Global Health Equity and Digital Technology

The WFPHA Global Health Equity and Digital Technology Working Group (GHEDT) addresses, from a life course perspective, disability and chronic conditions, education equity, income disparities, social justice, and digital technology.

At the 15th World Congress on Public Health in Melbourne, Australia, the GHEDT held a meeting to evaluate the current activities and future direction of the working group. In April, the WFPHA’s Governing Council approved the proposal to change the name of the working group to include digital technologies as well as the appointment of two new co-chairs, Stefan Buttigieg (Malta Association of Public Health Medicine) and Vina HuLamm (American Public Health Association).

The GHEDT has continued to promote a series of articles focused on public health associations and their use of digital technologies, an initiative funded by the Aetna Foundation. An open access online supplement entitled, ‘The Use and Impact of Digital Technology on Population Health and Health Equity Gains’ was commissioned by the WFPHA under the Journal of Public Health Policy. James Chauvin, past co-chair of the working group and Past-President of WFPHA, led the initiative and presented the work at the Swiss Public Health conference. Additionally, a commentary was published on the digital technology revolution and its impact on the public’s health in the European Journal of Public Health. Based on the success of the initiative, GHEDT submitted a “phase 2” proposal to Aetna for its consideration and further discussion. For 2018, GHEDT intends to actively engage with the regional networks, member associations, and other working groups.