

Minutes Join the network meeting 15nd October 2019

EUPHA section on Public Health Epidemiology (EUPHA-EPI)

Welcome

The session started at 11.00 am (CET time) on October 15th, 2020 via Zoom teleconference platform. A total of 25 people attended the Join The Network of the Public Health Epidemiology Section (EUPHA-EPI).

Agenda

- About the section
- Aims of the section for 2021
- Newsletters
- What we did in the past
- Workshop
- Survey
- Your inputs

About the section

The section currently includes 4280 section members from different fields and experiences but all interested in Epidemiology.

The President of the Section is Professor Stefania Boccia from the Catholic University of Rome and the Vice-President is Dr. Linsay Gray from the University of Glasgow.

Aims of the section for 2021

The aims of this section for the next year are to:

- Promote and strengthen the development and use of the epidemiological methods in public health
- Encourage the presentation of research activities and related outputs at the annual conferences, related to the use of epidemiological tools in public health.
- Submit at least one workshop on relevant aspects regarding public health epidemiology.
- Work for a high scientific standard of studies on public health epidemiology.
- Encourage the publication of studies on public health epidemiology.
- Act in an advisory capacity for policy statements and papers to influence policy makers and politicians in line with EUPHA objectives.
- Arrange a **pre-conference educational event** for public health epidemiology researchers in connection to the EUPHA annual conferences.
- Address how social determinants of health affected the Covid-19 epidemic using different indicators to measure the health-illness continuum.
- Investigate Public health aspects related to the new occurrence of the Covid-19 epidemic.

Newsletter

Participants are kept informed via the Section newsletter on events (conferences, seminars etc) and updates (such as important papers etc) related to the section and the field of epidemiology.

What we did in the past

EPH 2019 pre-conference course

Demystifying causal inference and mediation methods for public health researchers. Organized by EUPHA Research Pillar and EUPHA Section on Public Health Epidemiology. 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 Lindsay 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.

EPH 2019 Workshops

Real World Data: are we ready to take up the challenge? The workshop by co-organized by the PHE section with the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) section. 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).

WORKSHOP 2020

Harnessing the digital transformation of disease prevention: a focus on m-health and genomics? The workshop was organized by our section along with: Public Health Genomics (EUPHA-PHG) Section, Digital Health (EUPHA-DH), and Health Promotion (EUPHA-HP) Sections on October 15th, 2020. The workshop was chaired by Roza Adany and Anna Odone (Public Health Genomics and Digital Health Sections EUPHA). The workshop was introduced by Stefania Boccia, and made up of different valuable presentations from renowned panelists: Anant Jani, Value Based Healthcare Programme, Department of Primary Health Care Sciences, University of Oxford, UK; Giordano Bottà, Allelica, Italy; Mark Kroese, Consultant in Public Health Medicine/Director, PHG Foundation, University of Cambridge, UK; and Vasileios Nittas, Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Section survey on direct to consumer (DTC) genetic tests

Aimed to understand the current state of knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of public health professionals, members of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) towards Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Tests (DTC-GTs). It was elaborated on the results of a scoping review on healthcare professionals' perspectives towards DTC-GTs and validated by means of focus group methodology, involved experts in genetics, public health, and public health genomics. The web-based, self-administered, confidential, and anonymous survey was voluntary and EUPHA members were invited to participate and fill it in through both email invitation, and EUPHA and EUPHAnxt newsletters. It was completed by 201 public health professionals. The results will soon be officially published.

Your inputs: Ideas for workshop, pre-conference courses and EUPHW activities next year 2021

Lindsay Gray referred to the podcasts entitled 1) Mortality from social determinants and Covid-19 and 2) Mitigating adverse health effects of COVID-19 response produced by the team at MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow (<https://soundcloud.com/user-776545020>) which launched their 15 minutes on Health Inequalities podcast series and were first broadcast on Equal health for all day (Thursday 14 May) as part of the 2020 European Public Health Week. She asked for suggestions of Section activities that might be undertaken for the 2021 European Public Health Week.

Stefania Boccia suggests that workshop/s could be jointly organized with other sections and suggestions during the next few months are important to be received (up to January 2021).

Suggestions from participants

- Award for the best epidemiological oral or poster presentation in the 2021 meeting related to the EUPHA-EPI section- ACTION: the President will discuss it in the next Section Council meeting;
- Possible topics for the Dublin 2021 EPH Conference (Our Food, Our Health, Our Earth) EUPHA-EPI Workshops or Pre-Conference Courses:
 - o Causal inference (G-estimation, drawing DAGs);
 - o Use of survey data in epidemiology;
 - o Recent developments in relevant software (R packages, etc);
 - o Risk communication, Strategic Communication of epidemiological results for politicians and stakeholders.

Potential other EUPHA networks to co-organise with

- o Public Health Monitoring and Reporting
- o Health Services Research
- o EUPHAnxt

Possible topics for EUPHW 2021

- o Health inequalities taking into account also the COVID-19 pandemic
- ACTION: each member can send specific suggestions by the end of December 2020

- We invite inclusion of the publications of the EUPHA Section Members in the Section Newsletter-
- ACTION: each member is welcome to send to the PHE section the manuscript to share;

The meeting concluded with a plea to read, consider signing and advertise widely the John Snow Memorandum <https://bit.ly/34ZbECL>. This is a call for action for evidence based science and to avoid suggestions that we should end lockdowns and follow a herd immunity strategy to address COVID-19.