



Public Health Workforce in Times of Global Transformations: Past, Present, and Future Developments

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Message from the Guest Editors

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Assuring a sufficient and competent public health workforce is one of the ten essential public health operations (EPHOs) as defined by the World Health Organization. The core group of public health professionals includes positions exclusively or substantially focused on issues related to population health in public health research, practice, policy, or education.

Public health, an interdisciplinary and interprofessional area of research and practice, encompasses various skills, knowledge, and attitudes of the multiple professions involved. All of these professions have to deal with major transformations and challenges, such as demographic change, rising social inequalities, globalization, digitalization, as well as impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss. Furthermore, the public health workforce is faced with a rapidly changing working environment due to higher professionalization, international collaboration, and personnel mobility.

Despite the advantages achieved in past decades, several challenges for public health workforce development and training remain. Public health workforce crises have been observed almost worldwide. Among other things, this is due to heterogeneous, often underfunded or insufficient public health structures and activities, lack of interprofessional exchange, brain drain, and missing definitions of core competencies. Strategies and evidence to overcome these challenges shall be illustrated and discussed in empirical (qualitative, quantitative or mixed-methods approaches, systematic literature reviews or meta-analyses) or conceptual papers (e.g., discussion) in this Special Issue.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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