



SSPH+

SWISS SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

SWISS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH A VISIONARY SWISS INNOVATION

11 YEARS OF SHAPING THE FUTURE



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A Foundation of eight Universities



HONORING THE PAST TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

Within just a decade, the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) has become a successful and innovative player in the national and international academic landscape. Public health sciences must have a substantial impact on population health and policy-making and SSPH+ pursues this vision through training, capacity building, research and expertise. To fulfill its inherently multidisciplinary mission, public health must integrate expertise from a broad range of academic fields including medicine, epidemiology, economics, law, biology, -omics sciences, geography, biostatistics, anthropology, behavioral and political sciences, environmental health sciences, and communication, among others.

As a foundation, SSPH+ is run by a small group of dedicated part-time members of the Directorate's office, responsible for holding together a large network of public health academia embedded across the eight Swiss universities that make up the foundation. SSPH+ has no building, no infrastructure, no human resources, administration or information technology departments, but it capitalizes on the multidisciplinary academic public health expertise of more than 125 professors – the SSPH+ Fellows – affiliated with various faculties at the eight universities that shape SSPH+. As a consequence of this structure, the SSPH+ budget is small compared to the direct contributions our prime partner institutions receive from the eight universities. Thus, SSPH+ can concentrate on content and collaboration rather than on administration and infrastructure.

The investment in 14 SSPH+ assistant professorships served to boost public health academia in Switzerland and strengthened the basis from which to shape the future of SSPH+. Collectively, as a “think tank” and individually, as brokers of public health expertise, the SSPH+ Fellows contribute to translating evidence into policies in all fields relevant to health. Meanwhile, the transdisciplinary SSPH+ community fosters progress towards understanding the inherent links between health systems; societal, economic and community factors; and the molecular, biological and individual health factors that ultimately determine people's health. With this integrated concept of personalized health, SSPH+ will contribute to healthy lives for all members of our multicultural societies, nationally and internationally.

As a visionary virtual institution, SSPH+ focuses on assembling a critical mass of expertise to add value to its activities, while our partner institutions continue to excel independently and often competitively in domains where a “critical mass” or a common structure are not needed. The successes of the first eleven years of SSPH+ motivate us to further strengthen and pursue the mission of SSPH+ for the next eleven years. We shall endeavor to live up to our “plus”, to be more than the usual school of public health.

The SSPH+ Directorate



From left to right: Prof. Dr. Luca Crivelli (Deputy Director), Dr. Sandra Nocera (Head of Administration), Prof. Dr. Nino Künzli (Dean), Ursula Erni (Administrative Assistant), Prof. Dr. Dominique Sprumont (Deputy Director)



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Stronger together

SSPH+ assembles the academic public health expertise available across eight Swiss universities. The SSPH+ model is based on the vision that public health is a scientific and professional field, shaped by a broad range of disciplines. In a small country like Switzerland, no single institution has the critical mass needed to cover all public health relevant areas. However, together we are stronger.



UNIVERSITY OF BASEL



Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), an associated institute of the University of Basel Directorate (from left to right): Christoph Hatz, Kaspar Wyss, Nino Künzli (Deputy Director), Nicole Probst-Hensch, Jürg Utzinger (Director), Stefan Mörgeli, Sébastien Gagneux, Christian Burri



Institute of Nursing Science,
University of Basel
Sabina de Geest,
Director



Department Sport, Exercise
and Health, University of Basel
Arno Schmidt-Trucksäss,
Director

SSPH+ AT A GLANCE

Initiated in 2005, with funds from the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) became a foundation in 2008 and is currently supported by eight Swiss universities. Initially, SSPH+ included the Universities of Basel, Bern, Geneva, Lausanne, Svizzera italiana and Zurich, and was later joined by the Universities of Neuchâtel and Lucerne.

SSPH+ is a visionary model for a small country like Switzerland. Through a network of all university public health partners, SSPH+ brings together a broad range of expertise to shape the transdisciplinary field of public health. The “virtual school” provides a promising base from which to strengthen public health in a country where federal structures have so far resulted in very diverse and somewhat weak public health systems.

As SERI’s central funding contributions come to an end (2016), SSPH+ moves into a new era where funding from its eight universities and other partners will secure the mission of SSPH+ and ensure provision of central services to its prime partners.

SSPH+ VISION

As the leading academic institution in Switzerland for public health and as the academic public health focal point for national and international partners, SSPH+ has a substantial impact on population health and policy-making through training, capacity building, research and expertise.

SSPH+ MISSION

- Reinforce the identity of public health as an interdisciplinary and -professional field of science.
- Promote and maintain a skilled public health workforce at the local, national and international level through high-quality education and training.
- Strengthen the link between research and practice and foster partnerships among the public health constituencies to identify and address current and future public health challenges and to influence research, training and policy-making.
- Act as the umbrella and network of the academic partner institutions for tasks and activities for which a national coordination is necessary or where the critical mass at a single institution is lacking.

SSPH+ OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen visibility, recognition, coordination, quality control and standards of the public health education on all levels.
- Identify and support new developments in research and teaching and forecast future challenges in the field of public health at the national and international level.
- Facilitate mutual exchange and debate between public health actors.
- Foster the use of public health expertise among other constituencies.
- Increase visibility of and impact on public health-relevant issues.
- Secure a sustainable structure and funding.

VIRTUAL REALITY – THE SSPH+ STRUCTURE

ORGANISATION SSPH+

As of 2016

A FOUNDATION OF
EIGHT UNIVERSITIES

Basel	Bern	Geneva	Lausanne	Lucerne	Neuchâtel	Svizzera italiana	Zurich
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FOUNDATION BOARD

Each university has two representatives

DIRECTORATE

Dean, Deputy Directors, Administration

ACADEMIC BODY

SSPH+ Fellows – the “Faculty”

GOALS

PRODUCTS

Strengthen academic public health workforce	PhD programs	The structured SSPH+ PhD Programs are growing fast. As of 2016, 170 PhD students profit from the interdisciplinary training offers
	Seasonal Schools (Spring, Summer, Winter) & single courses	The thematically different seasonal schools attract PhD students and postgraduates from a range of disciplines
	Postgraduate programs (MAS, DAS, CAS)	The > 30 SSPH+ postgraduate programs include flagships such as the two MPH programs from the Universities Basel, Bern & Zurich and from the University of Geneva
	Quality assurance in postgraduate training	Evaluation tools and continued education for SSPH+ teachers and supervisors strengthen public health academia
	SSPH+ eCampus	The SSPH+ eCampus provides an online teaching and learning environment to all SSPH+ Fellows. It offers also registration systems
	Alumni network	SSPH+ Alumni are the leaders and messengers of the public health workforce
	SSPH+ Awards	SSPH+ awards young public health scientists for innovative research
Foster interdisciplinary collaboration	Sabbatical program	Sabbaticals help to overcome the separation of academic- and applied, practice-oriented public health careers and strengthen the cross-communication between the professionals
	Project & workshop programs	Projects and workshops are launched based on the need of the SSPH+ network
	Swiss Public Health Conference	The conference is run under the joint leadership of Public Health Schweiz and SSPH+, guaranteeing the exchange between public health academia, professionals, and the practice
	Strategic exchange with universities of applied sciences	SSPH+ develops strategic alliances and collaborations between the public health academic actors, the universities and the universities of applied sciences
	International Journal of Public Health	As the owner of IJPH, SSPH+ promotes the sharing of research findings to foster evidence based public health practice
Contributions in national and international partner organizations	SSPH+ engages in national and international developments in public health training and capacity building. The Director of SSPH+ is in the Executive Board of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) and of Public Health Schweiz	
Promote expertise & forecast needs	SSPH+ Expert Database	The Expert Database provides fast access to the expertise of the network partners
	Forecasting task force	SSPH+ invests in forecasting public health relevant developments in collaboration with national and international partners
	Mandate SSPH+ experts	Public health experts will be mandated to work on specific questions identified by SSPH+ partners and stakeholders
	Promote cohorts & biobanks to foster personalized health	The SSPH+ network invests in strategic activities to strengthen the public health perspective in this important field
	Communication and information	Newsletters, e-infos and the web are used to keep the SSPH+ constituencies informed and linked
	Swiss Learning Health System and Stakeholder processes	SSPH+ supports the network partners in building stakeholder processes for agreed upon decisions relevant to public health
	Cochrane Switzerland and Cochrane Public Health Europe	Systematic reviews on specific topics are relevant to the SSPH+ strategies and its further development
	Annual Retreat of SSPH+ Fellows	The Retreat shapes the SSPH+ activities, identifies needs of the Fellows and prioritizes the SSPH+ investments
	SSPH+ Assistant Professorship Programs	The SSPH+ Assistant Professorship Programs fostered the public health research agenda in all SSPH+ partner institutes

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST 11 YEARS

2005

2016

PhD programs

Seasonal Schools (Spring, Summer, Winter) & single courses

Postgraduate programs (MAS, DAS, CAS)

Quality assurance in postgraduate training

SSPH+ eCampus

Alumni network

SSPH+ Awards

Sabbatical program

Project & workshop programs

Swiss Public Health Conference

Strategic exchange with universities of applied sciences

International Journal of Public Health

Contributions in national and international partner organizations

SSPH+ Expert Database

Forecasting task force

Mandate SSPH+ experts

Promote cohorts & biobanks to foster personalized health

Communication and information

Swiss Learning Health System and Stakeholder processes

Cochrane Switzerland and Cochrane Public Health Europe

Annual Retreat of SSPH+ Fellows

SSPH+ Assistant Professorship Programs

2008



SSPH+ becomes a foundation

2010



Start SSPH+ Awards for the best PhD publication in public health sciences

2015



10th anniversary of SSPH+ with eight celebrations at the partner universities



The SSPH+ eCampus

Launched in mid-2016 as a central service, SSPH+ fosters the use of a shared learning management system, open to all SSPH+ partners. The eCampus, coordinated by the Swiss TPH team with its long-standing experience in blended learning methods and the use of e-platforms, offers a simple-to-use online platform to all lecturers and program coordinators of SSPH+ products. Its major advantage is the use of the open source Moodle software, hosted on a Swiss server, and thus operating in accordance with Swiss copyright laws. Teachers are allowed to share copyrighted full text or video documents in an educational online environment that is limited to their students. SSPH+ eCampus also offers tools to handle course registrations. The use of SSPH+ eCampus is not required but fully optional and may complement other tools and platforms used by SSPH+ Fellows.

VISIONARIES OF SSPH+



Felix Gutzwiller, former director of the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (today EBPI) at the University of Zurich, was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Swiss School of Public Health. He was president of the School Board from 2005 to 2008 and then president of the SSPH+ Foundation Board until his retirement at the end of 2012.



Marcel Tanner, former director of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) Basel (1997–2015), was also active in shaping SSPH+. He was member of the School Board (2005–2008) and member of the SSPH+ Foundation Board as of 2008. He became president of the SSPH+ Foundation Board in 2013. He is also president of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) as of 2016.

Interviews with Felix Gutzwiller and Marcel Tanner

Q: What was your motivation to invest your time and expertise in the SSPH+?

Gutzwiller: After my own training abroad (MPH, Harvard; Dr.PH Johns Hopkins) and the developments in public health at the time, it was clear to me that we should also be able to train our own public health workforce in Switzerland.

Tanner: I firmly believe that we need to create an umbrella for all Swiss public health expertise and experience for the benefit of our health system and of training and capacity building in and for public health.

Q: What would you consider the most important or relevant achievement of SSPH+ during the time of your leadership of SSPH+?

Gutzwiller: The development of a unique model in the Swiss landscape of higher education, integrating several universities and the major topics in public health, including health economics.

Tanner: To have found a new format for SSPH+, allowing all partners to contribute based on their capacities and possibilities, irrespective of the size of the university but solely dependent on excellence in and commitment to specific areas of public health expertise and experience.

Q: SSPH+ can only function if the eight universities support it with funds

to cover the Directorate and the key central services SSPH+ provides to its partners. What aspects, tasks, or products would you consider the most important ones to attract university funds now and in the future?

Gutzwiller: The successful training of public health workers, including public health scientists with academic careers, remains essential and will be in the future. SSPH+ can make a contribution that none of the eight universities would be able to achieve on their own.

Tanner: Any university should invest in the specific area of excellence to which it contributes in the overall umbrella of public health. It is in this way that partner universities can directly see their return on investment in the performance, development and structure of SSPH+.

Q: The SSPH+ features the academic public health network – not a specific university. Do you see a future for such an inter-university structure in times where international rankings and profiling of single universities have become a key factor?

Gutzwiller: The local publication records of professors still contribute to their respective universities; and internationally, there is a need to work on new rating systems that recognize the efforts of interdisciplinary and integrative programs.

Tanner: If a university investment is undertaken in the form as described above, the visibility of the university

remains and could even be measured with the “classical” performance indicators that, of course, are not at all free of doubts in terms of their accuracy and usefulness. In any case, if we aim to create an umbrella for the whole of Switzerland and the global community, the prime aim is never – or should not be – to rank a single university, but to see the excellence in the overall profile of our SSPH+.

Q: As the current president, do you see it as a viable alternative for the future that SSPH+ is run by only one university, just like all other schools of public health all around the world?

Tanner: The way we have now formed SSPH+ does not lend itself at all to a model based on one university only. What counts now is that we further develop what we have jointly created, aiming to establish an SSPH+ that brings together the expertise and experience of all partners, to create an umbrella with a distinct profile of contributing to better health and capacity building nationally and internationally. The multi-disciplinary field of public health needs collaborations wherever possible; public health needs a critical mass that single universities cannot reach on their own.

Q: As the past president, what is your wish for the next decade of SSPH+?

Gutzwiller: To offer excellent training opportunities and be among the five best schools in Europe.



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Why the “plus” is really a plus

Historically the “plus” referred to the first expansion of the school. In 2005, the two preexisting networks for public health and health economics, respectively, jointly launched the Swiss School of Public Health plus, with the “plus” representing the added value of health economics. With the addition of the Universities of Neuchâtel and Lucerne, and their competences in health law and health sciences, SSPH+ today assembles the essential fields that shape modern public health. Since it was first introduced, the “+” in our logo has come to symbolize the Swissness of the school and serves as a programmatic reminder that SSPH+ is more than the usual academic school of public health thanks to its network configuration, flexible development and progressive expansion of its competencies.

THE PILLAR OF SSPH+: EDUCATION

The paradigm of being “stronger together” is of particular relevance when it comes to public health teaching and training. No single SSPH+ partner assembles all of the interdisciplinary expertise found among the collective university faculties to shape public health training – we work best, together. Collaborative efforts to strengthen the Swiss public health workforce have a long tradition in Switzerland. Indeed, some of SSPH+’s initiators were also the forces behind two successful MPH programs. These programs were the flagships of SSPH+ and will soon mark their 25th anniversaries. SSPH+ currently supports more than 30 different educational programs in public health, in four different languages (German, French, Italian, and English), at the eight partner universities. Offerings include Certificates, Diplomas, and Masters of Advanced Studies (CAS, DAS, and MAS, respectively); PhD programs (see also page 25); seasonal schools; and several short courses in topics such as health promotion and prevention, international health, healthcare management, epidemiology and biostatistics, economics, and health law, among others. Some SSPH+ educational offerings use e-learning tools, like Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) or TRREE, the on-line training programme on ethics and regulation of health research involving human participants. All SSPH+ postgraduate programs are accredited by local universities. The postgraduate courses are organized as a series of modular courses. Seasonal schools offer a range of parallel courses, mostly on an annual basis.

Did you know ...

that 100% of airline pilots are trained as pilots but only 31% of the Swiss public health workforce have formal training in public health?

SELECT SSPH+ PROGRAMS

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH), UNIVERSITIES OF BASEL, BERN AND ZURICH

Leading Institutes: EBPI, ECPM, ISPM Bern, Swiss TPH

Academic Director: Thomas Szucs

Managing Director: Lara Modolo

Since 1992, the Universities of Basel, Bern and Zurich have offered the Master of Public Health. The part-time, modular course consists of systematic teaching, problem-oriented practical exercises, and a supervised project. Participants can also obtain a DAS or CAS in different fields. The degree is nationally accredited by the AAQ. Courses are taught mostly in German, with some courses available in English.

MAS EN SANTÉ PUBLIQUE (MPH), UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

Leading Institute: Institute of Global Health

Academic and Managing Director: Emmanuel Kabengele

The University of Geneva has offered the Diplôme de Santé Publique since 1990. The modular course runs for three years. Each course of study is individualized through an agreement between the candidate and the other parties involved. Participants also profit from proximity to the international public health organizations in Geneva. The degree is nationally accredited by the AAQ. Courses are taught mostly in French.

MAS IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH (MIH), UNIVERSITY OF BASEL

Leading Institute: Swiss TPH

Academic Director: Marcel Tanner

Program Coordinator: Bernadette Peterhans

The MAS in International Health is a collaborative modular program involving some 30 universities worldwide. The program prepares students to act as international health experts capable of tackling health-related challenges in inter-sectoral environments across multiple levels, from the community to the international stage, with a special focus on disadvantaged populations. Swiss TPH has offered the program since 1998; at least ten of the 60 ECTS credit points must be acquired outside Swiss TPH, from an accredited partner university. The degree is internationally accredited by tropEd, the Network for Education in International Health. Most of the modules are taught in English.

MBA IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT (MBA-IHM), UNIVERSITY OF BASEL

Leading Institute: Swiss TPH

Academic Director: Marcel Tanner

Program Coordinators: Axel Hoffmann, Amena Briët

The MBA-IHM provides a unique opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills required to take leading positions within health systems. By covering topics in public health, economics, business

UNIVERSITY OF BERN



Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM), University of Bern
Matthias Egger, Director



Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM), University of Bern
Thomas Abel, Deputy Director

administration and management from a practical perspective, participants are prepared to work in meaningful and productive partnerships in multicultural and transdisciplinary settings. The content of the part-time modular programme goes beyond classical MBA programmes in healthcare, as it maintains a global perspective and interdisciplinary approach throughout, with a strong focus on meso- and macro-level leadership positions. Participants can also obtain a DAS or CAS. Courses are taught in English.

MAS IN HEALTH ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT (NET-MEGS), UNIVERSITÀ DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA

Leading institute: IdEP
 Academic Directors: Stefano Calciolari, Marco Meneguzzo
 Program Coordinator: Beba Grob

Since 1998, the Università della Svizzera italiana has offered this two-year, part-time program. Net-MEGS targets health professionals who have the ambition to be leaders in their field. The program provides an international, multidisciplinary perspective on healthcare systems and advanced managerial techniques. The program is modular and participants can also obtain a DAS or CAS by completing, 30 or 15 ECTS, respectively. The degree is nationally accredited by the AAQ. Courses are taught mostly in Italian, with some courses in English.

MAS EN SCIENCES ET ORGANISATION DE LA SANTÉ (MAS-SANTÉ), UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE

Leading institute: IUMSP
 Academic Director: Fred Paccaud
 Program Coordinator: Barbara Imsand

The program is offered by the University of Lausanne (UNIL) and has a modular structure. Students can choose from among three CAS, of which one can be taken outside of Lausanne, preferably within the Ecole romande de Santé publique (ERSP). UNIL offers three internal CAS: Health Economics and Policy, Healthcare Management, and Public Health. The courses are taught in French, with some reading in English.

MAS IN INSURANCE MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF BASEL

Leading institutes: Swiss TPH and Evidence-based Insurance Medicine
 Academic Director: Elisabeth Zemp
 Program Coordinator: Julia Dratva

This postgraduate program is jointly offered by Swiss TPH and Evidence-based Insurance Medicine of the Department of Clinical Research at the University of Basel, in collaboration with Universities in Vienna, Austria and Tübingen, Germany. It targets physicians, lawyers, insurance professionals, economists and other professionals with experience from German-speaking Europe. The MAS programme has a modular structure, and takes three years to complete. It provides insights into health

and insurance systems, public health and epidemiology, health economics, insurance law, ethics, disabilities, work capacity, prevention and integration. Transferring knowledge into professional practice is a central issue. Participants can also obtain a DAS or CAS. Courses are taught mainly in German.

MAS EN DROIT DE LA SANTE, UNIVERSITY OF NEUCHÂTEL

Leading institute: IDS
 Academic Directors: Olivier Guillod and Dominique Sprumont
 Program Coordinator: Nataliya Wildhaber

The program, offered by the University of Neuchâtel, provides an in-depth understanding of the Swiss legal system's interaction with all health issues. The part-time program has a modular structure. Students can choose from among three CAS, of which one can be taken outside of Neuchâtel, within the Ecole romande de Santé publique. Participants can also obtain a DAS or CAS. Courses are taught in French.

DAS WORK+HEALTH, UNIVERSITIES OF ZURICH AND LAUSANNE

Leading institutes: EBPI and IST
 Academic Directors: Georg Bauer and Brigitta Danuser
 Program Coordinator: Sven Hoffmann

The DAS Work+Health is a joint, interdisciplinary program of the University of Zurich and the University of

Lausanne. Based on 20 years of training experience in the field, the DAS Work+Health offers a firm theoretical understanding and practical skills in occupational medicine, occupational hygiene and organizational health development. Courses are taught in English.

SPRING SCHOOL OF GLOBAL HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

Leading institute: Institute of Global Health
 Academic Director: Antoine Flahault
 Program Coordinator: Lemlem Girmatsion

The Spring School is organized by the Institute of Global Health at the University of Geneva. The program is designed to enable international students and working professionals with an interest and focus in global health to study various subjects and to join the international global health community in Geneva.

SUMMER SCHOOL IN PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY, ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT, UNIVERSITÀ DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA AND UNIVERSITY OF BASEL

Leading institutes: IdEP and Swiss TPH
 Academic Director: Fabrizio Mazzonna
 Program Coordinator: Beba Grob

The major strength of this jointly organized Summer School of SSPH+ is its clear interdisciplinary context. The

Did you know ...

that SSPH+ does not hire its own faculty but assembles more than 125 public health oriented "faculty members" from the eight SSPH+ universities? These are our SSPH+ Fellows.

three- or six-day courses allow public health professionals and researchers from various health related disciplines to exchange their expertise and experience in a stimulating and exciting environment. In this context, the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is key, enabling professionals from Eastern Europe and other emerging and transitioning economies to participate and share their knowledge and skills towards managing health systems and health services.

SUMMER SCHOOL IN GLOBAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS, UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

Leading institute: Institute of Global Health
Academic and Managing Director: Emmanuel Kabengele

The Geneva Summer School will define the theoretical foundations of human rights and their links to global health, introduce students to existing human rights protection mechanisms, explore the organisation and functioning of health systems at local and global levels, and address various public health issues where global health and human rights collide. The target audience is upper year undergraduates (Bachelor), Master and PhD students.

SWISS EPIDEMIOLOGY WINTER SCHOOL WENGEN, UNIVERSITY OF BERN

Leading institute: ISPM
Academic Directors: Matthias Egger and Marcel Zwahlen
Program Coordinator: Birgit Böger

Up to ten different three-day courses in epidemiology and biostatistics are offered for researchers in academia or industry and PhD students. The courses cover advanced topics such as “Causal inference in observational epidemiology” (by Miguel Hernan from the T.H. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University) and “Statistical analysis with missing data using multiple imputation” (by James Carpenter from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine). Students stay on site and work hard in the mornings, then, have an extended break in the afternoon to review course materials, catch up on emails or (more likely) go skiing or snowboarding. Faculty and students reconvene at 17:00 for computer-based or other practical sessions. Since the first Winter School in 2010, the number of course participants has continuously grown to more than 150. Courses are taught in English.

FOSTERING THE FUTURE GENERATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENTISTS

INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL COURSES AND SEMINARS IN HEALTH ECONOMICS AND POLICY

This program is offered within the framework of SSPH+ and is considered as a specialisation for health economists. The goal is to offer advanced and highly specialized courses in health economics and policy, as well as seminars and workshops with leading international experts. It is intended for PhD students from Swiss universities as well as from foreign universities who wish to enhance their specific knowledge and sharpen their capabilities in the field of health economics and policy. Researchers with a PhD in economics or in a related discipline who wish to deepen their knowledge of select topics can also be admitted. At least eight courses are offered over two years by the partner institutes. The program is coordinated by the team at IdEP in Lugano.

SSPH+ PHD PROGRAM IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The SSPH+ PhD Program in Public Health is a training and networking platform that aims to provide public health-oriented students enrolled in PhD programs at one of the partner universities a structured way to strengthen their position as public health scientists and experts. It organizes national doctoral courses covering basic skills in public health research and advanced methods, along with thematic workshops and networking

opportunities. Courses and seasonal schools are taught by national and international experts and complement a high level PhD education, allowing students to experience new settings, profit from a structured learning experience, and choose courses in a way that is tailored to their particular study program. Courses are free for SSPH+ registered PhD students. A portfolio guides both students and supervisors with regard to the skills and competences that need to be achieved and progress and future goals are regularly assessed and reflected upon. Currently, 140 PhD students are registered and 83 have graduated since the beginning of the program. Initially led by Swiss TPH, the program is now coordinated by the team at ISPM Bern.

RESEARCH SCIENTIST PROGRAM – JOINT SLHS-SSPH+ PHD SCHOLARSHIPS

As a collaborating partner of the Swiss Learning Health System (SLHS) led by the University of Lucerne, SSPH+ will coordinate the joint PhD scholarship program. Starting in 2016, PhD candidates will be trained in a range of skills relevant to public health sciences, including evidence synthesis (policy briefs and rapid response synthesis) and stakeholder dialogue. The program complements the SSPH+ PhD programs in public health and in health economics with a third pillar focusing on health systems and services. The joint PhD scholarship program is based on 20 PhD scholars. These scholars pursue their PhD work under a common quality

Did you know ...

that the German-speaking world has difficulties translating the English term, “public health”? Its most adequate translation – Volksgesundheit – suffers from negative connotations since the abuse of the field in the Germany of the 1930s. Thus, German speaking regions often use the English term.

and procedural framework at the partner universities, but are coached as an interdisciplinary cohort of SSPH+ PhD scholars with additional support from SLHS.

SSPH+ ASSISTANT PROFESSORSHIP PROGRAMS

While teaching and training activities are often most successful in the context of cross-institutional collaborations, strong scientific leaders, well embedded in their academic institutes, are the engine of public health science. SSPH+ established two competitive Assistant Professorship Programs to foster academic development in the field of public health and to counterbalance National Professorship Programs, which lean heavily towards promoting basic sciences.

The goal of the first program (2008–2011/2012) was to strengthen the capacity of SSPH+ partner institutions to advise and supervise doctoral students and to provide them with attractive research opportunities. Partner institutions proposed strategically relevant research fields in which to establish an assistant professorship. These fields needed to be embedded in the main research fields of the respective institute and contribute to its overall teaching and research activities.

The second SSPH+ Assistant Professorship Program (2013–2016) aimed to fill five identified research gaps in the national landscape. Candidates had to find a host institution among

the SSPH+ partner institutions before applying for SSPH+ funding in one of the advertised public health related research fields. These highly successful programs strengthened the public health research agenda in all institutes. Since its inception, six SSPH+ Assistant Professors have been promoted to tenured Professor positions by their university or external institution.

Interview with Murielle Bochud, Fabrizio Mazzonna, Martin Rösli

Q: How did you profit from the SSPH+ network and support during your time as assistant professor?

Bochud: SSPH+ financial support allowed me to dedicate a large proportion of my time to research and facilitated access to competitive grants (e.g. SPUM-SNF grant). The SSPH+ network has been very important for me to better know the Swiss public health community and the other faculty members active in the field of public health. I also had the opportunity to attend courses organized by SSPH+. My PhD students benefited a lot from courses organized and sponsored by SSPH+ and from interactions with other PhD students in public health in Switzerland.

Mazzonna: First, the SSPH+ network allowed me to get in touch with many outstanding researchers in health economics and public health from all over the world. This is invaluable because a single university cannot allow its fellows to take advantage of such a large network.

Second, as an economist, the SSPH+ broadened my research interests to include public health, thanks to the experience I gain as scientific director of the Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics and Management that takes place every year in Lugano at the end of August.

Rösli: I profit from the teaching activities of SSPH+ in many ways. As a teacher



Murielle Bochud
Professor at IUMSP Lausanne



Fabrizio Mazzonna
Assistant Professor at IdEP,
Università della Svizzera italiana



Martin Rösli
Associate Professor at Swiss TPH

Did you know ...

that in 2015, SSPH+'s key partner institutions published more than 1,400 articles in peer reviewed scientific journals, including prestigious journals like Nature, the Lancet and the New England Journal of Medicine?

in the PhD and the MPH programs, I met public health professionals and scientists with broad backgrounds from many different public health and academic institutions in Switzerland and beyond. For my professional life, this network, which is reactivated at numerous events facilitated by the SSPH+, is very stimulating and helpful. My PhD students profit considerably from the SSPH+ courses which in turn has a beneficial impact on the research output of my group.

Q: What was your most important scientific achievement during your years as an SSPH+ assistant professor?

Bochud: To play an active role in several international consortia aiming to decipher the genetic determinants of cardiometabolic phenotypes and thereby contribute to improving our understanding of the biology of phenotypes, such as blood pressure and renal function, which confirmed the key role of diet in determining cardiovascular risk.

Mazzonna: During those years, I published several articles in top international journals in the field of economics and social science (e.g., *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Social Science & Medicine*), addressing research questions that are particularly relevant from a policy perspective. In particular, my research investigated the causal links between education, retirement, immigration and an individual's health. Population ageing and immigration are putting pressure on the welfare system of most

developed countries and my research should contribute to the policy discussion on these important issues.

Röösli: I have considerably improved knowledge about the population's exposure to emissions from emerging wireless communication technologies in everyday life. Major consequences on health related quality of life and cancer can be excluded based on several studies that my group conducted during my time as an assistant professor.

Q: What will be your contribution to the development of public health / health economics in Switzerland?

Bochud: In the coming year, my group will contribute to the teaching and education of PhD students in epidemiology/public health as well as the education of MDs specializing in public health and prevention (FMH). In collaboration with other colleagues at IUMSP, we propose a CAS in public health every year, with 15 to 20 people coming from various fields interested in public health (MDs, pharmacists, people working in public administration or hospitals, nurses, economists, biologists, etc.). My specific contribution is to teach epidemiologic methods, genetic epidemiology and public health genomics. I will continue close collaboration with Federal offices for public health (FOPH) and food security (BLV) and with the cantonal public health service (VD) by providing public health mandates and services in the field of non-communicable chronic disease monitoring and prevention. I wish to develop nutrition

epidemiology in Switzerland and, as much as possible, initiate population-based nutrition interventions to decrease the burden of chronic diseases in Switzerland. I am highly motivated to take an active part in building a large-scale population-based cohort in Switzerland.

Mazzonna: First, my most important contribution should come from the quality and the relevance of my research. This is clearly a fundamental requirement for making a valuable contribution. Second, I will continue my collaboration with the other Swiss universities in our network with the aim of improving the offering of advanced and highly specialized courses in health economics and policy for our PhD students. Moreover, we plan to increase the visibility of the Swiss network by organizing international conferences and events in health economics.

Röösli: I plan to further investigate potential health risks of various environmental exposures such as radiation, noise and air pollution. My research has a strong focus on population based exposure assessment studies, using innovative modelling and measurement methods. This enables me to go beyond risk characterization and to address the public health relevance by quantifying the health impact, including the economic consequences of various pollutants.

UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA



Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH), University of Geneva
Doris Schopper, Director



Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva
Antoine Flahault, Director (second row, second from left) and his team

Did you know ...

that once every year, SSPH+ nominates the best research article published by a SSPH+ PhD student? Awardees receive CHF 2,000.



SWISS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
11 YEARS OF SHAPING THE FUTURE

Public Health – International Health – Global Health

Public health refers to the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals. The health of societies is interlinked through local, national, international and global phenomena, systems, and challenges – thus, public health is international health, is global health, is local health. The SSPH+ network unites public health expertise at all levels. Thus, SSPH+ is also the Swiss School of Local, National, International and Global Health!

PUBLIC HEALTH – MORE THAN A SCIENCE

Did you know ...

that there are some 450 schools of public health around the globe? The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is the longest operating School of Public Health in the world (1899); the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health was the first in the US (1913); and SSPH+ is proud to be a teenager (2005).

The multidisciplinary field of public health cannot thrive in a tower of research alone. The science of public health must be factored into policy making in all relevant domains of society. One goal of public health academia is to bridge science with evidence-based policy to answer questions raised by health professionals working in the systems dealing with health and diseases. SSPH+ contributes to this goal primarily through its sabbatical programs, its collaboration with the Swiss Society of Public Health, and its partnership with the Swiss Learning Health System.

Sabbaticals

The chasm separating academic and applied public health professionals in Switzerland is wide. There are very few professional possibilities to cross barriers between institutions and between research and practice. To reduce this divergence and to strengthen cross-communication between the partner institutes and practitioners, SSPH+ promotes short-term professional exchanges (sabbaticals) between those involved in practical tasks at public health institutions, on the one side, and those involved in research, on the other. So far, 10 such sabbaticals have been facilitated by SSPH+.



Markus Kaufmann, former general secretary of the Swiss Society for Public Health, has worked as project leader for the Swiss Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of Public Health (GDK) since 2012. Markus has an MPH from the Universities of Basel, Bern and Zurich.

Working for the GDK, my sabbatical at Swiss TPH was a unique opportunity to gain insight into one of the most important public health research institutes with a focus on international work.

During the four months in Basel, I analysed a 10 year old report about the connections between national and cantonal health policies. I looked into new findings in the field of reverse innovation and wrote an article about how a country like Switzerland can learn from the South. I also brought colleagues from health administration together with researchers.



Virginie Masserey Spicher works for the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), where she is head of the Infection Control and Vaccination Programme section.

During one year working at fifty percent, I had the chance to take some distance from my usual work at the Federal Office of Public Health, and do public health research at Swiss TPH on a topic related to my field of responsibility. I learned a lot about qualitative methods in social science and health systems, and established inspiring relationships and fruitful collaborations in several sectors, to the benefit of both institutions. My integration at Swiss TPH added to the broad diversity of perspectives and was an opportunity to adapt methods elaborated for developing countries to Switzerland. A rich experience!

Why sabbaticals?

Fred Paccaud, Director of IUMSP in Lausanne and former Director of SSPH+, explains his motives for launching the sabbatical program and his wishes for its future.

The main concern is the large divide between practitioners and researchers, between doers and thinkers. This is a widespread problem in all professions with an academic background. It should be, however, a matter of deep concern in public health, a discipline where knowledge transfer is a key issue.

There are many reasons explaining the unfortunate current divide, but only a few remedies are available. The short sabbaticals offered by SSPH+ are probably the best possible start, aiming to highlight the issue and propose an action. As for the next step, SSPH+ should secure formal positions in public health administration for public health students. Hopefully, the new generation of practitioners with a formal education in public health will be much more sensitive to these issues.

Finally, the public health community should better acknowledge that the profession depends, crucially, on the knowledge available from scientists and from experiences in the real world. Daily practice and scientific knowledge should influence one another.

ANNUAL SWISS PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

The Swiss Society for Public Health (Public Health Schweiz) is an independent and national organization that supports public health professionals. It offers an interdisciplinary Switzerland-wide network and works to optimize the conditions related to population health. SSPH+, as a member of the organization and its directory board, represents the academic public health community, and thus supports the society in its mission to develop evidence-based policies. One of the flagships of Public Health Schweiz is the annual Swiss Public Health Conference. As the conference is run jointly by Public Health Schweiz and SSPH+, it guarantees rich exchanges between public health academics, professionals, and practitioners.

SWISS LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEM

In order to successfully respond to the challenges that the Swiss health system faces now and in the future, the University of Lucerne in collaboration with SSPH+ and an expert network of academic institutions leads the Swiss Learning Health System, funded by swissuniversities.

The notion of a learning health system responds to the realization that health systems ‘learn’ by research dissemination, knowledge transfer and an argumentative dialogue in which all stakeholders are brought together. SSPH+ supports joint events, engages in background assessments that may

be needed as academic inputs into these stakeholder processes, and leads the joint PhD Scholarship program which compliments the SSPH+ PhD programs with a third pillar with a health systems and services track.

COCHRANE SWITZERLAND AND COCHRANE PUBLIC HEALTH EUROPE

Cochrane Switzerland represents the Cochrane Collaboration in Switzerland. It was formally established in 2010 as a joint branch of the French, German and Italian Cochrane Centres and is based at IUMSP Lausanne. Cochrane Switzerland works towards evidence-informed health decision-making in Switzerland and, together with another SSPH+ partner (EBPI Zurich), has co-founded in 2015 a European network of centers that promote evidence-based methods in public health (Cochrane Public Health Europe).

THE ECOLE ROMANDE DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE (ERSP)

The Ecole Romande de Santé Publique (ERSP) – or School of Public Health Southwest Switzerland – was founded in 2013 to bring together SSPH+’s French-speaking partners, namely the Universities of Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel. Its aim is to strengthen capacities among the academic public health centers in the region through active collaboration within local (ERSP), national (SSPH+) and international networks. One of ERSP’s first tasks was to bolster collaboration among all participating centers represented in the board of directors, chaired by Fred Paccaud from IUMSP at the University of Lausanne. ERSP has also increased its visibility within the academic network and in the public health community, through its website (www.ersp.ch) and participation in various workshops and congresses. Another task has been to better coordinate the existing training programs and create a permanent working group to monitor and implement more integrative training programs that capitalize on the diverse expertise of the participating centers. ERSP has improved coordination in the field of cancer registry. The development of ERSP is consistent with SSPH+ initiatives at the national level insofar as it mirrors the solutions adopted at national level and offers practical solutions that can help reinforce projects within SSPH+.

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UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE



Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (IUMSP), University of Lausanne, Direction Committee (from left to right): Bernard Burnand, Brenda Spencer, Raphaël Bize, Murielle Bochud, Jean-Pierre Gervasoni, Myriam Rège Walther, Fred Paccaud (Director), Renata Testaz, Brigitte Santos-Eggimann, Valentin Rousson, Barbara Imsand Cheseaux



Institute for Work and Health (IST), associated to the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva
David Vernez, Director

FACTS AND FIGURES 2015

SOME NUMBERS

8

universities
make up the SSPH+
Foundation

15

institutes
are affiliated with
SSPH+

1,100

full-time positions
at SSPH+ partner
institutes

127

faculty members
(SSPH+ Fellows)

350

PhD students
supervised by
SSPH+ Fellows

1,400

scientific
publications
from SSPH+ partner
institutes

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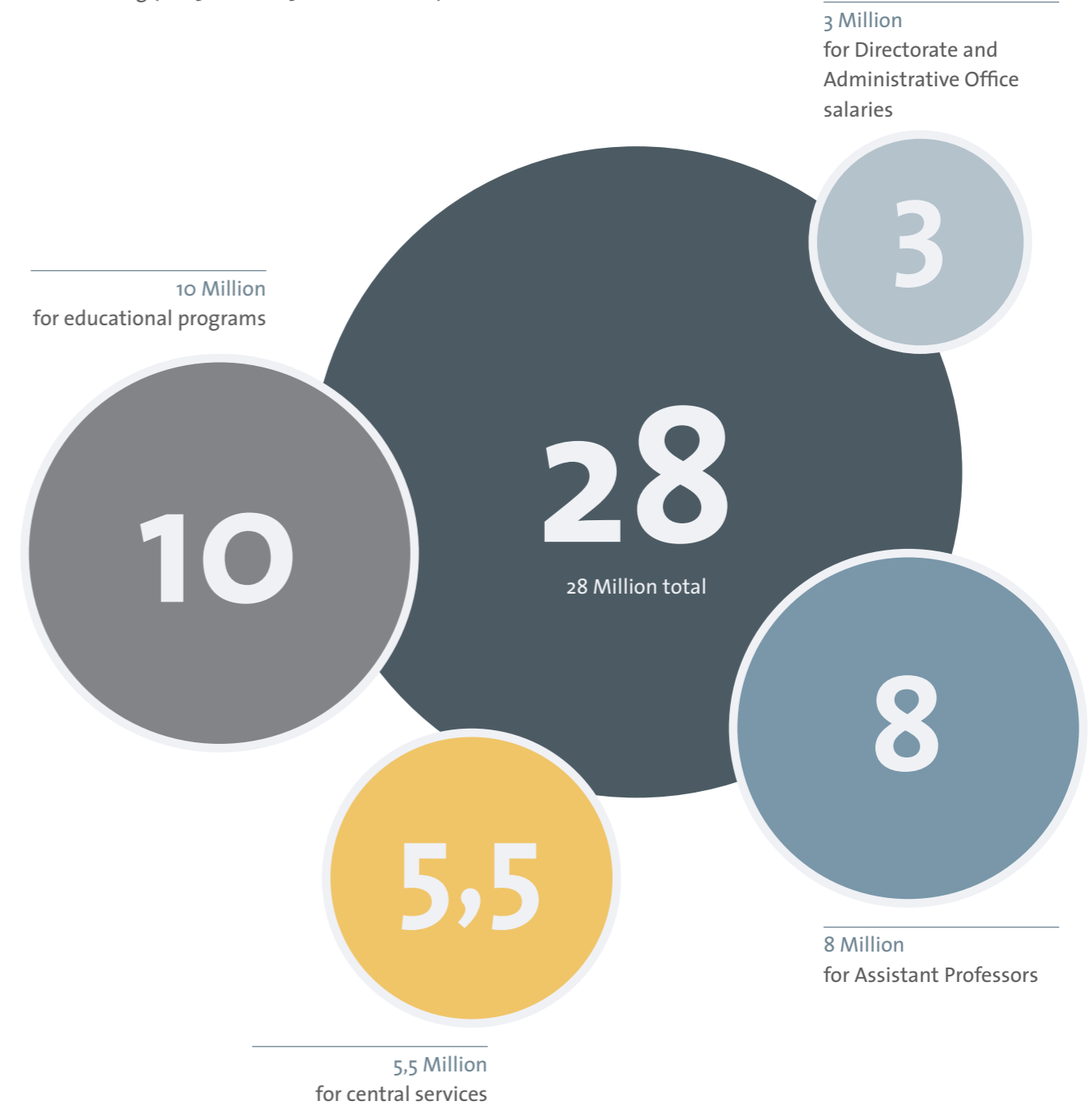
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BEHIND THE SUCCESS

SERI funding (2005 until 2015, in Million CHF)





SWISS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
11 YEARS OF SHAPING THE FUTURE

The International Journal of Public Health

SSPH+ is the owner of the International Journal of Public Health (IJPH). This scientific peer reviewed journal has its roots in the former “Sozial- und Präventivmedizin”, published 1974–2006 on behalf of the former owner, the Swiss Society for Social and Preventive Medicine. Originally, articles were published in German, French or English. As IJPH, the journal is produced in English only. IJPH

publishes articles relevant to global public health, from different countries and cultures, to raise awareness and understanding of public health problems and solutions. Under the new business model (since 2014), IJPH is now published by Springer New York.

Shared revenues – dependent on the success of IJPH – cover the work of the Editorial Office, led by Dr. Anke Berger. While IJPH is still a subscription based journal, SSPH+ is evaluating a strategy of open-access publishing with Springer. IJPH follows a Co-

Editor-In-Chief model (Thomas Kohlmann, Germany; Andrea Madarasova Geckova, Slovakia; Nino Künzli, Switzerland) and continues to see an upward trend of its impact factor (0.61 in 2008; 2.75 in 2014).





UNIVERSITY OF LUCERNE



Department of Health Sciences & Health Policy, University of Lucerne
Gerold Stucki, Chair



SSPH+ FELLOWS

As a foundation, SSPH+ cannot recruit its own faculties. To assemble a public health related faculty from the Swiss academic network, SSPH+ has created the title “SSPH+ Fellow”, granted ex officio to the professors working in the field of public health in SSPH+ partner institutions, as well as to the academic directors of the SSPH+ training programs (PhD, MAS, DAS, CAS, and seasonal schools). At the request of an SSPH+ Fellow, the title can also be granted to experts active in the field of public health with links to SSPH+. As of April 2016, SSPH+ counts more than 125 Fellows as its “faculty”.

SSPH+ HONORARY FELLOWS

The title of “Honorary SSPH+ Fellow” can be granted to members of the Swiss and international academic community to honour exceptional careers and achievements in the field of public health, both in terms of research and training. The first Honorary SSPH+ Fellows elected by the SSPH+ Foundation Board are the five former Directors of SSPH+ who shaped the success of the school during its first decade, as well as the former President of the SSPH+ Foundation Board.

ROOTS OF SSPH+

The first SSPH+ Honorary Fellows



Dr. Gilles de Weck,
Financial Director SSPH+
from 2005 to 2008,
retired since 2009



Prof. Ursula
Ackermann-Liebrich,
Academic Director SSPH+
from 2005 to 2008,
former Director
of the ISPM Basel,
retired since 2009



Prof. Felix Gutzwiller,
President of the SSPH+
Foundation Board
from 2008 to 2012,
former Director of the
ISPM Zurich (now EBPI),
retired since 2013



Prof. Fred Paccaud,
former Director SSPH+
from 2009 to 2013,
Director IUMSP in Lausanne



Prof. Charlotte
Braun-Fahrlander,
Co-Director SSPH+
from 2012 to 2013
and Director SSPH+
from 2013 to 2014,
former Director
of the ISPM Basel,
retired since 2015



Prof. Philippe Chastonay,
Co-Director from 2013 to 2014,
Professor at the former Institute of
Social and Preventive Medicine,
University of Geneva (now Institute
of Global Health),
retired since 2015



UNIVERSITY OF BASEL



Basel Institute for Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics (ceb), University of Basel Team (from bottom left to right): Lars Hemkens, Heiner C. Bucher (Director), Michael Koller, Heike Ratz, Matthias Briel, Katherine Winkel, Kimberly McCord, Dora Schweighoffer, Salome Dell-Kuster, Madeleine Wick, Sanda Branca, Juliane Schäfer, Susanne Stampf, Juliane Rick, Aviv Ladan, Dmitry Gryaznov, Benjamin Speich, Dominik Glinz, Hannah Ewald, Viktoria Gloy, Sarah Thommen, Ramon Saccilotto, Kübra Özoglu, Serena Bianco-Scudella



Evidence-based Insurance Medicine, Department of Clinical Research, University of Basel
Regina Kunz, Director



European Center of Pharmaceutical Medicine (ECPM), University of Basel Directorate (from left to right): Thomas Szucs (Director), Annette Mollet, Matthias Schwenkglens

THE FUTURE OF SSPH+

As a “virtual” school, SSPH+ can afford to focus exclusively on those activities where cross-institutional collaboration provides an added value. In such domains, “stronger together” is not just a slogan, but a necessity to reach the critical mass needed for action and success. Thus, SSPH+ has the opportunity to efficiently balance central coordination, services, and leadership with fully decentralized institutional leadership, resources, and competition. This is in contrast to most schools of public health in other countries, where only one university invests in all central resources, infrastructure and administrative systems to run such programs and activities. Without large overhead costs to cover, SSPH+ can focus on its core vision and mission now and in the future. With the termination of the SSPH+ Assistant Professorship Program, SSPH+’s science-oriented focus will be on fostering exchange and strategic debate, and linking SSPH+ Fellows with stakeholders in need of scientific support.

At the center: central services

With lean and flexible central structures, SSPH+ continues to provide central services that the partner institutions would not be able to sustain on their own. The SSPH+ Fellows regularly review the SSPH+ central services to make sure they are tailored to their needs. At this stage, central services include offering the SSPH+ eCampus learning and registration platform as a tool to promote modern didactic methods and technologies, support quality assurance in teaching and training, and develop an SSPH+ alumni network across all programs and courses. In contrast to alumni lists maintained by each single program, a shared alumni network amplifies the network and outreach of all SSPH+ partners to future leaders of public health. Maintaining the SSPH+ Expert Database, to link public health experts with the needs of various stakeholders, is another example of a necessary central service that none of the partners could accomplish on their own. The system supports efforts to close the current gap between stakeholders and the academic public health community. The regular organization of workshops, strategic retreats and task forces is another essential element of promoting public health research and training and of facilitating academic exchange and debate among public health actors. SSPH+ offers such platforms directly and supports workshop initiatives taken by the SSPH+ Fellows. Moreover, the joint SSPH+ PhD programs need a central hub to coordinate and optimize educational offerings and to guarantee SSPH+ students access to all offerings

at reduced fees. While these programs are funded through grants and registration fees, trans-university offers face inherent gaps and imbalances between SSPH+ partners due to different institutional funding cycles and university rules. SSPH+ will fill the gaps to support a funding scheme across the eight universities that is efficient and fair for all partners.

From science to policy

Public health – the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health – inherently embraces transdisciplinary and translational approaches. To link knowledge at the molecular level with the health statuses and diseases shaping people's lives in the community, public health calls for science as well as for evidence-based efforts and actions that endorse health-promoting choices, organizations, and health systems. Thus, close collaborations along the continuum from research to practice are essential in this field. It is, then, both a duty and an intriguing opportunity to strengthen collaboration between the various stakeholders in public health academia and professional practice. As the representative of public health academia, SSPH+ is committed to the annual Swiss Public Health Conference and jointly offers and organizes this event with Public Health Schweiz. The positive experiences with the SSPH+ Sabbatical programs so far shall continue to help fill gaps between academia, practice, and policy in the Swiss public health arena. As a partner of the newly funded Swiss Learning Health System, led by the SSPH+ partners at the Uni-

versity of Lucerne, the SSPH+ network will strongly contribute to the stakeholder processes need to formulate evidence-based policies.

From public health training to the public health workforce

Strengthening the Swiss public health workforce is a central goal of SSPH+. This includes clarifying the role of universities in undergraduate public health training. The traditional academic career in public health in Switzerland still consists of studying a range of topics as an undergraduate and graduate student – medicine, biology, economics, etc. – while public health-related competencies are gained on the job and through a range of postgraduate programs offered by SSPH+ partners and others. Thus, acquiring specific public health-related skills becomes an expensive and demanding investment, often made in the fourth decade of life. This educational system contributes to the gap we see in Switzerland's public health workforce, where only one out of three people working in public health positions have received formal training in public health. SSPH+ will evaluate the strength and limitations of international trends towards universities offering undergraduate degrees in public health. Should the future academic public health workforce in Switzerland study public health from the outset, thus, moving from a bachelor and master of public health into public health PhD programs, complemented with specific additional skills in physics, biology, law or economics through selected postgraduate programs? Should public

health bachelor degrees be offered at universities of applied sciences alone, with universities stepping in with public health programs at the master and PhD level only? SSPH+ will propose answers to these questions as it continues into its second decade.

From universities to universities of applied sciences

SSPH+ is looking forward to developing strategic alliances and collaborations between public health academics at universities and those at universities of applied sciences (UAS). Both make major contributions to public health training, research, and health-relevant policy-making and action. The new joint organizational structure of Swiss universities and UAS offers unique opportunities to bridge the work of these actors. It includes jointly promoting SSPH+ PhD programs at universities that facilitate PhD careers for academically skilled public health researchers at UAS. During its first decade, SSPH+ successfully identified win-win collaborative solutions among the eight university partners. In the second decade, SSPH+ will expand its search for collaborative public health solutions to include UAS.

From personalized to public health

The promises and challenges of personalized health or precision medicine are not restricted to the transfer of science from bench to bed but call for truly transdisciplinary science, collaboration, and application to link work at the molecular level of biologic pathways and mechanisms with the real life conditions of people. The health system, its

Did you know ...

that SSPH+ does not employ staff? The only staff positions dedicated to SSPH+ directly are those associated with the Directorate and they are employed by four SSPH+ institutions.

UNIVERSITY OF NEUCHÂTEL



Institute of Health Law (IDS),
University of Neuchâtel
Olivier Guillod, Director



Institute of Health Law (IDS),
University of Neuchâtel
Dominique Sprumont,
Deputy Director

THE FUTURE OF SSPH+

economy and people's access to health systems, healthy lifestyles, prevention, diagnostics, technologies and treatments will become a prime determinant of the success or failure of personalized medicine. Thus, public health is an essential pillar of personalized health. The SSPH+ network will make sure that precision-medicine initiatives focus equally on public health-relevant aspects as well as on the molecular context. A fundamental research tool for promoting and validating personalized health consists of large population-based national cohort studies – that is, the long-term follow-up of large numbers of subjects from the general population. The SSPH+ partners are highly committed to establishing such a cohort, inclusive of a biobank – pursuing some 100,000 to 200,000 people, recruited from all across Switzerland. The SSPH+ network builds on its long-standing interdisciplinary expertise in population-based cohort studies, exemplified by the national SAPALDIA cohort study and biobank, initiated in 1991 with 10,000 people and led by Swiss TPH partners in Basel; or the Co-LAUS study of similar size, established in 2003 in Lausanne. With SSPH+'s Zurich partner on the verge of establishing a comparable local cohort, the SSPH+ community is ready and well equipped to contribute to plans towards developing a national cohort, biobank and biomonitoring platform.

From 11 to 22 years

Building on its past success and on the commitment of all eight partner universities and their associated public health-oriented institutes, the future of

SSPH+ will be as promising as its past. The new financial concept of partner universities contributing with "membership fees" will provide the same stability SSPH+ has had thanks to the contribution of SERI. At this stage, the SSPH+'s virtual faculty – the SSPH+ Fellows – consists of more than 125 professors working in 15 institutions at the eight funding universities. SSPH+ is happy to welcome others over the years to come.

SSPH+ PARTNER INSTITUTES

Università
della
Svizzera
italiana

UNIVERSITÀ DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA



Institute of Economics (IdEP),
Università della Svizzera
italiana
Mario Jametti, Director



UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH



Epidemiology, Biostatistics
and Prevention Institute (EBPI),
University of Zurich
Milo Puhan, Director



SWISS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
11 YEARS OF SHAPING THE FUTURE

50th Anniversary of ASPHER – Congratulations!

As a young and proud member of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), SSPH+ congratulates ASPHER on its 50th Anniversary in 2016.

ASPHER is an independent European organization dedicated to strengthening the field of public health by improving education and training of public health professionals for both practice and research. ASPHER is a membership-based organization of institutions spread across the EU and WHO European Region. These institutions are collectively concerned with the education, training, and professionalism of those entering and working in the public health workforce. Founded in 1966, ASPHER currently has more than 110 members in 43 European countries. SSPH+ is currently represented in the Executive Board.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAQ	Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance
CAS	Certificate of Advanced Studies; usually 10–15 ECTS
DAS	Diploma of Advanced Studies; usually 30 ECTS
EBPI	Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute, University of Zurich
ECPM	European Center of Pharmaceutical Medicine, University of Basel
ECTS	European Credit Transfer System
ERSP	Ecole romande de Santé publique, Universities of Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel
FOPH	Federal Office of Public Health
GDK	Swiss Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of Public Health
IdEP	Institute of Economics, Università della Svizzera italiana
IDS	Institut de droit de la santé, University of Neuchâtel
IJPH	International Journal of Public Health
ISPM Bern	Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Bern
IST	Institute for Work and Health, affiliated with the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva
IUMSP	Institut universitaire de Médecine Sociale et Préventive, University of Lausanne
MAS	Master of Advanced Studies; usually 60 ECTS
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MPH	Master of Public Health
SERI	State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation
SLHS	Swiss Learning Health System
Swiss TPH	Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute Basel, an independent academic institute associated with the University of Basel
UAS	universities of applied sciences
WHO	World Health Organization



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SSPH+

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