



A New Challenge for Public Health and Health Economics

In July 2005 the Universities of Basel, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Lugano and Zurich have signed a Cooperation Agreement for the creation of the new Swiss School of Public Health+ (SSPH+). The task of the SSPH+ is to coordinate and improve the existing postgraduate training programmes in Public Health and Health Economics and to stimulate the creation of new programmes, especially the collaboration between the two fields "Public Health" and "Health Economics". This initiative should respond to the increased need for well-trained professionals who can cope with the challenges of today's health services.

The inauguration of the SSPH+ took place on October 19, 2005 in the presence and with Federal Counsellor Couchepin and the President of the Cantonal Educational Directors, Regine Aepli. Both stressed the innovative approach of this project which seems to be the first time that six universities have signed a formal contract. On the second day the President of ASPHER, Professor Anders Foldspang, and the President of the Association of the American Schools of Public Health, Professor Patricia Wahl, presented their views on the importance of new trends in Public Health training. Professor Wahl's talk was mainly based on the report of the Institute of Medicine on "Assuring the Health of the Public in the 21st Century". This report stresses the important challenges due to globalization and demographic transition and in view of the advances in scientific and medical technologies. The effect of technological advances raises serious ethical, legal, social and policy problems, and globalisation brings forward the problems of increased travel and trade, the worldwide spread of epidemics and emerging and re-emerging diseases as well as the worldwide food and pharmaceutical sources and resources. Last but not least, the demographic transition raises challenges in the increase of ageing populations and with that

an increase in multiple chronic diseases. To cope with these challenges, Public Health has to create new training programmes and it is clear that bringing Health Economics and Public Health together, opens whole new fields of discussions and new possibilities for training for competent health professionals for our system.

At the moment, the SSPH+ offers the following programmes:

- *Interuniversitäres Weiterbildungsprogramm Public Health*: Universities of Basel, Berne and Zurich
www.public-health-edu.ch
- *Le Diplôme de formation continue en santé publique*: University of Geneva
www.imsp.ch/dsp
- *Master of Advanced Studies in International Health*: Swiss Tropical Institute Basel
www.sti.ch/tut.html
- *Master of Advanced Studies in Health Economics and Management*: University of Lausanne
www.hec.unil.ch/iems/Enseignement/MHM
- *Master in Health Economics and Management*: University of Lugano
www.net-megs.unisi.ch
- *International Doctoral Courses in Health Economics and Policy*: Universities of Berne, Geneva, Lausanne and Lugano
www.hec.unil.ch/iems
- PhD in Public Health Sciences: University of Basel
- Master in Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy (MPEP): University of Lausanne
www.hec.unil.ch/iems/Enseignement/UnivMed/

But we are also developing special courses for all students of the SSPH+ and we take up new programmes. Thus the school is rapidly expanding - we are hoping for a bright future.

Prof. Dr. Ursula Ackermann-Liebrich, Academic Director
Dr. Gilles de Weck, Administrative Director

SSPH+
Stampfenbachstrasse 63
CH-8006 Zürich
Phone +41 (0)44 634 47 02
Fax +41 (0)44 634 49 09
info@ssphplus.ch
www.ssphplus.ch