



## **DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' MEETING ON PUBLIC HEALTH (ISMOPH)**

27th April 2009  
Istanbul, TURKEY

### **PREAMBLE**

Over 100 students from 45 different countries gathered together at the International Students' Meeting on Public Health (ISMOPH), a satellite event of the 12th World Congress on Public Health, to share ideas, initiate new collaborations and work towards the development of the future generations of public health professionals.

We acknowledge the significant contributions of international declarations, in particular the Alma Ata Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, and all key stakeholders to the field of public health.

The active involvement of students in all aspects of public health is fundamental to its success. Students have made great strides in advancing public health education, conducting innovative research, convening meetings and establishing organizations, and being involved in developing and implementing best practice in public health to tackle health inequalities. To maximize our potential, it is an imperative to have a platform that empowers us to collaborate and communicate our achievements and inspiration for the future.

Our current and future involvement in public health is indeed necessary and valued across health-related disciplines. We are grateful to the public health community for actively seeking student's involvement in their initiatives. We are eager, excited and motivated to take the challenge and *make a difference in global public health*. Thus, we the ISMOPH participants declare the following concerning the three pillars of public health: education, research and practice.

## **EDUCATION**

Public Health is a multidisciplinary approach that tackles the wider determinants of health. It is crucial to develop a consistent and comprehensive curriculum for all health related fields.

Minimum standard admission requirements should be set for postgraduate public health courses as well as guaranting a support network by mentors. This will ensure a positive environment.

With guidance and training in health promotion, students can make a valuable contribution to public health education. We believe that our enthusiasm and innovative ideas as students would empower and influence health care policies. Through collaboration with governments and NGOs, students can close the gap between generations through a peer approach as well as contributing to human resources. Students can educate and improve the health of the general population.

## **RESEARCH**

We recognized the pressing need to respond to the public health challenges of the world through innovative, ethical and needs based research. Most importantly such research should address social determinants of health, marginalized and minority populations, climate change, environmental health and integrative health system management.

We are motivated and we should be encouraged and afforded the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to the identified public health research initiatives and priorities. Our participation is vital, as the knowledge and experience we gain now will determine and shape future research efforts.

Students in the 21st century have the unique potential to harness the advances of scientific and technological progress and innovation. In a world where health problems transcend borders we, as students must make use of improvements in communication and information technologies to increase international collaboration. Recent advances in all sciences are key in allowing public health professionals to respond to emerging public health problems.

Today, we recognize that there are a number of barriers, particularly in light of limited funding and competing health priorities. We believe the promotion of interdisciplinary collaboration through encouraging global partnerships among researchers and the public and private health sector are essential to overcome such barriers.

Additionally, one of the major challenges in public health research is the difficulty integrating research outcomes into contemporary practice. We are particularly concerned about how to bridge the gap between the researchers and policy makers through effective knowledge translation. Furthermore we concede the need to produce and prioritise high-quality research which focuses on communities needs.

## **PRACTICE**

Public health is a principle concern for our generation due to the increasing influence of globalization. We must emphasize the need of interventions to sustain and address both disease prevention and the existing global burden of morbidity and mortality.

International cooperation in public health practice is necessary to enable a unified effort for global solutions. This can be achieved through various approaches such as building morale and increasing solidarity within the field of public health.

We believe in the creation of an international platform for students with an interest in public health will be an effective tool in accelerating global action, laying the foundations for the improvement of health and social change.