

PARALLEL SESSION 2

Thursday 10 November 2016 16:30 – 17:30

2.A. Workshop: Ethical Competence for Public Health Practice and Leadership

Organised by: EUPHA section Ethics in public health
Contact: peter.schroder@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Chairperson(s): Els Maeckelberghe – The Netherlands

Background

Ethics systematically explores moral aspects of human conduct and practice. Public Health Ethics reflects critically the norms and values that underlie and guide Public Health research and practice. The interest in Public Health Ethics and ethical competence to address ethical issues in practice has risen in the last years in the Public Health community. A successful and well attended workshop at the EPH conference 2015 in Milano started to explore the relationship between public health ethics and practice. This workshop provides an opportunity to continue the discussion.

Issue

The need for public health ethics is widely acknowledged, however, ethics in and for public health practice needs further development. Issues such as: understanding how norms and values guide public health practice, which concepts underlie the integration of ethics into public health practice and what role educational methods play in this context. This workshop further explores the necessity and interest in ethical aspects of public health practice. We will share new evidence and experiences in activities to move beyond abstract philosophical debate to putting public health ethics into practice.

Format of the workshop

The first presentation is a case study that demonstrates public health residents' interest in ethics but also the lack of education in their programmes. The second presentation gives another case study on interests, needs and approaches of professionals regarding the integration of ethics into public health. After these two examples, theoretical underpinnings of getting ethics into practice are discussed and the role of ethics in leadership and public health curricula rounds off this workshop. With four presentations, we reserve ample time for discussion and exchange of experiences and mutual learning is reserved.

Objective of the workshop

The workshop offers a forum to exchange views on the development and integration of ethics and ethical education in public health and to discuss with participants of the workshop how best ethics and public health can be effectively integrated in practice and education.

Added value of this workshop: This workshop is organized at the request of participants of last year's workshop. The EUPHA section "Ethics in public health" is also eager to learn from the workshop regarding the evolution and direction of its work.

Key messages:

- The need for ethics education in public health is supported by more and more evidence. Greater effort is needed to integrate ethics education into public health
- A continuous interdisciplinary discourse of ethics and public health is important so that pertinent theories, trainings and tools can be developed

Training in public health ethics: findings of a survey among residents

Massimiliano Colucci

M Colucci^{1,6}, M Chellini^{2,5}, P Anello^{1,5}, B Arru^{3,5}, G Tettamanti^{4,5}, E Marcon^{1,5}

¹School of Specialization in Hygiene and Preventive Medicine, Department of Molecular Medicine – Public Health section, University of Padova, Padova, Italy

²School of Specialization in Hygiene and Preventive Medicine, University of Firenze, Florence, Italy

³School of Specialization in Hygiene and Preventive Medicine, University of Sassari, Sassari, Italy

⁴School of Specialization in Hygiene and Preventive Medicine, Department of Public Health – Experimental and Forensic Medicine, University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy

⁵National Conference of Public Health Medical Residents, Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SITI), Rome, Italy

⁶Lanza Foundation, Padova, Italy

Contact: Massimiliano.colucci@fondazioneanza.net

Background

In order to legitimate Public Health (PH) interventions, and to face inevitable conflicts in its practice, ethics is needed. But do Schools of Public Health (SPH) train in public health ethics (PHE)? What are the residents' beliefs, knowledge, values, and attitudes about PHE? In 2015, the National Conference of PH Medical Residents of the Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and PH (SITI), started the 'Public Health Ethics' workgroup to explore such topics in the national scenario.

Methods

After a literature review, a survey was emailed, on June 2015, to 691 Italian PH residents. The survey included 7 sections: 'Sample characteristics', 'Beliefs and attitudes about ethics', 'Knowledge', 'Training in ethics', 'Ethics and practice', 'PH values', 'A PH code of ethics'.

Results

Of 178 respondents, few (20%) evaluated their competence above a satisfactory level. Only the 24% thought that ethical judgment is based on justification by principles and rational arguments. A choice is ethical when it is "scientific, evidence-based, and effective" (33%) or when it matches patient/customer's values (24%). However, there is still uncertainty in identifying such values. Residents also believe that training in ethics should be offered during residency. Nonetheless, in Italy only two SPH required a course on bioethics, and one a course in PHE. Trainers are usually physicians with a background in Legal Medicine but, according to residents, a trainer should be a PH professional (23%) or a social scientist (23%).

Conclusions

This is the first survey addressing training in PHE in all the 32 Italian SPH. Also, it is the first collecting residents' perspectives. It confirms that ethics is still a "stranger" in PH curricula.

Key messages:

- Ethical decision-making should be better understood as based on principles and rational arguments
- Trainers should have a competence in both PH and ethics: a 'put-in-context' teaching may help residents to see ethics as a tool for practice

Advancing the discourse and getting public health ethics and values into practice

Farhang Tahzib

F Tahzib¹, P Schröder-Bäck²

¹Faculty of Public Health, London, UK

²Department of International Health, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands

Contact: Farhang.tahzib@gmail.com

Background

There is growing recognition both of ethics as a core public health (PH) competency and the importance of consideration of PH approaches and values to meet such challenges. The UK Faculty of Public Health has been working to further advance the discourse in PH ethics and promoting learning.

Description of the problem

This paper will describe the findings of surveys of the faculty members (3350) around their views on PH ethics and core public health values, and the nature and extent of education and training in various educational establishments. It will highlight the learning and experience from some key activities including development of a PH Ethics Committee, local PH ethics fora, local learning sites, generating learning and experience in implementing skills and knowledge framework.

Results

There is evidence that there is demand, need and appetite to generate learning and more systematic training and education in PH ethics. For example although 88% of the respondents noted that they found ethics very useful/useful in their practice, 54% of the specialists noted that they had not had any training in ethics during their specialist training and 59% had no training since completing training. Solidarity, Justice, knowledge and service are emerging as core PH values with interconnectedness/interdependence as a key underlying issue.

Conclusions/lessons

Public health leaders, practitioners, academics and policy makers are interested in development and application of PH ethics. There is need to explore professional, community and other spaces to generate learning and experience in development of the discourse in PH ethics and getting theory into practice.

Key messages:

- PH ethics is a core practical competency and key to addressing complex public health challenges
- There is need, demand and case to use and develop creative spaces to generate and promote learning, education and training in public health ethics

Ethics for Public Health Practice – Translating norms and values

Peter Schröder-Bäck

C van Duin, C Brall, B Scholtes, P Schröder-Bäck

Department of International Health, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands

Contact: peter.schroder@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Background

Ethics in public health is rightfully receiving more and more attention. However, the development of the field of 'Public Health Ethics' has not yet been well explored. Collaboration is required between experts and stakeholders from philosophical ethics and public health practice. This also means that concepts and ideas need to be explained, translated and perhaps justified.

Methods

A model of 'translational ethics' was developed explaining how different researchers – in the field of philosophy and public

health – and policy makers/practitioners communicate about ethical norms and values. In a series of interviews with experts from philosophy and medical ethics, we explored this model of 'translational ethics' further.

Results

Exploring how ethical norms and values are founded, explained, specified and 'applied' in different contexts helps to understand how ethics can influence public health practice. Conversely, exploring moral issues in practice can help to refine ethical theories. One must not assume that actors in either of the contexts (e.g. philosophers in the ivory tower or public health practitioners) know the 'ethical truths' better. Translating knowledge about normative concepts is and has to be a discursive process among stakeholders in the field of public health ethics.

Conclusions

Giving attention to the fact that public health is a normative enterprise calls for ethical deliberation. Ethical deliberation can and should take place in different contexts and with different stakeholders. Conceiving the communication among them and using ideas of 'translation' can help to facilitate the justification process of public health practice.

Key messages:

- Public Health practice is a normative enterprise that needs explicit reflection and justification
- Translating norms and values between philosophical and practical discourses and contexts can improve communication and collaboration with regard to public health ethics

Value-based leadership an integral part of a public health leadership curriculum

Katarzyna Czabanowska

KM Czabanowska¹, K Rethmeier^{2,3}

¹Department of International Health, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands

²The Rethmeier Group, Bermuda Run, USA

³University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA

Contact: kasia.czabanowska@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Leadership is a multilevel construct that involves the leader, follower and relationship between them. The effectiveness of leadership depends on the characteristics of the leaders, the nature of the context and interactions between them. Value Based Leadership (VBL) which involves ethical behaviour of leaders and their values plays a significant role in building trust, setting moral example, and creating organisational culture in public health organisations. Research demonstrates that transformational, authentic and ethical qualities are needed for effective leadership. The leader's task is to integrate behaviour with values to diminish the gap between the values people stand for and their reality.

Our aim is to stir a discussion about teaching VBL in public health programmes and values and their impact on organisational performance, health and wellbeing of served populations using a problem-based approach.

Problem Based Learning and a participant ethics-values self-assessment in conjunction with three challenging case studies, stimulate the participants to learn about:

- An awareness, understanding and importance of how values influence and guide the leader's role, as well as, the translation of moral values into ethical behaviour producing meaningful results.
- The critical connection between ethics and being a competent leader who does the right thing the right way to create an environment of trust and mutual respect.
- How leaders responsibly use power, fulfil their moral obligations to followers, and how they make ethically

moral decisions in service to their organizations and communities.

Leaders guided by moral values produce effective organizational performance by aligning ethical standards.

Key messages:

- Ethical challenges are the unique differences inherent to leadership roles and those who follow leaders
- The core of ethics and effectiveness is the foundation of the values that will guide excellent leaders to produce superior organizational performance