Public Health in Europe
Public Health in Europe

– 10 Years European Public Health Association –

Selected Manuscripts from the 10th Annual Congress of the European Public Health Association, 28–30 November 2002, Dresden, Germany
I am sincerely thankful to my co-workers Dr. rer. med. Peggy Göpfert, M.A. Päd. Nicole Wagner, Dipl.-Soz. Dirk Muesel, Dipl.-Oec. Ines Kube, Mrs. Beatrix Hörger from the BMBF Research Association Saxony, Mrs. Simone Arras and Dipl.-Päd. Christiane Hagedorn for their important help in editing the underlying book "Public Health in Europe".

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During the 10th Annual Congress of EUPHA from 28–30 November 2002 in Dresden Honour Medals of the German Society of Public Health (DGPH) were presented to:

- **Prof. Dr. Jouke van der Zee**, Utrecht, The Netherlands, one of the founders of EUPHA and member of its Executive Council, for this attainments concerning in the development of Health Services Research in Europe and the European Public Health Association.

- **Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Heinz Häfner**, Director emeritus of the Central Institute of Mental Health in Mannheim, Germany for his merits for Public Health in Germany. Professor Häfner was Chairman of the Scientific Council of the German Government from 1976-1983 and Chairman of the Evaluation Board of the German Research Ministry (BMBF) for the 5 Public Health Research Associations (Bavaria [Munich], Berlin, Northern Germany [Hanover], North Rhine-Westphalia [Bielefeld/Duesseldorf] and Saxony [Dresden]) from 1990–2002.
Preface

“La patience et l’amour peuvent seuls nous conduire au coeur battant du monde.”
‘Le vent à Djémila’

ALBERT CAMUS

After foundation of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) 1992 in Paris, yearly conferences took place in Maastricht, Copenhagen, Budapest, London, Pamplona, Gothenburg, Prague, Paris, and Brussels. From 28 to 30 November 2002 the 10th Annual Congress was held in Dresden, Germany. Thus, on the occasion of EUPHA’s anniversary the idea came up to publish a book with the most important contributions of this conference. In particular some retrospectives and perspectives of the development and achievements of EUPHA should be reflected. This demand was fulfilled for the present book publication. Therefore, scientists like Professor Louise Gunning-Schepers, who was the first president of EUPHA, or Professor Jouke van der Zee, who has been EUPHA’s secretary for many years, had to be recruited as authors. Of course, further manuscripts with interesting themes were included.

In conclusion, we very much appreciate that we were able to edit a book on the occasion of a EUPHA conference, namely its 10th annual meeting.

The main sponsors of our congress and the present book publication were the European Commission in Luxembourg, Directorate – General Health & Consumer Protection SPC.2002270, the Open Society Institute (OSI) of the Soros Foundation, New York 20008644, the German Ministries of Research (BMBF) 01EG0201 and of Health (BMG) Z21-4005, the German Research Federation (DFG) 4851/36/02 and the State Ministry of Research Saxony (SMWK) 4-7531.50-05-02/1. This book publication was produced in kind cooperation and with the support of the WHO/Euro Copenhagen, Denmark.

Concerning the future of EUPHA, let me close with two sentences from Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Jefferson Day Speech in 1945: “The only limit of our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with a strong and active faith.”

Dresden, May 2003

Wilhelm Kirch
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Editorial

As outlined in the preface, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of EUPHA a book publication with some of the main contributions of the conference is here published for the first time in EUPHA history. This is particularly important as the 10th annual EUPHA meeting gave the opportunity for a plenary on 10 years EUPHA with reflections on EUPHA’s history and future. Therefore, in the present book publication four lectures on Ten Years EUPHA are contained (“Public Health at the turn of the 20th century, Europe coming of age”, “The future of EUPHA”, “EUPHA 10 years: the annual conference”, “European Journal of Public Health and EUPHA – 10 years on”).

Furthermore, contributions are presented on the topics Public Health Research and Practice and on Health Care Services. Finally, as a fourth major theme of the underlying book, articles on Information and Promotion in Public Health are given. Thus, the contributions cover in general the main headlines of the Dresden conference.

In the section 10 Years European Public Health Association (EUPHA), Louise Gunning-Schepers provides an overview on aspects of Public Health at the turn of the century. This contribution gives an outline of Public Health history and new aspects and developments in the last decades of the 20th century in Europe. In detail under the head “The future of EUPHA”, Viviane van Casteren presents an outlook of EUPHA perspectives. She particularly emphasizes the mission that EUPHA will pursue during the next 10 years: being a platform of exchange between health professionals in research and practice and taking over a bridging function between these professionals and policymakers. Jouke van der Zee et al. give a review on past and present conferences of EUPHA, since the organisation and coordination of those is one of EUPHA’s main tasks. In his contribution he outlines the history of EUPHA meetings from the beginning in Paris (1992) and Maastricht (1993) via Copenhagen (1994), Budapest (1995), London (1996), Pamplona (1997), Gothenburg (1998), Prague (1999), Paris (2000), Brussels (2001) to 2002 in Dresden. The fourth lecture under the head Ten Years EUPHA was presented by Martin McKee on the topic “European Journal of Public Health and EUPHA – 10 years on”. His article portrays the development of the European Journal of Public Health describing the beginning as well as the original conditions that led to the birth of this journal, up to its current position.

The article “Public Health and the Way Forward” by Gunnar Tellnes gives an overview of the development of research in public health and epidemiology up to the 21st century. He presents a new approach to health promotion with the Nature-Culture-Health concept. The contribution “Public Health and Public Health research in the European Union. The need for a new alliance” by Hans Stein gives an insight into the current situation of Public Health and Public Health research in the European Union. He addresses problems and needs, and draws conclusions for future actions. Godfried Thiers considers “Public Health Research Strategies in Europe and the WHO”. He describes the meaning of public health research for the European and international health policy. Els Borst-Eilers presents the development of Public Health in the Netherlands. She describes current issues and dilemmas
of Public Health. A view on “Public Health in France” is presented by Marc Brodin in his article. This contribution describes structures and processes in the French health care system. Friedrich Wilhelm Schwartz et al. show in “Public Health in Germany” the context of Public Health aspects, prevention and the health care system in Germany. An important concern of Public Health research and practice is the ageing population and its impact on the health care system. Margot Fälker describes in “Ageing and Health Policy” the demographic changes that we are facing and their influence on financing the health care system including propositions how solidarity can be saved. Christian von Ferber gave the Ferenc Bojan-Memorial lecture. He presents data on the “Meaning of life expectancy for the individual, for Public Health, and for social security systems” and points out that research in life expectancy is still neglected and describes perspectives for future activities. Dealing with another important topic is the contribution of Liselotte von Ferber et al. “The Significance of Drug utilization for Public Health”. They discuss issues of inadequate drug prescribing by physicians and inadequate drug use by the patient that may result in illnesses and even death. Finally they point out methodologies of drug utilization research and Public Health research that helps to improve the prescribing of drugs and utilisation techniques. Another aspect of Public Health research and practice is presented by Ulrike Maschewsky-Schneider & Judith Fuchs. In their manuscript “Gender bias – gender research in Public Health” they introduce results of a project that evaluated public health aspects of sex and the sensitivity of scientists for this topic as well as the frankness of scientific journals for gender based analysis.

The first contribution in the area Health Care Services is the article by Bernhard Badura “From patient-centred medicine to citizen-oriented health policy-making” discussing patient participation and cooperation of representatives of the health care system and patients up to an involvement of the citizens in health policy-making. Pietro Crovari and Roberto Gasparini provide an insight to “Influenza surveillance”. Characteristics, objectives, methods of surveillance and other indicators of influenza activity are presented. The authors conclude that it is necessary to combine several methods to have a sufficient picture of the virus. Heinz Häfner focuses another important aspect that needs to be considered. His contribution deals with “The mental health care system on its way to integration in general health care”. This issue is particularly important when we look at the great number of people suffering from mental illnesses. Another paper discussing issues from the field Public Mental Health is written by Thomas Kallert et al. “The role of acute day hospital treatment for mental health care: research context and practical problems of carrying out the international multi-centre EDEN-study” supported by the EU. The authors introduce results of the European Day Hospital Evaluation (EDEN) study that analyses the effectiveness of acute psychiatric day hospitals in different European countries. Thomas Becker et al. also present a contribution to the field of Public Mental Health. They discuss current research outcomes of some EU-funded projects for the development of evidence-based mental health services. The importance of cost-effectiveness-analyses increases against the background of permanently arising costs in health care systems. Matthias Angermeyer et al. introduced a European project, comparing the cost-effectiveness of mental health services in several European countries. He points out that the empirical basis of this topic is small in European context and further adequate investigations are necessary. David Pittrow et al. present “Hypertension and diabetes care among primary care doctors in Germany: results from an epidemiological cross-sectional study”. This contribution gives an overview of the HYDRA-study, its aims, methodology and selected results. The study aims to describe representatively the prevalence, duration and severity of both illnesses. The authors also describe the current health practise for these indications. Finally, differences in East- and West-Germany in diagnosis and treatment are characterised. The contribution of Piotr Dylewicz et al. deals with aspects of “Cardiac Rehabilitation”. They de-
scribe the usefulness of cardiac rehabilitation in the Public Health system that was proven during the past four decades and finally they outline goals of cardiac rehabilitation and secondary prevention for the 21st century. An analysis of geographical variations in cancer mortality and their relationships with population characteristics is given in the paper by Carolyn A. Davies & Alastair H. Leyland “Spatial patterns of cancer mortality in Europe”. They are able to show that a high variability in cancer mortality between and within countries in EU is evident. Another important Public Health issue is covered by the article of Klaus Boening et al. In their contribution “Evidence-based dentistry and Dental Public Health: a German perspective” they state that evidence-based dentistry is a field that belongs to the Public Health discipline but that is still undervalued in current practice.

The section Information and Promotion starts with an article by Dirk Meusel et al. “Public use files – the dissemination of empirical research data of the German Public Health research associations via the internet” describing an opportunity to distribute research data gained and make them accessible for further research and analysis, and thus to open a way to share information among researchers. Michael Rigby et al. state in their manuscript “The span in information from researching new tools to accessible presentation – experience from child and adolescent health” that it is highly important to focus the particularities of certain population groups such as children when developing health information systems. A study aiming on determination of a statistical model capable of explaining the choices of patients and their doctors regarding hospital admission is introduced by Nicola Nante et al. in the paper “Hospital patient migration: analysis using a utility index”. They list several determinants for the choice of a place for treatment. The contribution of Joris Yzermans et al. “The impact of disasters: long term effects on health” describes the influences of catastrophes on the health of involved persons. The effect of expenditures and utilisation of medicinal products in the European Union is illustrated by Pietro Folino-Gallo et al. in the paper “Impact of medicines on Public Health: EURO-MED-STAT”. The authors present some results of this European project. In his paper “Health risks of psychosocial stress at work: evidence and implications for occupational health services” Johannes Siegrist provides a selective overview of recent progress in research of psychosocial stress at work and its impact on the workers’ health. The meaning of Public Health education as postgraduate programs at universities has increased. Jürgen von Troshcke et al. give an insight into new accreditation systems for Public Health studies following the so called Sorbonne declaration and discusses it in the context of the Bologna process.

In conclusion, the present book contains a number of highly interesting and topical contributions in the field of Public Health and it is pleasing for us that we were able to edit it in a reasonably short period after our congress.

Dresden, May 2003

Wilhelm Kirch
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Part I 10 Years of European Public Health Association (EUPHA)
Public health at the turn of the 20th century, Europe coming of age

Louise J. Gunning-Schepers

Introduction

The twentieth century is often denoted as the era in which health care became effective. Both preventive programmes such as vaccination and curative interventions such as anti-biotic treatment, surgical interventions and drugs vastly changed the population's health landscape in both developed and developing countries. Especially after the second world war, in the second half of that century, with social health insurance achieving universal access to health services in most European countries and health research generating ever more clinically relevant results, the sense of a new era full of promise was pervasive.

Public health by many associated more with the 19th century of social reform and the hygienist movement, provided the infrastructure necessary to achieve the promised results. Maternal and child health services already reached almost all pregnant women before the childhood vaccinations and birth control pills provided the effective tools to greatly reduce both maternal and early childhood mortality. In the 20th century public health departments switched their attention from environmental control to infectious disease monitoring and screening, case finding and treatment for tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases. However as the visible threat of infectious diseases diminished, so did the interest and attention for public health. In the 1960's public health seemed to have been outlived by health care services.

That changed abruptly when in the 1970's important epidemiological studies such as Framingham and the British physicians study yielded results on the risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease and cancers which in the wake of the decline of infectious disease mortality had become the major causes of premature mortality. The life style factors identified, such as smoking and diet, as well as the availability of new drugs against hypertension and later high cholesterol suggested that these causes of death might be avoidable, given good preventive programmes. Evidence of the effectiveness of early detection and treatment in both cervical and breast cancer started the interest in population screening programmes. Motor vehicle accidents which had become more important as car ownership increased dramatically were also amenable to prevention, be it that these required more structural interventions such as construction of double motorways and legislation requiring the use of seat belts. The Canadian health policy model of Lalonde, which showed the determinants of health from a public health perspective, is often quoted as the starting point of the WHO Targets for Health for All strategy in which prevention was very prominent. Public health was back in business.