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## **Institute of Public Health Newsletter- Volume1, Issue 2**

Institute of Public Health (IPH) - CMHS  
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# Institute of Public Health Newsletter

## WELCOMING MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this new issue of our IPH Newsletter, which is rightfully dedicated to Infectious Diseases including the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-19) having caused an alarming pandemic with major public health and social consequences around the world. Up to date there have been more than 10 million confirmed infections and more than 500,000 deaths worldwide. This unprecedented pandemic, in the absence of available treatment or an effective vaccine is exerting a global pressure on our social and financial institutions and the general public. Under this emerging situation, measures such as frequent hand washing, personal hygiene, practicing social distancing, using personal protective equipment (face mask, goggles) and instituting active population surveillance become extremely important as real-life applications of the science of public health. Keep safe during these difficult times.



Dr Mohamud Sheek-Hussein, Associate Professor

## SPECIAL FOCUS ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Challenging development of COVID-19 pandemic required fast adjustments of all our academic work at IPH. We successfully transferred undergraduate teaching and all courses in MPH and PhD Programs, including Journal Club, to the online platforms. Our dedicated Faculty and staff are now involved in 18 research projects related to COVID-19. Six IPH Faculty are members of National COVID-19 Research Committee and 3 are assisting in preparing ADPHC Daily Scientific Reports. Dr Mohamud Sheek-Hussein is a member of ASPHER – COVID-19 task force. Many of our undergraduate and graduate students are involved as frontline health care workers or volunteers to fight pandemic. We need to express our gratitude to all of them for this very important and dedicated work.

Prof. Michal Grivna , Director of IPH

The Institute of Public Health (IPH) has a mission to train health professionals and protect and improve the health of the population of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). IPH faculty have considerable research experience and expertise in different scientific disciplines, including Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Infectious Diseases, Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Environmental Health, Cardiovascular diseases and other chronic health problems, Injury Prevention, Occupational Safety and Health, Health Economics, Health Promotion and Healthcare Management.

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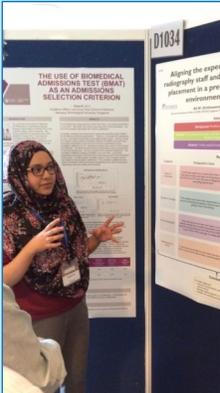
## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Novel Coronavirus: a global health threat
- Highlights of the month
- IPH Alumni Corner
- Emirates Public Health Association

## SUCCESSFUL PHD DEFENCES

### IMPACT OF RECURRENT MISCARRIAGE ON FUTURE MATERNAL BEHAVIORS AND PREGNANCY OUTCOMES IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: THE MUTABA'AH STUDY

Thursday, 16th April 2020



Nasloon Ali has successfully defended her PhD in Public Health and Occupational Health at IPH, CMHS, UAEU. Nasloon's research project was focused on the recurrent miscarriage of the mother and child first cohort of the UAE, Mutaba'ah. Nasloon has worked as a Research Assistant in the project for the past 3 years and half.

### THE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BURDEN OF CARDIOMETABOLIC RISK FACTORS IN A YOUNG EMIRATI POPULATION

Sunday, 19th April 2020



Fatima Mezhal has defended her PhD thesis about the cardiometabolic risk factors burden in the UAE population. Fatima is a Clinical Researcher at the New York University Abu Dhabi working on the cohort study UAE Healthy Future Study.

## MPH GRADUATES 2020

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW MPH GRADUATES!

**UAEU** Emirat Aljama'at Aljadyd Sa'adya  
United Arab Emirates University

**Graduation Ceremony of Cohort 40<sup>th</sup>**

Dear UAEU Faculty, Staff, and Students,

The Chancellor and I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the members of the University Celebrations' Preparation and Supervision Committee, University Outreach Department and Department of Information Technology Staff for their great efforts and dedication in making the Virtual Graduation Ceremony of the 40th Cohort an brilliant success despite the exceptional challenges we are currently facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We would also like to extend our thanks to all members of the University community, particularly those faculty members, staff, students and alumni who contributed their cooperation and dedication to the success of the Virtual Graduation Ceremony. Your work during these extraordinary times is greatly appreciated and valued.

Our sincere thanks to all of you for your efforts and for the great success of today's Graduation Ceremony.

Kind Regards,

  
Prof. Ghaleb Alhadrami Albreiki  
Acting Vice Chancellor

**MSC** Master of Science  
The University of the Pacific

- \* Abdallah Mohammed Abus-afieh
- \* Aisha Saeed Abdulla Alhamiz
- \* Bashara AlNoubi AlJneibi
- \* Fatima Al Haliaqa
- \* Haitham Hamed Al Alawi
- \* Hessa Juma Al-Falasi
- \* Khadeeja Ahmed Alblooshi
- \* Mariam Hamad Shamisi
- \* Mitha Mubarak Albalushi
- \* Naama Salem Alkalbani
- \* Nada Mohamed Morsi
- \* Salma Elmubarak Elamin
- \* Sara Abdullah Al Balushi
- \* Shagufta Nazir
- \* Sumaiya Ali Abdulla Al Balushi
- \* Sumaya Zoughbor
- \* Tahani Mohamed Abdelkarim

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC: A GLOBAL HEALTH THREAT

### DR MOHAMUD SHEEK-HUSSEIN'S SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTION TO COVID-19 RESEARCH

The world is facing one of its worst public health crises in modern history. The new Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) has shown how fragile our global preparedness for infectious diseases has been in the current era. The world is a small connected globe with short travel time between its remote parts. The novel coronavirus has spread globally and swiftly with major impacts on health, economy, and quality of life of our communities. At this point in time, June, 2020, more than 10 million people have been infected and more than 5 hundred thousand patients have died. The status is evolving and the costly lessons learned over time are increasing. They involve different domains of health sciences including virology, public health, critical care, and disaster management. This review addresses our current knowledge of the pandemic from the basic virology and transmission, through prevention, infection control, clinical management, and finally disaster management including the recovery period. This review has a multidisciplinary approach, which is needed at this time. After this difficult period passes, we have to carry the lessons we learned for the future so that we can be better prepared. One thing that has clearly emerged from this ongoing crisis is that infectious diseases have no borders and we have to work together, using the one world, one health approach, if we are to minimize the enormous impact such pandemics can cause to global health.

*(Reference available on page 8)*

DR ABDERRAHIM OULHAJ  
Associate Professor at IPH

Dr Oulhaj's latest activities during COVID-19 pandemic involve:

- Principal Investigator of an ongoing prospective cohort study on COVID-19 in Al Ain hospital approved by both SEHA and DoH. We have recruited over 300 patients so far.
- Active member of the national IRB committee for COVID-19
- Active member of the national Data and Safety Monitoring Board committee for COVID-19
- Active member of the national Clinical and Therapeutic committee for COVID-19
- Statistical Advisor to DoH for COVID-19



## PHD STUDENTS RESEARCH OUTPUT

### REDUCTION OF PEDESTRIAN DEATH RATES: A MISSED GLOBAL TARGET

The PhD student **Mr Yasin J. Yasin**, the aimed of the research is to study risk factors affecting global pedestrian death rates overtime, and whether the defined target of its reduction by WHO has been achieved.

Results: Global pedestrian mortality decreased by 28% over 10 years. This was significant between years 2007 and 2010 ( $p = 0.034$ ), between years 2013 and 2016 ( $p = 0.002$ ) but not between 2010 and 2013 ( $p = 0.06$ ). Factors that reduced pedestrian death rates included time ( $p < 0.0001$ ), GNI ( $p < 0.0001$ ), and vehicle/person ratio ( $p < 0.0001$ ). There was a significant drop overtime in both the middle-income, and high-income countries ( $p < 0.0001$ , Friedman test), but not in the low-income country ( $p = 0.35$ , Friedman test).

Conclusions: Global pedestrian mortality has dropped by 28% over a recent decade, which is less than the 50% targeted reduction. This was mainly driven by improved GNI and using more vehicles. The economical gap between poor and rich countries has a major impact on pedestrian death rates.

*(Reference available on page 8)*

### EYE INJURIES AND RELATED RISK FACTORS AMONG WORKERS IN SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES

The IPH team, including the PhD student **Ms Ghuwaya Al Nuaimi**, in collaboration with surgery department, has produced a research paper. The purpose is to study eye injuries and their risk factors among workers at small-scale industrial enterprises

*(Reference available on page 8)*



## HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

APRIL

### DR LUAI AHMED

Dr Luai Ahmed, Associate Professor, has successfully supervised Nasloon Ali and Fatma Mezhal who have completed their PhD in Public Health and Occupational Health.



MAY

### BAYAN MAJED

Ms Bayan Majed has joined the Institute of Public Health as a Research Assistant to work on bullying related research. Prior to her enrollment she was working at the UAEU Happiness Center. Ms Bayan is currently enrolled at the Master of Public Health program.



## INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR MUHAMMAD ABID



**Dr Marilia Silva Paulo:** *Can you please tell us about yourself?*

**Prof Muhammad Abid:** I was born and had my early childhood in an industrial town Faisalabad, also was known as ‘Manchester of Pakistan’. In my early school days, I was fascinated about the skills of veterinary doctors and their ability to diagnose illnesses in the animals without any communication with them, as their diagnostic skills were mainly clinical examination in those days. However, during early secondary schooling my adulthood ambition shifted from being a veterinary doctor to a “human doctor”. I qualified from a very prestigious institution “King Edward Medical College, Lahore, Pakistan” which was founded in 1860 during British Raj. After my initial internship in Lahore, I decided to work in one of the primary care centers in Iran. From there, I moved to Austria and completed diploma course in Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases. I spent most of my working life in the UK where I completed six years training program in Public Health Medicine and passed their membership examinations. Then I joined Health Protection Agency/Public Health England as a Consultant in the Oxford area. In 2017, I joined in the Institute of Public Health/CMHS as a visiting faculty professor.

**MSP:** *Why did you choose the specialty of Public Health? What was your experience in field including your clinical work?*

**MA:** My interest in Public Health goes back to medical college days as I became aware that there are many conditions, which make people ill and die and these are preventable such as infectious/communicable diseases; injuries; diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases; and many cancers. My experience of working in the primary care in Iran was very valuable to learn the importance of primary care in preventing diseases and improving health, which included childhood Immunisations, school health screening program, pre-marital screening and family planning. I was lucky to get into the six-year

Faculty of Public Health UK training program that mainly recruited local ‘white’ graduate doctor in those days. During my training, I developed a special interest in the health protection and completed a yearlong placement in Colindale, London which is equivalent to the CDC, US.

**MPS:** *How is your daily work schedule?*

**MA:** My daily routine is busy with the academic work for the undergraduate and post-graduate students. I love mentoring students in helping them to choose their electives, projects and area of specialization.

**MPS:** *What are your most important achievements?*

**MA:** Working as a consultant in Public Health/Health Protection in Oxford is the highlight of my career, which gave me an opportunity to work with highly skilled colleagues (public health and clinical) in an academic environment. I acted as the Regional lead in the areas of Teaching/ Training, TB, Emergency Planning and Chemical/Radiological Hazards. During this time, I was visiting senior lecturer at the Brooks University, Oxford and University of Reading. Communication is one of the major public health skills and in my position; I have done loads of interviews related to the public health matters both at the national and regional media (TV, radio, newspapers) and still get invites from my local BBC station for such interviews. I am an accredited trainer by the General Medical Council, UK and always been interested in teaching and training. I have supervised a big number of junior doctors and trainees in Public Health over the years. I acted as a regional CPD Advisor for the Faculty of Public Health UK in the Oxford area and now have taken up the role of International Adviser for the CPD to support its international members on their CPD activities. I am a nominated Assessor for the Faculty of Public Health and sit in the appointment committees for the appointment of consultants and directors. I am the lead member of the Faculty of Public Health (UK) Special Interest Group for Pakistan, which is working with other organisations and national bodies in the UK and Pakistan such as Public Health England, Department of International Foreign Development, and Commonwealth Office to support public health workforce development and other public health initiatives in Pakistan including COVID-19 more recently. Queen of the United Kingdom invites selected numbers of people to her garden party every year and I had the privilege to be invited in 2017 to visit

the Buckingham Palace and her party that was a great personal honor (my photo was taken during this visit).

**MPS:** *Who is your personal and professional role models?*

**MA:** During my training in Public Health, I was privileged to have a tutor Sir Richard Doll, a legend epidemiologist who was 82 years old then.

**MPS:** *What are your plans for the future?*

**MA:** Over the years, I have worked with the Faculty of Public Health, UK as an Assessor, CPD Adviser and in other roles, which I intend to continue. This also includes the workforce development in Pakistan that is an on-going work. I plan to spend more time at the King Edward Medical University and University of Health Sciences in Lahore to support their academic and research activities. I am involved in running few charity projects in my hometown Reading, UK for last few years. I hope that I will still have busy schedule once I depart from the IPH, CMHS.

## INTERVIEW WITH PHD STUDENT AZHAR TALAL



**Dr Elpidoforos S. Soteriades:** *What is your educational background?*

**Azhar Talal :** I received my bachelor degree in Pharmacy and health sciences in 2001. My educational horizons were broadened with special training in patient safety and quality, which triggered my passion about taking care of the whole population rather than only one patient at a time. This led me to pursue a master degree in Public health and then continue with a PhD in Public health.

**ESS:** *What do you like best from IPH?*

**AT:** I felt at home and among family members from the very first day I visited the Institute of Public Health. All the professors, faculty members, and staff were so professional and helpful. Their encouragement and support made me overcome many challenges. I really wish that I can join the family of IPH and be able to pay forward what all the great mentors taught me by their example and inspiration.

**ESS:** *Why did you choose to enroll in the doctoral program?*

**AT:** I have had many challenges, difficulties and sad experiences in my life, however all of these did not discourage me, they made me stronger. This is why I decided that it was about time to follow my passion of becoming a people's mentor at a relatively "late" stage in my professional career. Applying for a PhD was my personal gift to myself on my 40th birthday. I consider that competing my PhD and fulfilling my dream of becoming a mentor would be a major life milestone. This accomplishment will bring me satisfaction and happiness and will allow me to live my dream.

**ESS:** *What is the focus of your doctoral thesis research?*

**AT:** My research is about constructing the roadmap for the implementation of genomic medicine and pharmaco-genomics in UAE, while at the same time addressing the challenges and barriers for such an implementation. It is an interesting research project because it combines my expertise in both fields of pharmacy and public health. It is a project aiming to lead the population of UAE into future health that they so much deserve.

**ESS:** *Where do you see yourself after graduation?*

**AT:** I see myself following an academic career. I would wish to become a member in the IPH family, teaching students and conducting research mainly in the qualitative field. I see myself paying forward to the new generation what my great mentors taught me all these years. I see myself getting post doc degree and continue to improve my knowledge and skills in order to serve different communities in UAE. Finally studying is my path to heaven as prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) instructed us.

**ESS:** *What is your message to future doctoral students at the Institute?*

**NA:** Never give up, it may be hard on some days, but it is worth the effort. I would like to tell them that I had to apply twice for the PhD program since I was rejected the first time. However, I did not give up and applied again next year and told the committee that I will keep applying every year until I will be accepted, and fortunately they accepted me. Therefore, my message is never give up. Moreover, help each other as we grow together by supporting each other. Try to publish as much as you can. And to remember that both the journey and destination matter.

JUNE

DR. ELPIDOFOROS S. SOTERIADES

IPH thanks Dr Elpidoforos S.



Soteriades for his dedication and hard work during the service at IPH.

Thank you and best of luck!

MESSAGE FROM DR SOTERIADES:

My heart is flooded with mixed feelings as I am gathering my personal belongings to leave the College of Medicine, the United Arab Emirates University and the country itself. Despite the relatively short time that I had the opportunity to serve as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Public Health, I was blessed to collaborate with so many wonderful and outstanding faculty and staff at the College. I was welcomed with love and respect and I am returning back home leaving behind a precious part of my soul. Flying away from this hot and dusty environment, my luggage is filled with warm and cherishing feelings and my heart is enriched with memories that will never become dust in the wind but will accompany my life for ever. I would like to extend my sincere thanks and a warm hug to all of you at the College, the University and the Country, who have contributed to this unforgettable experience in my life. May God bless you all.

## IPH ALUMNI CORNER

Fatemah Helal Hamad Aldraiweesh lives in Kuwaiti city and has 21 years experiences in Public Health. She has been working as Head Officer in Environmental Health unit in Public Health Department in the Ministry of Health of Kuwait.

Fatemah Aldraiweesh started her career having her diploma from Applied Education and Training in Kuwait, that was few years after the invasion of Kuwait 1993. She continued her education and graduated from Liverpool John Moors University Merseyside, England with a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences in 1998. In 2015, she graduated from the Master of Public Health program from United Arab Emirates University where she was first Kuwaiti to join this program.

Fatemah Aldraiweesh has national certifications from Environmental Public Authority in Kuwait, has presented at many Environmental Health events and attended to World Health Organization conference.



## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS ( JANUARY—MARCH 2020)

Abderrahim Oulhaj, Sherif Bakir, Faisal Aziz, Abubaker Suliman, Wael Almahmeed, Harald Sourij, Abdulla Shehab. Agreement between cardiovascular disease risk assessment tools: An application to the United Arab Emirates population. PLoS One. 2020; 15(1): e0228031. Published online 2020 Jan 24. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0228031

Ahmad Al-Azayzih, Sayer I. Al-Azzam, Karem H. Alzoubi, Anan S. Jarab, Zelal Kharaba, Rami H. Al-Rifai, Munther S. Alnajjar Saudi Pharm J. Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs Utilization Patterns and Risk of Adverse Events due to Drug-Drug Interactions among Elderly Patients: A Study from Jordan. 2020 Apr; 28(4): 504–508. Published online 2020 Mar 20. doi: 10.1016/j.jsps.2020.03.001

Connie Evashwick, Donghua Tao, Mikko Perkiö, Michal Grivna, Roger Harrison. A scoping review of studies evaluating the education of health professional students about public health. Elsevier. Published in January 2020. doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2019.08.019

Ebrahim Abdulla Alshamsi, Faisal Alshamsi, Mohammed El-Sadig. Road Traffic Fatality Time Series Analysis in Dubai from 2012 To 2016. National Journal of Community Medicine. Published in January 2020. DOI: 10.1234/njcm.20191128062126

Eleftheria C Economidou, Elpidoforos S Soteriades. Adolescent Tobacco Use in the Current Era of Multiple Products for Smoking. Elsevier. Published in February 2020. Doi: 2016/j.jadohealth.2019. 10.017

Elpidoforos S. Soteriades, Sofia C. Economidou, Artemis Tsivitanidou, Petros Polyviou, Amanda Lorimer, Nikos Katodritis, Stavroula Theophanus-Kitiri. Environmental assessment of cytotoxic drugs in the Oncology Center of Cyprus. PLoS One. 2020; 15(3): e0216098. Published online 2020 Mar 5. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0216098

Elpidoforos S. Soteriades, Sofia C. Economidou, Artemis Tsivitanidou, Petros Polyviou, Amanda Lorimer, Nikos Katodritis, Stavroula Theophanus-Kitiri. Environmental assessment of cytotoxic drugs in the Oncology Center of Cyprus. PLoS One. 2020; 15(3): e0216098. Published online 2020 Mar 5. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0216098

Frank Pega, Susan L Norris, Claudine Backes, Lisa A Bero, Alexis Descatha, Diana Gagliardi, Lode Godderis, Tom Loney, Alberto Modenese, Rebecca L Morgan, Daniela Pachito, Marília B S Paulo, Paul T J Scheepers, Vivi Schlünssen, Daria Sgargi, Ellen K Silbergeld, Kathrine Sørensen, Patrice Sutton, Thomas Tenkate, Denise Torreão Corrêa da Silva, Yuka Ujita, Emilie van Deventer, Tracey J Woodruff, Daniele Mandrioli. RoB-SPEO: A Tool for Assessing Risk of Bias in Studies Estimating the Prevalence of Exposure to Occupational Risk Factors From the WHO/ILO Joint Estimates of the Work-related Burden of Disease and Injury. Elsevier. Published in February 2020. Doi: 10.1016/j.evint.019.105039

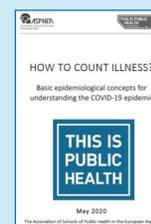
## NEWS FROM ASPHER

### COVID-19 TASK FORCE

ASPHER has convened a COVID-19 Task Force to facilitate relevant networking necessary to respond to the pandemic emergency. The task force holds bi-weekly meetings and is working to identify priority areas related to the COVID-19 emergency and aftermath where ASPHER and Schools of Public Health may play a role. Dr Mohamud Sheek-Hussein from IPH is actively contributing to the work.

### HANDBOOK OF BASIC EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS

ASPHER has convened How to Count Illness: Basic epidemiological concepts for understanding the COVID-19 epidemic is a useful handbook of epidemiological terms aimed at giving journalists and the general public a better understanding of what we mean when public health talks about COVID-19. Translations to several languages are currently underway and will be posted in the coming days to the ASPHER webpage.



## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS ( CONT.)

Gulfaraz Khan, Mohamud Sheek-Hussein. The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus: An Emerging Virus of Global Threat. Elsevier. Published in 2020. doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-819400-3.00008-9

James SL, Castle CD, Dingels ZV, Michal Grivna, *et al.* Global injury morbidity and mortality from 1990 to 2017: results from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017. Injury Prevention Published Online First: 24 April 2020. doi: 10.1136/injuryprev-2019-043494

Javaid Nauman, Elpidoforos S Soteriades, Muhammad Jawad Hashim, Romona Govender, Reem Saif Al Darmaki, Reem Juma Al Falasi, Shreesh Kumar Ojha, Shamaila Masood-Husain, Syed Fahad Javaid, Moien AB Khan Global Incidence and Mortality Trends due to Adverse Effects of Medical Treatment, 1990–2017: A Systematic Analysis from the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors Study. Cureus. 2020 Mar; 12(3): e7265. Published online 2020 Mar 14. doi: 10.7759/cureus.7265

Maryam M. K. Bashir, Elpidoforos S. Soteriades. A randomized clinical trial for neck pain among adults. Journal of Occupational Health. Published in March 2020. doi.org/10.1002/1348-9585.12119

Moien AB Khan, Elpidoforos S Soteriades, Jeff King, Romona Govender, Muhammad Jawad Hashim, Shamaila Masood-Husain, Syed Fahad Javaid, Shaikha Debaib Mohammed Saeed Al Darei, Shamma Dahi Al Sheryani, Javaid Nauman. Global Trends and Forecast of the Burden of Adverse Effects of Medical Treatment: Epidemiological Analysis Based on the Global Burden of Disease Study.Cureus. 2020 Mar; 12(3): e7250. Published online 2020 Mar 12. doi: 10.7759/cureus.7250

Moien A. B. Khan, Michal Grivna, Javaid Nauman, Elpidoforos S. Soteriades, Arif Alper Cevik, Muhammad Jawad Hashim, Romona Govender, Salma Rashid Al Azezi. Global Incidence and Mortality Patterns of Pedestrian Road Traffic Injuries by Sociodemographic Index, with Forecasting: Findings from the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors. 2017 Study Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020 Mar; 17(6): 2135. Published online 2020 Mar 23. doi: 10.3390/ijerph17062135

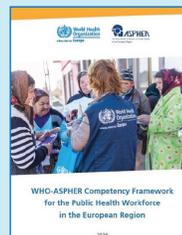
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Rami H. Al-Rifai, Nasloon Ali, Esther T. Barigye, Amal H. I. Al Haddad, Fatima Al-Maskari, Tom Loney & Luai A. Ahmed. Maternal and birth cohort studies in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries: a systematic review and meta-analysis. BMC. Published in January 2020. doi.org/10.1186/s13643-020-1277-0

Syed M. Shah, Fatima Al Dhaheri, Ammar Albanna, Najla Al Jaberi, Shaikha Al Eissae, Nouf Ahmed Alshehhi, Shamma A. Al Shamisi, Maryam M. Al Hamez, Said Y. Abdelrazeq, Michal Grivna, Theresa S. Self-esteem and other risk factors for depressive symptoms among adolescents in United Arab Emirates Betancourt. PLoS One. 2020; 15(1): e0227483. Published online 2020 Jan 14. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0227483

## NEWS FROM ASPHER (CONT.)

### WHO-ASPHER COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE



The framework was developed in collaboration between ASPHER and WHO Regional Office in Europe in order to

meet the need for building public health workforce capacity. The Competency Framework can be usefully applied in numerous situations such as: developing measures to strengthen education and performance, assessing existing capacity and capability and identifying training requirements, capacity-building, analysis and monitoring, ensuring appropriate numbers, mix and distribution of staff and skills for public health teams in various contexts and arguing for sustainable investment to support workforce development, planning public health workforce, including recruitment, retention, productivity and skill mix of public health professionals and teams, developing accreditation and credentialing systems, developing job descriptions, interview questions, performance evaluation and quality assurance systems; and in fostering collaboration across disciplinary and organizational boundaries.

The Framework is a crucial document that will inform and guide the teaching, training and research, of all the schools of public health in Europe not just in curriculum, but within the context of the profession as a whole, in the philosophy and values of public health and in codes of conduct.

## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS ( APRIL—JUNE 2020)

Ahmed R. Alsuwaidi, Iffat Elbarazi, Sania Al-Hamad, Ruwaya Aldhaheeri, Mohamad Sheek-Hussein, Hassib Narchi. Vaccine hesitancy and its determinants among Arab parents: a cross-sectional survey in the United Arab Emirates. *Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics*. Published online: 13 May 2020. doi.org/10.1080/21645515.2020.1753439

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GBD Collaborators (Michal Grivna). Mapping local patterns of childhood overweight and wasting in low- and middle-income countries between 2000 and 2017. *Nat Med*. 2020; 26(5): 750–759. Published online 2020 Apr 20. doi: 10.1038/s41591-020-0807-6

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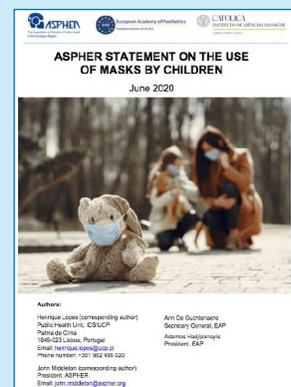
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## NEWS FROM ASPHER (CONT.)

### MASK USE BY CHILDREN

In the course of developing the ASPHER Statement on the Strategic Use of Masks, it became evident that very little is known regarding the use of face masks by and with children. In order to address this gap in knowledge the Task Force sub-group on masks has developed a Statement on the Use of Masks by Children co-authored by the European Academy of Paediatrics and the Institute of Health Sciences, Catholic University Portugal. The Statement provides recommendations on Masks use by age group and comes with a useful infographic. IPH is assisting in translation of this important document to the Arabic language. All documents are available for download at ASPHER webpage.



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