



Annual Report 2012

Fachgruppe Global Health

Chair:

Nick Lorenz up to 22 November 2012,
Kaspar Wyss from 22 November 2012 onwards

kaspar.wyss@unibas.ch



Nicolaus Lorenz

Activities in 2012

The aim of Special Interest Group continues to consist in to advocating global health issues in Switzerland. During the 2012 Annual Conference of Public Health Switzerland, the Special Interest Group organized a parallel session entitled “Governance and accountability: here and there”, which attracted more than 30 participants. The workshop explored relations between governance, corruption, and health care systems as well as the need for accountability and transparency. Indeed, the level of corruption within a given health system is considered as one important indicator of the quality of governance, measuring the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain. A general overview on corruption and accountability was provided by Claudia Baez from the Basel Institute on Governance. This was followed by presentations by Inez Mikkelsen-Lopez (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute) and Sylvie Arsever a free-lance Journalist on the evidence on dubious practices in the health sector in developing countries and Switzerland. Overall the event allowed to progress towards a better understanding on interrelations between health systems’ performance and governance.



Kaspar Wyss

Using the special interest group Global Health and through Bettina Borisch a link with the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) was maintained in 2012. Indeed WFPHA organised in April 2012 its tri-annual conference in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) which brought together 3’600 public health professionals, researchers, policy-makers, academics and students from around the world, and was considered as a success by participants. 13th World Congress issued the Addis Ababa Declaration calling for increased global health equity. Switzerland was represented principally by Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine from the University of Geneva.

During the annual meeting of the Global Health Interest Group on 31 August 2012, there was agreement among participants that more dynamism and higher presence of the Special interest group Global Health would be helpful. The participants discussed different options how this could be achieved. One of the activities agreed on related to the conduct of a web-based survey among the members of the interest group “Global Health” with a view so to explore their expectations of the groups output. A corresponding questionnaire was drafted in late 2012 and the survey was conducted in early 2013. The results will be presented in second newsletter of 2013.

The Fachgruppe Global Health continues its efforts to raise the interest in the group’s activities, and most welcomes the active participation of many of the members of

Public Health Schweiz. Please feel free to contact any of the steering group members for further information.

Leadership of Fachgruppe Global Health

At the annual meeting on 31 August 2012 of the Fachgruppe Global Health Nicolaus Lorenz stepped down as chair of the interest group. Under his leadership the interest group was set-up in 2006, maintained a number of activities such as the organisation of an annual workshop in the frame of the Swiss Public Health Conference and established a definition of Global Health tailored to the Swiss context which subsequently translated into a publication (see <http://www.saez.ch/fuer-leser/archive/smf-2010/saez-2010-i23/>). The participants warmly thanked Nicolaus Lorenz for his continued efforts to keep the group operating over the last 6 years and recognized the substantial achievements during his leadership period.

As incoming chair, Kaspar Wyss was elected and confirmed by the Zentralvorstand meeting on 22 November 2012. Kaspar Wyss, is a Public Health Specialist, PD and Deputy Head of Department at the Swiss Centre for International Health, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute. Kaspar Wyss has strong management and leadership experience and is in charge of a team of 15 staff focusing on health systems development primarily in low- and middle income countries. As in the past Kaspar Wyss will be supported by a steering group consisting of Bettina Borisch (Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine of the University of Geneva), Jean-Paul Vader (Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine of the University of Lausanne), and Michaela Told (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva).