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**Interview Domitilla Marconi - Professor Bernadette Kumar (President of the Migrant and ethnic minority health section) - 10th November 2023, Dublin (Ireland)**

Good morning, everyone! We are in Dublin at the 16 EPH Conference. We are honoured to be here with Professor Bernadette Kumar, the President of the Migrant and ethnic minority health section of EUPHA. I am Dr Domitilla Marconi. I am a medical public health resident, and I am joining the congress as an EUPHAnxt fellow.

I am so grateful to be here with you for this interview. Thank you.  
I would like to have some questions. First about the EUPHA section, what is the mission of the section and what are the projects for these years?

Thank you for inviting me. It is a great pleasure to be here and I am delighted to talk to EUPHAnxt and you. So, the Migrant and ethnic minority health section is a section that has been growing in the last years. I think it reflects the fact that migration has become a defining issue of our time. Migration is not just an issue which is related to one area, that is cross-cutting across almost every other section for EUPHA and Public Health. I would also say it is becoming a key determinant of health in particular, when we talk about health equity. It means that our section has a lot of challenges. We have over 2.000 members, so we are one of the largest sections. Our section members are from all over Europe, but we also have members outside of Europe, so it is also good for us to have people from countries in the Global South as we can also discuss important issues such as climate change and conflict that affect the entire globe. The main purpose of our section is really to be there for the section members. We try to organize activities around what the members would like.

One of our main tasks is the pre-conference (full-day conference). The pre-conference is important because we have all the members together. Before, we organized a two-day conference, but we tried to be more environmentally friendly, so we come to the main EPH conference every year and organize the pre-conference. We work very closely with the local organizing committee.

We also have working groups, smaller groups work on different areas like participatory approach, conflict, economic argument, pandemic preparedness, and climate change.

We also will have the world conference in 2025, so our section is working with the Global Society on migration, ethnicity, race and health to prepare for that.

Moreover, we collaborate with other sections and support EUPHAnxt with mentoring.

Thank you. I am so happy to be part of your section. You have already referred to the European Public Health Conference. I would like to ask you which are the main insights of this conference about migrant and minority health.

The theme of this conference in Dublin is "our food, our future, our health". I think migration is very closely related to climate change, but also related to diet, physical activity and all the other factors. It is also multifactorial. And of course, if you are a person who has migrant origin or moved from one place to another, displaced people, there is also a certain precarity, and that precarity is very important. We must not forget diversity means one size does not fit all therefore diversity responsiveness requires selection of appropriate strategies and their application.



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Moreover, it is very important for us at this conference to network, to find people for a bit of match-making, and to find people who work with similar projects who haven't talked about diversity in their projects or haven't talked about migration. So, I think it is a very good opportunity to collaborate with others. Also, the EUPHA is always like a big family reunion, it is an occasion to see old friends, and in particular, for me is very important that we work together with what I'd call the issue of the young professionals. We are aware that nobody can live forever, and we have to think about succession, we have to think about the next generation of researchers working in public health. It is very important to keep up the interest of young professionals and, to keep you engaged. And that is a very good opportunity for us in the field for a while you are both motivated and excited about the years to come, and we get the opportunity to work together. Our generation is used to thinking in a certain way, but it is not us telling you what to do, but it is also us learning from your generation to think differently. For example, everything is digital now, whereas that was not a given in our time and that has also changed perspectives and the way to look at things. For example, how do we communicate? how do we share information? There is constantly changing with different and new ways. With EUPHA you gain knowledge and learn new things, you are also able to share information, and discuss and debate about actions here and now and for the future especially the next steps.

Thank you so much. I would like to ask you another question: what are your suggestions for young professionals who are passionate about migrant health and who would like to work in the field and research?

It is very important that one is not alone, because if you are alone the going gets tough! it becomes very hard. You need to find your tribe a group, both a peer group also a larger group with mentors because teamwork is very required: public health is about teamwork. It is almost outside the health sector, so you need to work inter-sectorial and interdisciplinary, not only in medical or health-related fields, but other disciplines that have different approaches. Of course, research also means diving deep, however when looking at the trees we should not lose sight of the forest If you do so then your vision becomes very narrow. You have to do both and also have a broader perspective, and this comes only with working with others.

Find your tribe and work together in larger groups.

Reflect along the way on what you are doing, because things happen so quickly that sometimes you find yourself in a place where you don't want to be. It is okay to stop and breathe, I would like to suggest doing that in your career. Try to reflect a bit about these different choices. Identify what/who inspires you, because if you don't have inspiration your motivation will slowly ebb out and, life will become routine, and what is routine and uninteresting is hard to sustain over the next 40 years.

And, last but not least, continue to be curious, because if you don't keep asking why, then I think research will not be good research. As for yourself, you might get bored, so you need to be curious to keep your interest and understand what is going on.

Thank you very much for these insights. Thank you EUPHANxt for the opportunity to have an interview with you. See you in Lisbon for the next European Public Health Conference.