Students and Young Professionals

In order to support the work of WFPHA broadly and engage students and young professionals (SYPs), a Student and Young Professional Working Group (SYPWG) has been created with Thomas Piggott as Chair and Ameera Katar as Vice-Chair.

The purpose of the SYPWG is to represent the interests of SYPs within the WFPHA and support and enhance WFPHA’s work, particularly in reference to issues of their concern. The SYPWG accomplishes this by supporting the work of WFPHA, building partnerships with other student/young professional organizations with an interest in public health, and advancing student and young professional issues within public health. In addition, the WFPHA is currently in the process of taking steps to have one young person in each working group. At the 15th World Congress on Public Health in April 2017 in Melbourne, the SYPWG held two events. The first event was a circle discussion on Issues of Relevance to Students and Young Professionals engaging student and young professional attendees from all over the world. The second event was a World Leadership Dialogue on the Future of Young Professionals in Public Health.

On September 25th, 2017, members of the SYPWG gathered together for an online call to discuss the project "Report on the Future of Public Health and Engaging Students and Young Professionals", which is now complete. This report looks at the involvement and exposure of students and young professionals that is necessary to contribute to the future of public health. By underlining the focus on the next generation, new strategies may be considered to better engage the youth at a professional and community level. In addition, the SYPWG call discussed some objectives to be reached. These objectives include to stimulate creative thinking and input on key public health issues, to facilitate the development and funding of SYP sections of public health associations, and to enhance the involvement of young students in public health association research.

We encourage the engagement of young professionals in all our working groups. Please contact eleonora.decata@unige.ch if you are interested in getting involved!

Meeting of the Student and Young Professional Working Group, Melbourne, Australia, April 2017