REPORT FROM THE SWISS PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

The Swiss Public Health Conference was held with success in Basel in August under the main theme “NCD’s – a global challenge”. With 11 keynote lectures, a round table and 22 parallel sessions, it was a varied and stimulating conference.

Link to the online conferences: http://sph11.organizers-congress.ch/downloads_fr.php

In his keynote, Dr Hans Kluge (on behalf of Mrs Zsuzsanna Jakab) presented the new European approach to Health Governance in the 21st Century with «Health 2020», a WHO European Region where all peoples are enabled and supported in achieving their full health potential and well-being, and in which countries, individually and jointly, work towards reducing inequalities in health within the Region and beyond with a strong emphasis on strengthening health systems including public Health. Ambassador Martin Dahinden showed the growing importance of NCDs in low income countries and Prof. Borisch showed the need of a whole system approach given their multifactorial nature: «NCDs are a global challenge and need a global answer».

In the second keynote session, Erich Wichmann presented a German National cohort on NCDs, Nino Künzli showed the relevance of structural prevention emphasizing on the lack of data of many factors, while Sabina de Geest presented the paradigmatic shifts needed in clinical care models.

On day two Michael J. Barry offered a lively talk on the importance to inform and amplify the patient’s voice in health care decisions, Andreas Wallnöfer gave the vision of the private industry and Nicole Probst-Hensch had a critical presentation on the integration of genetics into epidemiological research and its relevance to public health at all.

In the afternoon, Thomas Steffen presented his «holiday flashes» around the theme of structural prevention and health promotion and emphasized on the need to advance with clear messages and an open heart, while Pascal Bovet showed that reducing risk of NCDs in populations largely depends on (structural) public health policy across all sectors.

The conference finished on a roundtable around «Healthy cities – a contradiction?»