Honoring the past to shape the future
SSPH+ at a glance
Virtual reality – the SSPH+ structure
Highlights of the first 11 years
Visionaries of SSPH+
The pillar of SSPH+: Education
Fostering the future generation of public health scientists
Public Health – more than a science
Facts and figures 2015
Roots of SSPH+
The future of SSPH+
List of acronyms
Within just a decade, the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) has become a successful and innovative player in the national and international academic landscape. Public health sciences must have a substantial impact on population health and policy-making and SSPH+ pursues this vision through training, capacity building, research and expertise. To fulfill its inherently multidisciplinary mission, public health must integrate expertise from a broad range of academic fields including medicine, epidemiology, economics, law, biology, -omics sciences, geography, biostatistics, anthropology, behavioral and political sciences, environmental health sciences, and communication, among others.

As a foundation, SSPH+ is run by a small group of dedicated part-time members of the Directorate’s office, responsible for holding together a large network of public health academia embedded across the eight Swiss universities that make up the foundation. SSPH+ has no building, no infrastructure, no human resources, administration or information technology departments, but it capitalizes on the multidisciplinary academic public health expertise of more than 125 professors – the SSPH+ Fellows – affiliated with various faculties at the eight universities that shape SSPH+. As a consequence of this structure, the SSPH+ budget is small compared to the direct contributions our prime partner institutions receive from the eight universities. Thus, SSPH+ can concentrate on content and collaboration rather than on administration and infrastructure.

The investment in 14 SSPH+ assistant professorships served to boost public health academia in Switzerland and strengthened the basis from which to shape the future of SSPH+. Collectively, as a “think tank” and individually, as brokers of public health expertise, the SSPH+ Fellows contribute to translating evidence into policies in all fields relevant to health. Meanwhile, the transdisciplinary SSPH+ community fosters progress towards understanding the inherent links between health systems; societal, economic and community factors; and the molecular, biological and individual health factors that ultimately determine people’s health. With this integrated concept of personalized health, SSPH+ will contribute to healthy lives for all members of our multicultural societies, nationally and internationally.

As a visionary virtual institution, SSPH+ focuses on assembling a critical mass of expertise to add value to its activities, while our partner institutions continue to excel independently and often competitively in domains where a “critical mass” or a common structure are not needed. The successes of the first eleven years of SSPH+ motivate us to further strengthen and pursue the mission of SSPH+ for the next eleven years. We shall endeavor to live up to our “plus”, to be more than the usual school of public health.

The SSPH+ Directorate
Stronger together

SSPH+ assembles the academic public health expertise available across eight Swiss universities. The SSPH+ model is based on the vision that public health is a scientific and professional field, shaped by a broad range of disciplines. In a small country like Switzerland, no single institution has the critical mass needed to cover all public health relevant areas. However, together we are stronger.
Initiated in 2005, with funds from the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) became a foundation in 2008 and is currently supported by eight Swiss universities. Initially, SSPH+ included the Universities of Basel, Bern, Geneva, Lausanne, Svizzera italiana and Zurich, and was later joined by the Universities of Neuchâtel and Lucerne.

SSPH+ is a visionary model for a small country like Switzerland. Through a network of all university public health partners, SSPH+ brings together a broad range of expertise to shape the transdisciplinary field of public health. The "virtual school" provides a promising base from which to strengthen public health in a country where federal structures have so far resulted in very diverse and somewhat weak public health systems.

As SERI’s central funding contributions come to an end (2016), SSPH+ moves into a new era where funding from its eight universities and other partners will secure the mission of SSPH+ and ensure provision of central services to its prime partners.

SSPH+ MISSION
- Reinforce the identity of public health as an interdisciplinary and professional field of science.
- Promote and maintain a skilled public health workforce at the local, national and international level through high-quality education and training.
- Strengthen the link between research and practice and foster partnerships among the public health constituencies to identify and address current and future public health challenges and to influence research, training and policy-making.
- Act as the umbrella and network of the academic partner institutions for tasks and activities for which a national coordination is necessary or where the critical mass at a single institution is lacking.

SSPH+ VISION
As the leading academic institution in Switzerland for public health and as the academic public health focal point for national and international partners, SSPH+ has a substantial impact on population health and policy-making through training, capacity building, research and expertise.

SSPH+ OBJECTIVES
- Strengthen visibility, recognition, coordination, quality control and standards of the public health education on all levels.
- Identify and support new developments in research and teaching and forecast future challenges in the field of public health at the national and international level.
- Facilitate mutual exchange and debate between public health actors.
- Foster the use of public health expertise among other constituencies.
- Increase visibility of and impact on public health-relevant issues.
- Secure a sustainable structure and funding.
# Virtual Reality – The SSPH+ Structure

## Organisation SSPH+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basel</th>
<th>Bern</th>
<th>Geneva</th>
<th>Lausanne</th>
<th>Lucerne</th>
<th>Neuchâtel</th>
<th>Svizzera Italiana</th>
<th>Zurich</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Each university has two representatives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Academic Body

SSPH+ Fellows – the “Faculty”

## Goals

### Strengthen Academic Public Health Workforce

- **PhD programs**
  - The structured SSPH+ PhD Programs are growing fast. As of 2016, 170 PhD students profit from the interdisciplinary training offers

- **Seasonal Schools (Spring, Summer, Winter) & single courses**
  - The thematically different seasonal schools attract PhD students and postgraduates from a range of disciplines

- **Postgraduate programs (MAS, DAS, CAS)**
  - The > 30 SSPH+ postgraduate programs include flagships such as the two MPH programs from the Universities Basel, Bern & Zurich and from the University of Geneva

- **Quality assurance in postgraduate training**
  - Evaluation tools and continued education for SSPH+ teachers and supervisors strengthen public health academia

- **SSPH+ eCampus**
  - The SSPH+ eCampus provides an online teaching and learning environment to all SSPH+ Fellows. It offers also registration systems

- **Alumni network**
  - SSPH+ Alumni are the leaders and messengers of the public health workforce

- **SSPH+ Awards**
  - SSPH+ awards young public health scientists for innovative research

- **Sabbatical program**
  - Sabbaticals help to overcome the separation of academic- and applied, practice-oriented public health careers and strengthen the cross-communication between the professionals

- **Project & workshop programs**
  - Projects and workshops are launched based on the need of the SSPH+ network

- **Swiss Public Health Conference**
  - The conference is run under the joint leadership of Public Health Schweiz and SSPH+, guaranteeing the exchange between public health academia, professionals, and the practice

- **Strategic exchange with universities of applied sciences**
  - SSPH+ develops strategic alliances and collaborations between the public health academic actors, the universities and the universities of applied sciences

- **International Journal of Public Health**
  - As the owner of IJPH, SSPH+ promotes the sharing of research findings to foster evidence based public health practice

- **Contributions in national and international partner organizations**
  - SSPH+ engages in national and international developments in public health training and capacity building. The Director of SSPH+ is in the Executive Board of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) and of Public Health Schweiz

- **SSPH+ Expert Database**
  - The Expert Database provides fast access to the expertise of the network partners

- **Forecasting task force**
  - SSPH+ invests in forecasting public health relevant developments in collaboration with national and international partners

- **Mandate SSPH+ experts**
  - Public health experts will be mandated to work on specific questions identified by SSPH+ partners and stakeholders

- **Promote cohorts & biobanks to foster personalized health**
  - The SSPH+ network invests in strategic activities to strengthen the public health perspective in this important field

- **Communication and information**
  - Newsletters, e-infos and the web are used to keep the SSPH+ constituencies informed and linked

- **Swiss Learning Health System and Stakeholder processes**
  - SSPH+ supports the network partners in building stakeholder processes for agreed upon decisions relevant to public health

- **Cochrane Switzerland and Cochrane Public Health Europe**
  - Systematic reviews on specific topics are relevant to the SSPH+ strategies and its further development

- **Annual Retreat of SSPH+ Fellows**
  - The Retreat shapes the SSPH+ activities, identifies needs of the Fellows and prioritizes the SSPH+ investments

- **SSPH+ Assistant Professorship Programs**
  - The SSPH+ Assistant Professorship Programs fostered the public health research agenda in all SSPH+ partner institutes

## Products

### PhD programs

- The structurued SSPH+ PhD Programs are growing fast. As of 2016, 170 PhD students profit from the interdisciplinary training offers

### Seasonal Schools (Spring, Summer, Winter) & single courses

- The thematically different seasonal schools attract PhD students and postgraduates from a range of disciplines

### Postgraduate programs (MAS, DAS, CAS)

- The > 30 SSPH+ postgraduate programs include flagships such as the two MPH programs from the Universities Basel, Bern & Zurich and from the University of Geneva

### Quality assurance in postgraduate training

- Evaluation tools and continued education for SSPH+ teachers and supervisors strengthen public health academia

### SSPH+ eCampus

- The SSPH+ eCampus provides an online teaching and learning environment to all SSPH+ Fellows. It offers also registration systems

### Alumni network

- SSPH+ Alumni are the leaders and messengers of the public health workforce

### SSPH+ Awards

- SSPH+ awards young public health scientists for innovative research

### Sabbatical program

- Sabbaticals help to overcome the separation of academic- and applied, practice-oriented public health careers and strengthen the cross-communication between the professionals

### Project & workshop programs

- Projects and workshops are launched based on the need of the SSPH+ network

### Swiss Public Health Conference

- The conference is run under the joint leadership of Public Health Schweiz and SSPH+, guaranteeing the exchange between public health academia, professionals, and the practice

### Strategic exchange with universities of applied sciences

- SSPH+ develops strategic alliances and collaborations between the public health academic actors, the universities and the universities of applied sciences

### International Journal of Public Health

- As the owner of IJPH, SSPH+ promotes the sharing of research findings to foster evidence based public health practice

### Contributions in national and international partner organizations

- SSPH+ engages in national and international developments in public health training and capacity building. The Director of SSPH+ is in the Executive Board of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) and of Public Health Schweiz

### SSPH+ Expert Database

- The Expert Database provides fast access to the expertise of the network partners

### Forecasting task force

- SSPH+ invests in forecasting public health relevant developments in collaboration with national and international partners

### Mandate SSPH+ experts

- Public health experts will be mandated to work on specific questions identified by SSPH+ partners and stakeholders

### Promote cohorts & biobanks to foster personalized health

- The SSPH+ network invests in strategic activities to strengthen the public health perspective in this important field

### Communication and information

- Newsletters, e-infos and the web are used to keep the SSPH+ constituencies informed and linked

### Swiss Learning Health System and Stakeholder processes

- SSPH+ supports the network partners in building stakeholder processes for agreed upon decisions relevant to public health

### Cochrane Switzerland and Cochrane Public Health Europe

- Systematic reviews on specific topics are relevant to the SSPH+ strategies and its further development

### Annual Retreat of SSPH+ Fellows

- The Retreat shapes the SSPH+ activities, identifies needs of the Fellows and prioritizes the SSPH+ investments

### SSPH+ Assistant Professorship Programs

- The SSPH+ Assistant Professorship Programs fostered the public health research agenda in all SSPH+ partner institutes
## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST 11 YEARS

### 2005
- PhD programs
- Postgraduate programs (MAS, DAS, CAS)
- Quality assurance in postgraduate training
- Project & workshop programs

### 2008
- SSPH+ becomes a foundation

### 2010
- Start SSPH+ Awards for the best PhD publication in public health sciences

### 2015
- 10th anniversary of SSPH+ with eight celebrations at the partner universities

### 2016
- Seasonal Schools (Spring, Summer, Winter) & single courses
- SSPH+ eCampus
- Alumni network
- SSPH+ Awards
- Sabbatical program
- Swiss Public Health Conference
- Strategic exchange with universities of applied sciences
- International Journal of Public Health
- SSPH+ Expert Database
- Forecasting task force
- Mandate SSPH+ experts
- Promote cohorts & biobanks to foster personalized health
- Communication and information
- Swiss Learning Health System and Stakeholder processes
- Cochrane Switzerland and Cochrane Public Health Europe
- Annual Retreat of SSPH+ Fellows

### 2016
- SSPH+ Assistant Professorship Programs
The SSPH+ eCampus

Launched in mid-2016 as a central service, SSPH+ fosters the use of a shared learning management system, open to all SSPH+ partners. The eCampus, coordinated by the Swiss TPH team with its long-standing experience in blended learning methods and the use of e-platforms, offers a simple-to-use online platform to all lecturers and program coordinators of SSPH+ products. Its major advantage is the use of the open source Moodle software, hosted on a Swiss server, and thus operating in accordance with Swiss copyright laws. Teachers are allowed to share copyrighted full text or video documents in an educational online environment that is limited to their students. SSPH+ eCampus also offers tools to handle course registrations. The use of SSPH+ eCampus is not required but fully optional and may complement other tools and platforms used by SSPH+ Fellows.
**VISIONARIES OF SSPH+**

**Interviews with Felix Gutzwiller and Marcel Tanner**

Q: What was your motivation to invest your time and expertise in the SSPH+?

Gutzwiller: After my own training abroad (MPH, Harvard; Dr.PH Johns Hopkins) and the developments in public health at the time, it was clear to me that we should also be able to train our own public health workforce in Switzerland.

Tanner: I firmly believe that we need to create an umbrella for all Swiss public health expertise and experience for the benefit of our health system and of training and capacity building in and for public health.

Q: What would you consider the most important or relevant achievement of SSPH+ during the time of your leadership of SSPH+?

Gutzwiller: The development of a unique model in the Swiss landscape of higher education, integrating several universities and the major topics in public health, including health economics.

Tanner: To have found a new format for SSPH+, allowing all partners to contribute based on their capacities and possibilities, irrespective of the size of the university but solely dependent on excellence in and commitment to specific areas of public health expertise and experience.

Q: SSPH+ can only function if the eight universities support it with funds to cover the Directorate and the key central services SSPH+ provides to its partners. What aspects, tasks, or products would you consider the most important ones to attract university funds now and in the future?

Gutzwiller: The successful training of public health workers, including public health scientists with academic careers, remains essential and will be in the future. SSPH+ can make a contribution that none of the eight universities would be able to achieve on their own.

Tanner: Any university should invest in the specific area of excellence to which it contributes in the overall umbrella of public health. It is in this way that partner universities can directly see their return on investment in the performance, development and structure of SSPH+.

Q: The SSPH+ features the academic public health network – not a specific university. Do you see a future for such an inter-university structure in times where international rankings and profiling of single universities have become a key factor?

Gutzwiller: The local publication records of professors still contribute to their respective universities; and internationally, there is a need to work on new rating systems that recognize the efforts of interdisciplinary and integrative programs.

Tanner: If a university investment is undertaken in the form as described above, the visibility of the university remains and could even be measured with the “classical” performance indicators that, of course, are not at all free of doubts in terms of their accuracy and usefulness. In any case, if we aim to create an umbrella for the whole of Switzerland and the global community, the prime aim is never – or should not be – to rank a single university, but to see the excellence in the overall profile of our SSPH+.

Q: As the past president, what is your wish for the next decade of SSPH+?

Gutzwiller: To offer excellent training opportunities and be among the five best schools in Europe.
Why the “plus” is really a plus

Historically the “plus” referred to the first expansion of the school. In 2005, the two preexisting networks for public health and health economics, respectively, jointly launched the Swiss School of Public Health plus, with the “plus” representing the added value of health economics. With the addition of the Universities of Neuchâtel and Lucerne, and their competences in health law and health sciences, SSPH+ today assembles the essential fields that shape modern public health. Since it was first introduced, the “+” in our logo has come to symbolize the Swissness of the school and serves as a programmatic reminder that SSPH+ is more than the usual academic school of public health thanks to its network configuration, flexible development and progressive expansion of its competencies.
THE PILLAR OF SSPH+: EDUCATION

The paradigm of being "stronger together" is of particular relevance when it comes to public health teaching and training. No single SSPH+ partner assembles all of the interdisciplinary expertise found among the collective university faculties to shape public health training – we work best, together. Collaborative efforts to strengthen the Swiss public health workforce have a long tradition in Switzerland. Indeed, some of SSPH+’s initiators were also the forces behind two successful MPH programs. These programs were the flagships of SSPH+ and will soon mark their 25th anniversaries. SSPH+ currently supports more than 30 different educational programs in public health, in four different languages (German, French, Italian, and English), at the eight partner universities. Offerings include Certificates, Diplomas, and Masters of Advanced Studies (CAS, DAS, and MAS, respectively); PhD programs (see also page 25); seasonal schools; and several short courses in topics such as health promotion and prevention, international health, healthcare management, epidemiology and biostatistics, economics, and health law, among others. Some SSPH+ educational offerings use e-learning tools, like Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) or TRREE, the on-line training programme on ethics and regulation of health research involving human participants. All SSPH+ postgraduate programs are accredited by local universities. The postgraduate courses are organized as a series of modular courses. Seasonal schools offer a range of parallel courses, mostly on an annual basis.

SELECT SSPH+ PROGRAMS

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH), UNIVERSITIES OF BASEL, BERN AND ZURICH

Leading Institutes: EBPI, ECPM, ISPM Bern, Swiss TPH
Academic Director: Thomas Szucs
Managing Director: Lara Modolo

Since 1992, the Universities of Basel, Bern and Zurich have offered the Master of Public Health. The part-time, modular course consists of systematic teaching, problem-oriented practical exercises, and a supervised project. Participants can also obtain a DAS or CAS in different fields. The degree is nationally accredited by the AAQ. Courses are taught mostly in German, with some courses available in English.

MAS EN SANTÉ PUBLIQUE (MPH), UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

Leading Institute: Institute of Global Health
Academic and Managing Director: Emmanuel Kabengele

The University of Geneva has offered the Diplôme de Santé Publique since 1990. The modular course runs for three years. Each course of study is individualized through an agreement between the candidate and the other parties involved. Participants also profit from proximity to the international public health organizations in Geneva. The degree is nationally accredited by the AAQ. Courses are taught mostly in French.

MAS IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH (MIH), UNIVERSITY OF BASEL

Leading Institute: Swiss TPH
Academic Director: Marcel Tanner
Program Coordinator: Bernadette Peterhans

The MAS in International Health is a collaborative modular program involving some 30 universities worldwide. The program prepares students to act as international health experts capable of tackling health-related challenges in inter-sectoral environments across multiple levels, from the community to the international stage, with a special focus on disadvantaged populations. Swiss TPH has offered the program since 1998; at least ten of the 60 ECTS credit points must be acquired outside Swiss TPH, from an accredited partner university. The degree is internationally accredited by tropEd, the Network for Education in International Health. Most of the modules are taught in English.

MBA IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT (MB-IHM), UNIVERSITY OF BASEL

Leading Institute: Swiss TPH
Academic Director: Marcel Tanner
Program Coordinators: Axel Hoffmann, Amena Briët

The MBA-IHM provides a unique opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills required to take leading positions within health systems. By covering topics in public health, economics, business

Did you know ... that 100% of airline pilots are trained as pilots but only 31% of the Swiss public health workforce have formal training in public health?
administration and management from a practical perspective, participants are prepared to work in meaningful and productive partnerships in multicultural and transdisciplinary settings. The content of the part-time modular programme goes beyond classical MBA programmes in healthcare, as it maintains a global perspective and interdisciplinary approach throughout, with a strong focus on meso- and macro-level leadership positions. Participants can also obtain a DAS or CAS. Courses are taught in English.

**Did you know …**

that SSPH+ does not hire its own faculty but assembles more than 125 public health oriented “faculty members” from the eight SSPH+ universities? These are our SSPH+ Fellows.

**THE PILLAR OF SSPH+: EDUCATION**

**MAS IN HEALTH ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT (NET-MEGS), UNIVERSITÀ DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA**

Leading institute: ideP
Academic Directors: Stefano Calciolari, Marco Meneguzzo
Program Coordinator: Beba Grob

Since 1998, the Università della Svizzera italiana has offered this two-year, part-time program. Net-MEGS targets health professionals who have the ambition to be leaders in their field. The program provides an international, multidisciplinary perspective on healthcare systems and advanced managerial techniques. The program is modular and participants can also obtain a DAS or CAS by completing, 30 or 15 ECTS, respectively. The degree is nationally accredited by the AAQ. Courses are taught mostly in Italian, with some courses in English.

**MAS EN SCIENCES ET ORGANISATION DE LA SANTÉ (MAS-SANTÉ), UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE**

Leading institute: IUMSP
Academic Director: Fred Paccaud
Program Coordinator: Barbara Imsand

The program is offered by the Université of Lausanne (UNIL) and has a modular structure. Students can choose from among three CAS, of which one can be taken outside of Lausanne, preferably within the Ecole romande de Santé publique (ERSP). UNIL offers three internal CAS: Health Economics and Policy, Healthcare Management, and Public Health. The courses are taught in French, with some reading in English.

**MAS IN INSURANCE MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF BASEL**

Leading institutes: Swiss TPH and Evidence-based Insurance Medicine
Academic Director: Elisabeth Zemp
Program Coordinator: Julia Draiva

This postgraduate program is jointly offered by Swiss TPH and Evidence-based Insurance Medicine. The program’s interaction with all health issues. The part-time program has a modular structure. Students can choose from among three CAS, of which one can be taken outside of Neuchâtel, within the Ecole romande de Santé publique. Participants can also obtain a DAS or CAS. Courses are taught in French.

**MAS EN DROIT DE LA SANTE, UNIVERSITY OF NEUCHATEL**

Leading institute: IDS
Academic Directors: Olivier Guillod and Dominique Sprumont
Program Coordinator: Nataliya Wildhaber

The program, offered by the Université of Neuchâtel, provides an in-depth understanding of the Swiss legal system’s interaction with all health issues. The part-time program has a modular structure. Students can choose from among three CAS, of which one can be taken outside of Neuchâtel. The course is taught in French.

**DAS WORK+HEALTH, UNIVERSITIES OF ZURICH AND LAUSANNE**

Leading institutes: EBPI and IST
Academic Directors: Georg Bauer and Brigitta Danuser
Program Coordinator: Sven Hoffmann

The DAS Work+Health is a joint, interdisciplinary program of the University of Zurich and the University of Lausanne. Based on 20 years of training experience in the field, the DAS Work+Health offers a firm theoretical understanding and practical skills in occupational medicine, occupational hygiene and organizational health development. Courses are taught in English.

**SPRING SCHOOL OF GLOBAL HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA**

Leading institute: Institute of Global Health
Academic Director: Antoine Flahault
Program Coordinator: Lemlem Girmatsion

The Spring School is organized by the Institute of Global Health at the University of Geneva. The program is designed to enable international students and working professionals with an interest and focus in global health to study various subjects and to join the international global health community in Geneva.

**SUMMER SCHOOL IN PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY, ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT, UNIVERSITA DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA AND UNIVERSITY OF BASEL**

Leading institutes: idEP and Swiss TPH
Academic Director: Fabrizio Mazzonna
Program Coordinator: Beba Grob

The major strength of this jointly organized Summer School of SSPH+ is its clear interdisciplinary context. The
three- or six-day courses allow public health professionals and researchers from various health related disciplines to exchange their expertise and experience in a stimulating and exciting environment. In this context, the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is key, enabling professionals from Eastern Europe and other emerging and transitioning economies to participate and share their knowledge and skills towards managing health systems and health services.

**SUMMER SCHOOL IN GLOBAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS, UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA**

Leading institute: Institute of Global Health
Academic and Managing Director: Emmanuel Kabengele

The Geneva Summer School will define the theoretical foundations of human rights and their links to global health, introduce students to existing human rights protection mechanisms, explore the organisation and functioning of health systems at local and global levels, and address various public health issues where global health and human rights collide. The target audience is upper year undergraduates (Bachelor), Master and PhD students.

**SWISS EPIDEMIOLOGY WINTER SCHOOL WENGEN, UNIVERSITY OF BERN**

Leading institute: ISPM
Academic Directors: Matthias Egger and Marcel Zwahlen
Program Coordinator: Birgit Böger

Up to ten different three-day courses in epidemiology and biostatistics are offered for researchers in academia or industry and PhD students. The courses cover advanced topics such as “Causal inference in observational epidemiology” (by Miguel Hernan from the T.H. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University) and “Statistical analysis with missing data using multiple imputation” (by James Carpenter from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine). Students stay on site and work hard in the mornings, then, have an extended break in the afternoon to review course materials, catch up on emails or (more likely) go skiing or snowboarding. Faculty and students reconvene at 17:00 for computer-based or other practical sessions. Since the first Winter School in 2010, the number of course participants has continuously grown to more than 150. Courses are taught in English.

**INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL COURSES AND SEMINARS IN HEALTH ECONOMICS AND POLICY**

This program is offered within the framework of SSPH+ and is considered as a specialisation for health economists. The goal is to offer advanced and highly specialized courses in health economics and policy, as well as seminars and workshops with leading international experts. It is intended for PhD students from Swiss universities as well as from foreign universities who wish to enhance their specific knowledge and sharpen their capabilities in the field of health economics and policy. Researchers with a PhD in economics or in a related discipline who wish to deepen their knowledge of select topics can also be admitted. At least eight courses are offered over two years by the partner institutes. The program is coordinated by the team at ISEP in Lugano.

**RESEARCH SCIENTIST PROGRAM – JOINT SLHS-SSPH+ PHD SCHOLARSHIPS**

As a collaborating partner of the Swiss Learning Health System (SLHS) led by the University of Lucerne, SSPH+ will coordinate the joint PhD scholarship program. Starting in 2016, PhD candidates will be trained in a range of skills relevant to public health sciences, including evidence synthesis (policy briefs and rapid response synthesis) and stakeholder dialogue. The program complements the SSPH+ PhD programs in public health and in health economics with a third pillar focusing on learning health systems and services. The joint PhD scholarship program is based on 20 PhD scholars. These scholars pursue their PhD work under a common quality.
and procedural framework at the partner universities, but are coached as an interdisciplinary cohort of SSPH+ PhD scholars with additional support from SLHS.

SSPH+ ASSISTANT PROFESSORSHIP PROGRAMS

While teaching and training activities are often most successful in the context of cross-institutional collaborations, strong scientific leaders, well embedded in their academic institutes, are the engine of public health science. SSPH+ established two competitive Assistant Professorship Programs to foster academic development in the field of public health and to counterbalance National Professorship Programs, which lean heavily towards promoting basic sciences.

The goal of the first program (2008–2011/2012) was to strengthen the capacity of SSPH+ partner institutions to advise and supervise doctoral students and to provide them with attractive research opportunities. Partner institutions proposed strategically relevant research fields in which to establish an assistant professorship. These fields needed to be embedded in the main research fields of the respective institute and contribute to its overall teaching and research activities.

The second SSPH+ Assistant Professorship Program (2013–2016) aimed to fill five identified research gaps in the national landscape. Candidates had to find a host institution among the SSPH+ partner institutions before applying for SSPH+ funding in one of the advertised public health related research fields. These highly successful programs strengthened the public health research agenda in all institutes. Since its inception, six SSPH+ Assistant Professors have been promoted to tenured Professor positions by their university or external institution.

Q: How did you profit from the SSPH+ network and support during your time as assistant professor?

Bochud: SSPH+ financial support allowed me to dedicate a large proportion of my time to research and facilitated access to competitive grants (e.g. SPUM-SNF grant). The SSPH+ network has been very important for me to better know the Swiss public health community and the other faculty members active in the field of public health. I also had the opportunity to attend courses organized by SSPH+. My PhD students benefited a lot from courses organized and sponsored by SSPH+ and from interactions with other PhD students in public health in Switzerland.

Mazzonna: First, the SSPH+ network allowed me to get in touch with many outstanding researchers in health economics and public health from all over the world. This is invaluable because a single university cannot allow its fellows to take advantage of such a large network. Second, as an economist, the SSPH+ broadened my research interests to include public health, thanks to the experience I gain as scientific director of the Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics and Management that takes place every year in Lugano at the end of August.

Röösli: I profit from the teaching activities of SSPH+ in many ways. As a teacher...
in the PhD and the MPH programs, I met public health professionals and scientists with broad backgrounds from many different public health and academic institutions in Switzerland and beyond. For my professional life, this network, which is reactivated at numerous events facilitated by the SSPH+, is very stimulating and helpful. My PhD students profit considerably from the SSPH+ courses which in turn has a beneficial impact on the research output of my group.

Q: What was your most important scientific achievement during your years as an SSPH+ assistant professor?

Bochud: To play an active role in several international consortia aiming to decipher the genetic determinants of cardiometabolic phenotypes and thereby contribute to improving our understanding of the biology of phenotypes, such as blood pressure and renal function, which confirmed the key role of diet in determining cardiovascular risk.

Mazzonna: During those years, I published several articles in top international journals in the field of economics and social science (e.g., Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Social Science & Medicine), addressing research questions that are particularly relevant from a policy perspective. In particular, my research investigated the causal links between education, retirement, immigration and an individual’s health. Population ageing and immigration are putting pressure on the welfare system of most developed countries and my research should contribute to the policy discussion on these important issues.

Röösli: I have considerably improved knowledge about the population’s exposure to emissions from emerging wireless communication technologies in everyday life. Major consequences on health-related quality of life and cancer can be excluded based on several studies that my group conducted during my time as an assistant professor.

Q: What will be your contribution to the development of public health / health economics in Switzerland?

Bochud: In the coming year, my group will contribute to the teaching and education of PhD students in epidemiology/public health as well as the education of MDs specializing in public health and prevention (FMH). In collaboration with other colleagues at IUMSP, we propose a CAS in public health every year, with 15 to 20 people coming from various fields interested in public health (MDs, pharmacists, people working in public administration or hospitals, nurses, economists, biologists, etc.). My specific contribution is to teach epidemiologic methods, genetic epidemiology and public health genomics.

I will continue close collaboration with Federal offices for public health (FOPH) and food security (BLV) and with the cantonal public health service (VD) by providing public health mandates and services in the field of non-communicable chronic disease monitoring and prevention. I wish to develop nutrition epidemiology in Switzerland and, as much as possible, initiate population-based nutrition interventions to decrease the burden of chronic diseases in Switzerland. I am highly motivated to take an active part in building a large-scale population-based cohort in Switzerland.

Mazzonna: First, my most important contribution should come from the quality and the relevance of my research. This is clearly a fundamental requirement for making a valuable contribution. Second, I will continue my collaboration with the other Swiss universities in our network with the aim of improving the offering of advanced and highly specialized courses in health economics and policy for our PhD students. Moreover, we plan to increase the visibility of the Swiss network by organizing international conferences and events in health economics.

Röösli: I plan to further investigate potential health risks of various environmental exposures such as radiation, noise and air pollution. My research has a strong focus on population-based exposure assessment studies, using innovative modelling and measurement methods. This enables me to go beyond risk characterization and to address the public health relevance by quantifying the health impact, including the economic consequences of various pollutants.
Public Health – International Health – Global Health

Public health refers to the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals. The health of societies is interlinked through local, national, international and global phenomena, systems, and challenges – thus, public health is international health, is global health, is local health. The SSPH+ network unites public health expertise at all levels. Thus, SSPH+ is also the Swiss School of Local, National, International and Global Health!
**Public Health — More Than a Science**

The multidisciplinary field of public health cannot thrive in a tower of research alone. The science of public health must be factored into policy making in all relevant domains of society. One goal of public health academia is to bridge science with evidence-based policy to answer questions raised by health professionals working in the systems dealing with health and diseases. SSPH+ contributes to this goal primarily through its sabbatical programs, its collaboration with the Swiss Society of Public Health, and its partnership with the Swiss Learning Health System.

**Sabbaticals**

The chasm separating academic and applied public health professionals in Switzerland is wide. There are very few professional possibilities to cross barriers between institutions and between research and practice. To reduce this divergence and to strengthen cross-communication between the partner institutes and practitioners, SSPH+ promotes short-term professional exchanges (sabbaticals) between those involved in practical tasks at public health institutions, on the one side, and those involved in research, on the other. So far, 10 such sabbaticals have been facilitated by SSPH+.

Markus Kaufmann, former general secretary of the Swiss Society for Public Health, has worked as project leader for the Swiss Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of Public Health (GDK) since 2012. Markus has an MPH from the Universities of Basel, Bern and Zurich.

Working for the GDK, my sabbatical at Swiss TPH was a unique opportunity to gain insight into one of the most important public health research institutes with a focus on international work. During the four months in Basel, I analysed a 10 year old report about the connections between national and cantonal health policies. I looked into new findings in the field of reverse innovation and wrote an article about how a country like Switzerland can learn from the South. I also brought colleagues from health administration together with researchers.

Did you know ... that there are some 450 schools of public health around the globe? The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is the longest operating School of Public Health in the world (1899); the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health was the first in the US (1913); and SSPH+ is proud to be a teenager (2005).

**Why sabbaticals?**

Fred Paccaud, Director of IIUMSP in Lausanne and former Director of SSPH+, explains his motives for launching the sabbatical program and his wishes for its future.

The main concern is the large divide between practitioners and researchers, between doers and thinkers. This is a widespread problem in all professions with an academic background. It should be, however, a matter of deep concern in public health, a discipline where knowledge transfer is a key issue.

There are many reasons explaining the unfortunate current divide, but only a few remedies are available. The short sabbaticals offered by SSPH+ are probably the best possible start, aiming to highlight the issue and propose an action. As for the next step, SSPH+ should secure formal positions in public health administration for public health students. Hopefully, the new generation of practitioners with a formal education in public health will be much more sensitive to these issues.

Finally, the public health community should better acknowledge that the profession depends, crucially, on the knowledge available from scientists and from experiences in the real world. Daily practice and scientific knowledge should influence one another.
ANNUAL SWISS PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE
The Swiss Society for Public Health (Public Health Schweiz) is an independent and national organization that supports public health professionals. It offers an interdisciplinary Switzerland-wide network and works to optimize the conditions related to population health. SSPH+, as a member of the organization and its directory board, represents the academic public health community, and thus supports the society in its mission to develop evidence-based policies. One of the flagships of Public Health Schweiz is the annual Swiss Public Health Conference. As the conference is run jointly by Public Health Schweiz and SSPH+, it guarantees rich exchanges between public health academics, professionals, and practitioners.

SWISS LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEM
In order to successfully respond to the challenges that the Swiss health system faces now and in the future, the University of Lucerne in collaboration with SSPH+ and an expert network of academic institutions leads the Swiss Learning Health System, funded by swissuniversities.

The notion of a learning health system responds to the realization that health systems ‘learn’ by research dissemination, knowledge transfer and an argumentative dialogue in which all stakeholders are brought together. SSPH+ supports joint events, engages in background assessments that may be needed as academic inputs into these stakeholder processes, and leads the joint PhD Scholarship program which compliments the SSPH+ PhD programs with a third pillar with a health systems and services track.

COCHRANE SWITZERLAND AND COCHRANE PUBLIC HEALTH EUROPE
Cochrane Switzerland represents the Cochrane Collaboration in Switzerland. It was formally established in 2010 as a joint branch of the French, German and Italian Cochrane Centres and is based at IUMSP Lausanne. Cochrane Switzerland works towards evidence-informed health decision-making in Switzerland and, together with another SSPH+ partner (EBPI Zurich), has co-founded in 2015 a European network of centers that promote evidence-based methods in public health (Cochrane Public Health Europe).

THE ECOLE ROMANDE DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE (ERSP)
The Ecole Romande de Santé Publique (ERSP) – or School of Public Health Southwest Switzerland – was founded in 2013 to bring together SSPH+’s French-speaking partners, namely the Universities of Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel. Its aim is to strengthen capacities among the academic public health centers in the region through active collaboration within local (ERSP), national (SSPH+) and international networks. One of ERSP’s first tasks was to bolster collaboration among all participating centers represented in the board of directors, chaired by Fred Paccaud from IUMSP at the University of Lausanne. ERSP has also increased its visibility within the academic network and in the public health community, through its website (www.ersp.ch) and participation in various workshops and congresses. Another task has been to better coordinate the existing training programs and create a permanent working group to monitor and implement more integrative training programs that capitalize on the diverse expertise of the participating centers. ERSP has improved coordination in the field of cancer registry. The development of ERSP is consistent with SSPH+ initiatives at the national level insofar as it mirrors the solutions adopted at national level and offers practical solutions that can help reinforce projects within SSPH+.

UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (IUMSP),
University of Lausanne, Direction Committee (from left to right): Bernard Burnand, Brenda Spencer, Raphael Bize, Murielle Bochud, Jean-Pierre Gervasoni, Myriam Rège Walther, Fred Paccaud (Director), Renato Testa, Brigitte Santos-Eggimann, Valentin Rousson, Barbara Imsand Cheseaux

Institute for Work and Health (IST), associated to the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva
David Vernez, Director
FACTS AND FIGURES 2015

SOME NUMBERS

8 universities make up the SSPH+ Foundation

15 institutes are affiliated with SSPH+

1,100 full-time positions at SSPH+ partner institutes

127 faculty members (SSPH+ Fellows)

350 PhD students supervised by SSPH+ Fellows

1,400 scientific publications from SSPH+ partner institutes

SSPH+ FOUNDATION BOARD

Prof. Marcel Tanner, President, University of Basel
Prof. Philippe Moreillon, Vice-president, University of Lausanne
Prof. Edwin Constable, University of Basel
Prof. Matthias Egger, University of Bern
Prof. Martin Tauber, University of Bern
Prof. Claudine Burton-Jeangros, University of Geneva
Prof. Yves Flückiger, University of Geneva
Prof. Fred Paccoud, University of Lausanne
Prof. Gisela Michel, University of Lucerne
Dr. Wolfgang Schatz, University of Lucerne
Prof. Olivier Guillod, University of Neuchatel
Prof. Jean-Jacques Aubert, University of Neuchatel
Prof. Massimo Filippini, Università della Svizzera Italiana
Prof. Piero Martinoli, Università della Svizzera Italiana
Prof. Christoph Hock, University of Zurich
Prof. Milo Puhan, University of Zurich

SSPH+ DIRECTORATE

Prof. Nino Künzli, Dean
Prof. Luca Crivelli, Deputy Director
Prof. Dominique Sprumont, Deputy Director
Dr. Sandra Nocera, Head of Administration
Ursula Erni, Administrative Assistant

BEHIND THE SUCCESS

SERI funding (2005 until 2015, in Million CHF)

3 Million for Directorate and Administrative Office salaries

10 Million for educational programs

28 Million total

8 Million for Assistant Professors

5.5 Million for central services

5.5 Million for educational programs

1,100 full-time positions at SSPH+ partner institutes

127 faculty members (SSPH+ Fellows)

350 PhD students supervised by SSPH+ Fellows

1,400 scientific publications from SSPH+ partner institutes

8 universities make up the SSPH+ Foundation

15 institutes are affiliated with SSPH+
The International Journal of Public Health

SSPH+ is the owner of the International Journal of Public Health (IJPH). This scientific peer reviewed journal has its roots in the former “Sozial- und Präventivmedizin”, published 1974–2006 on behalf of the former owner, the Swiss Society for Social and Preventive Medicine. Originally, articles were published in German, French or English. As IJPH, the journal is produced in English only. IJPH publishes articles relevant to global public health, from different countries and cultures, to raise awareness and understanding of public health problems and solutions. Under the new business model (since 2014), IJPH is now published by Springer New York. Shared revenues – dependent on the success of IJPH – cover the work of the Editorial Office, led by Dr. Anke Berger. While IJPH is still a subscription based journal, SSPH+ is evaluating a strategy of open-access publishing with Springer. IJPH follows a Co-Editor-In-Chief model (Thomas Kohlmann, Germany; Andrea Madarasova Geckova, Slovakia; Nino Künzli, Switzerland) and continues to see an upward trend of its impact factor (0.61 in 2008; 2.75 in 2014).
SSPH+ Fellows
As a foundation, SSPH+ cannot recruit its own faculties. To assemble a public health related faculty from the Swiss academic network, SSPH+ has created the title “SSPH+ Fellow”, granted ex officio to the professors working in the field of public health in SSPH+ partner institutions, as well as to the academic directors of the SSPH+ training programs (PhD, MAS, DAS, CAS, and seasonal schools). At the request of an SSPH+ Fellow, the title can also be granted to experts active in the field of public health with links to SSPH+. As of April 2016, SSPH+ counts more than 125 Fellows as its “faculty”.

SSPH+ Honorary Fellows
The title of “Honorary SSPH+ Fellow” can be granted to members of the Swiss and international academic community to honour exceptional careers and achievements in the field of public health, both in terms of research and training. The first Honorary SSPH+ Fellows elected by the SSPH+ Foundation Board are the five former Directors of SSPH+ who shaped the success of the school during its first decade, as well as the former President of the SSPH+ Foundation Board.

ROOTS OF SSPH+

The first SSPH+ Honorary Fellows

Prof. Ursula Ackermann-Liebrich, Academic Director SSPH+ from 2005 to 2008, former Director of the ISPM Basel, retired since 2009

Prof. Fred Paccaud, former Director SSPH+ from 2009 to 2013, Director IUMSP in Lausanne

Prof. Felix Gutzwiller, President of the SSPH+ Foundation Board from 2008 to 2012, former Director of the ISPM Zurich (now EBPI), retired since 2013

Prof. Charlotte Braun-Fahrländer, Co-Director SSPH+ from 2013 to 2014 and Director SSPH+ from 2013 to 2014, former Director of the ISPM Basel, retired since 2015

Prof. Philippe Chastonay, Co-Director from 2013 to 2014, Professor at the former Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Geneva (now Institute of Global Health), retired since 2015

Dr. Gilles de Weck, Financial Director SSPH+ from 2005 to 2008, retired since 2009

Prof. Gerold Stucki, Chair, Department of Health Sciences & Health Policy, University of Lucerne
As a “virtual” school, SSPH+ can afford to focus exclusively on those activities where cross-institutional collaboration provides an added value. In such domains, “stronger together” is not just a slogan, but a necessity to reach the critical mass needed for action and success. Thus, SSPH+ has the opportunity to efficiently balance central coordination, services, and leadership with fully decentralized institutional leadership, resources, and competition. This is in contrast to most schools of public health in other countries, where only one university invests in all central resources, infrastructure and administrative systems to run such programs and activities. Without large overhead costs to cover, SSPH+ can focus on its core vision and mission now and in the future. With the termination of the SSPH+ Assistant Professorship Program, SSPH+’s science-oriented focus will be on fostering exchange and strategic debate, and linking SSPH+ Fellows with stakeholders in need of scientific support.

At the center: central services
With lean and flexible central structures, SSPH+ continues to provide central services that the partner institutions would not be able to sustain on their own. The SSPH+ Fellows regularly review the SSPH+ central services to make sure they are tailored to their needs. At this stage, central services include offering the SSPH+ eCampus learning and registration platform as a tool to promote modern didactic methods and technologies, support quality assurance in teaching and training, and develop an SSPH+ alumni network across all programs and courses. In contrast to alumni lists maintained by each single program, a shared alumni network amplifies the network and outreach of all SSPH+ partners to future leaders of public health. Maintaining the SSPH+ Expert Database, to link public health experts with the needs of various stakeholders, is another example of a necessary central service that none of the partners could accomplish on their own. The system supports efforts to close the current gap between stakeholders and the academic public health community. The regular organization of workshops, strategic retreats and task forces is another essential element of promoting public health research and training and of facilitating academic exchange and debate among public health actors. SSPH+ offers such platforms directly and supports workshop initiatives taken by the SSPH+ Fellows. Moreover, the joint SSPH+ PhD programs need a central hub to coordinate and optimize educational offerings and to guarantee SSPH+ students access to all offerings.
at reduced fees. While these programs are funded through grants and registration fees, trans-university offers face inherent gaps and imbalances between SSPH+ partners due to different institutional funding cycles and university rules. SSPH+ will fill the gaps to support a funding scheme across the eight universities that is efficient and fair for all partners.

From science to policy
Public health – the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health – inherently embraces transdisciplinary and translational approaches. To link knowledge at the molecular level with the health statuses and diseases shaping people’s lives in the community, public health calls for science as well as for evidence-based efforts and actions that endorse health-promoting choices, organizations, and health systems. Thus, close collaborations along the continuum from research to practice are essential in this field. It is, then, both a duty and an intriguing opportunity to strengthen collaboration between the various stakeholders in public health academia and professional practice. As the representative of public health academia, SSPH+ is committed to the annual Swiss Public Health Conference and jointly offers and organizes this event with Public Health Schweiz. The positive experiences with the SSPH+ Sabbatical programs so far shall continue to help fill gaps between academia, practice, and policy in the Swiss public health arena. As a partner of the newly funded Swiss Learning Health System, led by the SSPH+ partners at the University of Lucerne, the SSPH+ network will strongly contribute to the stakeholder processes need to formulate evidence-based policies.

From public health training to the public health workforce
Strengthening the Swiss public health workforce is a central goal of SSPH+. This includes clarifying the role of universities in undergraduate public health training. The traditional academic career in public health in Switzerland still consists of studying a range of topics as an undergraduate and graduate student – medicine, biology, economics, etc. – while public health-related competences are gained on the job and through a range of postgraduate programs offered by SSPH+ partners and others. Thus, acquiring specific public health-related skills becomes an expensive and demanding investment, often made in the fourth decade of life. This educational system contributes to the gap we see in Switzerland’s public health workforce, where only one out of three people working in public health positions have received formal training in public health. SSPH+ will evaluate the strength and limitations of international trends towards universities offering undergraduate degrees in public health. Should the future academic public health workforce in Switzerland study public health from the outset, thus, moving from a bachelor and master of public health into public health PhD programs, complemented with specific additional skills in physics, biology, law or economics through selected postgraduate programs? Should public health bachelor degrees be offered at universities of applied sciences alone, with universities stepping in with public health programs at the master and PhD level only? SSPH+ will propose answers to these questions as it continues into its second decade.

From universities to universities of applied sciences
SSPH+ is looking forward to developing strategic alliances and collaborations between public health academics at universities and those at universities of applied sciences (UAS). Both make major contributions to public health training, research, and health-relevant policy-making and action. The new joint organizational structure of Swiss universities and UAS offers unique opportunities to bridge the work of these actors. It includes jointly promoting SSPH+ PhD programs at universities that facilitate PhD careers for academically skilled public health researchers at UAS. During its first decade, SSPH+ successfully identified win-win collaborative solutions among the eight university partners. In the second decade, SSPH+ will expand its search for collaborative public health solutions to include UAS.

From personalized to public health
The promises and challenges of personalized health or precision medicine are not restricted to the transfer of science from bench to bed but call for truly transdisciplinary science, collaboration, and application to link work at the molecular level of biologic pathways and mechanisms with the real life conditions of people. The health system, its...
THE FUTURE OF SSPH+

The future of SSPH+ will be as promising as its past. The new financial concept of partner universities contributing with "membership fees" will provide the same stability SSPH+ has had thanks to the contribution of SERI. At this stage, the SSPH+’s virtual faculty – the SSPH+ Fellows – consists of more than 125 professors working in 15 institutions at the eight funding universities. SSPH+ is happy to welcome others over the years to come.

Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute (EBPI), University of Zurich
Milo Puhan, Director

From 11 to 22 years
Building on its past success and on the commitment of all eight partner universities and their associated public health-oriented institutes, the future of SSPH+ will be as promising as its past. The new financial concept of partner universities contributing with "membership fees" will provide the same stability SSPH+ has had thanks to the contribution of SERI. At this stage, the SSPH+’s virtual faculty – the SSPH+ Fellows – consists of more than 125 professors working in 15 institutions at the eight funding universities. SSPH+ is happy to welcome others over the years to come.
50th Anniversary of ASPHER – Congratulations!

As a young and proud member of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), SSPH+ congratulates ASPHER on its 50th Anniversary in 2016.

ASPHER is an independent European organization dedicated to strengthening the field of public health by improving education and training of public health professionals for both practice and research. ASPHER is a membership-based organization of institutions spread across the EU and WHO European Region. These institutions are collectively concerned with the education, training, and professionalism of those entering and working in the public health workforce. Founded in 1966, ASPHER currently has more than 110 members in 43 European countries. SSPH+ is currently represented in the Executive Board.
### LIST OF ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAQ</td>
<td>Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS</td>
<td>Certificate of Advanced Studies; usually 10–15 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS</td>
<td>Diploma of Advanced Studies; usually 30 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBPI</td>
<td>Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute, University of Zurich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECPM</td>
<td>European Center of Pharmaceutical Medicine, University of Basel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECTS</td>
<td>European Credit Transfer System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERSP</td>
<td>Ecole romande de Santé publique, Universities of Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOPH</td>
<td>Federal Office of Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDK</td>
<td>Swiss Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IdEP</td>
<td>Institute of Economics, Università della Svizzera Italiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDS</td>
<td>Institut de droit de la santé, University of Neuchâtel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IIPH</td>
<td>International Journal of Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISPM Bern</td>
<td>Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Bern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST</td>
<td>Institute for Work and Health, affiliated with the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUMSP</td>
<td>Institut universitaire de Médecine Sociale et Préventive, University of Lausanne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAS</td>
<td>Master of Advanced Studies; usually 60 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA</td>
<td>Master of Business Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH</td>
<td>Master of Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SERI</td>
<td>State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS</td>
<td>Swiss Learning Health System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss TPH</td>
<td>Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute Basel, an independent academic institute associated with the University of Basel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAS</td>
<td>universities of applied sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SSPH+
A Foundation of eight Universities
Basel | Bern | Geneva | Lausanne | Lucerne | Neuchâtel | Svizzera italiana | Zurich