ASPHER Working Group on Ethics and Values in Schools of Public Health, PH Policy and Practice

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Mission, Main Aims and Objectives

The Working Group is dedicated to issues related to ethics and values in Schools of Public Health to devise an ethical framework for public health teaching/practice and promote its adoption by ASPHER and members of ASPHER. Main objectives include: (1) To prepare Statement of Public Health Ethics recommended for adoption by ASPHER and members of ASPHER; (2) To prepare core proposed curriculum on Ethics and essential crosscutting study for bachelors and master level in public health and related studies; (3) Recommend topics for PhD studies in Ethics of public health.

Group’s Work 2010

- Distributed ASPHER Working Paper on Mission, Values, Ethics;
- Developed Terms of reference;
- Drafted content for ASPHER EU Grant 2011 which was awarded in July 2010;
- Presented proposal outline to Deans and Directors meeting May 2010;
- Prepared for Ethics Workshop at Amsterdam Conference in November 2010;
- Meeting of core group during Deans and Directors meeting in Rennes to plan 2010 activities;
- Meeting of Core Group in Brussels September 15-16, 2010;
- Developed and circulated questionnaire to members of ASPHER on Ethics content of MPH and other training programmes. Responses were processed and presented at the Amsterdam Workshop, along with special guest speaker, Prof Jonathan Fielding, Chief Medical Officer, Los Angeles County and Professor at UCLA School of Public Health.

Work Plan 2011

- Presentation of results of the survey (see above) at the Hannover Conference in February 2011, publication of the results and further steps in this research direction;
- Work Group Meeting in conjunction with Deans and Directors meeting in 2011;
- Work Group meeting in summer 2011;
- Preparation for publication of special issue of Public Health Reviews on Ethics in Public Health Teaching and Practice for 2012
- Collaborate with other Working Groups on accreditation, public health practice and on mentoring of new schools of public health.

Justification

Teachers and practitioner of public health need understanding of ethics and values of historical and current issues from ranging from the "do no wrong" (of the Hippocratic oath), to "do nothing" (in failure to adopt current "best practices" in PH, to care of minorities and high risk groups). "New" issues include prevention of genocide and many other questions of public policy and population health to reduce social and health inequities in application of "good public health practice". The ASPHER Working paper on Values and Ethics in Public Health (2007) provides a good basis for continuing such discussions. Our Working Group will continue to address the extent of teaching of Ethics in programmes of public health education at the bachelors and masters level, and promote awareness and content of Ethics in PH through a special issue of Public Health Reviews in 2012.

References

TH Tulchinsky, CA Birt, R Kaleidene, A Meijer

Ethics and Public Health: Model Curriculum
Related News Archives

06.09.2010 | Public Health Ethics: Scientific methods, foundational concepts, and case analyses
An interdisciplinary European conference for young scholars.
Hannover Medical School, Germany, February 14-18, 2011

The workshop is open to European scholars from the fields of public health, health services research, philosophy, biomedical ethics, medicine, nursing sciences, health economics, psychology, law, political science, and social sciences. Participants are paid all travel and accommodation costs and an additional expense allowance of 300 € for preparing a manuscript until June 15, 2011 that shall be published in an anthology or supplement of a notable publisher or journal edited by the conference organizers. Further information and Call for Abstracts.

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