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Letter from Dr. Paulo Buss

President, World Federation of Public Health Associations

Dear friends, and public health professionals from around the world:

First, on behalf of the other executive board members of the federation, I would like to convey our best wishes for an excellent 2009 to all of the health professionals around the world gathering under the World Federation of Public Health Associations. In a year of so many uncertainties and challenges, we should evaluate the current global political scenario that entrenches every single global policy. This situation deeply affects all of the nationals of the world, including those in which our more than 70 national member associations serve.

I am thoroughly convinced that in 2008, the 21st century truly began. We must suggest that Eric Hobsbawm, the admirable historian, revise his notion of a 'short twentieth century'—which would have begun at the dawn of World War I and finished with the disintegration of the USSR, as stated in his seminal book, *The Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century 1914–1991*. However, it seems to me that the crash of global financial markets and the election of an African-American as President of the United States do mark the beginning of the 21st century.

2008 was the year in which global capitalism, promoted as the great wonder of the 20th century and the father of prosperity and happiness in the 21st century, exhibited enormous deficiencies. Financial markets melted in front of thousands of astonished eyes around the world. Their demise leaves behind a trail of impressive social atrocities: an overall increase in unemployment rates, which has very well-documented effects on human health; a boom in food prices, which will certainly further the spread of hunger and malnutrition; and the loss of housing for thousands of people. Many other crises resulting from the irresponsible actions of rich countries, transnational mega-corporations and rich individuals who speculate on the price of commodities, drugs, housing, health services and many other essential goods curse the world. We hope the costs of this dominant model of capitalism are not borne by the poorest countries in the world and the poorest individuals within these countries, who have always suffered from this aggression.

Not only our Federation, but also many social activists, health professionals, NGOs and other institutions, as well as researchers in health policies and health systems have been pointing out the need to reform health systems around the world in order to render them more egalitarian, humanized and effective. Concerted political action at both the global and international scale is essential to face the current global crisis and carry out the required reforms properly.

In 2008, WHO issued two reports on "Social Determinants of Health" and "Primary Health Care" alerting the world to its effective placement in the 21st century. In the years following the Alma-Ata Conference on Primary Health Care...
In 2007, the World Federation of Public Health Associations had the opportunity that comes once in a lifetime—to spend time at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center in Bellagio, Italy. As stated in its program information, the Bellagio conference program provides space for framing debates on world issues, for translating theory into action and for devising creative responses to some of the most pressing issues of our time, especially those directed at alleviating poverty and vulnerability. The Foundation seeks applications from groups who are addressing significant issues and who expect the conference to generate innovative, yet concrete outcomes.

(continues on page 6)
2007-2012
Drafted May 4, 2007
Strategic Plan

VISION:
To lead the quest for a healthy global society

MISSION:
WFPHA is an international, non-governmental, multi-professional and civil society organization, dedicated to promoting and protecting global public health.

VALUES:
Right to Health: We hold that health is a fundamental human right and a public good.
Social Justice: We advocate for equity and non-discrimination and the elimination of health disparities.
Diversity and Inclusion: We promote a global public health perspective that includes diverse social and cultural backgrounds, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, and disability.
Partnership: We use partnership as the basis for mutual learning and capacity building.
Ethical Conduct: We believe in the ethical practice of public health for individuals and populations.

The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) is an international, nongovernmental, multi-professional and civil society organization bringing together all people interested and active in safeguarding and promoting the public’s health for professional exchange, collaboration, and action. Founded in 1967, it is the only worldwide professional society representing and serving the broad spectrum of public health, as distinct from single disciplines or occupations. The Federation’s governing members are national and regional public health associations, presently numbering over 70. Members also include regional associations of schools of public health.

The present strategic plan was developed through a participatory process at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Study and Conference Center in May 2007, covering the five-year period 2007-2012. It updates the Federation’s vision, mission, goals and strategies and serves as a road map for activities in support of the achievement of the goals. The plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.
GOAL ONE: To develop and promote effective global policies to improve the health of populations.
Strategies:
I. Develop a process for creating and prioritizing global health policy for action by WFPHA and other stakeholders.
II. Make efficient use of all methods to disseminate and advocate the policies of WFPHA.

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GOAL TWO: To advance public health practice, education/training, and research.
Strategies:
I. Encourage all member associations to use the Knowledge Management for Public Health (KM4PH) network to exchange public health practices, knowledge and research with a target of 50% by the end of 2008.
II. Develop a plan to provide ongoing education and training at regional and global levels.
III. Identify and implement approaches to enhance the use of the Journal of Public Health Policy.
IV. Continue organizing the World Congress on Public Health.

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GOAL THREE: To expand and strengthen internal and external partnerships.
Strategies:
I. Establish formalized collaborations with international governmental and nongovernmental organizations, alliances and United Nations bodies.
II. Develop a plan to increase member involvement in global public health initiatives and networking.

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GOAL FOUR: To achieve and maintain an effective, efficient and sustainable organization.
Strategies:
I. Assess the current structures, policies, and functions of the WFPHA and make changes as dictated by the WFPHA strategic plan.
II. Develop a business plan, including funding, for short-term and long-term sustainability of WFPHA by the end of 2007.
III. Review the current membership criteria and make recommendations.

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GOAL FIVE: To support member associations in improving their infrastructure and organizational capacity.
Strategies:
I. Develop a plan to assist members in achieving fiscal and organizational sustainability.
II. Obtain funding to assist member associations in strengthening their operational capacity.
III. Develop mechanisms to guide member associations in strengthening their policy making and advocacy capacity.
Recent developments continue to emphasize the need to strengthen and further develop the public health capacity across the globe. The 21st century’s health threats will require strong public health responses, particularly in countries facing critical shortages in the public health workforce and struggling to maintain essential public health services.

Current public health practice is highly inter-professional and requires a skills and competency-based approach, rather than a discipline or profession-based approach to public health workforce development. Integrating public health competencies into all health worker training, and instilling these competencies into the health workers themselves, is crucial to meet the growing health needs of those countries with few public health workers. Successful public health preparedness and responses can happen only if there are functioning health systems in which health worker/professional activities are coordinated at all levels, with strong focus both on policy at high levels and provisions of services, including essential public health services, at the local/ground level.

Therefore, one critical factor in strengthening health systems is a focus on the renewal of primary health care. One critical component of this process is the integration of public health skills and competencies throughout the health workforce. With training in public health skills and competencies, health workers will be better equipped to respond to current public health challenges.

The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) highlights the importance of public health capacity development in the Goal 2 of the WFPHA Strategic Plan 2007-2012. Public health education should aim to produce graduates who are competent, capable of performing effectively within their workplaces and health systems, and able to continue learning and adapting throughout their careers to evolving health needs, policies and technologies. To achieve this, a deliberate effort is needed to assure the quality of education through regular assessments and improvements of educational program structures, processes and outcomes against agreed quality standards or criteria. The WFPHA develops, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), institutional self-assessment tools for public health and will present this topic at the 12th World Congress on Public Health 2009 in Istanbul.
Since the WFPHA General Assembly approved the opening of an antenna office in Geneva, our activities and presence in Geneva have intensified. On 1st October 2008, Thomas Vogel, a member of the board of the Swiss Society for Public Health based in Geneva, started working to develop the antenna office. He is in the process of setting up the office, a physical symbol of WFPHA’s firm foot in Geneva, helping the WFPHA and its members to be more reactive to public health issues in the international sphere.

At the moment, the antenna office is working to forge better relations with international organizations based in Geneva by participating in WHO consultations and other international health events. These activities will be furthered in the coming months to ensure integration into the WFPHA strategic plan in order to benefit the members more directly.

The Swiss authorities, as well as the local authorities of Geneva, welcome this development. They are supportive of the Federation’s decision to develop a more important presence in Geneva because it contributes to their plan to make Geneva the “World Capital of Health.” To help us with our development in Switzerland, they promised a free office for two years should we need to house one or more staff. We look forward to expanding our activities in Geneva and being able to fully benefit from a closer link to some of our important international partners.
Achieving Organizational Success

During its residence at Bellagio, members of the Strategic Planning Committee (the Committee) drafted the initial plan using the general framework of from good to great. In preparation for the 2008 annual meeting, the committee met in Geneva to finalize the WFPHA’s roadmap for the next 3-5 years. Since the annual general meeting’s approval of the strategic plan in May 2008, progress has been made in achieving several of the key goals:

Goal 2: To advance public health practice, education/training, and research;

Goal 3: To expand and strengthen internal and external partnerships; and

Goal 5: To support member associations in improving their infrastructure and organizational capacity moving forward.

Advance public health practice, education/training

Knowledge Management (KM) comprises a range of practices used in organizations to identify, create, represent, distribute and enable adoption of insights and experiences. Knowledge-management is used by organizations to bridge the “know-do” gap and deliver results more effectively.

The 12th World Congress on Public Health to be convened in Istanbul, Turkey, April 27 through May 1, 2009 will bring together persons from across the globe recognized for their national and international experience in developing and transforming systems aimed at improving global public health. The theme of the triennial Congress, co-sponsored by the Turkish Public Health Association, is Making a Difference in Global Public Health: Education, Research, and Practice. As of March 1, we confirmed the attendance of approximately 1000 public health leaders, advocates, and students representing national public health organizations and schools of public health from 85 countries. Others notable figures to be in attendance include Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey; Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO); and Sir Michael Marmot, Chair of WHO’s Commission on Social Determinants of Health. The Congress will help the Federation to strengthen its role as a lead organization known for global knowledge creation and dissemination.

Expand and strengthen internal and external partnerships

According to experts, partnership is a voluntary collaborative agreement between two or more parties in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and to share risks, responsibilities, resources, competencies and benefits. Partnerships are synergistic and in our new knowledge economy, meaningful partnerships are one of the drivers for success. The WFPHA maintains official relationships with the WHO and UNICEF. In addition it has a signed agreement of collaboration Global Green.

Over the past year, the WFPHA has established official partnerships with the following organizations:

Colgate Palmolive Company
The WFPHA is collaborating on the company’s “Oral Care Prevention” initiative that is in the preliminary stages of development. The WFPHA will collaborate to manage an oral health research project. http://www.colgate.com/app/Colgate/US/Corp/HomePage.cvsp

Diabetes HOW™ Helping Our World
The Diabetes HOW™ Coalition brings together multiple members of the diabetes community—patients and their loved ones, health care professionals, diabetes and public health organizations, and businesses—in an effort to inspire action that will improve the quality of life for people living with and at risk for diabetes.

We will reveal challenges and will champion a path toward solutions. This global coalition will encourage and work in countries around the world to form their own coalitions that will drive change for people living in their regions.
The Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

The Group on Earth Observations is coordinating efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems, or GEOSS. GEO was launched in response to calls for action by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and by the G8 (Group of Eight) leading industrialized countries. These high-level meetings recognized that international collaboration is essential for exploiting the growing potential of Earth observations to support decision making in an increasingly complex and environmentally stressed world.

GEO is a voluntary partnership of governments and international organizations. It provides a framework within which these partners can develop new projects and coordinate their strategies and investments. As of November 2008, GEO’s Members include 76 Governments and the European Commission. In addition, 56 intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations with a mandate in Earth observation or related issues have been recognized as Participating Organizations.

GEO is constructing GEOSS on the basis of a 10-Year Implementation Plan for the period 2005 to 2015. The Plan defines a vision statement for GEOSS, its purpose and scope, expected benefits, and the nine “Societal Benefit Areas” of disasters, health, energy, climate, water, weather, ecosystems, agriculture and biodiversity.

http://www.earthobservations.org/about_geo.shtml

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Organization (NOAA) of the US Department of Commerce

The WFPHA works with this federal agency through its earth observation activities. The U.S. contribution to GEOSS is through the integrated earth observation system Group on Earth Observations. The WFPHA, APHA and NOAA co-sponsored a briefing on climate change at the world renown Washington Press Club. http://usgeo.gov/

The Global Health Workforce Alliance

Hosted and administered by WHO, the alliance is an open partnership dedicated to identifying and implementing solutions to the HRH crisis. Its core functions include mobilizing knowledge and learning in support of accelerating country action and solving global problems. Another task is disseminating information, communications, and advocacy on workforce challenges, tools, and methods. Finally, another function is harmonizing actors on the issues. Its work priorities include:

- Accelerating country work and capacity development through partnership with national leaders and stakeholders
- Harmonizing actors for workforce alignment to strengthen priority programs and broader health systems
- Building knowledge and stimulating learning on the issues
- Disseminating information and advocating HRH issues
- Addressing specific global workforce challenges

http://www.mvproject.org/hrh-conference/hrh-information/global-health-workforce-alliance

The Pfizer Public Health Group

The Pfizer Public Health group will collaborate with the WFPHA in strengthening public health associations. http://www.pfizer-publichealth.com/partnerships.aspx

The Rockefeller Foundation

The Rockefeller Foundation has supported infrastructure development for the WFPHA allowing its members from low-income countries to participate in the affairs of the organization. http://www.rockfound.org/

The World Justice Forum

The WJP engages in mainstreaming both by convening action-oriented, multidisciplinary meetings (in the U.S. and internationally) on the rule of law; and by providing funding through its Opportunity Fund to non-governmental organizations and other entities for new multidisciplinary efforts to strengthen the rule of law. The WJP also convenes the World Justice Forum. http://www.worldjusticeproject.org/

Support member associations in improving their infrastructure and organizational capacity

The Pfizer Public Health is collaborating with the WFPHA over the next 3 years to strengthen selected public health associations. Funding has been made available through the APHA and preliminary work has begun.

These exciting partnerships are just a sampling of the WFPHA’s efforts to grow the organization and become a major player in global public health. They are all excellent examples of partnerships and their potential. So it is not the time for retrenchment or complacency. Continue to move from Good to Great!
WFPHA becomes active member of Group on Earth Observation (GEO)

by Dr. Samir Banoob

GEO, organized in 2005, is a voluntary partnership of 72 governments and 52 intergovernmental, international and regional organizations with a mandate in earth observation. Based in Geneva, GEO’s secretariat, in collaboration with its members, is constructing GEOSS—the Global Earth Observation System of Systems. GEOSS involves a 10-year plan encompassing nine Societal Benefit Areas: disasters, health, energy, climate, water, weather, ecosystems, agriculture and biodiversity. This new effort promises to revolutionize our ability to understand and manage our planet.

While health is one of the defined societal benefit areas of GEOSS, the other areas are strong health determinants. For this reason, WFPHA became informally associated with GEO and applied for its membership in 2007. Professor Samir Banoob represented the federation on behalf of President SM Asib Nasim, at the September 2007 GEOSS Symposium in Brazil. He presented a paper on “Using Geospatial Information in Promoting and Guiding Global and National Health Policies.” The paper addressed potential collaboration between GEO and WFPHA as producers and consumers of new information in the health field.

In November 2007, WFPHA’s application for membership was discussed during the GEO Summit Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. Because the WFPHA is not active in earth observation, it was accepted as an associate member. After Dr. Banoob’s addressed the expected benefits for both organizations, the decision was amended to accept WFPHA as a full member.

WFPHA’s relationship with GEO is progressively developing. Dr Jose Achache, the Director of the GEO Secretariat made an excellent informational presentation on GEO during the WFPHA annual meeting of 2008. Moreover, a full session is organized for the WFPHA 12th World Congress on Public Health in Istanbul, April 27–May 1, 2009. The session entitled “Geospatial Information, GEOSS and Public Health” will give Congress participants the opportunity to learn more about this promising source of valuable health information in the epidemiological, environmental and disaster preparedness and management fields.
New Trends in Knowledge Dissemination: WFPHA E-News

by Charlene Bright

The World Federation of Public Health Associations is an international, nongovernmental, multi-professional and civil society organization dedicated to promoting and protecting global public health.

WFPHA Member News is prepared regularly and communicates important activities and announcements to Federation members. Our goal for the E-Newsletter is to provide relevant, impactful knowledge and resources for our members and the global health community.

The Federation has enjoyed a very productive and successful 2008. New partnerships were formed; Ethiopia was selected as our 13th congress site; and new funding opportunities were received…just to name a few.

We welcome you to share with us and the global health community your articles, announcements, activities, etc. from your association or region.

Submissions can be a minimum of 150 words (pictures are encouraged) and emailed to cbright@wfpha.org by the 15th of each month.

Capacity Building Initiatives

by Leila Abrar

In May 2007, the executive board of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) adopted an actionable five-year strategic plan that updates its vision, mission, values, goals and strategies. Goal Five of the plan is directed at supporting WFPHA members and potential members improve their infrastructure and organizational capacity.

Subsequently, in December 2007, the American Public Health Association successfully submitted a Capacity Building Initiative proposal to the Pfizer Public Health Group and formed a Strengthening Public Health Associations Advisory Committee to provide technical assistance in support of this effort. The Pfizer support will provide funding to, among other activities, assessing organizational capacity of each member association; and convening regional NGO training courses to include fiscal and sustainability planning, board development and grant writing.

In September 2008, I was hired by the WFPHA Secretariat to develop and field an organizational assessment survey of its members and selected non-members.

Data from this assessment will:

- Provide a picture of current organizational capacity of public health associations globally, including all active WFPHA member associations, as well as some selected non-members;
- Enable the Federation to develop capacity building grants, and
- Enable survey participants to identify gaps and opportunities and to develop capacity development goals.
Health Care in 1978, the “selective primary care” approach prevailed. On the other hand, the “comprehensive (multidisciplinary, multi-professional and multi-sector) primary health care” approach—which thoroughly contemplated the social determinants of health—simply laid dormant for more than 30 years. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, neoliberal prescriptions triumphed, advocating “small governments” and, in the health domain, the magical solution of health privatization. The result, however, was greater inequity in health systems and problems for poor families and individuals to access drugs and services.

The issues brought forward in the last World Health Assemblies allowed us to return to ideas held dear by thousands of health professionals throughout the world, that is, applying the comprehensive (intersectoral) primary health care approach and tackling social determinants of health. Thus, in addition to broadening political actions to render health systems more egalitarian, humanized and effective, our actions towards both addressing the “social determinants of health,” as well as discovering the interventions with the greatest positive impact on health should also be intensified.

Other issues of both global and national importance are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the highest commitment made by the countries present at the 2000 Millennium Summit. In order for the MDGs’ health and development goals to be attained by 2015, we need to focus on them in the next few years. The Millennium Goals are a “minimum commitment” of societies, governments and the global community to the poorest populations in the world. It will be a great defeat for the global community, the United Nations and national governments if the MDGs are not attained.

Within our countries, we should prioritize actions aimed at understanding why we are not attaining the MDGs. We must determine what actions are required to achieve the MDGs, including: reducing child and maternal mortality rates; decreasing the prevalence of diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, as well as of other diseases specifically prevalent in our countries; improving water supply and other elements of basic sanitation; enhancing the performance of public social projects and their effects on human health; and minimizing climate change and environmental contamination, as well as their consequences for our health. These are all issues brought to light by the MDGs and should be taken into account by health researchers both in our countries and throughout the world.

I believe that this small list of issues (ranging from health policies and systems—including primary health care—to the social determinants of health, intersectoral policies and the Millennium Goals) represent, in my opinion, a minimum agenda for the federation and the national associations in 2009.

I firmly believe that the state should be the promoting agent of both the design of a “national health and development agenda” and its implementation, which would include financing, capacity building and the development of strong and stable institutions. International partnering should be accepted and stimulated, but only when it serves the national health plan and the national development agenda. Nothing is more pernicious to a country than having its policies determined by financiers or donors.

In 2009, we also expect to implement the federation’s strategic plan more effectively by broadening its scope at both the global and national levels. Between April 27th and May 1st, the global health community will convene in Turkey for the federation’s 12th World Public Health Congress to discuss crucial issues for the health of our populations. We hope to see you all in the beautiful city of Istanbul, whose bridge connecting Europe and Asia symbolizes the union of peoples on behalf of health and development.

I conclude with a word of trust for the good-spirited men and women of the world public health community to renew their faith in solidarity and friendship in 2009 so that we can contribute to a world of peace, health and development.

Paulo M. Buss
Presidente da WFPHA
Representatives of two African regional Public Health Association (PHA) networks, the Network of Public Health Associations in Francophone Africa (Réseau des associations de santé publique en Afrique francophone) (RASPAF), and the East, Central, and Southern Africa Public Health Association (ECSAPHA), participated in the International Conference on Primary Health Care and Health Systems in Africa which took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, April 28–30, 2008.

The conference presented an opportunity for the Public Health Association representatives from Burkina Faso, Niger, Congo-Brazzaville, Cameroun, Côte d’Ivoire and Uganda to meet and discuss 1) promoting the formation of PHAs in other African countries 2) laying a foundation for greater collaboration between the networks and PHAs; 3) strategies to inform decision makers on the important role PHAs play nationally and regionally; 4) the strengthening of partnerships between PHAs and UN agencies, particularly the WHO in Africa. Representative PHAs also participated in a workshop to share and exchange on common public health issues with representatives of Ministries of Health from all over Africa as well as with the WHO Africa Regional Office.

The discussions culminated in a Declaration of Commitment of African Public Health Association Networks presented at the Conference closing, a subsequent short report and the collective commitment by PHAs to advocate for the Ouagadougou Declaration on Primary Health Care and Health System in Africa: Achieving Better Health for Africa in the New Millennium.
The Public Health Association of Congo (Republic of) (ACSPC) successfully organized and hosted their second national public health days conference (Les Journées nationales de santé publique—JNSP) in Brazzaville in August 2008.

The theme of the conference was: Public Health in Congo: Towards Public Policy and Healthy Environments. Over two days, the conference covered 21 topics, 23 presentations and convened more than 150 professionals from the fields of health, education, agriculture, the government and non-governmental sectors. Opening and closing ceremonies were presided over by Dr. Damase BODZONGO (Director General of Health, Ministry of Health, Social affairs and family). ACSPC also recognized the contribution that former WFPHA Secretary General Dr. Allen Jones has made and observed a minute of silence in his memory.

This conference was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, UNAIDS, the University Marien Ngouabi, CPHA’s SOPHA Program and the Municipality of Brazzaville. With the success of this conference in 2008, the Ministry of Health will again lend its support to ACSPC in preparation for the third JNSP to be held in 2010 in Owando in the north of the country.
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Dr. Paulo Marchiori Buss
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- American Public Health Association
- Armenian Public Health Association
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- Azerbaijan National Health Association
- Bangladesh Public Health Association
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- Brazilian Association of Collective Health
- Burkina Faso Public Health Association
- Canadian Public Health Association
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- Costa Rican Public Health Association
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- Haiti Public Health Association
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- Japanese Public Health Association
- Jordan Public Health Association
- Kazakhstan Academy of Preventive Medicine
- Kenya Community Health Association
- Kuwait Public Health Association
- Lebanese Public Health Association
- Macedonian Medical Society/Association for Social Medicine
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- Mexican Society of Public Health
- Mozambican Public Health Association
- Netherlands Public Health Federation
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- Nigerian Association for the Promotion of Public Health
- Nigerien Public Health Association
- Norwegian Society of Public Health
- Panamanian Society of Public Health
- Peruvian Public Health Association
- Philippine Public Health Association
- Polish Society of Hygiene
- Portuguese Association for the Promotion of Public Health
- Romanian Public Health and Health Management Association
- Russian Public Health Association
- South Africa Public Health Association
- Serbia Public Health Association
- Spanish Society for Public Health and Health Administration
- Sri Lankan Public Health Association
- Sudanese Society for Social and Preventive Medicine
- Swiss Society for Public Health
- Tanzanian Public Health Association
- Thailand National Health Association
- Turkish Public Health Association
- Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health
- Royal Society for the Promotion of Health (UK)
- UK Public Health Association
- All-Ukrainian Public Health Association
- Vietnam Society of Preventive Medicine
- Vietnam Public Health Association
- Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region
- Caribbean Public Health Association
- East, Central and Southern Africa Public Health Association
- European Public Health Association
- Latin American and Caribbean Association of Education in Public Health

Geneva Office
Ms. Joan Bell Davenport, Treasurer
World Federation of Public Health Associations
11, route du Nant d’Avril
1214 Vernier (GE), Switzerland
Email: joanbell@hotmail.com

Secretariat
Dr. Barbara Hatcher, Secretary-General
800 I St, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-3710, USA
Telephone: +(1) 202.777.2490
Fax: +(1) 202.777.2533
Email: barbara.hatcher@wfpha.org
info@wfpha.org

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WFPHA is an international, nongovernmental organization composed of multidisciplinary national public health societies. It is the only worldwide professional society representing and serving the broad field of public health, as distinct from single disciplines or professions. WFPHA’s mission is to promote personal and community health throughout the world by supporting the establishment and development of societies of public health; facilitating the exchange of information, experience, and research; and advocating for policies, program, and practices that improve public health.

Editor-in-Chief
Barbara J. Hatcher
Managing Editor
Morgan Taylor
Staff Editor/Writer
Wna Hulamm
Contributing Editor
Charlene Bright
Graphic Design
Jennifer Strass, Ellie D’sa
Contributors
Paulo Buss
Barbara J. Hatcher
Charlene Bright
Leila Abrar
Thomal Vogel
Alena Petrakova
Canadian Public Health Association–SOPHA program

Contributing
Photographer:
Deborah Klein-Walker

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WFPHA Report – WFPHA Secretariat

info@wfpha.org

Barbara Hatcher, Secretary-General
800 I St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-3710
Telephone: (202) 777-2486
Fax: (202) 777-2534
Email: barbara.hatcher@wfpha.org
info@wfpha.org

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