

EUPHA Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health section meeting November 11th, 2016, Vienna.

Minutes – by Janne Sørensen and Allan Krasnik.

Agenda

1. Short annual report of the section/ Allan Krasnik and Charles Agyemang
2. The 6th European Conference of Migrant Health, Oslo 2016 – a brief summary/ Thor Indseth
3. The 1st World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health (MERH 2018) – present plans and ideas/ Laurence Gruer
4. Section preconference, Stockholm 2017 – possible focus areas?
5. Any other business

RE 1)

Allan Krasnik referred to the annual section report that has been distributed and added that he has not received any comments so far.

RE 2)

Thor Indseth gave a short presentation about the conference in Oslo. The organisers from NAKMI were happy that so many chose to participate in the conference and they have received much positive feedback afterwards. One of the aims of the conference was to support the building of a research community and to practice diversity on all levels, which was achieved since people with different ethnicity, gender and age was represented in the committees, among staff and leadership. Additional information can be found in the slides attached.

RE 3)

Laurence Gruer gave an update on the progress of the Global Migrant Health Congress in 2018.

The planning is building on the success of the previous conferences and trying to bring the global conference to a new level. The congress will take place in Edinburgh, 17-19 May, 2018. The congress will include 9 plenary sessions, parallel sessions, workshops and e-poster displays and the aim is at least 600 participants.

A Congress Executive Committee has been established which is chaired by Raj Bhopal. Bernadette Kumar is also involved to ensure that the experiences from the Oslo Conference is being used to the full in the planning of the 2018 conference. Allan Krasnik is chairing the Congress Scientific Committee with Laurence Gruer as Deputy Chair. Additionally, an International Advisory Committee has been established to ensure involvement of non-European organisations. The International Advisory Committee has been set up chaired by Shiriki Kumanyika who is former president of the American Public Health Association.

The section budget for this year and a loan by EUPHA provides start-up capital. The organisers are working on sponsorships to keep expenses down, the registration fee as low as possible and providing grants for participants without means. A meeting participant asked if there are guidelines for sponsorship. Laurence Gruer replied that such guidelines will be established inspired by those of the EPH conferences. A participant raised concerns about including race in the Congress title. Allan Krasnik and Laurence Gruer explained that race is a key concept in the US, racism as discrimination are important issues all over the

world and therefore it was decided to add it to the title so that it would also appeal to research communities in the US and other parts of the world. It was suggested to organise a plenary session about the concept of race (history and ethics).

Everyone were encouraged to register their interest in the Congress on www.merhcongress.com

RE 4)

Allan Krasnik asked the section meeting if there was interest in a pre-conference in relation to the EPH conference next year in Stockholm and if so what the possible focus areas could be. It was suggested to collaborate with other sections about a possible preconference. The focus might be undocumented migrants. Another suggestion was a pre-conference with focus on sharing valid tools such as tools for measuring outcomes of health of interventions among migrants.

Some participants, however, were in favour of just having a section pre-conference every second year and not annually. It was therefore suggested not arranging one at the end of 2017 close to the Edinburgh congress in spring 2018 - and instead focusing on organising more workshops as part of the main conference. A theme for a workshop could be access to good quality of care for undocumented migrants.

RE 5)

It was suggested that the section should try to influence EUPHA to give migrant health more focus in the conferences. Allan Krasnik said that there is a lot of interest in migrant health in the EUPHA leadership, but we are competing with other issues in regards to time in the programme – both in relation to plenary sessions, parallel sessions, workshops ect. But in the end it all comes down to the amount and quality of the research submitted for presentations. Therefore, everybody were encouraged to submit many good abstracts. The more research we present, the more visible we will get.

In September this year the WHO Strategy and Action plan for Refugee and Migrant Health in the European Region was approved by the Council Meeting of WHO Europe. WHO is expecting to collaborate with relevant organisations and institutions in Europe including EUPHA in order to meet the ambitious objectives. Read more about the WHO strategy here:
http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/314725/66wd08e_MigrantHealthStrategyActionPlan_160424.pdf