**SSPH+ FACULTY MEETING 2023: 20-21 June (12:30- 12:30), Swiss TPH, Allschwil/Basel**

**SESSION B3 20.6.23 14:00-15:30: Shaping the future of the SSPH+ journals – scientists matter!**

**SESSION H1 21.6.23 11:00-12.00: Challenges and opportunities in a changing world of scientific publishing.**

Format: One parallel Session, B3; one plenary session, H1

Number of participants: open to all interested

B3: Moderator: Christopher Woodrow. Table moderators: Temitope Adebayo; Fred Fenter; Nino Künzli; Peter Raguindin; Franck Vazquez; Christopher Woodrow

H1: Moderator: Christopher Woodrow. Intro Presentations: Fred Fenter (Chief Executive Editor, Frontiers), Nino Kuenzli. Panelists: Sarah Mantwill; Arnaud Chiolero; Fred Fenter; Suzanne Suggs; Nino Künzli

**Context:**

The world of scientific publishing is seeing drastic changes and developments, with “pre-prints” that have not undergone peer-review and abundant mandates for Open Access (OA) publishing just two novelties that were unimaginable only 20 years ago. Since 2021, the fully self-funded SSPH+ journals IJPH and PHR have been OA Gold. In a rigorous evaluation of publishers, SSPH+ opted for the Swiss-based OA publisher Frontiers. A fully transparent contract defines fixed production costs per published article, whereas all remaining revenues belong to the not-for-profit SSPH+. The independent Editorial Office, hosted at Swiss TPH, and the global community of scientific editors and reviewers guarantee a rigorous science-based peer review. As in the time before OA, the publisher has no role or influence in the editorial decision making process. Nevertheless, the journey is full of new developments and challenges that are out of the control of independent “society journals” like IJPH and PHR. The crisis of peer review where scientists claim to have no time to review, plagiarism in the time of ChatGPT, global inequity amplified by APC fees, and non-transparent and extremely expensive ‘Read & Publish’ deals with traditional hybrid publishers are examples of challenges faced by owners of society journals.

The group work in parallel session B3 and the discussion in plenary session H1 will trigger discussions and opportunities to shape the future of the SSPH+ journals.

**Participants:** open to everybody interested. These sessions provide a unique opportunity to address critical questions and to meet the Frontiers CEE, Dr. Fred Fenter.

**Objective B3:**

To discuss ongoing issues relevant to IJPH and PHR and to collect ideas and solutions.

**Structure Session B3:**

The session will be a “World Café” format with various topics discussed in subgroups. There will be three discussion rounds of 15min each, so participants will have the chance to discuss a variety of topics. Participants can choose their three preferred coffee tables. Each table has a moderator who collects the information on a flip board and provides a summary of the outcome to the Directorate.

*Coffee table themes* (moderators)

1. *Recognition of reviewers and editors* (Franck Vazquez, Frontiers): Frontiers plans to launch a “recognition program” where all editors and reviewers will collect “credit points” from all services they provide. It will be easily implemented in the platform. Various options for how to use the “Credit points” will be offered. IJPH and PHR will participate in the pilot of this recognition program, which fully matches the intentions of SSPH+ to reward the services of the research community. As owner of these society journals, SSPH+ can decide about the options to be offered for the use of credit points (e.g. APC discounts, support of SSPH+ training programs, APC-fee waiver programs or “publication reward programs” etc. The coffee table collects ideas from researchers that SSPH+ could consider. Prioritizations, pros and cons of options may be highlighted.
2. *Attracting reviewers* (Temitope Adebayo, Swiss TPH): The SSPH+ journals - like many others – suffer from the “reviewer crisis” where the vast majority of invited reviewers claim: “I do not have time”. In a PHR editorial, editors highlighted the challenge and launched a survey. Based on the thoughts and ideas of the survey participants, this “coffee table” will discuss priorities of the various suggestions, and add missing ideas to come up with solutions (specific rewards will be subject of Coffee Table A).
3. *Strengthening the identity of Society Journals* (Nino Kuenzli, SSPH+): The strong and partly mandatory move toward OA opened major battle grounds between traditional subscription-based publishers (now usually “hybrid publishers” offering OA as an expensive “option”) and new OA-only publishers. The former make their revenues with nontransparent and often highly overpriced subscription fees that are funded by swissuniversities. Participating institutions can offer their scientists full APC waivers for hybrid OA journals, but true Gold OA publishers and society owned journals are excluded. The Gold OA develop their business model with sometimes aggressive marketing strategies to attract submissions. Independent society journals (such as IJPH and PHR) have no voice in the decision strategies of swissuniversities, Plan S and other relevant decision makers, although their editorial independence – with editorial offices fully independent of the business oriented publishers– can guarantee high ethical and scientific standards. However, scientists are usually not aware if they are providing their voluntary services (as reviewers or editors) to for-profit businesses or to not-for-profit societies. The coffee table shall propose ideas about how to raise the scientists’ awareness of the business models of journals for which they provide these unpaid services.
4. *Reputational challenges in OA publishing* (Fred Fenter, Frontiers): The move toward Open Access (OA), where funders or institutions pay for publishing services at acceptance, has been criticized from the beginning as potentially opening the door to fraudulent publishers, who might be tempted to publish manuscripts with little oversight and superficial peer review for financial gain. Despite the rigorous and professional vetting processes by COPE, DOAJ, Web of Science, and others, the term “predatory” still creates alarm and confusion, even when employed by anonymous bloggers, with undeclared motives, and who cannot be held accountable to their accusations. This coffee table shall discuss these challenges and potential solutions.
5. *Motivating SSPH+ faculty to submit manuscripts* (Christopher Woodrow; Swiss TPH): The SSPH+ journals IJPH and PHR would welcome increased submissions of both original articles and review papers from SSPH+ scientists, who are currently eligible for full APC waivers for accepted manuscripts. This coffee table will discuss how to motivate SSPH+ scientists to submit their papers to IJPH and PHR, including potential avenues of support or additional information that may be required*.*
6. *Strengthening the Young Researchers Editorial* (Peter Raguindin, Uni Lucerne): Since 2018, SSPH+ PhD students have acted as the Editorial Board of the YRE series published in IJPH. This IJPH and SSPH+ training empowers the YRE to act as editors and reviewers of Editorials written by the global community of public health PhD students. The coffee table shall discuss how awareness of this unique opportunity for PhD students to take on an the role of an editor could be promoted, and how SSPH+ faculty could encourage their own advanced PhD students to become editors of the YRE series.

**Objective H1:**

* To obtain the views of the publisher and the editors regarding challenges, concerns and opportunities of open access publishing with IJPH and PHR.
* To discuss related issues with the speakers, a panel of editors of IJPH and PHR, and the audience

**Structure Session H1:**

Insights from the Publisher and the Editor, as well as results from the parallel session group work, will lead to a general discussion to identify priorities of action as seen by the audience. The discussion will cover issues such as the role of reputation in scientific publishing, APC developments, financial sustainability for society journals, and the reviewer crisis.

Program:

Introductory talks:

Fred Fenter: Open Access publishing – the perspective of the Chief Executive Editor of Frontiers (15min)

Nino Künzli: Open Access publishing – challenges and opportunities for Society Journals (10min)

Panel Discussion:

Moderator: Christopher Woodrow

Panelists: Speakers and Editors of IJPH and PHR from SSPH+ network, including the following:

1. Arnaud Chiolero, Uni Fribourg, Senior Editor of PHR
2. Fred Fenter, Chief Executive Editor of Frontiers
3. Nino Künzli, SSPH+, Co-Editor in Chief of IJPH
4. Sarah Mantwill, Uni Luzern, Co-Editor in Chief of PHR
5. Suzanne Suggs, Uni Svizzera italiana, Senior Editor of IJPH