

Dear SSPH+ Community,

Welcome to the December edition of the SSPH+ Newsletter!

Behind the scenes, we continue to refine the programs for our two flagship events – the SSPH+ Annual Meeting 2026 and the Swiss Public Health Conference. In this final issue of the year, we share the latest developments, new opportunities, upcoming courses, and a look at what's next for SSPH+ in the new year. Enjoy the read!

SSPH+ NEWS

A milestone for HPV-caused cancer elimination in Switzerland

On 1 December, the Swiss National Council approved National Councillor Christian Lohr's motion calling for a coordinated national strategy to eliminate HPV-caused cancers ([*Motion 24.3800 – Plan nationale pour l'élimination des cancers dus au HPV*](#)). **SSPH+ Faculty members**, together with the **Swiss Society of Public Health**, **HPV Alliance**, **Cancer League**, and **University of Zurich, Department of Global and Public Health**, co-led the consolidation of scientific evidence and stakeholder insight that helped inform parliamentarians ahead of the vote, outlining concrete, feasible targets and related actions for Switzerland. You can find the factsheets and the roadmap attached.

HPV-caused cancers are preventable. In contrast to most other cancers, HPV-caused cancers can be prevented through vaccination and screening. Detected HPV cancers can be treated or managed in a strong health system like Switzerland's. Eliminating HPV-caused cancers is highly cost beneficial.

Switzerland urgently needs a concrete, comprehensive, and coordinated nationwide plan and roadmap to eliminate HPV caused cancers that defines clear goals, ensures equal access to prevention and care, and raises public awareness. This can be done by complementing the existing NAPS (National Programme to Stop HIV, Hepatitis B Virus, Hepatitis C Virus, and Sexually Transmitted Infections) and strongly embedding HPV elimination into the Cancer Plan, without a heavy burden on existing organizations or finances. This must be complemented by a strong political commitment to the elimination of HPV-caused cancers. The recent vote on the motion shows that a large majority supports this goal. Next, the Council of States will vote on the motion. **The SSPH+ remains committed to supporting HPV elimination efforts.**

SSPH+ COURSES

Upcoming SSPH+ IGC Courses in January and February 2026

Designing and Using Questionnaires for Research: Practical Insights and Challenges (basic)

– 3 last places available

- Dates: 26 - 28 January 2026
- Location: University of Lausanne
- Registration Deadline: 26 December 2025
- Course Flyer: [here](#)

Systematic Reviews and Evidence Synthesis (Intermediate)

- Dates: 16 - 19 February 2026
- Location: University of Fribourg
- Late Registration Deadline: 16 January 2026
- Course Flyer: [here](#)

For more details and to register, please visit [Course Program & More Info](#).

SSPH+ EVENTS

SSPH+ Annual Meeting 2026

June 23-24, 2026 | from noon to noon | University of Fribourg

"Protecting Science – Protecting Health" is the motto of the 2026 SSPH+ Annual Meeting, hosted by the University of Fribourg on June 23-24, 2026. This theme highlights the essential role of scientific integrity, collaboration, and transparency in safeguarding both public trust and population health. It invites us to reflect on how protecting the foundations of science ultimately protects the well-being of societies.

Registration will open shortly; keep an eye on our [Events page](#) for details. You will soon be invited to register via email.

38th Residential 3-week Summer Course in Epidemiology

15 June–3 July 2026 | Florence, Italy

The course is intended for epidemiologists, statisticians, clinicians and public health practitioners with an interest in **epidemiology**. During the first two weeks, the course offers five general modules on epidemiological study design and statistical analysis of epidemiological data. In the third week, seven special modules on topics of current relevance for health and advanced methodological issues are offered. In addition, specialized one-week courses are offered in the fourth week, following the main program. The course is taught in English. [See more info here.](#)



Call for Abstracts Open – Swiss Public Health Conference 2026

2–3 September 2026 | University of Lucerne | Deadline to submit: 1 February 2026

Public health is complex - and that complexity is a strength. The 2026 conference creates space for exchange between science, practice, policy, and lived experience. We welcome researchers, practitioners, patient advocates, and all those engaged in public health

The SPHC 2026 is now accepting abstract submissions! We invite researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, patient advocates, and all those engaged in public health to explore how complexity enriches public health. We welcome contributions that connect science with practice, data with lived experience, and different disciplines in meaningful dialogue.

Submissions may be **research or practice-based** and can take the form of **oral presentations, posters, or interactive workshops**. Innovative formats and interdisciplinary perspectives are strongly encouraged. Abstracts may be submitted in English, German, or French. **Deadline for submissions: 1 February 2026.** [See more info here.](#)



SSPH+ CALLS

SSPH+ Journals Open Calls

The International Journal of Public Health ([IJPH](#)) and Public Health Reviews ([PHR](#)) currently have the following open calls for papers:

- [Armed Conflicts, Wars and Mental Health](#) - Manuscript Deadline: 31 July 2026
- [Public Health Diplomacy in a Complex World](#) - Manuscript Deadline: 1 February 2026
- [The effects of wine in moderation in the context of Mediterranean or other healthy diets](#) - Manuscript Deadline: 12 February 2026
- [Urban Health in Transition: Advancing Evidence and Policy for Healthier Cities](#) - Abstract Deadline: 31 October 2025 | Manuscript Deadline: 31 March 2026
- [Evidence-Based Supported Employment and Education for Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities](#) - Manuscript Deadline: 31 December 2025
- [Advances in Public Health Leadership](#) - Abstract Deadline: 31 August 2025 | Manuscript Deadline: 28 February 2026
- [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) and Public Health](#) - Abstract Deadline: 30 September 2025 | Manuscript Deadline: 31 December 2025
- [Metrics of One Health](#) - Abstract Deadline: 15 March 2026 | Manuscript Deadline: 31 May 2026

IJPH recently launched the following Thematic Collection of recently published papers:

- [Mental Health and Well-being in Healthcare Workers](#)

SSPH+ PARTNER COURSES AND EVENTS

4th International Meeting on Teaching Epidemiology

19–20 January 2026 | [RAA-G-01, Rämistrasse 59, Zurich](#)

Registration is now open for the [4th International Meeting on Teaching Epidemiology](#), themed “*Innovative Approaches to Teaching Epidemiology – A Lived Experience.*”

Latsis Symposium 2025: “The History of Epidemics – Are There Lessons for the Future?”

9–11 February 2026 | [ETH Zurich](#)

ETH Zurich will host this year’s Latsis Symposium, dedicated to exploring the history of epidemics and the insights it offers for future public health challenges. The programme begins with accessible sessions on historical and epidemiological perspectives, suitable for both experts and non-specialists. The closing session will feature [Christian Drosten](#) (Director of the Institute of Virology, Charité) and [Angela McLean](#) (UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser), who will discuss the crucial interface between science and policy. Participation is free of charge, and registration is open until 15 December 2025. [More information and registration here.](#)

LIFE Winter School on Health and Well-being

17–19 February 2026 | [Lucerne University](#), Lucerne

Registration is now open for the [LIFE Winter School on Health and Well-being](#), themed “Strengthening Health and Well-being for Human Flourishing.” This three-day program for PhD students and early-career researchers explores how health systems, services, and policies can

foster human flourishing. **SSPH+ students benefit from a 50% course fee reduction.** More info & registration: [Event website](#).

LIFE B. Braun Lecture with Prof. Lawrence O. Gostin (Georgetown University)

19 February 2026 | 12:15 CET | University of Lucerne

The University of Lucerne warmly invite you to the next LIFE B. Braun Lecture, part of an ongoing series that fosters dialogue on health, functioning, and wellbeing. Held twice a year, the lectures bring together leading experts to explore innovative, interdisciplinary perspectives on the lived experience of health. [Registration open](#).

- Topic: Science, Public Health and Democracy
 - Speaker: Prof. Lawrence O. Gostin (Georgetown University)
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SAVE THE DATE: Population Health Monitoring Meeting

March 5, 2026 | The Swiss Federal Statistical Office

The Population Health Monitoring Meeting is taking place on 5 March 2026 at the Swiss Federal Statistical Office in Neuchâtel. Organized by the OBSAN, PHS/SSPH+, and the #PopHealthlab, this year's meeting will be centered around the theme: Health Equity Report - From Data to Analysis. Stay tuned for further details on [the program and registration](#).

SAVE THE DATE: Causal Inference Symposium

March 18, 2026 | University of Fribourg

The Causal Inference Symposium is taking place on 18 March 2026 at the University of Fribourg. Building on the success of previous editions, this year's symposium will focus on Causal Machine

Learning and its applications in health sciences and health economics. More information [here](#). Details on the program and registration coming soon, stay tuned!

1st European Congress on Education and Training in Public Health

July 15-18, 2026 | Milan, Italy

An exciting new event is coming: the 1st European Congress on Education and Training in Public Health, taking place 15–18 July 2026 in Milan. The Congress will feature the 2026 Deans' & Directors' Retreat and will be a key highlight of [ASPHER](#)'s 60th Anniversary.

The Congress aims to advance the quality and capacity of public health education across Europe and will bring together leaders, educators, and professionals committed to shaping the future of the field. Those interested can learn more or sign up for updates [here](#). The call for abstracts and registration will open soon.

OTHER CALLS

Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS) Joint Transnational Call (JTC) – “Access to Care”

THCS has launched its fourth Joint Transnational Call (JTC) for proposals. The call supports research and innovation projects that promote equitable access to health and care services and equip policymakers with evidence and tools for effective resource reallocation, particularly during health and care system transitions. 32 funding agencies are participating, with an indicative budget of €35 million. [More info here](#).

SSPH+ Newsletters

We want to hear from you! Thank you for being part of SSPH+ community and reading our monthly newsletter. To help us improve and ensure the content stays relevant, helpful, and enjoyable, please share your thoughts. The survey takes 2 minutes, and it is completely anonymous. **Share your opinion** [here](#).

This is our final newsletter of 2025! Over the past year, we published **11 editions** and our newsletters were read more than **6700 times!** We hope you enjoyed reading them as much as we enjoyed creating them. All past newsletters are archived on our website – explore all previous editions anytime [here](#).

Let's Connect!

Stay connected with us for more updates and insights! You can follow SSPH+ on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) to stay up-to-date with our latest activities, or visit our [News](#) and [Jobs](#) pages for more opportunities.

Are you hiring or organizing an event relevant to our community? We would love to help you spread the word – contact us at mdavidovic@ssphplus.ch.

As we look back on 2025, we are grateful for a year filled with inspiring collaborations, new ideas, and shared commitment to strengthening public health. Thank you for being part of our community. We look forward to 2026 with optimism and energy – ready to continue learning, connecting, and working together for healthier societies.

SSPH+ Directorate Office wishes you a joyful holiday season and a thriving new year.

