



2018 ASPHER General Assembly

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)
Wednesday, 20 June 2018, 08:30-12:30

MINUTES

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting.

Martin McKee and Peter Piot welcomed the ASPHER General Assembly (GA) back to LSHTM, remembering the last time the meeting was hosted there in 1995. Both reaffirmed the LSHTM commitment to working with Europe despite the UK government's plans and the impending Brexit. Peter noted that this was affirmed in a statement released by the LSTHM Council. He emphasized that public health challenges no longer have easy solutions and that the strength of Europe is both its diversity and its unity.

Kasia Czabanowska opened the meeting. She encouraged everyone to take the opportunity during the day for exchange with one another in an offline setting, noting that the power of ASPHER is in its people.

2. Approval of minutes from the 2017 ASPHER General Assembly

The 2017 ASPHER GA minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Acceptance of New Members

Candidate Full Members:

Faculty of Education Health & Wellbeing, University of Wolverhampton, United Kingdom was presented by Ranjit Khutan and Amena Dilmohamed.

Full membership was approved unanimously.

Public Health Division, Faculty of Health Sciences, Wroclaw Medical University, Poland was presented by Joanna Gotlib.

Full membership was approved unanimously.

Faculty of Health Sciences Wroclaw Medical University, Poland was not in attendance at the GA. It was noted that the representative, Dorota Kiedik would arrive later in the day.

Full membership was approved unanimously

Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health, University of Groningen, Netherlands was presented by Jochen Mierau via teleconference.

Full membership was approved unanimously.

Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Finland was to be presented by teleconference by Teija-Kaisa Aholaakko, but was unable to connect.

Full membership was approved unanimously.

Candidate Associate Members:

School of Public Health, Université de Montréal, Canada was presented by Laurent Chambaud; he remarked that Réjean Hébert, dean of the Montréal SPH, would arrive later in the day and join the Retreat proceedings on Thursday and Friday.

Associate membership was approved unanimously.

Prasanna School of Public Health, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India was presented by Helmut Brand.

Associate membership was approved unanimously.

Ulrich Laaser highlighted the global nature of the new members and proposed making ASPHER a more global association by considering schools outside of Europe for Full ASPHER Membership. It was acknowledged that this idea should be taken for further discussion in the context of ASPHER's global collaboration efforts with networks of SPHs in other regions.

4. Reports from President, Treasurer and Secretariat

Kasia Czabanowska reported that work is underway for Public Health Workforce Development and Professionalisation as part of ASPHER Strategy 2020 in conjunction with WHO Coalition of Partners (CoP) in the form of:

- Public Health Workforce Professionalisation Road Map
- Competencies Framework for Public Health Workforce
- Accreditation and Professional Credentialing Handbook

New and/or revived ASPHER Working groups:

- Healthcare economic evaluation in East and Southeast Europe (proposal presented)
- Public Health Law
- Undergraduate Education

Work on raising ASPHER profile:

- ASPHER Awards: Andrea Stampar Medal, New ASPHER Deans' and Direct Award for excellence in public health education and training emphasizing Impact, Innovation and Internationalisation;
- Networking and collaborating including recent work/meetings with: University of Porto; Medical University of Sofia; University of Bordeaux; Medical University of Warsaw; WHO Europe; ECDC; IANPHI; CUGH; ASPPH (new memorandum of understanding);
- Developing Public Health Capacity: Salzburg Seminars; Symposium on Human Rights and Patient Care; Public Health Leadership Lectures; supporting efforts of the National Institute of Public Health in Warsaw referring to the implementation of the national PHW professionalisation agenda.

Laurent Chambaud presented the yearly accounts and reported that the financial strategy since 2014 has been to strengthen ASPHER's sustainability by increasing structural income from membership fees whilst decreasing income from projects. It was stressed that ASPHER has no financial reserves and thus liquidity continues to be a recurrent issue that needs to be addressed in order to further ensure ASPHER's sustainability in the future. Further focus on regular income from fees and services should remain a priority while engaging in members' projects and investing in some key partnerships provide for a promising outlook.

The financial priorities for 2019-2020 will be as follows:

- Continue to implement the improved membership policy framework, which increased the applications to the Association and the timely payment of membership fees;
- Continue to increase the secretariat capacity to be able to provide more regular services and projects that allow for sustainable growth;
- Enhanced participation in members' projects and investing in key partnerships to create more synergies and generate additional income.

Robert Otok reported on the secretariat efforts carried out under the framework of ASPHER Strategy 2020, focusing on strengthening the governance, management and sustainable development of ASPHER. Key updates included:

- Introduction of adjunct positions in the ASPHER Executive Board, e.g. representing students and young professionals as well as other key contexts;
- Development of an enhanced formula for the organization of the annual Deans' and Directors' Retreats;
- Highlights on the ongoing projects, initiatives undertaken by working groups and other efforts coordinated by the office, e.g. PHTA;
- Public Health Reviews & Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation;
- Continued improvement of the online services and newsletter.

He informed also that Fèlix Ruiz Cabré would leave ASPHER at the end of August and thanked him for his commitment and service to the Association over the last two years.

All three reports were approved unanimously.

José Martin Moreno suggested that ASPHER should work more closely with EUPHA and collaborate more with other public health organisations to help with capacity issues.

Ulrich Laaser noted that ASPHER 2020 should be in the final phase of implementation and asked when there would be a report. Kasia Czabanowska replied that there would be a draft report for the next GA and an evaluation phase would follow with the final draft ready for 2020.

5. Report from Public Health Reviews

Lore Leighton, PHR Managing Editor presented some of the key Journal's achievements since 2015:

- Listing in PubMed, Web of Science Emerging Sources Citation Index
- Increasing numbers of independently submitted and published papers
- Successful collaboration with Open Society Foundation to publish thematic article collection on Migrant and Minority Health.

Francesca Dickens, BioMed Central Development Editor presented highlights from the Publisher's Report and plans to apply for Impact Factor. Strong points for PHR IF application include:

- Diverse Editorial Board
- Diverse Authorship
- Unique Journal Identity

This report was presented earlier than initially intended (under p 9) – this was because of availability of the presenting parties.

The report was approved unanimously.

6. Report from the Honours Committee

Jose Martin-Moreno reported that the Honours' Committee is discussing how to capitalise on the expertise, network and visibility of the members of the Honours Committee in order to become more pro-active in supporting ASPHER. Proposals as to how the Honours Committee can strengthen its members' engagement will be put forward shortly.

The report was approved unanimously.

7. Elections of Executive Board Members 2018-2021

Katarzyna Czabanowska thanked Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn, Berlin SPH, and Louise Stjernberg, Stockholm SPH, two stepping down members of the Executive Board, for their dedication and service to the Association.

Robert Otok invited the candidates to present their election manifestos:

Karolina Lyubomirova, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University Sofia, Bulgaria – nominated by Maastricht SPH and Stockholm SPH.

Carlo Signorelli, Board of Italian Schools of Public Health, SitI, Italy. Nominated by UK FPH and Maastricht SPH.

Robert Buckingham, University of Michigan-Flint, MI, USA. Nominated by Kaunas SPH and Bristol SPH.

Nino Künzli, Swiss School of Public Health+, Switzerland. Nominated by Berlin SPH and Porto SPH.

The candidates were elected by acclamation and joined the EB for the 2018-21 term.

8. Election of President-Elect 2019-2021

Robert Otok invited the candidate to present his election manifesto:

John Middleton, UK Faculty of Public Health, United Kingdom. Nominated by Maastricht SPH and Berlin SPH.

John Middleton presented his candidacy, introducing himself as the President of the United Kingdom Faculty of Public Health of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of London, Edinburgh and Glasgow and as an ASPHER Executive Board Member for the past two years. He highlighted efforts at the UK Faculty to develop and refine work on standards, curriculum, competencies and Codes of conduct, which is also part of the mission of ASPHER.

He quoted Cicero, who said ‘*Salus populi suprema lex esto*’: ‘*The health of the people is the highest law*’ and noted that he was pleased that ASPHER is embracing a public health law agenda. John pointed out that public health problems do not respect national boundaries in obvious ways such as environmental degradation, infectious disease outbreaks and air pollution. However, less obviously, global corporations also do not respect national boundaries and can contribute to the global burden of non-communicable disease. It is therefore clear that public health must educate and train about the harmful effects of corporate misuse of power, and how to combat anti-health forces. Part of our response must be in regulation, taxation and control, and application of existing laws to protect the health of the people.

As well, John emphasized the wider issue of *interconnectedness*. Environmental problems, human conflicts and economic inequalities are interrelated demanding interconnectedness. He described these issues as part of the planetary health

agenda and some of the key challenges to the public health system by 2040. He acknowledged that we cannot all be experts in climatology, biology, ecology, political science or international law, but that we need to know enough, and we need to relate to the people that do know about these vital issues for the public's health.

John concluded by highlighting that *change is inevitable, but progress is not*. What we do will determine whether our people and our planet progress for the better, or changes for the worst. He therefore believes that this is an important time for public health professionals and services with a need to be united across Europe. He noted that we must be courageous, politically astute and publicly effective in protecting the health of the people.

Finally, John pledged to serve and support member schools and associates and to improve and protect the health of all people in Europe and globally. He will be pleased and honoured to serve ASPHER and gave his thanks.

John Middleton was elected by acclamation to become ASPHER President for the term 2019-21.

ASPHER Secretariat will ensure the update of the ASPHER Executive Board composition in the relevant registry in Belgium (CBE n° 0548.742.658). The ASPHER entry should now list the following persons (scanned IDs and detailed residency addresses provided):

- Henrique Barros, PORTUGAL
- Robert Buckingham, UNITED STATES
- Laurent Chambaud, FRANCE
- Katarzyna Czabanowska, THE NETHERLANDS
- Nino Kunzli, SWITZERLAND
- Karolina Lyubomirova, BULGARIA
- John Middleton, UNITED KINGDOM
- Carlo Signorelli, ITALY
- Dejana Vukovic, SERBIA

Helmut Brand and Vesna Bjegovic-Mikanovic's details will be replaced with those of the current members of the board (listed above).

Robert Otok should remain the person listed in charge of daily management

9. Reports from working groups, new initiatives and other communications

ASPHER's Core Competencies List for the Public Health Professional – 5th edition was presented by Anders Foldspang.

ASPHER Undergraduate Education Working Group updates were presented by Suzanne Selig.

ASPHER-ECDC Network updates were presented by Carmen Varela and Jeanine Pommier.

Agency for Public Health Education and Accreditation (APHEA) updates were presented by Laurent Chambaud.

The reports was approved unanimously.

Wynn Ha, ASPHER Intern, made a short announcement about her Master's project, involving a survey among ASPHER members.

10. Closing of the meeting

Kasia Czabanowska thanked everyone for their participation and invited all ASPHER members to join the 2019 GA and Deans' & Directors' Retreat, which will take place from 26 to 29 May in Erice (Italy) and be hosted by the Board of Directors of the Italian Public Health Schools (SIItI) at the Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture (EMFCSC). Carlo Signorelli was thanked for his support in organising the next Retreat.

The meeting was closed at 12:30.