

# International Public Health Conference

The upcoming International Public Health Conference is themed “*Social Determinants of Health*” and will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in Tirana, Albania.

This Public Health Conference will address the main issues related to social determinants of health in the context of transitional Albania.

According to WHO, social determinants of health consist of the conditions in which “*people are born, grow, live, work and age. These life circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels.*”

Social determinants of health are reflected in health inequities both within and between different countries. Health inequities are avoidable inequalities in health between different population groups. Such inequities derive from different social and economic conditions which are evident within and between societies. Health inequities are increasing in transitional former communist countries in Europe including Albania.

## Conference venue:

Tirana International Hotel & Conference Centre  
Skanderbeg Square 8, Tirana, Albania

## Organization

The International Public Health Conference is organized by the Institute of Public Health under the auspices of the Albanian Ministry of Health.

Scientific Committee	Organizing Committee	Secretariat
Arjan Bregu	Gentiana Qirjako	Jonida Canaj
Milva Ekonomi	Rudina Çumashi	Dritan Roshi
Klodian Rjepaj	Albana Ahmeti	Alba Rexha
Genc Burazeri	Jolanda Hyska	
Ali Refatllari		
Mira Rrakacolli		
Eduard Kakarriqi		
Gentiana Qirjako		
Silva Bino		
Ervin Toci		
Arben Luzati		
Enver Roshi		
Jolanda Hyska		
Suela Këlliçi		
Gazmend Bejtja		
Alban Ylli		
Edmond Panariti		
Edmond Dragoti		
Fatlinda Berisha Tahiri		
Ulrich Laaser, Germany		
Helmut Brand, the Netherlands		
Theodore Tulchinsky, Israel		
Ariel Ahart, USA		
Charles Hardy, USA		
Patricia Brownell, USA		
Izet Masic, Bosnia-Herzegovina		

Doncho Donev, FYROM  
Naser Ramadani, Kosovo  
Shaban Mehmeti, FYROM

## Conference Program

### Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

08.30 - 09.00	Registration of Participants and Virtual Poster Presentation	
	<b>Opening session of the International Public Health Conference</b>	
09.00 - 09.45	Welcome of participants by the director of the Institute of Public health (IPH)	<b>Dr. Arjan Bregu</b>
	Welcome address by the Minister of Health	<b>Mr. Ilir Beqaj</b>
	Welcome address by international collaborators	<b>Prof. Ulrich Laaser</b>
	Welcome address by United Nations Resident Coordinator	<b>Mrs. Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun</b>
	Welcome address by the Dean of the School of Public Health, University of Medicine, Tirana	<b>Prof. Enver Roshi</b>

### **PLENARY SESSION: Social Determinants of Health**

**Chairperson: Genc Burazeri**

09.45 – 10.00	Current health reforms tackling social determinants of health and health inequities in Albania (MoH)	MoH representative (TBC)
10.00 – 10.15	Evidence on social determinants of health and health inequities in Albania	IPH representative (TBC)
10.15 – 10.30	Social determinants of health and health inequities in transitional societies	Swiss TPH representative (TBC)
10.30 – 10.45	WHO guidelines and recommendations for addressing social determinants of health and health inequities	WHO representative (TBC)
10.45 – 11.15	<i>Coffee break and virtual poster presentation</i>	
11.15 - 13.00	<b>PARALLEL SESSION 1</b> <b>Topic:</b> <i>Social determinants of health status and health inequities</i>	Moderator: IPH / DPH Durres
11.15 - 13.00	<b>PARALLEL SESSION 2</b> <b>Topic:</b> <i>Universal health coverage</i>	Moderator: HIF / MoH / DPH
11.15 - 13.00	<b>PARALLEL SESSION 3</b> <b>Topic:</b> <i>Determinants of health care utilization</i>	Moderator: TPH / IPH / DPH of Fier and Diber
11.15 - 13.00	<b>PARALLEL SESSION 4</b> <b>Topic:</b> <i>The interplay between environmental and social determinants of health (</i>	Moderator: IPH

13.00 – 14.30	<i>Lunch and Virtual Poster Presentation</i>	
<b>Plenary session</b>		
14.30 – 15.30	Reports from parallel sessions	
15.30 – 16.00	Future research areas and policy recommendations	Deputy Minister of Health, Director of IPH, UN Agencies, other international experts
16.00	Conclusions	

### **Description of parallel sessions**

#### **PARALLEL SESSION 1: *Social determinants of health status and health inequities:***

This session will include presentations related to the body of knowledge and current evidence about different the social gradient in ill-health and various social determinants which affect health. These social determinants include a lower income level, a lower educational attainment, unemployment, poor housing conditions and the like. The social gradient in health indicators reflects the health inequities within different societies. Health inequities are avoidable and unacceptable inequalities in health.

#### **PARALLEL SESSION 2: *Universal health coverage:***

Universal health coverage implies a health system where people have access to services without enduring financial hardship. Besides health financing system, however, important elements for ensuring gradual universal health coverage at a population level include raising sufficient resources for health, promoting efficiency of services, and ensuring adequate human resources in the health care sector.

The primary focus of this working session will be on primary health care financing strategies and current reforms in Albania, as well as human resources in the Albanian health care sector.

#### **PARALLEL SESSION 3: *Determinants of health care utilization:***

The main focus of this session will be on the availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability of health care services with a special emphasis on protecting vulnerable segments and the marginalized population subgroups including ethnic minorities (Roma community) and the low socioeconomic groups who suffer the most.

#### **PARALLEL SESSION 4: *The interplay between environmental and social determinants of health:***

This session will address the environmental determinants of health and their interaction with the socio-economic factors of the population. Typically, disasters and mishaps pertinent to climate changes affect mostly the poorest of the poor. This is often the case with different cold spells, heat waves, earthquakes and especially floods, where the low socioeconomic segments of the population suffer the most. Therefore, the main emphasis in this working session will be on the interface between environmental changes and social determinants of health.

### **Abstract instructions**

Abstracts will be considered for oral, or poster presentation. Oral presentations will be 10 minutes, with 5 minutes of discussion time in 90-minute sessions. Individuals must register for the conference in order to present the abstract.

Abstracts are not limited to the main conference theme: other public health and health services' topics are welcome.

All abstracts should be submitted by e-mail at: [konferencashp@yahoo.com](mailto:konferencashp@yahoo.com)

Deadline for abstract submission: 15 April, 2015.

Applicants will be notified of the acceptance of their abstract(s) by 30 April 2015.

### **General guidelines**

- The abstract should be a maximum of 250 words.
- Authors should indicate the first and second choice of presenting their respective abstract(s): oral vs. poster presentation.
- *Abstract title:* should be brief, with no abbreviations or acronyms. Geographic location and dates of the study should be mentioned whenever possible/relevant.
- *Presenting author:* the name of the presenting author should be typed in full (first name and family name).
- *Affiliations:* if more than one affiliation is listed, please use 1, 2, 3 to number them.

### **Abstract structure**

Authors should use the following headings to structure their abstracts:

- *Aim:* should address the scientific background and rationale for the study as well as the public health significance of the topic under study. Authors should describe the importance of the study, the research question(s) and the objectives of the study.
- *Methods:* should describe the study design, setting (community, clinic, hospital), study participants, analytic and/or intervention techniques and outcome measures.
- *Results:* should present the major quantitative and qualitative findings, accompanied by confidence intervals or levels of significance of statistical tests, as appropriate. "Negative" as well as "positive" findings may be equally of interest. However, the authors should report only those results which relate to their conclusion.
- *Conclusion:* authors should state only those conclusions that are directly supported by data. Authors should report on the public health actions that are recommended for implementation. As far as possible, authors should highlight the magnitude of the public health impact of their research work.

### **Evaluation procedure**

All submitted abstracts will be initially checked for potential plagiarism via "Safe Assignment" (a special software for detection of plagiarism and/or duplication). After the screening process, all relevant abstracts will be peer-reviewed by the Scientific Committee according to the following criteria:

- (i) novelty and relevance of the research work;
- (ii) methodology;
- (iii) implications for public health research and practice.

### **Writing Style**

Abstract should be written in English, Times New Roman, size 12, single spaced.

**Conference registration**

The fee for participation in the conference for Albanian participants will be 2500 ALL (20 Euro for international participants). Authors whose abstracts will be accepted for oral and/or poster presentation will be charged 5,000 ALL or 50 Euro for international authors.

For registration, please contact the conference secretariat at: [konferencashp@yahoo.com](mailto:konferencashp@yahoo.com)