

Dear SSPH+ Community,

As the new academic year gets underway, we are pleased to share the September edition of the SSPH+ Newsletter. This issue features the latest news and highlights from across our network, upcoming events, opportunities, and other updates from the SSPH+ community. We wish you a great start to the new semester and enjoyable reading!

SSPH+ HIGHLIGHTS

SSPH+ Lugano Summer School 2026

Another successful edition of the SSPH+ Lugano Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics, and Management has come to an end! The **35th edition**, held from 17–22 August 2026, welcomed **202 participants from 51 countries**, alongside 32 facilitators and contributors representing five continents.

Throughout the week, participants engaged in **10 interactive courses, 2 thought-provoking plenary sessions, a workshop, and networking events**. Participants had the opportunity to connect across borders, share ideas and projects, learn from each other, and co-create practical solutions to today's pressing public health challenges.



As we wrap up this year's edition, we would like to thank all our participants, facilitators, contributors, and partners for making the 35th Lugano Summer School such a memorable experience. Your energy, curiosity, and commitment to public health made the week truly special. Link to the plenaries is available [here](#).

We are already looking ahead! **Save the date for the 36th edition, taking place from 16–21 August 2027 in Lugano and online**. Programme updates will be shared in the coming months, with registration opening in January 2027.



Swiss Public Health Conference 2026: Record Attendance and Inspiring Exchange

The **SPHC 2026**, jointly organised by **SSPH+** and **Public Health Schweiz**, brought together more than **440 participants for two inspiring days** of insights, engaging discussions, and valuable professional exchange. The conference also provided an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and build new connections across the Swiss public health community.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of the **SSPH+ Awards**, recognizing three PhD students for their outstanding abstracts. Selected from **51 submissions by 46 PhD students**, the three awardees were:

- **Julia Chiara Vincentini**, Unisanté, for her research on *“Exploring Swiss children’s dietary patterns in relation to health, society, and environment to inform targeted interventions”*.
- **Andreas Michael Baumer**, University of Zurich, for his research on *“Enabling the scalable collection and analysis of spoken responses in population-based public health research (Talk2UZH)”*.
- **Andreas Stoller**, UniDistance Suisse & University of Fribourg, for his research on *“Impact of Regulations on E-Cigarettes and Heated Tobacco Products Among Youth in Switzerland”*.



We are grateful to all participants, speakers, partners, and sponsors for their active participation and support in making the conference such a success. [Read the recap and discover highlights from the conference here.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: We are already looking forward to the next edition, taking place in **Sion** on **31 August–1 September 2027**.

SSPH+ IGC COURSES

The SSPH+ IGC **Course Program 2027** is now [online](#)! **Registration opens on 15 October 2026 at 14:00!** We are especially excited to offer six new courses in 2027:

- Medical Care Epidemiology: From Variation to Low-Value Care
- Implementation Science: Translating Evidence to Real-World Impact
- Advanced Survey Methods for Population Health
- Responsible Use of Generative AI in Public Health Research
- Public Mental Health: From Mental Illness to Wellbeing
- Implementation Science for Harm Reduction: History, Frameworks, and Methods (*short online course*)

Upcoming IGC courses in 2026 with available places:

Introduction into Multilevel Modelling of Clustered Data (intermediate) - 2 places available

- Dates: 20 - 22 October 2026
- Course format: On site at Swiss TPH
- Late Registration: until 7 October 2026
- Course flyer: [here](#)

Visualization and Modeling for Public Health Surveillance (intermediate/advanced) – 1 place available

- Dates: 23 - 25 November 2026
- Course format: On site at University of Lausanne
- Registration: until 23 October 2026
- Course flyer: [here](#)

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

Currently, all other IGC courses until end of 2026 are **fully booked**. Nevertheless, we encourage you to join the waiting list, as last-minute cancellations occasionally occur and places may still become available. **To register for the waiting list, please contact phdph@ssphplus.ch.**

SSPH+ CALLS

The SSPH+ IGC course proposals

We are very pleased to announce 4 calls for the SSPH+ IGC course proposals:

- **Missing Data in Health Research: Mechanisms, Methods, and Applications**
- **Introduction into GIS for Public Health**
- **Health Misinformation and Information Quality in Public Health**
- **Applied Bayesian Methods in Epidemiology and Public Health**

Detailed information about the course concepts, general guidelines, and a proposal template are available [here](#).

The courses will be part of the [SSPH+ IGC course program](#). The [Academic Board of the IGC](#) will evaluate all submissions and select the proposals that best meet the educational goals and

structural requirements of the IGC program. We particularly welcome proposals that involve early-career researchers — either by including them in the teaching team or through their leadership in the course development. Please send your course proposal **by 30 November 2026** to awalser@ssphplus.ch.

Call to apply for the Frontiers Planet Prize (FPP) 2027

This year marks the 5th edition of the [Frontiers Planet Prize](#) (FPP). We encourage scientific leaders to submit a qualifying research article co-authored in peer reviewed literature within 2 years prior to the launch of the FPP competition (i.e., date of acceptance: 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2026). Make sure to select a paper in line with the prize criteria.

The FPP awards a National Champion for each participating country and offers three prizes of CHF 1 million each to three International Champions, selected by an independent Jury of 100. The prize welcomes breakthrough research across all disciplines, on the condition it is focused on **planetary boundaries** and presents original research findings that help to reduce the destabilization of the Earth's system. Applicants must be an SSPH+ Faculty member or a scientist employed in the research team of an SSPH+ Faculty member (see the [list of SSPH+ Faculty members](#)). **How to apply:** Please read the [FPP brochure](#) and **submit the [FPP application form](#) and the PDF of your research article to mdavidovic@ssphplus.ch by 1 October 2026** at the latest.

SSPH+ EVENTS

Lecture Series: 40 Years of the Ottawa Charter in Switzerland – Health Promotion in Transition

Gesundheitskompetenz als Schlüsselressource: Grundlagen, Bedeutung, Strategien

Donnerstag, 24. September 2026 | 12.00 - 13.00 Uhr | online

- *Elena Alder & Anna-Sophie Beese, Careum*
- *Reiser Simone & Nicole Gysin, Schuldenprävention Zürich*
- *Alexandra Papastefanou, Kanton Vaud*

Health Promotion in the Anthropocene: How to advance planetary health in times of ecological collapse?

Dienstag, 27. Oktober 2026 | 12.00 - 13.00 Uhr | online

- Bea Albermann, Universität Basel
- Andrea Bärlocher & Andrea Glässel, ZHAW

Professionalisierung in der Gesundheitsförderung: Ausbildungswege im Wandel

Mittwoch, 25. November 2026 | 12.00 - 13.00 Uhr | online

- Karin Nordström & Verena Biehl & Alice Inauen, ZHAW
- Settimio Monteverde & Julia Rehmann, BFH

SSPH+, together with the Special Interest Group on Health Promotion and Prevention of [Public Health Schweiz](#) and [Gesundheitsförderung Schweiz](#) is organizing an online public lecture series. Participation is free of charge. [Further information and registration here.](#)

SSPH+ JOURNALS NEWS

We are delighted to announce that **Prof. Kaspar Wyss** (University of Basel and SSPH+ Foundation Board) has joined SSPH+ [Public Health Reviews](#) as co-Editor-in-Chief, bringing his extensive research and leadership experience to the journal.

IJPH has recently welcomed a **new Young Researcher Editorial (YRE) editorial board**. SSPH+ PhD students edit the YRE series and manage submissions from PhD students from around the world. Learn more and meet the new editors [here](#).

New SSPH+ Journals call on the theme of the 2027 Swiss Public Health Conference

[The Future of Health Professions: Investigating Skills, Norms and Infrastructures](#). Manuscript deadline: 30 November 2026

Other Open SSPH+ Journals Calls

- [The effects of wine in moderation in the context of Mediterranean or other healthy diets](#) - Manuscript Deadline: 30 September 2026
- [Metrics of One Health](#) - Manuscript Deadline: 31 October 2026
- [Armed Conflicts, Wars and Mental Health](#) - Manuscript Deadline: 31 October 2026
- [Urban Health in Transition: Advancing Evidence and Policy for Healthier Cities](#) - Manuscript Deadline: 31 October 2026
- [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) and Public Health](#) - Manuscript Deadline: 31 December 2026
- [Public Health Diplomacy in a Complex World](#) - Manuscript Deadline 31 December 2026
- [Strengthening the Public Health Response to Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes](#) - Manuscript Deadline: 15 January 2027
- [Public Health Education and Training for the 21st Century](#) - Manuscript Deadline: 14 January 2027

APC support for SSPH+ Affiliates

The SSPH+ International Journal of Public Health ([IJPH](#)) and Public Health Reviews ([PHR](#)) offer APC discounts for SSPH+ Affiliates. Manuscripts submitted during 2026 with successful peer-review and with at least one author affiliated with SSPH+ (at the time of submission) will receive a **50% APC discount**. You must complete an **APC support application form at submission for either IJPH or PHR to apply for the discount**. Find more information and the procedure [here](#).

SSPH+ PARTNER COURSES, EVENTS, AND CALLS

Free Online Course: Ethics, Law & Governance for Climate and Environmental Action in Public Health

Dates: 23 September–2 December 2026

Time: Wednesdays, 16:30–18:00 CET

Format: Live virtual course

This course is organized by ASPHER and the European Climate and Health Observatory. Through 10 live virtual sessions, the course will explore climate justice and human rights, European and international law, mitigation and adaptation, climate-resilient health systems, governance, communication and public health advocacy. [Learn more and register here](#).

Workshop: Introduction to Swiss Health Policy

Dates: 25 September & 1 October 2026

Location: Lucerne & Bern

Format: PhD workshop | English | 1 ECTS

Led by Ass.Prof. David Weisstanner, this workshop introduces the Swiss health system, its key actors, policy processes, and current challenges, with a focus on federalism and direct democracy. The programme includes visits to the **Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of Public Health (GDK/CDS)** and the **Federal Palace**. Registration: phd_health@unilu.ch

Lecture: Caring for Those Who Care – Mental Health and Well-being of Europe's Health Workforce

Date: Tuesday, 6 October 2026

Time: 11:00–12:00 CET

Format: Live online lecture | English

The session will explore mental health and well-being among Europe's health workforce and is open to participants interested in health workforce and public health issues. [Join the session here.](#)

Webinar Series: Co-Creation in Action for Health Systems, Services, and Policy

Dates: 8 October–5 November 2026

Format: Online | English | Free

This new webinar series brings together senior researchers, project leaders, and practitioners to explore **co-creation and participatory approaches** in real-world health systems, services, and policy. Sessions will cover how co-creation is designed, facilitated, and evaluated, as well as practical challenges and lessons across different contexts. Organized by the Competence Center for Learning Health Systems (CCLHS), University of Lucerne. [Register here.](#)

Quality of Care, Work Environments & Advanced Nursing Practice – New Findings from the SCOHPICA Project

Date: Thursday, 8 October 2026

Time: 12:30–13:30 CET

Format: Live online presentation | French, with English slides and multilingual subtitles

This session will present **new findings from the SCOHPICA Project**, focusing on quality of care, work environments, and advanced nursing practice. The presentation will be delivered in French, with slides available in English with multilingual subtitles. More info is available [here](#).

Course Reminder: Advanced Global Health Diplomacy Course

Dates: 2–6 November 2026

Location: Campus Biotech, Geneva

Format: 5-day intensive course | 2 ECTS

The annual advanced course “**From Geopolitics to Final Frontiers**” returns to Geneva this November. Over five intensive days, participants will explore the foundations of global health diplomacy and examine emerging frontier issues including AI and space health, culminating in a multilateral negotiation simulation. [More information and registration](#).

Geneva Health Forum 2026 – Registration open

10–12 November 2026 | Geneva

The Geneva Health Forum 2026 is inviting researchers, healthcare professionals, policymakers, NGOs, students, and other global health stakeholders to register for the **Geneva Health Forum 2026**. The conference will focus on rethinking cooperation in global health, with thematic areas including innovative collaborations, health promotion and community engagement, and access to healthcare in conflict and crisis settings. More information [is available here](#).

Conference: National Health Promotion Conference 2027 – Digital Health Promotion: Desired and Undesired Side Effects

Date: Wednesday, 27 January 2027

Location: Kursaal Bern, Switzerland

Format: In-person conference | German

The conference will explore the opportunities and limitations of digital technologies in health promotion, with a particular focus on **trust in technology** and **digital responsibility**. The programme is now available and registration is open. [More information and registration](#).

Other upcoming events, as previously advertised in our newsletters:

Masterclass in Implementation Science 2026

- 2 October – 14 November 2026| Online & Zurich
- More info [here](#).

Swiss Forum for the Ecological Transformation of the Healthcare System

- 17 November 2026 | Lausanne
- More info [here](#).

2nd Zurich Population Research Conference 2027

- 1-2 February 2026 | Zurich
- More info [here](#).

Let's Connect!

Stay connected with us for more updates and insights: [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

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