

2020 ASPHER General Assembly

Minutes (draft)

Thursday, 10 September, 15:00-18:00
Venue: Zoom

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

ASPHER President John Middleton, welcomed ASPHER Members and opened the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes from the 2019 ASPHER General Assembly

The 2019 ASPHER GA minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Acceptance of new members

Candidate Full membership

Center for Public Health, Medical University of Vienna, AUSTRIA

Presented by: Recorded Message from Judit Simon

Full membership was approved unanimously.

School of Health Sciences, University of Georgia, GEORGIA

Presented by: Mariam Lobjanidze

Full membership was approved unanimously.

Faculty of Public Health, University of Thessaly, GREECE

Presented by: Polychronis P. Kostoulas

Additional words of support were given by Elpida Pavi, Dean of SPH, University of West Attica, GREECE

Full membership was approved unanimously.

Centre of Public Health Sciences, University of Iceland, ICELAND

Presented by: Arna Hauksdóttir

Full membership was approved unanimously.

School of Public Health, University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan ITALY

Presented by: Carlo Signorelli

Full membership was approved unanimously.

School of Public Health, University of Pavia, ITALY

Presented by: Carlo Signorelli

Full membership was approved unanimously.

School of Public Health, University of Pisa, ITALY

Presented by: Gaetano Privitera

Full membership was approved unanimously.

School of Public Health, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Rome ITALY

Presented by: Gianfranco Damiani

Full membership was approved unanimously.

Cluj School of Public Health, Babes-Bolyai University, ROMANIA

Presented by: Marius Ungureanu

Full membership was approved unanimously.

Faculty of Population Health Sciences, University College London, UNITED KINGDOM

Presented by: Hynek Pikhart

Full membership was approved unanimously.

4. Report from the President

John Middleton reported on the work of the Association in 2019-2020.

Salient points:

- Added focus on recruitment and retention of membership with improved services and communications to members, including monthly newsletters.
- Expanded partnerships in Europe and globally and the founding of the Global Network for Academic Public Health
- ASPHER 2025 Strategy continuing usual ASPHER business of workforce development, competencies and curriculum, ethics and law; while adding new areas of governance, social impact in communities and young professionals.
- COVID-19 task force impact
- Active and engaged Executive Board
- Grateful for secretariat contribution
- Overall a successful year under difficult circumstances

Executive Board Member Mary Codd, University College Dublin, Ireland thanked John Middleton for his kind words and acknowledged his leadership and work.

4.1. COVID-19 disruptions to ASPHER business

John Middleton presented the letter from EB requesting deferment of new appointments until next Deans & Directors Retreat in wake of COVID and extended transition period of the ASPHER strategic agenda.

The letter and deferments were approved unanimously.

4.2. From 2020 to 2025 strategic agenda

John Middleton presented the 2025 Strategic Agenda.

Salient points:

- Transition period from September 2020 to May 2021 with both 2020 and 2025 agendas in parallel
- New Membership fee scheme

Laurent Chambaud, EHESP, France noted that it was well designed strategy in line with ASPHER's core missions and would add to the discussion. He suggested adding an element to define basic Public Health culture for the public.

The 2025 agenda was approved unanimously.

5. Report from the Treasurer

Robert Otok, ASPHER Director reported on the accounts of the Association for 2019-2020 on behalf of Henrique Barros, ASPHER treasurer, ISPUP, Portugal.

Salient Points:

- Improved membership policy and clarity
- Increased secretariat capacity and resources

- New funding secured in coming years from projects that represent core ASPHER business and with involvement of Member Schools
- Call to members to include ASPHER on projects – particularly for dissemination and evaluation – core member benefit

Henrique Barros thanked Robert Otok for putting together the budget/financial material and meetings.

The report was approved unanimously.

6. Report from the Secretariat

Robert Otok reported on the work of the ASPHER Secretariat in 2019-2020.

Henrique Barros, ISPUP, Portugal thanked the ASPHER Secretariat for keeping ASPHER active. He encouraged the assembly to push ASPHER to organize a student/alumni association.

The report was approved unanimously.

7. Communications from members

7.1. Medical University – Sofia: ASPHER Collaborating Centre proposal

Karolina Lyubomirova, Medical University – Sofia, Bulgaria reported on the Collaborating Centre proposal for Public Health Innovations at Sofia functioning to benefit the school agenda in Bulgaria and neighboring countries and the wider ASPHER Agenda. Sofia would also propose the Collaborating Centre to work as a base site for the ASPHER Human Rights in Patient Care (HRPC) programme coordination.

Henrique Barros, ISPUP, Portugal commented that it was an excellent idea to have an ASPHER Collaborating Centre initiative, but it still requires proper handling and details for integration into the ASPHER membership offer. Alena Petrakova, Palacky University Olomuc, Czech Republic supported HB's comment.

John Middleton summarized that ASPHER is agreement for a Collaborating Centre initiative, but there remained a need to develop a rationale for operations and details. He suggested that Medical University - Sofia be considered a pilot programme for the initiative.

The pilot Collaborating Centre at Medical University - Sofia was approved unanimously.

7.2 National School of Public Health, Greece/University of West Attica

Elpida Pavi, Dean of SPH, University of West Attica, Greece reported on changes at the National School of Public Health in Athens Greece, which has been integrated into the University of West Attica. The new merged University will contain a School of Public Health, a Department of Public Health Policy and a Department of Public Health and Community Hygiene with a Bachelor programme in Community Health.

8. Short communications

8.1. Andrija Stampar Medal 2020

John Middleton announced the Andrija Stampar medalist, Selma Šogorić of the Andrija Stampar SPH, Croatia commending her work on Health Cities/Health Counties movement in Europe

The Andrija Stampar Medal will be awarded at a plenary session of the World Congress on Public Health

8.2. Deans' and Directors' Good Practice Award 2020

The Deans' and Directors' Good Practice Award was given to the Train4M&H action on Migration and CPD training of first line responders.

Dadan Kardiana, EHESP accepted the award and encouraged ASPHER Members to use the e-training material.

8.3. PHR communication

John Middleton reported that ASPHER was at the end of its 5-year contract with the publisher and in confidential negotiations with publishers. A full report will be given at the next GA.

8.4. APHEA communication

Julien Goodman, APHEA Director presented the structure of APHEA and its activities. He invited ASPHER members to apply to be reviewers.

Vesna Bjegovic-Mikanovic, University of Belgrade, Serbia raised the issue of an ASPHER discount for APHEA services and the need to discuss business models for ASPHER and APHEA to integrate and work together to boost the number of accredited schools while also boosting the income to ASPHER. The discussion will be continued outside the GA.

8.5. ASPHER survey: the role of SPHs in the COVID-19 response

Ariane Bauernfeind, EASP, Spain reported on the pilot roles of SPHs in COVID-19 response survey. She announced that the full survey would go out to all ASPHER Members this autumn, encouraging Members to respond.

8.6. ASPHER survey: reopening SPH/university campuses

Ines Siepmann, ASPHER Young Professionals Programme reported on the July survey results. She announced that a follow up survey would also be sent in autumn to see what may have changed.

8.7 World Congress on Public Health

Robert Otok announced that the October ASPHER Newsletter would contain ASPHER announcements/content for WCPH.

9. Election of Executive Board members

Nadav Davidovitch, SPH, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel presented his candidacy for the ASPHER Board.

Carla Lopes, Institute of Public Health, University of Porto (ISPUP), Portugal presented her candidacy for the ASPHER Board.

Nadav Davidovitch and Carla Lopes were elected to the ASPHER Executive Board by unanimous acclamation.

10. Election of President-Elect (voting by acclamation)

Carlo Signorelli, School of Public Health, University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy presented his ASPHER Presidency manifesto.

Carlo Signorelli was elected to the ASPHER Presidency by unanimous acclamation.

11. Closing of the meeting

John Middleton thanked the ASPHER Membership and closed the meeting.