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ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Good Practice Award for excellence in public health training and education 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. She graduated at the University of Zagreb School of Medicine in 1982. Between 1986 and 1988 Selma Šogorić acquired communication skills through formal training in Transactional Analysis (therapist level I), Mental dynamic, Liaison therapy, and others. At the University of Zagreb School of Medicine, she received a Master of Science (1992) and PhD (2001).

After graduation in 1982, Selma Šogorić worked for a year as a GP at the Kloštar Podravski Health Station in Virovitica Medical Center and another year as a Health Advisor at the Red Cross of the Municipality of Peščenica in Zagreb. Since 1986, Selma Šogorić is employed at the Andrija Štampar School of Public Health, School of Medicine, University of Zagreb – in the Department of Social Medicine and Health Care Organization, becoming Full Professor in 2018.

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. Since 1988, she has participated in all project activities of the Healthy Cities Network, the European Office of the World Organization, and acts as national coordinator of the Croatian Network of Healthy Cities and Counties (since 2018 as president).

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. Since 1990 till today Selma Šogorić has been leading the Croatian Healthy Cities Network Support Centre, acting as a national network coordinator, consulting and providing support to more than forty Croatian cities and fifteen Counties on locally conducted health-promoting projects and activities.

Since its beginning, in 2002, Selma Šogorić has been the Program leader of the Ministry of Health Program "Counties Public Health Capacity Building" ("Healthy Counties") providing support to Ministry and all Croatian Counties in the process of the decentralization of health and social welfare services. For the program "A County Program for Strengthening Public Health Capacity - Health: A Plan for It" Selma Šogorić was awarded the CDC Excellence Award in 2006 and Global Health of Distinction Award in 2013.

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. She organized several international scientific and professional conferences. She is editor-in-chief or guest editor in 5 scientific and professional journals, editor-in-chief of four books and two textbooks, advisor to the World Organization / Editor for Europe, and actively participates in the work of scientific and professional societies in Croatia and the World.