

Migrant Health Section: Join the network

Friday 30th of November 2018, 12.30-13.30

Minutes of Meeting

Chair: Allan Krasnik/Bernadette Kumar

Rapporteur: Kristine Sorgenfri Hansen

1. SECTION BUSINESS

- a. **Introduction to the meeting:** Allan Krasnik (AK) welcomed everyone to the annual meeting and introduced the agenda.
- b. **Annual report:** AK presented the annual report and stressed that despite the hostile environment towards migrants, the Section is growing and drawing attention. Currently there are 1435 members. The main activity in 2018 was **the MERH congress in Edinburgh** in May 2018 attracting more than 700 participants from more than 50 countries. AK expressed his warm thanks to Raj Bhopal, all members of the executive committee, the advisory committee, and the scientific committee and the many presenters for making the conference so successful. EUPHA provided funding for scholarships, which helped make it accessible to more people. The Congress got very positive evaluations from the participants, an abstract supplement was published by the EJP, as well as an editorial in *Lancet Public Health* and a news piece in *BMJ*. Later a special issue of *Public Health* will be published containing 20 articles and a glossary from the conference. An Edinburgh Declaration was developed and published in connection with the conference. EUPHA has endorsed *the EUPHA Statement on Migrant Health* focusing on closing the evidence and policy gap and it has been distributed as an official EUPHA document. The *collaboration with the WHO migrant health office*, located in Copenhagen, has been further strengthened in 2018, and the Section has shared knowledge and evidence and assisted in developing tools. Furthermore, EUPHA collaborated as a partner in planning the second WHO summer school in Sicily which was very successful.
Comments: What are the three most important impacts of the Section's work in 2018? AK: Firstly, the MERH congress, where new networks were created, and knowledge shared. It was a first step in the process of creating global action within migrant health. Secondly, EUPHA supporting the statement drafted by the Section was an important achievement. Finally, the Section's involvement in international educational activities was also an important achievement.
- c. **Presentation of the president /vice president:** In 2017, AK was granted an extra year as President (in addition to the previous 3+3 years) due to the planning of the MERH congress, and Charles Agyemang (CA) continued as Vice President as well. During Spring 2018, AK called for nominations for the next president among the Section members, and based on the nomination the Section Steering Committee strongly supported the election of Bernadette Kumar (BK) as the candidate. This was communicated to all Section members and only very positive comments were received. Based on this broad support and feedback BK has been elected as the next president. AK thanked the EUPHA office, the Vice President AG and the Steering Committee members for their strong support and he shortly introduced BK emphasizing her impressive competences and experiences within the field of

public health and migrant and ethnic minority health. BK expressed her thanks on behalf of the Steering Committee and all members to AK for his long and strong engagement in the development of the Section.

BK informed that *the Steering committee* will continue with the same members for the next year, and AK will be included as an ordinary member. There will be *two Vice Presidents*, Maria Luisa Vasques and Charles Agyemang.

2. DISCUSSION OF KEY ISSUES

- a. *EUPHA MERH Conference 2020*: The intention is to continue organizing a European Section conference every second year and possibly a Global conference every fourth year. BK suggested to organize a European/Global Conference on migrant and ethnic minority health right before and possibly overlapping with the World Public Health conference in 2020 in Rome. *The participants through a show of hands supported the conference in 2020 and some volunteered to assist as well. BK and the Steering Committee will investigate the logistics and practicalities of the event and start planning it now with help from the Italian colleagues.*
- b. *Global society*: The MERH conference in May 2018 was very successful, but a need for a longer-term dedication arose, especially the need for a global society, the idea for a possible global society was presented and supported. A working committee of the society established at the meeting has so far only a few key members: BK, AK, CA, RB, Laurence Gruer and Shiriki Kumanyika. Global representation in the society's committee is very important and therefore the committee invites people to suggest other relevant members from other parts of the world. The EUPHA Section will take the lead in planning the society in the interim period until the conference in 2020, until the global leadership/committee can take This means that a Global Society will not replace EUPHA but a strong EUPHA will support the growth of Global Society and once the interim phase is over (until 2020) then Global Society will have its own organization.
- c. The main purposes of the global society are to: 1) strengthen the global collaboration for migrant health and the policies and practices of this field, 2) to organize the global conference, and 3) to share knowledge and to link people together through e.g. email-lists. The MERH 2018 conference had a small financial surplus, which has been donated to the global society. At the 2020 Global conference, the global society will be much more defined and have a clearer vision and agenda.

Comments: 1. The society should also focus on climate change, especially considering the new Lancet report. 2. The society should also involve social sciences, e.g. political science and sociologists, to reflect the fact that the areas are interconnected with health, and we cannot accomplish change without each other. BK confirmed that the global society will bring in people from other disciplines. 3. We should use the global society as an opportunity to create global partnerships in research, to share learnings, etc.

3. INFORMATION/ORIENTATION

- a. The Lancet Report on Migration and Health will be launched on Tuesday the 4th of December 2018.
- b. A Consensus Conference is planned 11-13th of April 2019 in Pecs, Hungary in order to establish a migrant health database, everyone is welcome.

- c. During the work on the Syria Commission, an international society on Health and Armed Conflict emerged and the Center for Humanitarian Leadership from Deakin University, Australia, is organizing it. They would like the Section to become involved in this society.
- d. A Bergen Declaration on migrant health inspired by the Edinburgh Declaration was a result of the recent Norwegian Conference on migration and health. This which will be sent to section members later on.
- e. Any other business: BK asks section members to be as active as possibly e.g. with commenting on the new Lancet report, publishing as a section; the WHO has been working on several technical guidance documents that they will launch during the coming months and it will be good if the section can comment on these as well.