Global Oral Public Health working group of the World Federation of Public Health Associations

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Presentation

• World Federation of Public Health Associations
• Conceptions of policy and “global” public health
• Policy and advocacy at the WFPHA
• Global oral Public Health working group
The World Federation of Public Health Associations

• Founded in 1967 during the 20th World Health Assembly. Office in Geneva since 2008.
• Umbrella organization of multidisciplinary national public health associations
• The WFPHA is accredited as an NGO in official relations with WHO
• The Federation also holds consultation status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
WFPHA Membership 2012

- EU: 30
- AFRO: 20
- WPRO/SEARO: 15
- PAHO: 10
- EMRO: 5
- International: 1
WFPHA’s mission

To promote and protect global public health by:

• supporting the development of PH associations and societies and the establishment of regional federations;

• facilitating and supporting the exchange of information, knowledge and transfer of skills;

• undertaking advocacy for public policies, programs and practices at the supra-territorial level
Global Public Health at a turning point

New Global Public Health: why?

• Increasing number of partners in global public health with dispersed legitimacy
  – (ex.: AIDS-related NGOs > 60,000 in 2007; 280 agencies, 242 multilateral funds, 24 Development Banks, 40 UN Organisations, and 1000ds of NGO’s)

• Reconfiguration of power in health governance (ex.: G8, NGOs, CSOs, geopolitical transition)

• Increasing interdependency in the norm-setting (ex.: intellectual property and health)
Global Public Health at a turning point - suite

Global Health has seen:

• Expansion of actors and activities
• Inequality of access around the world
• Globalization of lifestyles
• The Health sector is one of the biggest industries worldwide
• Health is crucial to (political) stability
• A new need for coherence and coordination is recognized
Bozorgmehr, 2010
Members survey 2011: Results

Top 5 topics on the global health agenda

- Health policy development: 65%
- Public Health Education: 58%
- Health Services Evaluation: 52%
- Tobacco use: 52%
- Health systems reform: 48%
Some Conceptions of Policy

• “Those laws, regulations, formal and informal rules and understandings that are adopted on a collective basis to guide individual and collective behaviour" (Schmid, Pratt and Howze, 1996; Wallack et al. 1993)

• Healthy public policies must be built through "diverse but complementary approaches including legislation, fiscal measures, taxation and organizational change", which should be integrated in all activities of government (WHO 1986)
Who does policy?: Structures

- Policy associated with those who govern – nation/state, bureaucracies, etc.
- Historical lens on role of nation-states as enabling or exploitative structures possessing power (policy used as instrument of power)
- Mediating role with an interest in ‘collective’ welfare of citizens
- Establishes norms that structure individual action (policy as an expression of these norms)
WHO reform and NGOs

- WFPHA takes part in the discussion process
- WFPHA puts forward:
  1. WHO should link new health actors to the established intergovernmental system
  2. WFPHA also advocates for engagement with non-health actors that can influence health
  3. WFPHA underlines that the WHO is the only global health actor with formal-legal legitimacy
WFPHA collaboration plan with WHO

• An approach to the definition of (global) public health in the new landscape (actors, responsibilities, legitimacy);
• Side event at the up-coming World Health Assembly will promote the discussion;
• This work should be finalized by 2015 and be part of the 14th WFPHA World Congress in Kolkata, India.
in collaboration with

World Federation of Public Health Associations

1st Arab World Conference on Public Health
4 – 6 April, 2013
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Save The Dates!

www.publichealthdubai.com

Conference Secretariat: Public Health and Safety Department of DHA, Email: publichealthdubai@mci-group.com
1st Arab World Public Health Conference – April 4-6, 2013, Dubai

• Important part of the world with political changes;
• Public health needs to be strengthened especially in this part of the world;
• Networked global health governance using perhaps a “minilaterialistic” approach.
JOINTLY OPENING CEREMONY 1ST WPRCPH

Beijing, October 26-29, 2009
ASIAN-PACIFIC REGIONAL LIAISON OFFICE

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Deputy Director: Dr. Wang Peng 
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13th World Congress on Public Health
April 23-27 2012 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
“Towards Global Health Equity: Opportunities and Threats”
http://www.etpha.org/2012/
Daily Bulletin April 23, 2012 Bulletin #1

Public health students IFMSA

DECLARATION: http://etpha.org/2012/images/PDF_Files/Addis_Declaration.pdf
NEWSLETTER: www.wfpha.org/online-newsletter/items/wfpha-newsletter-july-2012.htm
AFRICAN FEDERATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS

Secretariat of AFPHA
c/o Ethiopian Public Health Association
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

President: Dr. Mathias Some (Burkina Faso)
Vice president: Dr Flavia Senkubuge (South Africa)
Secretary : Dr. Tewabech Bishaw (Ethiopia)
Help PH actors join forces

• Creation of a global oral public health working group
  1. Oral Health mainly underestimated in its role for PH – PH has not “visualized” oral health
  2. Enormous achievements for the health of people by using relatively little resources if the two sectors would interact more
  3. Teaming up – working trans-sectional is difficult
Team Work
Global oral public health: today’s opportunities: increased political awareness

• Fragmentation of health (care systems) – strengthening health systems (WHO)
• The NCD summit in New York 2011: The attention brought to non communicable diseases, where oral health is central – trans-sectorial action
• Populations epidemiological shift
Global Oral Public Health working group

- Accepted by the Governing Council of the WFPHA to be established
- K. A. Eaton, R Bedi, M. Alukian
- Ready by 2015 for the World Congress in 2015 in Kolkata
- Possibilities of twinning European experience with others – building other bridges
- World Dental Federation (FDI) will collaborate on several projects
The difficulty lies, not in the new ideas, but in escaping the old ones, which ramify into every corner of our minds.
Thank you for your attention !
Rudolf Virchow 1821-1902

“Medicine is a social science and politics is nothing else but medicine on a large scale. Medicine as a social science, as the science of human beings, has the obligation to point out problems and to attempt their theoretical solution; the politician, the practical anthropologist, must find the means for their actual solution”.