1. Job vacancies

The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bern is one of five medical faculties in Switzerland. The Faculty's Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) provides under-graduate and post-graduate education and carries out research in a range of disciplines relevant to Public Health. ISPM offers a lively, interdisciplinary environment with excellent computing and library facilities. We are looking for an Assistant / Associate Professor in Medical Sociology / Social Epidemiology. Applicants are expected to have a promising academic record and teaching experience in one or several of the following areas: social epidemiology, medical sociology or other social science disciplines in public health. Experience in theory-guided empirical research as well as advanced competencies for the analysis of empirical data is essential. Previous work on social resources and capabilities for health and health behaviours would be an advantage.

The successful candidate will build up competitive research activities on social inequalities in prevention and health promotion, supervise PhD and MPH students and contribute to postgraduate teaching in the Swiss School of Public Health.

Applicants should have a University degree and a PhD or equivalent training in a field relevant to Public Health. Salary is commensurate with qualifications. The position is supported by the Swiss School of Public Health+. Initial appointment is for four years with the possibility of qualifying for a permanent position. Starting date is approximately January 1, 2009.

The deadline for applications is October 24, 2008.

For further information please contact Professor Thomas Abel, Tel. +4131 631 35 12; e-mail abel@ispm.unibe.ch.

With a view towards increasing the proportion of female professors, the University of Bern specifically encourages female candidates to apply.

Universität Bern, Institut für Sozial- und Präventivmedizin, Finkenhubelweg 11, CH-3012 Bern, www.ispm.unibe.ch
2. Interesting news:

Massive health benefits from stronger climate policies, shows new study

Brussels, Belgium, 2 October 2008 – Health savings of up to 25 billion euros could be achieved every year in Europe if the European Union immediately opted for stronger climate policies, says a new study published by health and environment NGOs.

The report, commissioned by the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-E) and WWF, analyses the health benefits brought about by reduced climate pollution if the European Union increased without any delay its 2020 target for domestic greenhouse gas emission cuts from 20 to 30 per cent. The findings show that raising the target to 30% in line with recommendations of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) would produce savings resulting from better health valued at between 6.5 and 25 billion euros per year.

The estimates are based on economic evaluations of loss of life and health, working days lost and hospital costs. The findings show reductions in hospital admissions of 8,000 per year and two million fewer work days lost per year by moving to the higher 30% target. These health savings are over and above the benefits of the European Union’s existing scenario of a 20 per cent target. The report shows that raising the target to 30 per cent would increase the savings by 25 billion, or 48%, from 51 to 76 million euros. Génon Jensen, Executive Director of Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) says: “Data clearly show that action to control global warming by reducing carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions brings major benefits to health. This potential alone makes a case for immediately moving the European target to at least 30 per cent domestic cuts of greenhouse gases by 2020. The European Union should be showing leadership on this crucial determinant of our future.”

The European Commission’s impact assessment estimated that currently every year 369,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution, and that premature deaths, health care and medication associated with air pollution amount to 3-9 per cent of EU Gross Domestic Product. “Until now the discussion on climate change has been all about costs to industry and the economy, while costs of climate pollution to the society have largely been neglected”, adds Delia Villagrasa, Senior Advisor to WWF. “It is essential to see that measures to promote cleaner sources of energy and reduce fossil fuel consumption will not only contribute to control climate change but will also cut air pollution and improve quality of life for European citizens.”

With the current debate on the “EU climate and energy package”, a set of measures to cut greenhouse gases in Europe, the European Union has the opportunity to lead to way to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. NGOs call on the European Parliament to be ambitious and lift the bar for a 30 per cent cut of greenhouse gases by 2020.

“The report clearly demonstrates what scientists, economists, academics and NGOs have said before: action on climate change produces win-win-win scenarios. Tougher targets means a win for the planet, a win for European citizen’s health and a win for industry in reducing air pollution control cost,” stated Tomas Wyns ETS Policy Officer, Climate Action Network Europe.

For further information:
Génon K. Jensen, Executive Director, Health & Environment Alliance, tel. +32 (0)2 234 3641, mob. +32 (0)495 808732, email: genon@env-health.org
Delia Villagrasa, Senior Advisor to WWF, tel. +32 (0)2 7400935, mob. +32 (0)486 440 223, email dvillagrasa@wwfepo.org
Tomas Wyns, Climate Action Network Europe, tel. +32 (0)2 29 5223, mob. +32 (0)473 840322, email tomas@climnet.org

EHMA’s new website - coming soon
We are pleased to announce that EHMA’s new website will soon be up and running. The new website will include an events calendar, which will show members’ events as well as EHMA’s own events. If you have events that you would like to have included on the calendar please send details to Diana Kappler in the EHMA office (diana.kappler@ehma.org). On the new website your current website login
and password will no longer be valid, and prior to the switchover you will be sent new login and password details. The website address will remain the same www.ehma.org.

**EU Shortcuts**
August’s EU Shortcuts are available on the website.
Contents summary: Commission Agenda for Autumn/Winter 2008; DG SANCO Seeks Views on Priorities for 2009; EU Doctors’ Organisation Splits; EU Week of Regions and Cities: Health Events; EU to Relax Ban on Direct Advertising of Medicines?
www.ehma.org

**Upgrading NGO Lobbying Practices**
October 22 | November 26

**International Master’s Degree in Health Economics and Pharmacoeconomics**
We are pleased to send you information about the online, organised by IDEC-Universitat Pompeu Fabra in association with CRES (Economy and Health Research Centre). The programme objective is to provide specialised training in the economics and management of health services and pharmaceutical products. It meets the needs and requirements both of experienced professionals and of recent graduates who wish to increase their knowledge of these areas. The international edition of this programme is taught entirely in English.
For additional information, please contact us by e-mail at info@idec.upf.edu. You can also consult the programme at www.idec.upf.edu/mesiol.

**Adrisk launch pre-announcement Tackling injuries in adolescence**
On the 25th of September 2008 the EU AdRisk project, “Community Action on adolescents and injury risk”, will launch its results providing new resources, reports, strategy recommendations and tools on how to tackle injuries among young people aged 15-24.

The AdRisk project has created a range of materials that have an innovative vision and can serve to fill the gaps in tackling injuries among 15-24 year olds. Working together with youth and seeing them as a resource is central to the project vision. In this respect the materials focus on strengthening youth competence to tackle risks and cope with challenges.

The AdRisk package comprises:
- Studies concerning injuries on European level (Injuries and risk-taking among young people in Europe – The European Situation Analysis)
- Good practices (Good Practices Guide to Prevention of injuries among Young People)
- Guidelines for national action (Guide for initiating national action on adolescents and injury prevention in Europe);
- A strategy (Tackling Injuries among Adolescents and Young Adults in the EU: Strategy and Framework for Action)
- Tools for implementation (Online Toolbox). This toolbox is aimed at practitioners in the field and contains videos, leaflets, fact sheets, manuals, clips, teacher’s tools, campaign materials, brochures, questionnaires, guidelines, briefings etc. The tools can be used for inspiration to help initiate activities or intervention at the local or national levels or to implement one of the examples.

All reports and tools are compiled for your use and inspiration and will be available for free on 25 September 2008 on the AdRisk website http://www.adrisk.eu.com.

**INCHES Launches International Film Competition**
As part of the 10th Anniversary celebrations starting from 15 September 2008, the International Network on Children’s Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES) is launching an International Film Competition on Health and Environment, sponsored by several organisations.
The competition, called “Focus on Children in a Healthy Environment” and centred on the themes “Climate” and “Environmental Health” will run until 1 March, 2009 and is open to all nationalities and ages.

Full details of the competition’s rules and regulations; information on how to submit films and an application form can be read and downloaded at www.inchesnetwork.net/filmcompetition.html.

e-Forum on the main objectives and key themes of the 2008 Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health
The Health Research for Development - HR4D-net http://www.dgroups.org/groups/hr4d-net/discussion list has just launched an http://www.globalforumhealth.org/shlinks/bamako2008en.php/ which is to take place in Bamako, Mali from 17-19 November 2008. Why not join in an international discussion and network with professionals from around the world who have been involved in the Forum’s preparatory consultations?

4. Upcoming courses and conferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Organiser</th>
<th>More information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inspiring Leaders</td>
<td>October - November 2008 (repeated again in January - March 2009)</td>
<td>Salford, Greater Manchester, UK</td>
<td>Manchester Institute of Sport and Physical; Activity (MISPA)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.inspiringleadersnow.net">www.inspiringleadersnow.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Annual Fall Johns Hopkins Fall Institute in Health Policy and Management</td>
<td>November 3-21, 2008</td>
<td>Barcelona Spain</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.jhsph.edu/dept/hpm/continuing_ed/fall_institute/">http://www.jhsph.edu/dept/hpm/continuing_ed/fall_institute/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Interesting publications

**Basic Biostatistics for Geneticists and Epidemiologists** A Practical Approach
Elston, Robert C. / Johnson, William
http://www.wiley-vch.de/publish/en/books/bySubjectST00/bySubSubjectST35/0-470-02490-9/?sID=4i4lap0iojb0u95cipii9mbo3

**Accounting For Health Spending In Developing Countries**
Dorota Raciborska, Patricia Hernández, Amanda Glassman,
Health Affairs, September/October 2008 Volume 27, No. 5 (2008): 1371-1380
http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/abstract/27/5/1371

**Diseases Know No Frontiers:**
How effective are Intergovernmental Organisations in controlling their spread?
Volume I: published 21 July 2008
Published by the Authority of the House of Lords – UK London : The Stationery Office Limited
Available online at:
http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/id200708/idselect/ldintergov/143/14302.htm

**COHRED - Council on Health Research for Development**
Alignment and Harmonisation of Health Research - 2008
The ‘AHA – study’ by COHRED and Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).
A Synthesis report and five country reports of: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia.

**Best practices in health research policy development, lessons from an expert consultation, 2008**
Country experiences: Brazil, Mexico, Mongolia, Philippines, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda and United Kingdom.

Diseases Know No Frontiers: How effective are Intergovernmental Organisations in controlling their spread?
Volume I: published 21 July 2008
Published by the Authority of the House of Lords – UK London : The Stationery Office Limited
Available online at:
http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/lid200708/idselect/idintergov/143/14302.htm

The Voluntary Code of Ethical Conduct for the Recruitment of Foreign-Educated Nurses to the United States
AcademyHealth, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and a taskforce of diverse stakeholders
Washington, D.C. September 2008
Website: http://www.fairinternationalrecruitment.org/
Available as PDF: Full Text of the Code

Making Sense of Health Rankings
Canadian Institute for Health Information, (Ottawa, Ont.: CIHI, 2008).
Available online PDF [29p.] at:
http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/products/MakingSense_HealthRankings_web_secure_e.pdf

6. European Commission: update

- Risk assessment: Key document

- Health determinants: Nutrition
  EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health member organisations List updated

- Executive Agency
  New website of the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC)

- Overview of health strategy: Event
  Invitation to the EU Open Health Forum conference: "Developing and Implementing Health in the European Union" (Brussels, 10-11 December 2008) Register now!

- Health determinants: European Alcohol and Health Forum
  3rd meeting of the Task Force Marketing Communication, Brussels, 16 July 2008 Summary report

- Health determinants
  Mental health Page updated

- New website for health promotion videos
  pre-view and share your clips! Following an initiative of DG Health and Consumers of the Commission, this new web site aims to share ideas and best practice and to show what has been done in public health campaigns in European countries. The website is now on-line for pre-viewing - it will be officially launched at the IUHPE Conference in Turin on 10 September. Before the launch, you have a chance to put your videos on-line or just give us feedback on the site -- check it in!

- Health determinants: Mental health

- Risk assessment: Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks
  Draft agenda for the 26th plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR), Brussels, 23 September 2008

- Threats to health: Rare diseases
  Events Page updated

- Health information: Diseases and conditions information sheets
  Cancer Page updated
• Health determinants: Mental health

• Risk assessment: Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks
  Draft agenda for the 26th plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR), Brussels, 23 September 2008

• Threats to health: Antimicrobial resistance
  18 November 2008 - 1st European Antibiotic Awareness Day - ECDC Website

• Health information: Diseases and conditions information sheets
  Neurodegenerative, neurodevelopment and non-psychiatric brain diseases Updated

• Health information: Improving the mechanisms for health reporting
  Recommendations for a European Health Examination Survey in the European Union Section updated

• Health information
  European Community Health Indicators (ECHI) Indicator MRI units, CT scans updated

• Health information
  European Community Health Indicators (ECHI) Indicator Expenditures on health updated

• Health determinants: Alcohol
  1st Meeting of the Science Group of the European Alcohol and Health Forum, Brussels, 30 June 2008 Summary report

• Health information: 2003 funded projects
  EUROTHINE - Tackling Health Inequalities In Europe: an integrated approach Outcomes

• Risk assessment: Scientific Committees
  The European Commission is planning to invite soon scientists to join its Scientific Risk Assessment Advisory Structure of Scientific Committees, Pool of Advisors, and Database of Experts

7. European Centre for Diseases Control: Eurosurveillance

Eurosurveillance, Volume 13, Issue 35, 28 August 2008

RAPID COMMUNICATIONS

Nationwide outbreak of Salmonella enterica serotype Kedougou infection in infants linked to infant formula milk, Spain, 2008
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18963

Outbreak of measles in two private religious schools in Bourgogne and Nord-Pas-de-Calais regions of France, May-July 2008 (preliminary results)
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18961

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Impact of infant pneumococcal vaccination on invasive pneumococcal diseases in France, 2001-2006
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18962

PERSPECTIVES

EUREGIO MRSA-net Twente/Münsterland – a Dutch-German cross-border network for the prevention and control of infections caused by methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18965

MISCELLANEOUS

In the national epidemiological bulletins - a selection from current issues
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18964

Eurosurveillance, Volume 13, Issue 36, 4 September 2008

SPECIAL ISSUE ON RECENT HIV INFECTIONS TESTING

EDITORIALS

Monitoring HIV epidemiology using assays for recent infection: where are we?
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18967
REVIEW ARTICLES

Assays for the detection of recent infections with human immunodeficiency virus type 1
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18966

Principles and uses of HIV incidence estimation from recent infection testing - a review
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18969

SURVEILLANCE AND OUTBREAK REPORTS

Four years of surveillance of recent HIV infections at country level, France, mid 2003 – 2006: Experience and perspectives
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18968

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Settings for identifying recent HIV infections: the Portuguese experience
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18974

PERSPECTIVES

Country-wide HIV incidence study complementing HIV surveillance in Germany
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18971

MEETING REPORTS

Workshop on the Serological Testing Algorithm for Recent HIV Seroconversion (STARHS) and HIV Incidence Estimates, Stockholm, 11-12 March 2008
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18972

NEWS

United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention release incidence estimates for HIV
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18973

MISCELLANEOUS

Authors’ correction for Euro Surveill 2008;13(35)
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18970

Eurosurveillance, Volume 13, Issue 37, 11 September 2008

RAPID COMMUNICATIONS

Two severe cases of botulism associated with industrially produced chicken enchiladas, France, August 2008
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18978

SURVEILLANCE AND OUTBREAK REPORTS

http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18977

Outbreak of Salmonella serovar Stanley infections in Switzerland linked to locally produced soft cheese, September 2006 – February 2007
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18979

LETTERS

Q fever in the Netherlands – what matters is seriousness of disease rather than quantity
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18975

Authors reply: Q fever in the Netherlands – what matters is seriousness of disease rather than quantity
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18976

NEWS

EpiWords: a new online English-Russian glossary of medical, statistical, microbiological and epidemiological terms
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18980

WHO Regional Office for Europe and UNAIDS report on progress since the Dublin Declaration
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18981

Eurosurveillance, Volume 13, Issue 38, 18 September 2008
RAPID COMMUNICATIONS

Public health implications of influenza B outbreaks in closed settings in the United Kingdom in the 2007/08 influenza season
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18986

‘Chlamydia Monday’ in Sweden
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18984

A cluster of Legionnaires’ disease linked to an industrial plant in southeast Norway, June-July 2008
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18985

SURVEILLANCE AND OUTBREAK REPORTS

Changes in prevention and outbreak management of Legionnaires’ disease in the Netherlands between two large outbreaks in 1999 and 2006
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=18983