WHO WE ARE
SSPH+ assembles public health sciences across Switzerland into one national inter-university faculty. Our faculty’s expertise mirrors the scientific and professional field of public health, which encompasses a broad range of disciplines, spread across universities, faculties, and institutions. The SSPH+ “virtual inter-university faculty” provides a promising base from which to strengthen a cohesive and competent public health structure where the togetherness and critical mass provides an added value.

From January 2019, the SSPH+ Foundation incorporates ten Swiss universities. The two universities of applied sciences, SUPSI and ZHAW, will bring SSPH+ closer to its aim to embrace all Swiss academic institutions active in public health sciences. SSPH+ is coordinated by its Dean’s office – a lean administrative structure to orchestrate collaborations and activities.
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The report is published in English.
Free print copies can be ordered at SSPH+ or downloaded on www.ssphplus.ch/report
SSPH+ FOUNDATION BOARD

Consisting of two members of each SSPH+ partner university (as of 31.12.2018)*

Milo Puhan, President, Zurich
L. Suzanne Suggs, Vice-president, Svizzera italiana
Ed Constable (until summer 2018), replaced by Torsten Schwede, Basel
Kaspar Wyss, Basel
Daniel Candinas, Bern
Matthias Egger (until summer 2018), replaced by Oscar Franco, Bern
Claudine Burton-Jeangros, Geneva
Antoine Flahault, Geneva*
Murielle Bochud, Lausanne
Giorgio Zanetti, Lausanne
Gisela Michel, Lucerne
Wolfgang Schatz, Lucerne
Olivier Guillod, Neuchâtel
Felix Kessler, Neuchâtel
Boas Erez, Svizzera italiana*
Rainer Weber, Zurich

* Antoine Flahault, elected as Deputy Director of SSPH+ in December 2018, will be replaced by Stéphane Berthet as of 1.1.2019. Emiliano Albanese will replace Boas Erez in 2019.

SUPSI and ZHAW new SSPH+ Foundation partners from January 2019

The SSPH+ Foundation Board approved both SUPSI and ZHAW as new Foundation partners, as of January 2019. This marks a major step in the history and development of SSPH+. In line with the strategy of SSPH+ to connect the entire multidisciplinary faculty of public health sciences across all Swiss universities, the Board decided a few years ago to develop a concept on how to include other academic institutions that are members of Swissuniversities and reach a critical mass of public health scientists. The first step of this visionary decision has now been taken with the inclusion of the first two Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) into SSPH+. At this stage, the two UAS add more than 20 new faculty members and fellows to the SSPH+ network. In total, SSPH+ assembles currently over 200 faculty members and fellows, rooted in 10 Swiss universities, numerous faculties and some 40 scientific disciplines.
Let us first thank the SSPH+ Directorate for their immense effort to support the academic public health community in Switzerland and to push and further develop SSPH+ and its community. A special thanks goes to Dominique Sprumont, who served as Deputy Director of SSPH+ for four years. He stepped down in a year where he was the driving force behind the effort of SSPH+ to push for a law on tobacco products and e-cigarettes that protects minors, reduces the smoking prevalence in Switzerland, and allows ratification of the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control. We are delighted that Antoine Flahaut accepted to be the new Deputy Director. He offers his unique experience in public health research, teaching, and leadership and represents the French-speaking part of Switzerland on the Directorate. SSPH+ continued to grow in 2018 in terms of its faculty, who now exceeds 200, but also in terms of new members. The Board of SSPH+ is glad to welcome SUPSI and ZHAW as the first universities of applied sciences to join SSPH+. SUPSI and ZHAW will further strengthen academic public health in Switzerland and the leadership role of SSPH+. We also welcome the new faculty from veterinary public health and environmental science who will strengthen the position of SSPH+ in Global, One, and Planetary Health and contribute to the inclusive and holistic view that SSPH+ has about health on our planet.

The year 2018 was a busy and important year for SSPH+. Our Directorate, the faculty and fellows, as well as the Foundation Board worked intensively on all three strategic pillars of SSPH+: public health training, interuniversity research collaboration, and science to policy. An important development in public health training is the development of the SSPH+ Graduate Campus that will offer training opportunities for any PhD student of SSPH+ faculty with no restrictions and thus make the SSPH+ family even more inclusive and connected. Additionally, we won an EU grant to co-fund 50 PhD students across Switzerland and have already started welcoming new doctoral students into the SSPH+ PhD community. This will continue in 2019 and include a welcome meeting with all the new PhD students where they will get to know each other and the faculty. We believe that a well-connected PhD community will also facilitate research collaborations among SSPH+ faculty and we have already seen new collaborations form because of work we did together in 2018. Our engagement with the new law on tobacco and e-cigarette products made our strategic area of science to policy visible in an unprecedented way. A strong law would be a tremendous success for public health in Switzerland and contribute very importantly to the health of the population in Switzerland and abroad.

We would like to express our deep appreciation for the highly collaborative and positive spirit within the SSPH+ community and hope that you find this annual report both informative and inspiring.

Milo Puhan, President and L. Suzanne Suggs, Vice-president, SSPH+ Foundation Board
Thank you to Dominique Sprumont

Dominique Sprumont, SSPh+ Deputy Director since 2015, was nominated president of the "Commission cantonale d'éthique de la recherche sur l'être humain" of the Canton Vaud and quit his position at SSPh+ at the end of 2018. His unconditional dedication to the development of SSPh+ was a key pillar of the success of SSPh+ during the past years. Dominique was crucial in strengthening the importance of social sciences (and in particular of health law) in the SSPh+ scientific community and also in Europe, where he launched the ASPHER working group on public health law. Thanks to his charisma and tireless networking activities, the commitment of the French speaking universities towards the establishment of a national school has been further reinforced in 2018. Finally, his leadership was instrumental in having public health academia becoming active and speaking with one voice to exert a significant impact on shaping the new federal law on tobacco products. Thank you, Dominique, for the energy and intelligence that you brought to the service of SSPh+.

SSPh+ Faculty Meeting

At the 2018 annual Faculty Meeting in Lausanne on 14-15 June, the theme was “Shaping our Future.” Over 60 faculty members, fellows, and invited guests participated as well as some 40 PhD students who held their annual student meeting just prior to the Faculty meeting. Nouria Hernandez, the rector of the University of Lausanne, as well as Luciana Vaccaro, the rector of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (HES-SO), welcomed the participants in Lausanne and informed us about their two organizations, whom both have a substantial impact on public health.

Participants were again positive about the highly-committed and expanding SSPh+ community, networking opportunities, and the outcome-oriented discussions. Topics of the meeting were health equity (with a discussion led by FOPH representatives), a sustainable and affordable national public health monitoring, the future of the SSPh+ PhD programs, alumni organization, as well as legal/law illiteracy. Dominique Sprumont emphasized the importance of law in public health practice as well as in the education of public health researchers and professionals. For
decades, public health professionals have done legal work without necessarily thinking of it as a “legal” activity. Policy development, building support for new science-based policies, enforcement, monitoring and evaluation of legal interventions and the impact of laws on health should indeed be essential competencies of public health researchers. SSPh+ still needs to work on breaking down the cultural barriers between public health academia and legal activities to adopt the transdisciplinary model.

**SSPh+ ScienceFlashTalk**

The SSPh+ ScienceFlashTalk, launched in 2017, was again offered to PhD students supervised by SSPh+ Faculty members. The aim of this training in communicating scientific presentations quickly and succinctly is to strengthen skills in communicating their research to a broad audience. Students prepared three-minute talks and received guidance via online trainings and a workshop. The training culminated in three rounds of presentations.

Bonaventure Ikediashi, PhD student at the University of Lucerne and supervised by SSPh+ Faculty member Gisela Michel, won at the Geneva Health Forum (GHF) on 10 April 2018, with his flash talk on “Does Sickle Cell Disease Knowledge deficits influence reported painful episodes in adolescents and adults with Sickle Cell Disease?”.

Giulia Pestoni, PhD student at the University of Zurich and supervised by SSPh+ Faculty member Sabine Rohrmann, won at the SSPh+ Faculty Meeting in Lausanne on 14 June 2018, with
Machteld van den Berg, PhD student at the University of Zurich Institute of Biomedical Ethics and Swiss TPH and supervised by SSPH+ Faculty member Marcel Tanner, won the 2018 SSPH+ ScienceFlashTalk Award at the Swiss Public Health Conference in Neuchâtel on 7 November 2018, with her flash talk on “Addressing human realities in large scale clinical trials”.

See the flash talks on our website.

Celebration of SSPH+ Honorary Fellow
During the Faculty Meeting in Lausanne, our scientific community celebrated the award of the SSPH+ Honorary Fellow title to the architect Charles Kleiber (Moutier, 1942). Kleiber has been a leading figure in the development of public health in Switzerland, at the level of practice, politics and academia. After playing an important role in the definition of hospital planning and financing in the seventies, he became Director of the Public Health Department of the Canton Vaud in 1981. He received his PhD at IDHEAP in 1990 with a dissertation about the impact of economic incentives on the performance of healthcare services. In 1992 Kleiber was appointed as General Director of CHUV (the University hospital) and over many years delivered highly appreciated lectures at the Institut d’économie et management de la santé (IEMS) – University of Lausanne. From 1997 to 2007 he served as State Secretary of Education and Research. Inspired by his futuristic vision, in 2002, Kleiber was instrumental in the creation and funding of two collaborative academic networks, one in Public Health and the other in Health Economics. Three years later, in 2005, the two networks merged and led to the birth of SSPH+. It was then that a new era for academic public health in Switzerland started.

SSPH+ Expansion Strategy:
one country, one faculty
The SSPH+ Foundation Board approved the expansion of SSPH+ with the vision to embrace, as part of the Foundation, all academic institutions

FEEDBACK OF VALENTIN BUCHTER, PARTICIPANT OF THE SSPH+ SCIENCEFLASHTALK
I thank you for the opportunity to take the course in storytelling and for the content I learned. This course really changed the way I think about presentations and how I judge them and perceive the structure and content. I feel I learned something forever and I hope I got the message in a way that I can do better presentations. The theory I learned, let’s see if it works! I could even enjoy presenting in the Geneva Health Forum. It was a very nice experience that I will further recommend. Also thanks for all the coordination with the timing and logistics, it was very well organized.

Valentin Buchter, PhD student University of Basel
of swissuniversities with a critical mass of public health scientists. Application procedures have been defined for new partner universities to join ssPH+. All self-identified public health scientists who hold faculty positions at newly joining or at current ssPH+ partner universities can be proposed to become faculty members of ssPH+. The Foundation Board approves new faculty applications at their regular meetings. The approval process fully respects the respective university’s authority and rules in the recruitment of their faculty members. Attention is given to the research orientation of newly proposed faculty members to make sure ssPH+ keeps fully focused on public health sciences.

Universities joining ssPH+ must contribute to the Foundation asset with a one-time deposit (CHF 10'000). The annual contribution of new partner universities to the core funding of ssPH+ follows the ssPH+ Funding Concept 2018-2022: the contribution depends on the number of ssPH+ Faculty members approved upon joining. Half of these new core funding contributions result in an increase of the total annual budget, whereas the other half reduces the core contributions of the eight universities who were already members of ssPH+ in 2018.

The Foundation Board approved the first two universities of applied sciences, SUPSI and ZHAW, to join ssPH+ under the concept of the expansion strategy. As of 1.1.2019, the two add 24 new faculty members and fellows from various departments and public health science disciplines to ssPH+. The 2019 ssPH+ report will profile our new Foundation members. We sincerely welcome them to the ssPH+!

All approved faculty members have equal access to services, events, and funding opportunities of ssPH+. Public health scientists who do not qualify as faculty members may be eligible as “SSPH+ Fellows”. All faculty members may propose new fellows, whose membership is voted on by the Foundation Board.
Launch of GlobalP3HS, the SSPH+ doctoral fellowship program

In January 2018, we received the good news that the SSPH+ Global PhD Program Public Health Sciences (GlobalP3HS), submitted in September 2017 to the highly competitive Horizon 2020 MSCA COFUND, was approved (see separate info box). Funded by the EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) with 4'578'000 €, GlobalP3HS brings 50 PhD students from abroad to Switzerland.

Call 1 exceeded all expectations and drew in a total of 279 applications of which 163 were eligible. All 163 were reviewed by both Swiss and international experts, and 64 successfully passed (22.9% success rate). Call 2 was similarly successful with 135 applications in total and 70 eligible candidates. In the first quarter of 2019, ten students will have started under GlobalP3HS at the universities of Bern and Basel. Many important research topics ranging from healthy aging, studies on prevention of cervical cancer and cardiovascular diseases, to breast cancer screening in South Africa and the mental and neurological effects of prolonged exposure to violence are just some of the exciting and meaningful topics of our new PhD students.

Mandate to represent SSPH+ in the ASPHER-ECDC collaboration on communicable disease prevention and control

In March 2016 a collaboration agreement was signed between ECDC (European Centre of Disease Prevention and Control) and ASPHER (Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region). The aim of this agreement was to ensure the sustainable development of workforce in the field of communicable disease prevention and control, in particular in the area of cross border threats to health. This agreement can contribute to the European Action Plan for Strengthening Public Health Capacities and Services as a key pillar for implementing Health 2020.

Within the framework of this partnership, in 2017 a survey was conducted in order to map training resources of ASPHERs’ Schools of Public Health in the area of communicable disease prevention and control.

A two-day meeting was held in Stockholm on 21-22 February 2018 to share the results of the survey and to identify strategies for future collaboration in this area. SSPH+ mandated Axel Hoffmann, Deputy Head of the Education
and Training Department of Swiss TPH to attend the meeting and identify areas of collaboration for SSPh+. ASPHER and ECDC appreciated the engagement of SSPh+ and welcomed the initiative to host an electronic version of the course inventory.

As a first step, SSPh+ developed an electronic inventory based on the ASPHER survey (https://aspher.ecampus.ssphplus.ch), hosted on the SSPh+ eCampus. In several phone conferences with ASPHER and ECDC the structure, content and presentation of the inventory was optimized – and will be presented in 2019 to the ECDC country focal points for a next revision.

Future activities were planned but are dependent on the available budget:

- To complete the inventory with missing courses
- To re-structure the course categories and to present only the minimum of information; detailed information will be available via links to the hosting institution
- To elaborate the possibilities of sharing training material between the ASPHER member institutions and ECDC

The engagement of SSPh+ will be continued in 2019 and the final inventory and electronic platform will be presented in the next ASPHER conference in November.

FEATURES OF GLOBALP3HS - THE SSPh+ GLOBAL PHD PROGRAM PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

The key features are as follows:

- Students (not supervisors) apply directly for fellowships to one of three calls in 2018/19
- The primary supervisor (an SSPh+ Faculty member) must formally agree to a co-funding scheme
- Funding covers up to 42 months of PhD studies (excluding costs of PhD research projects),
- GlobalP3HS PhD studies include an obligatory internship period in the non-academic sector
- GlobalP3HS students are employed in line with the guidelines of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
- Students and supervisors must agree upon the student’s registration in a structured PhD program, including adherence to additional standards set by those programs (e.g. 18+ ECTS)

More information: ssphplus.ch/en/globalp3hs/
Contact: Dr. Marion Schulze under globalp3hs@ssphplus.ch
The advantages of running SSPH+ under the Funding Concept 2018-2022 have already materialized in the first year of adoption. The clarity, transparency, and predictability of the now settled model has freed up resources at the Directorate level which could be invested in the SSPH+ core activities. The concept pioneers the formation of an inter-university, multi-disciplinary faculty given that no Swiss university could shape the critical mass of a faculty of public health sciences. The strict distinction between “core budget” and “project budget” is an inherent feature of the concept 2018-2022. Core funds are assigned exclusively to the core activities as determined by the SSPH+ Faculty members who regularly receive opportunities to set priorities for core-funded activities. These include, for example, the annual Faculty Meeting, calls for inter-university activities, and mandates to respond to Federal consultations.

All other activities of SSPH+ must be financed through the acquisition of projects. Project examples are our International Journal of Public Health – fully self-funded since many years – and the GlobalP3HS doctoral fellowship program. More than 85% of the GlobalP3HS funds are distributed to the SSPH+ Faculty members who supervise the competitively selected PhD students. The SSPH+ Directorate is constantly dedicated to raise additional funds in support of the SSPH+ faculty. As shown in the table the joining of SUPSI and ZHAW in SSPH+ results in both an increase of the total core budget and a proportional decrease in the contributions of the eight other universities in 2019.

### SOME NUMBERS
(as of 01.01.2019)

- **10** universities make up the SSPH+ Foundation
- **more than 20** institutes are affiliated with SSPH+
- **more than 200** SSPH+ Faculty members and Fellows
- **more than 400** PhD students supervised by SSPH+ Faculty members
- **more than 2000** scientific publications from SSPH+ partner institutes
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<td>PROFIT/LOSS</td>
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SSPH+ Inter-university Graduate Campus
The Foundation Board approved the proposal developed with the SSPH+ faculty to establish the SSPH+ Inter-university Graduate Campus. It is the innovative response of SSPH+ to the decision of swissuniversities to end the funding of inter-university structured PhD programs. The far largest of these inter-university programs – the SSPH+ PhD Program in Public Health – anticipated this change early enough, thus developed a financial strategy since 2016 to guarantee the phasing out of the program without penalizing the PhD students who committed to the rules and educational quality of this program. The Graduate Campus will integrate all relevant high-quality training offers developed by programs destined to close. 2019 marks the planning phase of the Graduate Campus. Though it will keep all academic leadership and guidance in support of public health-oriented PhD tracks previously developed by PhD programs, the current rules and regulations of structured inter-university PhD programs will be abandoned as they became redundant given the developments toward structured programs and graduate schools seen in Swiss universities. The inter-university academic board of the Graduate Campus will guarantee that the platform covers all needs of PhD tracks in public health sciences. In contrast to existing programs, the Graduate Campus will be open to all PhD students supervised by SSPH+ Faculty members, irrespective of the PhD thesis. Moreover, the new platform will provide the tools to continue the SSPH+ efforts to strengthen the inter-university public health postdoctoral community all across our partner institutions.

JOIN THE SSPH+ POSTDOC MAILING LIST
SSPH+ offers the opportunity to connect with public health professionals across Switzerland through the email distributor postdocs@ssphplus.ch. Signing up for this email list serves three purposes:

1. It provides important information on teaching, funding, and networking shared by others
2. It can be used to reach a large group of other public health post-docs in Switzerland at once
3. It informs on how to join the newly developed SSPH+ Inter-university Graduate Campus

If interested in joining the postdoc mailing list, send a brief email to info@ssphplus.ch.

Young Researcher Editorials (YRE)
The new editorial series in the International Journal of Public Health is an SSPH+ training initiative for hands-on-training in scientific publishing (see summary of such initiatives). Advanced SSPH+ PhD students lead the series and PhD students from around the world write the editorials on relevant public health topics. The YRE editors identify what is hot in public health, acquire
and review editorials, and make editorial decisions. They work in the same editorial manager system and adhere to the same ethics and standards as the IJPH editorial board. YRE authors and editors profit from content and language editing provided for all accepted YRE. The first YRE editorial team shaped the YRE processes and published three YRE in 2018. The current YRE editorial board pursues consecutive calls for YRE, in the fields of climate change, technology applications, social media, and emerging diseases. For further information, please contact the current YRE editor-in-chief Apolline Saucy (apolline.saucy@swisstph.ch) and the SSHP website, where you can also read the first Young Researcher Editorials.

**ParisWHO 2018**

SSPH+ supported five of its PhD students to attend the Paris World Health Organization Simulation (ParisWHO), a 3-day student-led conference hosted in Paris (16-18 November 2018). It was organized by students for students and young professionals. The participants got a chance to role play (as a country, an NGO, or press) and learn about the procedures as well as get engaged and more active in global health. Below are illustrative extracts from the reports of two of our students.

**Feedback report by Louise Tangermann, PhD student at Swiss TPH**

The focus of this year was “Environmental Health”. This was one of the main reasons for me to apply for going to the conference, as my topic of research is one of the environmental issues that influence health: noise.

I represented Greece. Like all the participants, I wrote a position paper for before the conference. This helped me learn more about the main issues concerning health and environment in Greece. Late Friday afternoon the conference started with introductory talks into the evening. We learned more details about the main themes of environmental health and how to challenge them through political interventions. The subsequent day, we had two hours in which we learned about the conference proceedings and rules. In our simulation the NGOs had to give stamps approval in order for the regions resolutions to be considered in plenary sessions. The press was playing the role of friend or foe, depending on how they interpreted the discussions happening in the meetings. We were encouraged to use twitter during the whole conference as a means of informing people outside our direct discussions. After learning “the rules of the game” we started the regional meetings. Several of them occurred until midday.
Sunday. In these meetings the countries met in their respective regional bloc. We developed a resolution draft on a topic of our choosing. It was a challenge to face different opinions, preferences and characters in the delegates and still write up a coherent strategy to be shared and voted on in the big plenary at Sunday afternoon. Adding to these challenges the time constraint, the activities and discussions grew intense and heated. We had difficulties getting the approval from the NGOs.

On the final afternoon, we sat in a big assembly hall and amended and voted on our resolutions.

Overall this experience was a very practical way to learn more about the goings-on in the WHO and how decisions are being made that affect the health system of every country. It made me see how difficult these conversations and interactions are and how many things, such as personality of the delegate, power dynamics and deals influence these important decisions that affect health worldwide. Whether or not I will ever be working on the political side of public health, I take a much deeper understanding with me from this experience.

Feedback report by Apolline Saucy, PhD student at Swiss TPH

As a delegate of Sri Lanka, I was part of the SEARO (South East Asia) regional block. We were taught the rules of being a good delegate, such as addressing properly the chairs and other delegates, speaking publicly in a clear and efficient way, building alliances and debating. We also learned more about the procedures to follow in order to ask for a motion, ask for the right to speak and to vote on different amendments. This WHO simulation was a very interesting experience and helped me better understand how decisions and agreements are made between countries in events like WHO and UN meetings. I also learned more about several countries’ health systems and views on environment related topics. The whole experience was very realistic and challenging, as we needed to navigate between different shared documents online and work on our resolution papers as the debate was still going on and spontaneously intervene in the discussion whenever needed. Overall, it motivated me to participate to similar events in the future.

NEW CAS COURSES IN CLINICAL RESEARCH AND MANAGING MEDICINE

Clinical research determines the safety and efficacy of medications, medical devices, diagnostic procedures, and treatments. In the CAS in Clinical Research of the ISPM Bern, participants learn to plan and conduct clinical research projects and communicate their results. Medical care is planned, designed, and delivered - in short, it is managed. Managing Medicine means balancing patient needs with the requirements of service delivery and the dynamics and progress of medicine in a changing health care system. ISPM Bern offers the CAS Managing Medicine in Health Care Organisations in close collaboration with college M and the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, University of Bern.
SSPH+ Best Published PhD Article Award

In March 2018, SSPH+ launched its ninth call for the best published PhD article in public health sciences. In total, 28 PhD students (supervised by an SSPH+ Faculty member) submitted articles, which were evaluated by eight professionals from national and international public health institutions.

Jerry J. Hella from the Ifakara Health Institute / Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Swiss TPH Basel (supervised by Lukas Fenner), won the award for his article: “Tuberculosis transmission in public locations in Tanzania: A novel approach to studying airborne disease transmission”, published in the Journal of Infection, 2017. The study models for the first time in a country representative of sub-Saharan Africa, the risk of tuberculosis (TB) transmission in important public locations by using a novel approach of studying airborne transmission. This approach can guide identification of TB transmission hotspots and targeted interventions to reach WHO’s ambitious End TB targets.

SSPH+ PhD Abstract Award

PhD students registered with the SSPH+ PhD Program in Public Health were invited to submit an abstract for the Swiss Public Health Conference 2018. 28 abstracts were submitted and evaluated by a panel consisting of the SSPH+ Directorate and former SSPH+ Assistant Professors. The following PhD students were awarded:

Magali Leyvraz / IUMSP Lausanne
Sodium intake and blood pressure in children and adolescents with normal and elevated blood pressure: A systematic review and meta-analysis (supervised by Arnaud Chiolero)

Giulia Pestoni / EBPI Zurich
Determinants of diet quality and differences in food consumption between Swiss language regions (supervised by Sabine Rohrmann)

Alexandra Strassmann / EBPI Zurich
Job industries at high risk for airway obstruction and mortality – A Swiss large-scale cohort study (supervised by Milo Puhan)
Swiss Citizen Cohort: step by step forward
Establishing a large-scale national prospective cohort remains a top priority of the SSPH+ faculty. The project for the Swiss Citizen Cohort, led by Nicole Probst-Hensch in collaboration with Murielle Bochud, has made further progress. With major contributions from FOPH, the Biomonitoring project HBM4EU of Horizon2020 and both, the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute and the Département Université Lausanne, a pilot study run in Basel and Lausanne will provide further insights into key issues related to the logistics, communication, participation, and consent. The study will also give insights into the acceptance of providing data for a national population-based study on health, diseases and wellbeing.

International Journal of Public Health: open for Open Access
The International Journal of Public Health (IJPH) of SSPH+ is still a subscription-based journal with the option for authors to publish open access (hybrid model). IJPH is produced by Springer-Nature, New York. In 2017, the rate of open access (OA) articles increased to 36% due to SpringerNature’s agreements with other institutions (Springer Compact) and author preferences, and was again 36% in 2018. IJPH continues to monitor global developments closely while fostering the strategy towards OA publishing. Discussions include the platinum OA model (free for authors and readers), and the gold OA model (free for readers). The former requires substantial funding. Despite the enthusiasm for OA details of the future OA model require

Anke Berger,
Manager IJPH Editorial Office, Swiss TPH

NATIONAL REGISTRY FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER AT ISPM BERN
The Swiss Childhood Cancer Registry (SCCR) at the University of Bern has collected data on children and adolescents with cancer in Switzerland for over 40 years. Now, the registry will be converted into a federal registry to further improve the documentation, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer in the young. The Registry is directed by Claudia Kuehni and Verena Pfeiffer.

NICER – THE FOUNDATION NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY AND REGISTRATION
NICER was entrusted with the task of National Cancer Registration Office by the Federal Department of Home Affairs, and reports to the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH). NICER already leads, standardizes and develops the cancer registration processes according to the Cancer Registration Law, taking effect on 1 January 2020. While the tasks of the National Cancer Registration Office are compensated by the FOPH, the research arm of NICER requires separate funding. Competitive Research / Collaboration and Services must therefore be further developed. NICER is newly headed by Ulrich Wagner.
NEW DIRECTOR AT ISPM BERN: PROF. OSCAR FRANCO
In June 2018, Prof. Oscar Franco assumed the directorship of ISPM.

In 2012 Prof. Franco returned to Erasmus University Medical Center as a professor of preventive medicine and the principal investigator of the cardiovascular epidemiology group. He also founded and directed the Rotterdam Intergenerational Ageing Research Center (www.erasmusage.com), and is a cofounder and the CEO of Erasmus Epidemiology Resources (erasmusepidemiologyresources.com). He has over 600 international publications and H-index of 77.

In June 2018, Prof. Oscar Franco assumed the directorship of ISPM. Prof. Franco obtained his MD at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá (1998), and MSc and DSc degrees in clinical epidemiology and a PhD in public health and cardiovascular disease prevention (2005) at the Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands. Following a postdoc there, he was a senior public health epidemiologist at Unilever England, Assistant Professor of public health at the University of Warwick, and then director of the MPhil program and clinical lecturer in public health at the University of Cambridge.

in 2018, the editorial board meeting took place out of Europe, for the first time, at the University of Valle, Cali, Colombia. To strengthen the IJPH profile in Latin America, IJPH presented a special issue “Environmental and Health Equity” with a best article award competition in Cali at the conference of the International Association for Ecology and Health (EcoHealth). IJPH editors (Nino Künzli and Lyda Osorio) held a 4-hour workshop “Meet the IJPH Editor” for MSc and PhD students of the University of Valle.

continued evaluation. A viable financial model remains essential for SSPH+, i.e. OA under the auspice of large publishers remains unattractive, as long as shared revenues are limited, subject to consortia negotiations and in-transparent to SSPH+. To balance quantity (i.e. the number of published articles) as a driver of revenues and quality remains an additional challenge for IJPH. In 2019, SSPH+ will settle the future publishing strategy. The SSPH+ will invite its faculty for a planning workshop to shape the future of IJPH.

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Swiss Public Health Conference on "Better Health Faster: Social Science for Public Health", in Neuchâtel, 7-8 November 2018
Our health, both as individuals and members of the society, depends on several factors, namely our genetic predisposition, our behaviour, environmental and living conditions as well as our access to health care. Although the latter factor is responsible for only 15 to 20 percent of our health, health care costs almost entirely flow to this sector. Our healthcare system is primarily focused on the care of the sick. The associated steady increase in health insurance premiums is one of the biggest sources of concern for the Swiss population, especially for families. Accordingly, it dominates the public debate on health policy.

Social sciences understand individual and collective health in a sense beyond the biomedical framework. They help to understand how the social environment, concrete living conditions and behavior influence our health. From these findings, public health options can be developed that can complement our health care system.

What can the social sciences contribute to promote a health-oriented policy? What are the opportunities and challenges of such an approach? How do we translate recommendations into practice? These were the central questions of the Swiss Public Health Conference 2018 of Public Health Switzerland and SSPH+, hosted this year by the University of Neuchatel.

In the first part of the conference, the latest findings on health determinants were presented. The goals for sustainable development in the 2030 Agenda and their influence on the Swiss health foreign policy were discussed as well as our personal behaviour. The second part of the conference analyzed the political processes around health promotion: How can scientific findings be incorporated into policy decisions and help to develop solutions? Finally, in the third part, concrete action options at cantonal and national level were identified based on successful experiences.

A varied program with contributions from research, practice and politics was compiled. Among the speakers were high-ranking scientists such as Sir Michael Marmot, national politicians and experienced experts from the field.

Outlook: Swiss Public Health Conferences 2019-2021
28 – 29 August 2019 in Winterthur
Child and Adolescent Public Health
hosted by the School of Health Professions, ZHAW

2 – 3 September 2020 in Lucerne
From Evidence to Public Health Policy and Practice
hosted by the Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy, University of Lucerne

25 – 26 August 2021 in Berne
Half a Century of Social and Preventive Medicine in Switzerland
hosted by the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM), University of Bern
Accompanying research on Basel hospital merger
On behalf of the University Hospital Basel, the SSPH+ mandated the EBPI with the planning of a study, which wanted to investigate the positive and negative effects of a hospital merger on patient and health care system outcomes in the Cantons of Basel-Landschaft and Basel-Stadt. The hospital merger was subject to a public vote on February 10, 2019, with a rejection by the citizens of Canton Basel-Stadt. Thus, the effect of a hospital merger cannot be evaluated as planned by the EBPI. Yet, the investigation of the health care system in Northwestern Switzerland is still of high interest for the local public, health care professionals, health care entities and health authorities. In a collaboration with the Swiss Health Observatory (Obsan), the EBPI will develop a health care database and will investigate the status-quo situation in Northwestern Switzerland. This project will combine several health care system databases which allows a long-term health care system surveillance across different types of health care, and will likely impact future research and developments in Switzerland’s health care epidemiology.

UNISANTÉ – NEW UNIVERSITY CENTER IN LAUSANNE

In 2018, the Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine (IUMSP) has been preparing for a major institutional reorganisation, based upon a political decision (at the cantonal level) made at the end of 2017 to create a new university center: Center for Primary Care and Public Health (Unisanté), University of Lausanne, Switzerland. The center is part of the Faculty of Biology and Medicine of the University of Lausanne. Unisanté is centered around the Policlinique médicale universitaire (PMU) and includes, in addition to the IUMSP, the Institute for work health and the association Promotion Santé Vaud. With more than 800 collaborators active in academic primary care and public health, the new center is unique in Switzerland. Its four main missions are (1) to contribute to health services research and more broadly to public health research to better respond to the need of the population, (2) to develop, organize and evaluate primary care with specific focus on access to health care and orientation within the health care system, (3) to develop, organize and evaluate activities in social medicine, with a focus on vulnerable groups, (4) to develop, organize and evaluate interventions in the field of primary and secondary prevention. As an academic institution, Unisanté is responsible for the FMH certification of medical doctors in primary care, public health and work health, for the pregraduate education of medical doctors in primary care, public health and work health and for the education of PhD in epidemiology and public health as part of the Life Sciences doctoral programme of the University of Lausanne. The center is also very active in offering post-graduate training for health care and public administration professionals in public health, health management and health economics.

Unisanté is organized in seven departments: (1) epidemiology and health care systems, (2) medical policlinics, (3) vulnerable populations and social medicine, (4) environmental and work health, (5) prevention and health promotion, (6) family medicine, (7) education, research and innovation, which includes the biostatistics sector.
Antoine Flahault has joined the Directorate of SSPh+ as its Deputy Director in January 2019. A Medical Doctor by background, he specialized in public health and earned a PhD in biomathematics in Paris. His research on digital epidemiology is focused on mathematical modelling of infectious diseases. He coordinated interdisciplinary research on Chikungunya in Indian Ocean and on dengue in French Caribbean islands. He directed the WHO collaborating center on electronic disease surveillance, which led him to develop and launch FluNet the first online tool on global surveillance of influenza which demonstrated its usefulness during the last H1N1 influenza pandemic in 2009. He works on epidemic forecasting, having contributed to set up automated and open weekly forecasts for influenza-like-illness during the seasonal outbreak in France (Inserm Prize in 2006).

Hired as Full Professor by the University of Geneva in 2014, he is the founding director of the Institute of Global Health, installed at the Campus Biotech a joint facility shared by UNIGE and EPFL because “Switzerland has become the Digital Health Valley in Europe, with an amazing data science ecosystem for public health”. He also promotes projects combining data science with social sciences and life science to make a difference in public health. “Precision Global Health”, an approach conceptualized in Geneva, aims to use the digital revolution to help those in charge to deliver (or coordinate) the right intervention to the right population in the right time. For instance, one team is developing artificial intelligence tools for the early identification of snake bites, in order to quickly match types of snakes with the relevant anti-venoms.

Committed to innovative education, he has developed a couple of massive open online courses (MOOCs) available for free on Coursera, which are used by SSPH+ doctoral students but also in refugee camps, contributing to capacity building abroad, too.
The last few years confirm the strong interest in the academic Swiss public health community to strengthen its ties across boundaries of disciplines, faculties, and universities. This encourages the Directorate to continue on the chosen path with its major focus on facilitating exchange and communication to foster the virtual faculty of public health sciences. With the launching of the Graduate Campus, SSPPH+ will have the tools to become a far more inclusive network, embracing not only the faculty members and fellows, but also the backbone of public health sciences, namely the community of PhD students and young investigators affiliated with the SSPPH+ partner institutions. In line with the concept of inclusiveness, SSPPH+ will further develop its expansion strategy to make sure all public health researchers in the academic landscape assembled in swissuniversities will find their proper place in the multi-disciplinary inter-university faculty of SSPPH+. Welcome on our journey!

The SSPPH+ Directorate
### LIST OF ACRONYMS

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>EBPI</td>
<td>Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute, University of Zurich</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECDC</td>
<td>European Center for Disease Prevention and Control</td>
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<td>EEPE</td>
<td>European Educational Program in Epidemiology</td>
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<td>FOPH</td>
<td>Federal Office of Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEC/IEMS</td>
<td>Faculty of Business and Economics/Plateforme interfacultaire en économie et management de la santé, University of Lausanne</td>
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<td>IJPH</td>
<td>International Journal of Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>IUMSP</td>
<td>Institut universitaire de Médecine Sociale et Préventive, University of Lausanne</td>
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<td>MSCA</td>
<td>Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions</td>
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<td>NCCR</td>
<td>National Centers of Competence in Research</td>
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<td>NICER</td>
<td>National Institute for Cancer Epidemiology and Registration</td>
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<td>PD</td>
<td>Privatdozent</td>
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<td>SLHS</td>
<td>Swiss Learning Health System</td>
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<td>SNSF</td>
<td>Swiss National Science Foundation</td>
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<td>Swiss TPH</td>
<td>Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute Basel, an independent academic institute associated with the University of Basel</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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Check out our website with all the news and state of our service highlights

- European Educational Program in Epidemiology (EEPE)
- SSHP+ Course Database
- SSHP+ eCampus
- SSHP+ Expert Database
- SSHP+ Internship Program (IP)
- Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics and Management
- Swiss Learning Health System (SLHS)
Becoming an SSPh+ Faculty Member
Faculty members in any of the 10 partner universities (from PD to all types of Professors), who self-identify their academic profile as public health oriented may qualify to become an SSPh+ Faculty member, regardless of the faculty or institutional affiliation. Any current faculty member can propose you by sending an email to info@ssplus.ch with the following information: a CV, a short explanation on how your research relates to public health and a statement on your motivation to join SSPh+ Faculty. All faculty members have full access to all information, services, activities and funding opportunities of SSPh+ and are, by default, “SSPh+ Fellows”. New faculty members from any of the 2018 university partners do not affect the 2018-2022 core funding structure of SSPh+.

Becoming an SSPh+ Fellow
If you are not a faculty member of one of the 10 partner universities but engaged in public health academia, including teaching and training, you may still qualify to become an SSPh+ Fellow. Any current faculty member can propose you to become a Fellow. Send us a short explanation to info@ssplus.ch on how your activities relate to public health academia and a statement on your motivation to join SSPh+.

## List of SSPh+ Faculty Members and Fellows

**as of 31.12.2018**

**Bovet Pascal, Lausanne**
**Briel Matthias, Basel**
**Broers Kayser Barbara, Geneva**
**Brun Reto**, Basel
**Bucher Heiner, Basel**
**Bulliard Jean-Luc, Lausanne**
**Burgot Sabrina**, Neuchâtel
**Burri Christian, Basel**
**Burton-Janegros Claudine, Geneva**
**Calciolari Stefano**, Svizzera italiana
**Cantoreggi Nicola**, Geneva
**Chappuis Francois, Geneva**
**Chilero Arnaud, Bern**
**Chitin Nakul, Basel**
**Christie Derek**, Geneva
**Cissé Gueladio, Basel**
**Clough-Gorr Kerri M., Bern**
**Comte Eric**, Geneva
**Cornuz Jacques, Lausanne**
**Crivelli Luca, Svizzera italiana**
**D'Acramont Valérie, Basel**
**Dagron Stéphanie, Geneva**
**Danuser Brigitta, Lausanne**
**Daubenberger Claudia, Basel**
**De Geest Sabina, Basel**
**Deplazes Peter, Zurich**
**De Savigny Don, Basel**
**Diebold Monika**, Obsan
**Dratva Julia, Basel**
**Dressel Holger, Zurich**
**Dunand Jean-Philippe, Neuchâtel**
**Dupont Anne-Sylvie, Neuchâtel**
**Dusheiko Mark, Lausanne**
**Egger Matthias, Bern**
**Elger Bernice, Geneva**
**Elia Nadia, Geneva**
**Etter Jean-François, Geneva**
**Fäh David, Zurich**
**Fehr Jan, Zurich**
**Felder Stefan, Basel**
**Felder Ingrid, Basel**
**Fenner Lukas, Basel**
**Filippini Massimo, Svizzera italiana**
**Fink Günther, Basel**
**Flahaut Antoine, Geneva**
**Fraelf Cornel, Zurich**
**Franco Oscar, Bern**
**Furrer Reinhard, Zurich**
**Gagneux Sébastien, Basel**
**Geissbuhler Antoine, Geneva**
**Gempeler Armin, Lucerne**
**Genton Blaise, Basel**
**Gerfin Michael, Bern**
**Giammagopoulos Pantaleimon**, Geneva
**Glass Tracy, Basel**
**Grey François, Geneva**
**Grimm Felix**, Zurich
**Guessous Idris, Geneva**
**Guillod Olivier, Neuchâtel**
**Gussetti Franco, Zurich**
**Guseve-Canu Irina, Lausanne**
**Hämmig Oliver, Zurich**
**Hatz Christoph, Basel**
**Heg Dik, Bern**
**Held Leonard, Zurich**
**Hettzel Manuel, Basel**
**Heusser Rolf**, Zurich
**Hoffmann Axel**, Basel
**Hothorn Torsten, Zurich**
**Hurst-Majno Samia, Geneva**
**Kabengele Emmanuel, Geneva**
**Katapodi Maria, Basel**
**Keiser Jennifer, Basel**
**Keiser Oliva, Geneva**
**Kickbusch Ilona**, Graduate Institute Geneva
**Kipar Anja, Zurich**
**Koella Jacob, Neuchâtel**
**Koller Michael, Basel**
**Kouyos Roger Dimitri, Zurich**
**Kraus Daniel, Neuchâtel**
**Kriemler Susi, Zurich**
**Kuehni Claudia, Bern**
**Kunz Regina, Basel**
**Künzli Nino, Basel**
**Kutalik Zoltan, Lausanne**
**Landolf Markus, Zurich**
**Leibundgut Solome, Zurich**
**Lengeler Christian, Amsterdam**
**Liebsang Annette, Zurich**
**Loncar Dejan**, Geneva
**Low Nicola, Bern**
**Mallet Luc, Geneva**
**Marques-Vidal Pedro Manuel, Lausanne**
**Marti Joachim, Lausanne**
**Martin Mike, Zurich**
**Martin-Diener Brian, Zurich**
**Maser Pascal, Basel**
**Masiero Giuliano, Svizzera italiana**
**Mathis Alexander, Zurich**
**Mättig Thomas, Geneva**
**Maurer Jürgen, Lausanne**
**Mausezahl Daniel, Basel**
**Mazzonna Fabrizio, Svizzera italiana**
**Meier Laurent, Neuchâtel**
**Meneguzo Marco, Svizzera italiana**
**Merten Sonja, Basel**
**Michel Gisela, Lucerne**
**Mimra Wanda**, ETH Zurich
**Mohr-Kuo Meichun, Zurich**
**Moore Sarah, Basel**
**Moussy Francis, Geneva**
**Motamed Sandrine**, Geneva
**Müller Alain**, Neuchâtel
**Müller Piet**, Basel
**Mütsch Margot, Zurich**
**Nguyen Vinh-Kim**, Graduate Institute Geneva
**Nicca Junja, Basel**
**Nordmann Alain, Basel**
**Obrist Brigit, Basel**
**Odermatt Peter, Basel**
**Paris Daniel, Basel**
**Peng-Keller Simon, Zurich**
**Penny Melissa, Basel**
**Perneger Thomas, Geneva**
**Petignat Patrick, Geneva**
**Peyermann-Bridevaux Isabelle, Lausanne**
**Pica Giovanni, Svizzera italiana**
**Pittet Didier, Geneva**
**Pittet Valérie, Lausanne**
**Pluschke Gerd, Basel**
**Profh-Hensch Nicole, Basel**
**Puhani Milos, Zurich**
**Quednow Boris, Zurich**
**Rapiti Elisabetta, Geneva**
**Ray Nicolas, Geneva**
**Reichenbach Stephan, Bern**
**Rodondi Nicolas, Bern**
**Rohrmann Sabine, Zurich**
**Rössli Martin, Basel**
**Rousson Valentin, Lausanne**
**Rubinelli Sara, Lucerne**
**Scuola Di Castellina Rafael**, Geneva
**Salanti Georgia, Bern**
**Santos-Eggimann Brigitte, Lausanne**
**Saraceno Benedetto**, Geneva
**Schelling Esther, Basel**
**Schindler Christian, Basel**
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**Schneider Manuela, Zurich**
**Schöpfer Ullrich, Zurich**
**Schorr Doris, Geneva**
**Schwappach David, Bern**
**Schwenklenks Matthias, Basel**
**Sendi Pedram, Basel**
**Simon Michael, Basel**
**Simos Jean, Geneva**
**Smith Thomas A, Basel**
**Spaar Anne**, FOPH
**Spencer Brenda, Lausanne**
**Sprecher Franziska, Bern**
**Sprumont Dominique, Neuchâtel**
**Spycher Ben, Bern**
**Stephan Roger, Zurich**
**Stoll Beat, Geneva**
**Stringhini Silvia, Lausanne**
**Stucki Gerold, Lucerne**
**Suggs L. Suzanne, Svizzera italiana**
**Suris Granell Joan-Carles, Lausanne**
**Szucs Thomas, Basel**
**Tedio Fabrizio, Basel**
**Thuovenen Florent, Zurich**
**Torgerson Paul R, Zurich**
**Trelle Sven, Bern**
**Utzinger Jürg, Basel**
**van Eeuwijk Piet, Basel**
**Vayenas Effy**, Zurich
**Vernez David, Lausanne**
**Vienneau Danielle**, Basel
**von Wyl Viktor, Zurich**
**Voss Till, Basel**
**Vouantsos Penelope, Basel**
**Walttza Susanne, Zurich**
**Wanda Mimo**, Zurich
**Wanderer Gilles, Bern**
**Wasserfallen Jean-Blaise, Lausanne**
**Watzeck Birgit, Zurich**
**Witt Claudia, Zurich**
**Wys Kaspar, Basel**
**Zemp Stutz Elisabeth, Basel**
**Zinsstag Jakob, Basel**
**Zwahlen Marcel, Bern**

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