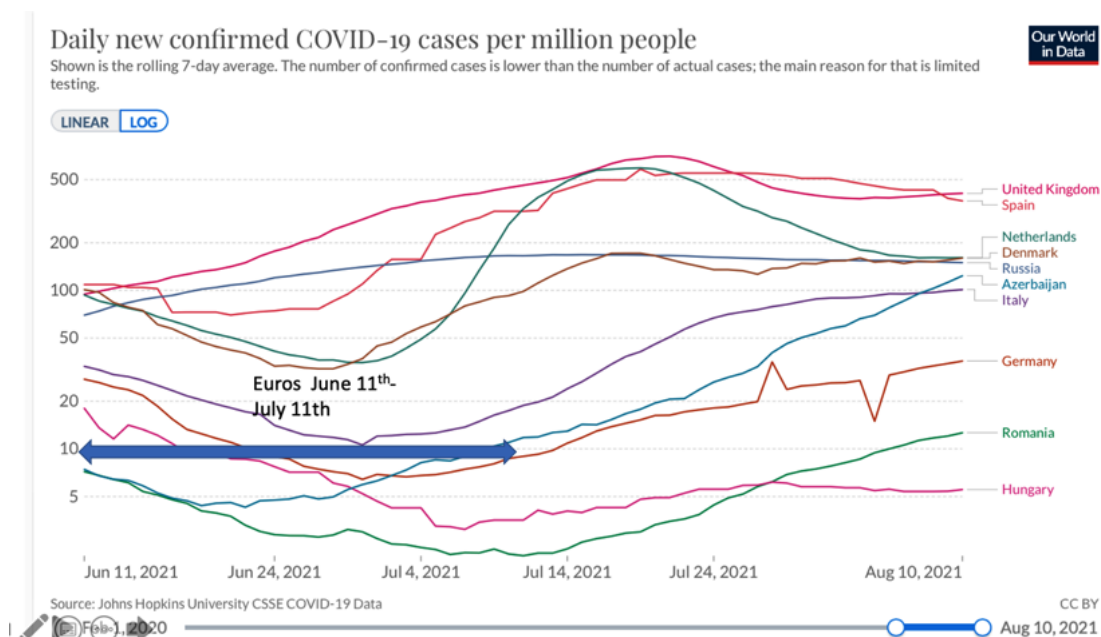
I am sorry

On behalf of the public health community of the United Kingdom I would like to apologise to the global community for my government's wilful abandonment of [any semblance of control on the current wave of the pandemic here](#) – setting 'Global Britain' up as the potential leading COVID [new variants factory](#) for the world... ASPHER members in the UK and many other countries have been signatories to the [latest John Snow Declaration](#), condemning the UK's 'freedom day' July 19th. [Professor Jose Martin-Moreno](#), one of ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force's most active members, was widely quoted in the British and other media.

Deja-vu? Planning for a third wave of COVID and planning for winter

ASPHER is again expressing concern about how well [governments, the public health community and health services](#) are preparing for the winter. An explosion of respiratory infections including [flu and RSV is expected this winter](#) – as many countries are surrendering their social distancing and masking requirements. ASPHER has highlighted issues relating to the profusion of new variants of SARS-COV2 virus, one of which will inevitably be vaccine resistant. This time last year we [set a definition of the second wave of the pandemic](#) – we anticipated the arrival of new variants in that definition – but we could not have envisaged the real and deadly impact of the beta variant in early 2021 or the delta variant from March. Those variants, and those still to come. At the time we were debating which wave it was and reflecting wryly that '[when you are drowning](#), it doesn't matter which wave you are under'. Many countries are preparing for a fourth wave. I think there was a [EUROS wave](#), judging by the experience of [those countries which hosted games](#) during the tournament. See figure – Discuss. The UK is now seeing a rise of cases which could be the 'Freedom day wave'...

Figure 1. A EUROS wave? Or just Delta variant?



ASPHER is also concerned at the increasing diversity of symptoms COVID-19 is presenting with and our collective inability to change case definitions. We also have limited understanding and appreciation of the widening range of extended medical syndromes, referred to under the banner of 'long COVID'. I am grateful to Vasco Ricoco Peixito for his leadership of our thinking on the ['pandemic at the crossroads this summer'](#)

COVID-19 is not flu – flu does not kill 115,000 health workers worldwide and it doesn't produce new deadly variants this frequently. We have no reason to believe there will be an end to this pandemic – what we are prepared to live with versus how hard we expect to suppress it will determine whether millions more people will die. We can be optimistic, but we cannot be complacent and we must be ready for another tough winter ahead.

ASPHER's work has proceeded on many other fronts featured elsewhere in the newsletter. I am grateful to all our members for your continuing interest and involvement in our work, and to our executive, our young professionals group and others involved in our strategic development. Particular thanks as always, to the ASPHER Secretariat, Robert Otok, Lore Leighton and Rana Orhan for their outstanding contributions.

Professor John Middleton
President, ASPHER

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Warm greetings to all ASPHER Members. We hope you have had a chance to enjoy some quality time off this summer despite COVID-19, rough weather and tricky travel planning.

As the academic year rolls around, we look forward to seeing all of you at the Deans' & Directors' Retreat on 27-28 September. An [outline of the Retreat Programme](#) is featured in this issue and full details will be coming up in September.

The [ASPHER Member Survey](#) is open until September 5 (23:59 CEST). Please complete it – your feedback is important to improving the functioning of ASPHER! Note also that [deadlines have been extended until Tuesday 31 August to submit your nominations for the Andrija Stampar Medal and for the Deans' & Directors Good Practice Award](#). Send us your nominations for the best in public health!

[ASPHER Young Professionals welcomed 15 new members at ASSETS 2021](#) in July under the coordinating leadership of Ines Siepmann, who has now also joined as a full member to the [ASPHER Executive Board](#). Congratulations are in order for [ASPHER Fellow Rana Orhan who has succeeded with her proposal for a 2021 EU Health Policy Platform Thematic Network](#). The Secretariat is proud to move forward with such great colleagues furthering the next generation agenda! Stay tuned in September to learn about two new ASPHER Associate Fellows and to learn about what opportunities are available through the ASPHER Fellowship programme.

The ASPHER Consortium [UCCAIDE project for ECDC is preparing its final survey](#). We will be contacting you with that and ask that you please share with relevant colleagues. The September newsletter will be packed with ECDC-related updates on UCCAIDE, [vaccine training project](#) and more...

Within these pages, you will also find [several new reports from the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force](#), a section on [climate and health actions](#), and plenty of [ASPHER](#), [Member](#), and [Partner](#) news & [opportunities](#).

Enjoy the final weeks of summer and stay well!

Best wishes,
Robert Otok and Lore Leighton

Please don't forget to share your news, publications, comments & suggestions with Lore at lore.leighton@aspher.org to be included in the next regular issue of the [newsletter](#) and on the ASPHER website [activity log](#).

ASPHER COVID-19 NEWS

ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force

The ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force and ASPHER Young Professionals have taken advantage of time off from the academic school year to produce a series of reports over the summer months. Below are short excerpts from the reports. All [ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force](#) materials are freely available at aspher.org. Please be sure to take advantage of their work in your schools and disseminate them widely.

The [ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force](#) is always open to new members and new ideas to help make a difference during the Pandemic. **If you or a colleague at your School is interested to join the Task Force please let Robert know at robert.otok@aspher.org.**

COVID-19: The Third Wave

An ASPHER Covid-19 Task Force Statement will soon be published in the International Journal of Public Health. The Task Force has also produced two new reports available at aspher.org which address third wave issues.

[Report: Déjà Vu? Planning for the Covid-19 Third Wave and Planning for the Winter](#)

A 'third wave' of the pandemic has arrived now in many European countries. In early July 2021, the European Region was contributing 31% of cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases worldwide. The Delta variant of SARS-COV2, is now widespread, particularly in the United Kingdom, Portugal and Holland. Relaxations in social and public health measures to control the pandemic have been accompanied by surges in cases. Many of the concerns ASPHER

expressed last year at this time with regard to a second wave, need repeating, if we are to limit the damage of a third wave. There are particular aspects of the virus for which scientific knowledge is incomplete and we cannot yet appreciate the potential impact on human and animal health, and on social and environmental conditions. These problems include the uncontrolled spread of the virus, especially with the new delta variant; the expanding clinical manifestations of the viral infection, our inability to recognise and monitor and control it; our failure to recognise the multiple syndromes associated with persistent, or 'long COVID' and our complacency over delivering a fully protected vaccinated population.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Report: COVID-19 is at a Crossroads in Europe in Summer 2021: Risks of the Third Wave

European countries and most places in the world are facing challenges of COVID transmission that highlight difficulties in controlling the pandemic. Strategies need to be updated. There are multiple risks and unknowns. These include the risks of transmission between young unvaccinated people, and onward spread to other unvaccinated groups; high underascertainment of infection, due to our definition of COVID infection being too narrowly focussed and our increasing reliance on inadequate rapid antigen tests creating the potential for large numbers of false negative cases; rapid importation and dissemination of variants with reduced vaccine effectiveness and finally the risk of sequelae for infected individuals with impact on future burden of disease. Inequalities in vaccine uptake and availability, and inequalities in risks of infection leave some communities exposed to higher rates of infection and higher long-term ill health. The initial public health goals and message around the world to prevent hospitalizations and deaths needs to change to gain peoples' collaboration in prevention and control in places like Europe, where most older populations are increasingly fully vaccinated.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Report: COVID-19 and People Experiencing Homelessness: Reported Measures Implemented in the European Region during the Pandemic

During the first wave of COVID-19, European governments and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) intervened in various ways to reduce people's risk of exposure to the virus, becoming seriously ill or dying from the virus. Some interventions specifically targeted individuals and families in temporary accommodation/hostels and people experiencing homelessness as "rough sleepers".

This paper is a snapshot of reported interventions in the European Union and in the United Kingdom. Some interventions were provided directly by public sector workers, others by NGOs. Some interventions were in the form of guidance. Getting a comprehensive inventory of interventions is not easy. Elucidating this topic is complicated, but even a

snapshot of interventions allows for learning, a call for long-term collaboration between relevant organisations, and an opportunity to look at testing and vaccination issues.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Report: The Importance of Health Communication during Emergencies: The Mix-and-Match Question

The Mix-and-Match approach, adopted by several European and non-European countries during the current COVID-19 vaccination rollout, consists of mixing different brands of COVID-19 vaccines to complete one's vaccination schedule. Dose mixing occurs independently of the mechanism of action of COVID-19 vaccines. Particularly, mixing processes can include vaccines using the same technology, such as Pfizer and Moderna, or using different technologies, i.e. AstraZeneca and Pfizer.

Such an approach has been introduced as early as January 2021 in the United Kingdom's vaccination guidelines. Up to date, several countries have adopted the mix-and-match method, namely, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Bahrain, Finland, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United States (US). Nonetheless, the approaches taken by the previously mentioned countries in mixing vaccines vary extensively.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Report: Lateral Flow Antigen Tests - Not a Panacea for Freedom from the Pandemic

Lateral Flow Antigen Tests (LFT) rely on the detection of SARS-CoV-2 antigens in nasal or nasopharyngeal swabs or other respiratory secretions. They are increasingly used for different purposes, either self-administered or performed on-site by trained professionals. Compared with reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) LFT have a quicker turnaround time (less than 30 minutes) and are less expensive, enabling rapid identification of infected persons and trace their contacts.

LFT are becoming widely available and of easy access for everyone who intends to do a test either free of charge or at the pharmacies, regardless of the clinical or epidemiological context. Despite all the advantages, governments must use them wisely. Like every test, LFT do give false results, which may be false positives or false negatives. Therefore, this must be taken into account when planning testing strategies and interpreting the test results. The benefits and harms of testing should be balanced, and we should recognize that, despite the crucial role of testing in curbing the pandemic, at certain moments and contexts it might make sense not to test.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Update: Two months after the European Medicines Agency (EMA) ruling on the safety of the Astra-Zeneca Covid-19 (Vaxzevria®) vaccine, ASPHER provides an update

On 15 March 2021, the EMA ruled on the use of the COVID-19 Vaccine Astra-Zeneca, suspension injectable, since renamed Vaxzevria®, and its adverse effects. The EMA, like the World Health Organisation and the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority (MRHA) in the United Kingdom, considered that the thromboembolic events and coagulation disorders - now grouped under the term Vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT) - identified through pharmacovigilance systems, did not call into question the overall benefit-risk balance of this vaccine for a country's population. The EMA, therefore, recommended an update of the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) and package insert for this drug. At that time, [ASPHER welcomed the EMA judgement on the safety of AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine](#).

Two months later, while the indication for the vaccine has not been changed - the therapeutic indication mentioned by the European SPC for Vaxzevria remains "active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 caused by SARSCoV-2, in individuals 18 years of age and older". However, there is continuing debate about the age groups for which the vaccine should or should not be used. The variations in scientific and public health advice given by the various expert health authorities and the policy decisions by national governments has not made the risk-benefit situation clear enough to our citizens across Europe. This situation forms part of ASPHER's wider concerns about lack of transparency and agreements on evidence by public health policy makers, and the subsequent impacts on effective pandemic management and international equity of impact.

[Read the full report here.](#)

ASPHER COVID-19 Situation Reporting for Europe

ASPHER's produces a weekly surveillance report that we hope is complementary to other resources such as ECDC and Our World in Data, where the reader can go for more detailed information.

ASPHER is concerned about the rapid expansion of the Delta variant of COVID-19 throughout Europe which is currently the dominant strain in the region. The EMA and ECDC strongly encourage those who are eligible for vaccination but have not yet been vaccinated to complete the recommended COVID-19 schedule in a timely manner ([link](#)). Full two-dose vaccination still seems to be protective, whereas having only received one dose, one is less well protected against infection ([link](#)). We believe there should be international collaboration and capacity in the surveillance of the variants of the virus, surveillance of the outcomes of vaccination, resistance to infection and timespan of immunity. There needs to be coordinated global effort towards anticipating new variants and adapting vaccinations to meet mutating changes of the virus. (see also: [link](#))

The current situation demands international consensus on a long-term strategy to minimize the transmission of virus variants, not only by rapid vaccination but also by increasing vaccine confidence and improving accessibility to vaccines to prevent further waves. Despite vaccination status, following public health and social measures is still necessary.

Since January, the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force and ASPHER Young Professionals with HAW Hamburg, Maastricht University and Karolinska Institute have been putting together weekly COVID-19 situation reports for Europe. Find the reports updated every week at: <https://www.aspher.org/covid-19-situation-reporting.html>

Further COVID-19 Reading

Bitan DT, Kridin K, Cohen AD, Weinstein O. COVID-19 hospitalisation, mortality, vaccination, and postvaccination trends among people with schizophrenia in Israel: a longitudinal cohort study. *Lancet Psychiatry*. 6 August 2021.

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366\(21\)00256-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(21)00256-X)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. COVID-19 in children and the role of school settings in transmission - second update. ECDC. Stockholm; 8 July 2021. URL: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/children-and-school-settings-covid-19-transmission>

Gurdasani D, Drury J, Greenhalgh T, Griffin S, Haque Z, et al. Mass infection is not an option: we must do more to protect our young. *Lancet*. 2021;398(10297);297-8.

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)01589-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)01589-0).

Iftexhar EN, Priesemann P, Mckee M, Petelos E. COVID-19 in Europe: Here we go again. *POLITICO*. 28 July 2021.

URL: <https://www.politico.eu/article/covid-19-in-europe-here-we-go-again/>

Johnson Sirleaf E and Clark H. Report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response: making COVID-19 the last pandemic. *Lancet*. 2021;398(10295);101-3.

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)01095-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)01095-3).

Kluge H, Khan A, Zhan T. Use the summer to prepare for a safe return to school. *EU Observer*. 12 July 2021. URL: <https://euobserver.com/opinion/152389>.

Korkodilos M. The health and wellbeing of children and young people in England; an infographic report. British Assoc. for Child & Adolescent Public Health. February 2021. URL: <https://www.bacaph.org.uk/images/documents/bacaph-publications/The%20health%20and%20wellbeing%20of%20CYP%20in%20England.pdf>

Lazarus JV, Bassat Q, Crespo J, Fanjul G, Garcia-Basteiro AL, et al. Vaccinate fast but leave no one behind: a call to action for COVID-19 vaccination in Spain. *Commun Med*. 2021;1;12.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43856-021-00014-2>

Pană BC, Lopes H, Furtunescu F, Franco D, Rapcea A, et al. Real-World Evidence: The Low Validity of Temperature Screening for COVID-19 Triage. *Front. Public Health*. 30 June 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.672698>.

Rosen, B., Waitzberg, R., Israeli, A. Hartal M, Davidovitch N. Addressing vaccine hesitancy and access barriers to achieve persistent progress in Israel's COVID-19 vaccination program. *Isr J Health Policy Res*. 2021;10:43. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13584-021-00481-x>

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CLIMATE ACTION AND HEALTH

On 9 August the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report published the 6th Assessment Report: [AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis](#).

Key messages from the Report confirm what we are already experiencing first hand in Europe that human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe with strengthening evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence.

ASPHER is privileged to have Rana Orhan with us this year as ASPHER Fellow focused on Climate Action and Health. She has been working on adapting the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE)'s competencies to the European context and much more. Here she sends us a message on her progress and we feature her work and upcoming events related to climate change and health.

Dispatch from ASPHER Fellow Rana Orhan



This summer brought us a lot of opportunities in the field of climate and health. Thanks to your support and that from our partners, we have been selected to lead the 2021 Thematic Network on 'Climate action through public health education and training'. This means that ASPHER, together with our member schools and our partners, will work on a position paper to be presented to the European Commission. The kick-off meeting will take place in September (date to be confirmed), so I hope to see all of you there.

Additionally, recent catastrophic climate events show us that climate disasters are dangerously becoming a new normal. With our young professional Tara Chen and ASPHER President John Middleton, we argue that we must embolden our leaders to take the global action needed to avert climate catastrophe. Please read our opinion piece for The BMJ [here](#).

Last but not least, I look forward to the session 'Climate and Health Action via SPHs' during the Deans' & Directors' Retreat. We will launch the adoption of the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education's core competencies during that session. We will also set the next step towards a dedicated group of public health schools working on climate and health education.

We have more in the pipeline, but that will follow with the next newsletter. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to reach out to me via rana.orhan@aspher.org.

Rana Orhan, ASPHER Fellow 2021

EU HPP Thematic Network 2021: Adaptation actions on climate change and health through education and training



Congratulations are in order for Rana who put together a successful Thematic Network proposal for the [EU Health Policy Platform](#) on the topic of 'Adaptation actions on climate change and health through education and training'. The procedure to be selected as a EUHPP Thematic Network is quite competitive and this proposal was one of only three voted to be included in 2021!

Thematic Networks are temporary networks of stakeholder organisations created in the EU Health Policy Platform. Their purpose is to prepare stakeholder-led and -owned Joint Statements on important EU health issues, summarising the common position of the co-signing organisations.

An improvement of the collective understanding of climate and health, and more evidence-based and efficient communication regarding the health risks, efficient solutions and strategies, their costs, and effective implementation are needed to develop and implement proper mitigation and adaptation policies. Universities have a key function in leading change in society and have a social responsibility.

The Scope of future joint statement will therefore focus on institutions to implement climate and health education and training for current and future health professionals in Europe and beyond. Our statement will also be directed towards these institutions to implement good corporate citizen policies which demonstrate reducing their carbon footprint.

[Read Rana's proposal here](#) and [watch her pitch presentation here](#).

The climate crisis is not slow and gradual but unpredictable and catastrophic

ASPHER Fellow Rana Orhan, ASPHER Young Professional Tara Chen and ASPHER President John Middleton shared their views on the climate crisis and the IPCC report in a BMJ Opinion piece.

Governments must act now to protect planetary health by mitigating the climate breakdown. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has found our political leaders wanting, indecisive, unprepared, and largely incapable of the international action that is necessary against a single global threat. Confronted with the multiple and unpredictable collisions of disasters that climate change will bring, how will they fare? We need political leadership to overcome the paralysis and inertia of the “rabbits in the headlights” approach that has characterised most countries’ response to climate change so far. When will our leaders rise to the challenge and take the global action needed to avert climate catastrophe?

Orhan R, Chen T, Middleton J. The climate crisis is not slow and gradual but unpredictable and catastrophic. BMJ Opinion. 10 August 2021. URL:

<https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2021/08/10/the-climate-crisis-is-not-slow-and-gradual-but-unpredictable-and-catastrophic/>

Upcoming Sessions on Climate and Health

Deans’ & Directors’ Retreat: Climate and Health Action via SPHs

Tuesday 28 September, 10:15-11:30

Follow more of ASPHER Fellow Rana Orhan’s work when she leads **Parallel Session PS3-B on 'Climate and Health Action via SPHs' on Tuesday 28 September during the ASPHER Deans’ & Directors Retreat**. The session will launch the adoption of the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education's core competencies.

Rana will also be involved with a round table discussion on Training the Health Workforce on Climate for the EPH Conference in November. We’ll bring you more information on that as the date approaches!

Webinar: Public Health, Climate Change and Strategic Litigation

7th October 2021, 14.00- 16.00 (Brussels); 13.00-15.00 (London)

This Webinar organised by the Global Health Law Groningen Research Centre, the UK Faculty of Public Health, the European Public Health Association Law and Public Health section and the Environmental Health section, in collaboration with a range of other partners will discuss ‘Public Health, Climate Change and Strategic litigation’. It will include presentations and panel discussion by distinguished legal scholars, policy makers and public health practitioners exploring the challenges and opportunities for advancing

arguments in strategic litigation, in particular its health, environmental and human right dimensions. For more information [download the flyer](#).

[Register for the webinar here](#).

Webinar: Climate and Health Rapid Response: Heatwaves in the Northwest

26 August 18:00 EST (New York time)

The Global Consortium on Climate and Health is holding a Webinar on Climate and Health Rapid Response. Climate Change is having escalating impacts on human health and contributing to unprecedented heatwaves this summer in the Pacific Northwest. Our panel of regional clinicians and public health experts will discuss emerging health and health system impacts, the climate science behind the event and opportunities for bolstering public health response. [More information available here](#).

[Register for the webinar here](#).

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ASPHER NEWS & EVENTS

Deans' & Directors' Retreat

27-28 September 2021

ASPHER is busy preparing for the annual Deans' & Directors Retreat. Due to COVID-19 conditions, we felt it best to organise a virtual event again this year, but we are thrilled to be able to offer an exciting programme to all members! Don't miss it!

The Retreat will feature four Plenary Sessions on the themes of: Education & Health; Professionalisation; Global governance; and Planning for an outbreak of health.

There will be four Parallel Session Tracks: PS-A: The Pandemic: Perspectives on Lessons Learned; PS-B: ASPHER Business, Competencies & Core Curriculum; PS-C ASPHER Networking: Members, Accreditation & Careers; and PS-D The Pandemic: Schools' Contribution & Roles.

A special Public Health Gaming evening social is also planned.

We will keep you informed with more details over the course of September, but here is an overall outline of the Retreat Schedule:

Monday 27 September 12:00-20:30 CEST

12:00 - 12:20 WELCOME Session

12:20 - 13:00 PLENARY 1 EDUCATION & HEALTH with WHO and UNESCO

13:30 – 14:45 PARALLEL SESSIONS 1

- PS1-A: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PANDEMIC
- PS1-B: FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY
- PS1-C: ASPHER MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2021 & MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS
- PS1-D: INEQUALITIES & SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES REVIEW

15:00 – 16:15 PARALLEL SESSIONS 2

- PS2-A: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PANDEMIC
- PS2-B: DIVERSITY & PH EDUCATION
- PS2-C: ACCREDITATION IN PH EDUCATION
- PS2-D: CONTACT TRACING, SURVEILLANCE APPS & TESTING

16:30 – 17:30 PLENARY 2 PROFESSIONALISATION with IANPHI and WHO

18:00 – 20:30 Public Health Gaming (evening social) with Transmissible

Tuesday 28 September 09:00-13:00 CEST

09:00 – 09:15 DAY 1 summary and DAY 2 programme outline

09:15 – 10:00 PLENARY 3 PLANNING FOR AN OUTBREAK OF HEALTH with key partner European public health organisations and networks.

10:15 – 11:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS 3

- PS3-A: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PANDEMIC
- PS3-B: CLIMATE AND HEALTH ACTION via SPHs
- PS3-C: PUBLIC HEALTH CAREERS
- PS3-D: VACCINATION

12:00 – 12:40 PLENARY 4 IMPLICATIONS FOR SPHs FROM GLOBAL GOVERNANCE ISSUES with GNAPH and WFPHA

12:40 – 13:00 CLOSING session and invitation to 2022 Deans' & Directors' Retreat

ASPHER Members Survey

ASPHER is asking all our Members to fill out the [ASPHER Members Survey](#). This survey is a key consultation with members to help implement the ASPHER 2025 agenda and further improvements in the Association's membership policy including tailoring the benefits and services provided to serve members needs best.

This survey should ideally be answered by the head of the member institution. If not available, a delegated representative in a leadership position is also acceptable.

We hope that you take time to provide your honest and thoughtful feedback as we tried to put the survey together in a way to trigger engagement. Please tell us the story of your school or organisation!

The Survey will remain open until Sunday 5 September (23:59 CEST) and ASPHER Secretariat will report to you on the results during the Deans' & Directors Retreat.

[Reply to the ASPHER Members Survey here.](#)

Call for ASPHER Award Nominations

The call for nominations for the 2021 Andrija Štampar Medal and the 2021 Deans' & Directors' Good Practice Award have been extended until Tuesday 31st August.

The prestigious Andrija Štampar Medal is awarded each year to a distinguished person for excellence in the field of Public Health.

[See more about the award and past medalists here.](#)

The Deans' & Directors' Good Practice Award showcases the best master programmes and Continuing Professional Development courses offered by members of the Association. Three main characteristics of the programmes and courses will be assessed: impact, internationalisation, and innovation.

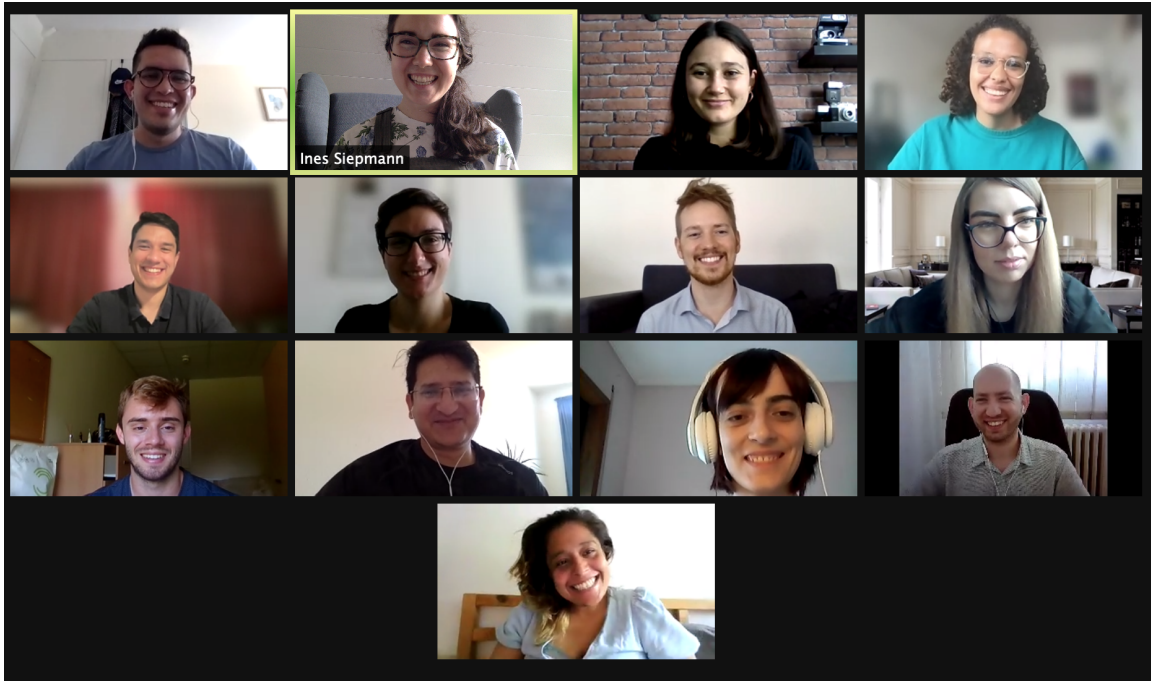
[See more about the award and past winners here.](#)

Please send your nominations to Robert at robert.otok@aspher.org by Tuesday 31 August!

New ASPHER Young Professional Recruits Welcomed at ASSETS

ASPHER's Young Professionals Program is excited to enter into its second year. We've had a busy summer, introducing our second cohort in July at ASPHER's Mentoring Summer School (ASSETS) after a very difficult applicant selection process - the entire candidate pool was fabulous! We've brought in 15 new YPs who bring a plethora of experiences and backgrounds, and are ready to collaborate on ASPHER projects, propose their own for ASPHER support, and continue building their own public health network and experiences. New YPs have already dived "all in," participating in ASPHER sub-group meetings, writing three vignettes for the [European Observatory](#), and planning projects ranging from curricula analysis to social media videos.

Looking forward to the autumn, we'll be heavily involved in the Dean's & Director's Retreat program, both as moderators and individual session leads. We're planning on restructuring our leadership to strengthen overall program capacity, and we're looking forward to continuing to play an important role in ASPHER's work - both addressing COVID-19 and beyond.



As we continue to navigate the pandemic and address the question of how to best strengthen public health infrastructure, the YPP reflects on the hugely important ASPHER agenda of incorporating young and early career voices and building the capacity and sustainability of the workforce for the future. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with and learn from (and teach) the ASPHER community.

Ines Siepmann, ASPHER YPP Coordinator

Vaccination Hesitancy and Vaccinology Training Kick Off Meeting

The ASPHER Consortium working on the Vaccination Hesitancy and Vaccinology Training for primary health care workers held their kick off meeting with ECDC on 15 July 2021. Scientific Project Leads Anna Odone, University of Pavia and Carlo Signorelli University Vita-Salute San Raffaele and representatives from EU consortium schools: Catholic University of the Sacred Heart Rome; ISPUP, University of Porto; Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, NOVA University of Lisbon; National School of Public Health, NOVA University of Lisbon; Andalusian School of Public Health, Granada; Medical University of Vienna; and French School of Public Health – EHESP were in attendance.

ASPHER is thrilled to be working with a large and dynamic consortium of schools on this important project to provide training in the area of vaccination and vaccine hesitancy for primary healthcare professionals at a time when we are being sorely reminded of the crucial role of vaccines. The project will seek to offer a unique curriculum targeted to EU Member States and which will be freely available to all.

UCCAIDE Survey

The ASPHER Consortium working on Updating Core Competencies in Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (UCCAIDE) for the ECDC will soon be launching the final consultation of their Core Competencies list.

Many of our members responded at the time of the project bid indicating that you would be willing to act as experts to assist the project and some of you may now be contacted to consult the list. We thank you in advance for your participation!

The UCCAIDE Consortium will join us at the Deans' & Directors Retreat to present their work.

ASPHER Calls for Public Health Reviews

We would like to inform you about a very beneficial editorial privilege that ASPHER has in the journal [Public Health Reviews](#) (PHR): We can autonomously run in the journal "ASPHER Calls for Papers" and publish them as "ASPHER Special Issues". This allows the ASPHER community to promote Public Health research topics that we consider particularly important, and gives ASPHER members the opportunity to distinguish themselves internationally as guest editors.

Each Call is run by 2-3 guest editors out of the ASPHER audience who propose a relevant topic and title for the Call, draft a description (about 250 max) and are ready to organize double blind peer reviews for the incoming submissions. The PHR Editorial Office (Dr. Anke Berger) will provide advice and assistance to set up the Call, distribute it widely and organize the peer reviews.

We are looking for topics and guest editors for ASPHER Calls!

Please let us know if you are interested in running an ASPHER Call by submitting a topic and proposals for guest editors to Karolina at carol_lub@abv.bg.

Karolina Lyubomirova, ASPHER delegate in the PHR Editorial Board.

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MEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

SSPH+ Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics, and Management Plenary Lecture Series

Online, 23-28 August

The Swiss School of Public Health is excited to tell you that the SSPH+ Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics, and Management turns 30 this year! As part of the

celebrations, the School is holding a Plenary Lecture Series from 23-28 August that is open to the public.

For more information [download the flyer here](#) or go to:
<http://www.ssph-lugano-summer-school.ch/2021-programme/>.

[Register for the sessions here](#). Later the recordings will be posted to the [SSPH+ YouTube channel](#).

ASPHER Congratulates the SSPH+ Summer School on their 30 year anniversary!

University College Dublin Contact Tracing Centre Closing Assembly

The University College Dublin Contact Tracing Centre held a Closing Assembly on Wednesday 11 August. [See the programme here](#).

The COVID-19 Contact Management Programme (CMP) was established in March 2020 to respond to the global pandemic in Ireland under the leadership of Prof. Mary Codd (ASPHER Executive Board Member) and Prof. Patrick Wall. With over 200 volunteers from a variety of backgrounds, including Public Health, Nursing, Physiotherapy Medicine, Dietetics, Laboratory Science, UCD CTC has played a vital role in the State's contact tracing programme, including managing the specialised queue on behalf of the Departments of Public health and many of the complex, clinical and sensitive cases.

[Read more about the UCD Contact Tracing Centre here](#). We look forward to hearing more from UCD at the Deans & Directors Retreat on 27 September.

15 years of ISPUP "The tools to act: Training the new Public Health workforce"

As part of their 15th anniversary celebrations, the Institute of Public Health at University of Porto (ISPUP) held a webinar on 'The tools to act: Training the new Public Health workforce' moderated by Teresa Leão, public health physician and ISPUP researcher. ASPHER Director Robert Otok joined the event to comment on the ASPHER perspective on challenges and training.

ASPHER congratulates ISPUP on 15 years of good work!

[Watch the recorded webinar here](#).

Peter Piot Retires as Director of LSHTM

After 11 years, heading up the [London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine \(LSHTM\)](#) [Professor Peter Piot](#) has retired his directorship.

Under Professor Piot's leadership, LSHTM's reputation, profile and influence in global health soared with an expansion of strategic partnerships around the world, strengthening the school's impact on improving health and health equity worldwide, inspiring countless students and establishing new education programmes and centres, to train up the next generation of scientists and future health leaders.

Although retiring as Director, Professor Piot will continue with research activities at LSHTM in his role as Handa Professor of Global Health, in addition to various advisory roles, including as Special Advisor to Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission.

Leading figures in global health joined LSHTM colleagues in July to honour his achievements at a symbolic [handover symposium](#) from Professor Piot to incoming Director, [Professor Liam Smeeth](#).

ASPHER wishes Professor Piot all the best and congratulates and welcomes incoming LSHTM Director, Professor Liam Smeeth.

[Read more from LSHTM here.](#)

Project METEOR

ASPHER Member CEFPAS wishes to inform on their participation in the EU 3rd Health Programme Project METEOR: Mental Health: Focus on Retention of Healthcare Workers.

The main objective of METEOR is three-fold. First, we will enhance knowledge on the determinants of job retention, as well as on the already successfully implemented interventions and retention policies from literature. Second, we will identify and analyse the main determinants related to retention across the 8 participating hospitals in 4 European countries (Belgium, The Netherlands, Poland, and Italy). Third, we will develop policy recommendations through continuous stakeholder engagement. The knowledge acquired through these steps will be iteratively integrated into an accessible and searchable online toolbox.

[Learn more about METEOR here.](#)

Health, Education, and Peace in a Modern Learning Environment

ASPHER Honours Committee Member and Past President Jeffery Levett, Professor and Board Member, ECPD; and Dr Peggy Pelonis, President of ACS Athens and Belgrade came together for a summit to discuss Health, Education, and Peace in a modern learning environment.

[Watch the recorded Summit here.](#)

[Read Jeff Levett's recent ASPHER Blog 'Search for Honest Appraisal with Trust' here.](#)

UMIT Tirol HTADS Continuing Education Courses

Scientific Reporting and Writing (15 - 17 November 2021)

Early booking deadline 06 September 2021

We are pleased to announce our 3-Day Certified Course "Scientific Reporting and Writing", to be held in Hall in Tirol, Austria.

This 3-day 'Scientific Reporting and Writing' course will address various challenges of professional scientific reporting, writing and presenting. It includes a primer on scientific work in general and on giving critical feedback to writers and presenters. Participants are invited to submit and work on their own abstracts in preparation for the course using the online platform. They will receive personalized feedback and advice from fellow peers and course faculty. The course is characterized by interactive lectures, exercise and group work. Lecturers will provide an overview of general writing topics. Practical exercises and online platform activities will focus on specific issues including challenges for non-native speaker scientists. Finally, course faculty with experience as journal editors will give advice on submission procedures.

Autumn School in Clinical Epidemiology (13 - 17 September 2021)

Early booking deadline 16 August 2021

We are pleased to announce that our 5-Day Certified Course "Autumn School in Clinical Epidemiology" will be held ONLINE.

The Autumn School in Clinical Epidemiology will give you a comprehensive overview of epidemiologic principles and methods to problems encountered in public health and clinical medicine. It provides important information for clinicians and health policy makers in order to identify risk factors for diseases and to determine optimal preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for individuals and populations.

The course combines lectures, discussions and case study group work within its 5 days. Main lecturer of this course will be Prof. Albert Hofman, Professor of Public Health and Clinical Epidemiology (Harvard University).

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

Selected ASPHER Member Publications

Wong, BLH, Siepmann I, Chen TT, et al. Rebuilding to shape a better future: the role of young professionals in the public health workforce. Hum Resour Health 19, 82 (2021). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12960-021-00627-7>

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PARTNER NEWS AND EVENTS

World Field Epidemiology Day

On September 7, 2021, the global network of Field Epidemiology Training Programs ([TEPHINET](#)) is organizing a celebration of the first World Field Epidemiology Day.



#WorldFieldEpidemiologyDay is a global movement to recognize and raise awareness of the vital role of field epidemiologists in protecting the health of populations, thus advancing global health security, and to advocate for increased investment in field epidemiology training, research, and professionals.

The past year has brought unprecedented visibility to the work of field epidemiologists as the world has fought COVID-19, but this visibility has not always resulted in understanding the importance of field epidemiology, nor in the increased support needed to strengthen public health systems around the globe to better detect and respond to outbreaks.

TEPHINET invites you to join World Field Epidemiology Day through action, communication and advocacy. Share your work and your stories online, organize an event, and call on leaders to take action. Together, we can make a strong case for increased support and investment in field epidemiology for the health and security of the world.

Why September 7? On this date in 1854, John Snow took his findings from his now-famous investigation of the Broad Street cholera outbreak to local officials, leading them to take action and remove the handle of the offending water pump.

Visit www.worldfieldepidemiologyday.org for more information about how to get involved.

For questions about the campaign, please contact Tina Rezvani, TEPHINET's Associate Director of Communications: trezvani@tephinet.org.

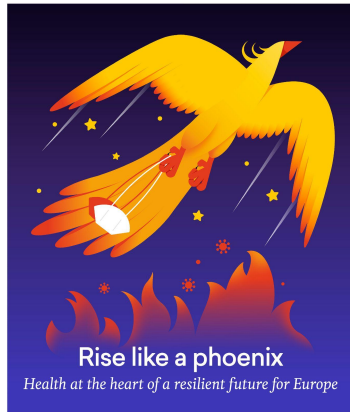
European Health Forum Gastein 2021

Virtual event, 27 September - 1 October 2021

The Annual European Health Forum Gastein Conference will be held online from 27 September to 1 October under the theme 'Rise like a phoenix: Health at the heart of a resilient future for Europe'

EHFG 2021

EUROPEAN HEALTH FORUM
24TH EUROPEAN HEALTH FORUM GASTEN
27 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER



The COVID-19 pandemic has upended lives and radically altered the political landscape. While we continue to fight fires and look towards an uncertain future, amidst the ashes of this unprecedented crisis there lies an opportunity for renewal and rebirth. Health is having a rare moment in the political spotlight: now is the time to fight for solidarity, equity and transformation in health, within Europe and on the global stage.

Join EHFG 2021 for a full week of digital sessions and networking, and help us conceptualise how we can rise from this crisis as more resilient, smarter, and more equitable societies. It's time to level up!

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

[Register for the conference here.](#)

14th European Public Health Conference 2021

Virtual event, 10 – 12 November 2021

The theme of this year's annual EPH Conference is 'Public health futures in a changing world'. European public health has not had a good COVID. Across Europe the public health response to a pandemic has been largely unsuccessful. This is despite an enormous amount of very hard work in public health units all across the EU. This reflects a weakness within the profession, which has been manifested in the curious phenomenon of dual strands of public health advice, official and unofficial, in several EU countries. Politicians were placed in an impossible position by this. This needs to be openly and constructively faced. By and large, public health has had limited impact on the design and implementation of a core public health policy.

So. The world of public health changes, but many key pieces remain the same. A key part is to hold to that which we value, and to build on that, and extend out from that, to meet new and pressing needs. A focus on where we are, and where we want to go might be helpful for clarification. The relevant word is 'futures', and not 'future'. We expect an even more diverse public health, with the public health workforce delivering in new and more traditional arenas.

Early Bird Registration is available until 1 September!

[Learn more here.](#)

[Register for the EPH Conference here.](#)

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OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Papers: Updates in COVID-19 Control & Vaccination Campaigns

Acta Biomedica announces a new supplement a year and a half into the COVID-19 pandemic. It calls upon researchers within and beyond the public health community to report on innovative data, experiences and best practices related to COVID-19 control and vaccination campaigns at the national and international level.

We will value studies focusing on all aspects related to COVID-19 care, prevention and control at the research, practice and policy level. Special attention will be paid to innovative insight and multidisciplinary approaches. We welcome original research (full articles and short reports), narrative and systematic reviews and commentaries. Other article types might be considered including short papers in Italian.

Guest Editors: Carlo Signorelli, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University and Anna Odone, University of Pavia

Papers must be submitted by 3 September 2021 at www.actabiomedica.it choosing 'supplement COVID-19' as Section.

Sciana: The Health Leaders Network Fellowship

An initiative bringing together outstanding leaders in health and health care policy and innovation across Europe, this fellowship is open for application until 12 September 2021 for a May 2022 start. The Sciana network provides members space to take inspiration and learning from across the globe, and time to share insights gained as well as their own experiences with peers, with whom they will work to address some of the shared challenges we are facing across Europe.

[Learn more here.](#)

Share the ASPHER newsletter!



[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

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