

## NEWSLETTER

### PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGY SECTION

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Public Health Epidemiology (PHE) Section, we bring you our latest Newsletter. Here you can find interesting information from the public health epidemiology field, space for networking, sharing ideas, and much more!

### A SUMMARY OF WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE EPH CONERNECE IN MARSEILLE 2019

- EUPHA 2019 –Pre-conference course: Demystifying causal inference and mediation methods for public health researchers.



Demystifying causal inference and mediation methods for public health researchers. Organized by EUPHA Research Pillar and EPI EUPHA Section. The workshop explained the pitfalls of a widely used mediation method (the so-called “Baron and Kenny” approach) and discussed alternative options in an accessible way. This event was made up of lectures and practical session that outlined key concepts and



applied examples of causal mediation analysis. The course was delivered by Dr. Anna Pearce (University of Glasgow) and Prof. John Lynch (University of Adelaide) was chaired by Prof. Alastair Leyland (advisor to the EUPHA Research Pillar, University of Glasgow) and Dr. Linsay Gray (vice-president of the Public Health Epidemiology Section EUPHA, University of Glasgow). The course was extremely popular, with 41 delegates from 17 countries paying to attend.

- [EUPHA 2019 – Workshop](#)

- [Real-world data: are we ready to take up the challenge?](#)

The workshop was co-organized by the EPI section with the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) section, in particular by Prof. Stefania Boccia (president of the Public Health Epidemiology Section EUPHA, Catholic University of Rome) and Prof. Chiara De Waure (Vice-president EUPHA Section on HTA, University of Perugia)

- [Maternal and child health policy evaluation: utilizing administrative data and natural experiment design.](#)

Workshop organized by the PHE section in collaboration with the Child and Adolescent Public Health section. The workshop was delivered by Ruth Dundas (University of Glasgow), Mika Gissler (National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland) and Dr Sungano Chigogora (Imperial College London) and chaired by Prof. Stefania Boccia (president of the Public Health Epidemiology Section EUPHA, Catholic University of Rome).

## [Join the EUPHA section on Public Health Epidemiology network meeting](#)

The join the network meeting brought together delegates interested in public health epidemiology, covering details on our members and representatives, the aims of the section, pre-conference and workshop activities, the members' survey, newsletter, ideas

for workshop activities next year, with suggestions from participant especially for the pre-conferences activities.



- **ST**rengthening Analytical Thinking for Observational Studies (STRATOS) initiative

Among the initiatives shown, during the EUPHA Conference (2019) in Marseille at a joint meeting of the EPI and PHMR sections, the STRATOS was presented. As it is well known, the validity and practical utility of observational medical research depends critically on good study design, excellent data quality, appropriate statistical methods and accurate interpretation of results. Statistical methodology has seen substantial development in recent times. Unfortunately, many of these methodological developments are ignored in practice. Consequently, design and analysis of observational studies often exhibit serious weaknesses. The lack of guidance on vital practical issues discourages many applied researchers from using more sophisticated and possibly more appropriate methods when analyzing



observational studies. These observations led to the initiation of the STRATOS initiative, a large collaboration of experts with background in biostatistical and epidemiological methods (more than 100 members in 18 countries worldwide, with majority in Europe) in many different areas of biostatistical research. The objective of STRATOS is to provide accessible and accurate guidance in the design and analysis of observational studies. The guidance is intended for applied statisticians and other data analysts with varying levels of statistical education, experience and interests. Copies of a STRATOS Poster were deposited at the EUPHA desk. This poster is available on the STRATOS website, where one can find various details, including nine Topic Groups and eleven cross-cutting panels: <http://www.stratos-initiative.org/sites/default/files/STRATOSposter-offic.pdf>

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

- [16th World Congress on Public Health 2020](#)

### [Public health for the future of humanity: analysis, advocacy and action](#)

The theme of the Congress, Public Health for the Future of Humanity: Analysis, Advocacy, and Action, reflects a firm commitment that public health professionals, in the global public health community, have to respond to new circumstances: the rise of global temperatures; threats to food and water supply; poverty; inequalities; migration and conflicts and Political structures, at different level, struggle to respond. Public health professionals must strive and hold to account those with the power to make a difference and respond to their engagement making health be taken into account in all policies.

This 16th World Congress on Public Health is organized by the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) that will collaborate with the European Public



Health Association (EUPHA), that every year organizes the European Public Health Conference, and the Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SIItI).

To receive the Word Congress on Public Health 2020 newsletter that periodically sends out updates and information about the Congress, you can click on the link below and subscribe. <https://wcph2020.com/wcph-2020-in-rome-4>

In a very preliminary discussion during the annual Section Council in Utrecht, some preliminary brainstorming for Workshops' abstract preparation:

- Pre-conference on “Evidence generation”, together with the Digital and HTA Sections
- Workshop on “Optimising data sourcing to elicit account ability and responsiveness in LMIC informal settlements”, together with the PHMR section.
- Workshop on “Improvement of risk estimation and risk communication of non-communicable diseases”, together with Public Health Genomics (PHG) and Ethics Sections.
- Workshop on “Harnessing the digital transformation of health promotion and disease prevention: how to create a create a win-win to increase the value of mhealth and genomics applications”, together with the Digital and PHG Sections.
- [The HTAi 2018 Annual Meeting “Attaining, Maintaining, and Sustaining Healthcare Systems in a Changing World: The Role of HTA”](#)

The Annual Meeting bring together over 1,000 researchers, policymakers, industry, academia, health service providers, agencies and patients/consumers from around the world providing a place for these groups to share information and best practices, from cutting-edge technologies to system development in order to advance healthcare.



The focus of the meeting will be put on the roles that Health Technology Assessment (HTA) can play in improving patient-relevant outcomes while sustaining healthcare systems.

Attaining universal health coverage (UHC) is a pressing issue for many countries, particularly those with lower and middle incomes. HTA is a recognized tool for priority setting, making evidence-based resource allocation decisions, and developing benefits packages to help achieve UHC.

However, current developments are challenging and changing treatment and epidemiological paradigms. The consequences for HTA and the need to adapt is apparent, and must be faced globally to ensure the continued sustainability of healthcare systems in 2020 and beyond. More details can be found at the following link: <https://www.htai2020.org/>

- [European Public Health Week 2020](#)

The European Public Health Week (EUPHW) is back! Following this year's success, the second edition will take place on 11-15 May 2020. If you want to know more and potentially get involved, please send the email address(es) that you would like to include in our EUPHW mailing list to [euphacommunications@eupha.org](mailto:euphacommunications@eupha.org).

- [APHA Annual Meeting and Expo - "Creating the Healthiest Nation: Preventing Violence"](#)

San Francisco, California, October 24-28, 2020

<https://www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/annual>





- **Epidemiology-Infectious Diseases and Public Health. August 10-11, 2020 London, UK. Epidemiology Conference 2020**

Aims to gather global leading educational scientists, researchers and research students, to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all the aspects of Epidemiology, Infectious Diseases and Public Health. <https://epidemiology.healthconferences.org/>

- **Society for Social Medicine & Population Health Annual Scientific Meeting, 9-11 September 2020, Churchill College, Cambridge, UK**

This conference spans all research that addresses important issues in population health sciences and includes qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches. Everyone interested in population health sciences can come together to share information and network in a rigorous yet friendly atmosphere. The call for abstracts and workshop submissions will open at the beginning of February 2020.

<https://socsocmed.org.uk/annualscientificmeeting/>

## INTERESTING COURSES

- Summer School on Modern Methods in Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Cison di Valmarino - Treviso (Italy), May 31th - June 13th, 2020 (<http://www.biostat.epi.org/>)
- Erasmus Summer Programme (ESP). Preliminary date: August 3 – 21, 2020 Rotterdam (Netherlands), 3-21 August, 2019 (<https://erasmussummerprogramme.nl/>)
- 33rd Residential 3-week Summer Course in Epidemiology, 15 June – 3 July 2020. Florence, Italy. <http://eepe.org/>

## INTERESTING READINGS

- James Lopez Bernal, Steven Cummins, Antonio Gasparrini (2019). *Interrupted time series regression for the evaluation of public health interventions: a tutorial*. International Journal of Epidemiology <https://academic.oup.com/ije/article/46/1/348/2622842>
- Ioannidis JPA. (2019). *Most recommended medical interventions reach  $P < 0.005$  for their primary outcomes in meta-analyses*. International Journal of Epidemiology. <https://academic.oup.com/ije/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/ije/dyz241>
- Denis Talbot, Victoria Kubuta Massamba (2019). *A descriptive review of variable selection methods in four epidemiologic journals: there is still room for improvement*. European Journal of Epidemiology <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10654-019-00529-y>
- Guido Biele, Kristin Gustavson, Nikolai Olavi, Czajkowski, Roy Miodini, Nilsen Ted, Reichborn-Kjennerud. *Bias from self selection and loss to follow-up in prospective cohort studies*. European Journal of Epidemiology <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10654-019-00550-1>





As public health community, we can contribute and learn a lot from each other. As usual, we have the opportunities to share ideas and lots of information (upcoming international courses, lectures and conferences from the field, international projects to participate – call for application, networking opportunities, possible job application within your institution interesting for our members, scientific publications, etc.). If you think that there are interesting and updated news that need to be shared with the members of this Section, please contact us.

With this new year we hope we can enhance and share our experiences even further.

Warm greetings and wish you all a Happy New Year!

Stefania Boccia

Linsay Gray