



SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

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SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUES RELEASED ON GLOBAL HEALTH PROMOTION AND HEALTH EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC & PARIS, FRANCE – The International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) and the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) are pleased to release today special, complementary peer-reviewed journals containing ten articles on strengthening standards and quality assurance systems of global capacity in health promotion and health education.

SOPHE's journal, *Health Education & Behavior* (Vol. 36, No. 3, June 2009), and IUHPE's journal, *Global Health Promotion* (Vol. 16, No. 2, June 2009), feature the results of a transatlantic meeting held in Galway, Ireland in June 2008 on the status of, and needed improvements in, developing competency-based standards throughout the world to strengthen workforce capacity in health promotion. Conference deliberations resulted in the first articulation of eight domains of core competency that are required to engage in effective global health promotion practice, as well as recommendations for a baseline acceptable standard of quality and performance to strengthen academic preparation through systems of peer review.

Conference co-chairs, Prof. John Allegrante of Columbia University, a SOPHE past president, and Prof. Margaret Barry of the National University of Ireland, Galway, who serves as the IUHPE Global Vice-President for Capacity-building, Education and Training, served as guest co-editors for the special journals. To promote the widest dissemination possible, both issues are available via online open access.

“The publication of this unique collection of articles represents a milestone toward international collaboration in health education and health promotion,” comments Marie-Claude Lamarre, Executive Director of the Paris-headquartered IUHPE. “We are grateful to the distinguished co-guest editors, editorial board, authors, and all those individuals who participated in the Galway conference and/or commented on its findings.”

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In addition to the background leading up to the Galway Conference, articles explore similarities and differences in terminology and definitions related to global credentialing systems for health promotion; development and current status of credentialing systems in the U.S. and in Europe; efforts to strengthen workforce capacity and continuing education; and the Galway Consensus statement enumerating the eight domains of core competency. Invited commentaries are also included from experts in Africa, Australia, Latin America and Canada, as well as those who reviewed the draft consensus statement during a six-month public comment period following the June 2008 conference.

“The recent outbreak of the H1N1 virus underscores the need for a global health education workforce that is adequately trained and ready to effectively communicate with diverse segments of the public, media, and many other stakeholders,” says M. Elaine Auld, MPH, CHES, Chief Executive Officer of SOPHE. “Using these recommendations as a roadmap will help protect the public and elevate health education and health promotion to assume a prominent role in global health.”

In addition to IUHPE and SOPHE, key participant organizations of the Consensus Conference included the American Association for Health Education, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Council of Accredited MPH Programs, Council on Education for Public Health, National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, and the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health in the United Kingdom.

To review the papers from *Health Education & Behavior* go to <http://heb.sagepub.com/pap.dtl>; to review the manuscripts from *Global Health Promotion*, see <http://ped.sagepub.com/pap.dtl>

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The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) is a 501 (c)(3) professional organization founded in 1950 to provide leadership to the profession of public health education and to contribute to the health of all people and the elimination of disparities through advances in health education theory and research, excellence in professional preparation and practice, and advocacy for public policies conducive to health. SOPHE represents some 4,500 researchers and practitioners trained in health education who work in federal, state, and local public health agencies, schools and universities, medical care settings, community agencies, and worksites.

The mission of The International Union for Health Promotion and Education (the IUHPE) is to promote global health and to contribute to the achievement of equity in health between and within countries of the world. The IUHPE fulfils its mission by building and operating an independent, global, professional network of people and institutions to encourage the free exchange of ideas, knowledge, know-how, experiences, and the development of relevant collaborative projects, both at global and regional levels.