



# GNAPH PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025

The Global Network for Academic Public Health (GNAPH) is an alliance of seven regional associations that represent schools and programs of public health worldwide. Its goal is to enhance academic public health worldwide through mutual learning and collaborations between academic public health institutions globally in order to improve and protect the health of people and the planet.

**The seven regional associations are the only known associations that represent academic public health institutions in different regions of the world.**

**These associations are:**

- Alianza Latinoamericana de Salud Global (ALASAG)
- Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH)
- Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa (ASPHA)
- Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER)
- Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)
- Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australasia (CAPHIA)
- South East Asia Public Health Education Institutions Network (SEAPHEIN)




This report is an account of the history of GNAPH since its inception through the end of the first president's term.

## HISTORY

Several of the regional associations have a history of bilateral engagement prior to the inception of GNAPH but rarely did more than two come together to partner. Five of the regional associations that make up GNAPH (ALASAG, APACPH, ASPHA, ASPHER, and ASPPH) first began meeting as an informal network in 2020, right after the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the timing was coincidental, as the initial meeting had been planned for several months, it was serendipitous as it provided a platform for knowledge sharing and partnership during a critical time for global cooperation.

The initial meetings were organized with staff support from ASPPH and brought together the leaders or representatives, as well as staff leads, from the associations to discuss issues of mutual concern. An initial issue of concern was the US plan to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO) announced in 2020. As its first major activity as an informal network, GNAPH published a letter in support of WHO, which was shared with WHO leadership and disseminated publicly. This was an important step in bringing recognition to GNAPH from the associations' members, the public, and WHO.





Also in 2020, GNAPH embarked on its first funded project, the “This is Public Health (TIPH) Global Grant Program” (TIPH Global), funded by Dr. Richard and Mrs. Linda Riegelman. Building on the success of the pilot TIPH Europe program, TIPH Global provided awards to academic public health institutions around the world to develop TIPH Global campaigns based outside of the US that increased the visibility of public health around the globe and addressed issues of local concern. The first cohort started in 2021 and awarded grants to 20 public health institutions in 18 countries, representing six regional associations.

During this time, GNAPH also formed an advisory group, composed of the association and staff representatives and led by ASPPH, which met regularly to stay up to date on issues in their regions related to the pandemic and discuss areas of mutual concern. The five original regional associations were also joined by two more: SEAPHEIN (in 2020) and CAPHIA (in 2021). Together, GNAPH published a paper in 2021, “Global Governance for Improved Human, Animal, and Planetary Health: The Essential Role of Schools and Programs of Public Health”, in Public Health Reviews. This paper brought more visibility to the informal network.

In 2022, GNAPH was asked by WHO to formally endorse the “National workforce capacity to implement the essential public health functions including a focus on emergency preparedness and response: Roadmap for aligning WHO and partner contributions”, which several member associations had contributed to. This was a major achievement for GNAPH and led to its invitation to co-chair the subsequent WHO Workforce Roadmap Action Area Working Group on Competency-based Education.

This recognition also spurred the associations to seek incorporation as a legal organization. From 2022-2023, the associations developed a governance structure and bylaws, with ASPPH offering to serve as the Secretariat and provide staff support. Once the associations agreed to have ASPPH serve as the Secretariat, it was decided to legally incorporate in the United States since that is where ASPPH is located. Nominations were accepted and an election was held for the first Board of Directors. The initial Board members were:

- **President: Laura Magaña, ASPPH**
- **President-Elect: John Middleton, ASPHER**
- **Treasurer: Rajendra Surenthirakumaran, SEAPHEIN**

GNAPH was formally recognized as a US non-profit organization in April 2023 and received tax exempt status. The constitution was signed by the members at the 2023 World Congress on Public Health. The members are the seven regional associations. Together, the members represent over 500 academic public health institutions in over 100 countries on six continents. Initially, all financial support was in-kind from the member associations while they discussed a dues policy, which is to be implemented in 2025.

Over the course of the next two years, the GNAPH Board and members met regularly and developed partnerships, signed Memoranda of Understanding, published position statements, participated in international events, and engaged in activities related to identified priorities. These are described in the next section.





# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During its short history, GNAPH has had a number of accomplishments, described below.

## Riegelman This is Public Health® (TIPH) Global Grant Program

The first cohort of TIPH Global (2021-2022) awarded grants to 20 public health institutions across 18 countries. Despite the inevitable challenges, concessions, and adaptations experienced by the grantees under the circumstances of COVID-19, they persevered to produce an impressive range of projects. The projects, including teaching effective handwashing, counteracting COVID-19 misinformation, improving antibiotic stewardship, and promoting education and careers in public health, beneficially impacted communities around the world.

The second cohort (2023-2024) awarded grants to 12 academic public health institutions from 10 countries. The projects were diverse and timely, focusing on issues including human illness, societal challenges, and topics relevant to the development of public health as a field. Using a range of innovative and engaging techniques, the grantees worked to educate, train, and empower their communities. The influence of these efforts was impressive with over 11,500 people participating in high-engagement activities, nearly 6,000 individuals who took part in low-engagement activities, and more than 30,000 people reached through social media.

Based on evaluation feedback, the third cohort will start in 2025 and offer two-year grants (extended from one-year previously) to 11 institutions and will include projects based in the United States. The program was also renamed to be the Riegelman TIPH Global Grant Program.





## WHO Workforce Roadmap

In May 2022, WHO launched a roadmap to build the public health and emergency workforce. The roadmap focuses around three critical action areas:

1. Defining the essential public health functions and sub-functions for national contexts, including a focus on emergency preparedness and response
2. Strengthening competency-based education for the provision of the essential public health functions
3. Mapping and measurement of occupations delivering public health functions

GNAPH president Laura Magaña was asked to co-chair the working group around the second action area focused on competency-based education. In May 2024, WHO published the [National Workforce Capacity for Essential Public Health Functions Collection](#), unveiled at the WHO World Health Assembly. Representing extensive collaboration among leading public health and emergency response experts, organizations, and associations, this collection of works seeks to identify, educate, and prepare a more resilient, diverse health and care workforce capable of delivering the full range of essential public health functions (EPHFs), including emergency preparedness and response. GNAPH co-chaired the report on Global Competency and Outcomes Framework for the Essential Public Health Functions.

GNAPH continues to engage with WHO on the roadmap, including president-elect John Middleton co-chairing an informal group focused on implementing the global competency and outcomes framework.

## Website and Institutional Directory

In conjunction with the legal incorporation of GNAPH, we developed a [website](#) to showcase our work. As part of the website, we include a pressroom, member highlights, and activities. We also created an [institutional directory](#) which includes all of the institutional members of the regional associations. This directory serves as a resource for members who are looking to develop partnerships with academic public health institutions outside of their regional associations.

## Statements and Publications

GNAPH releases statements and publications on timely issues of concern to the global academic public health community. We have released statements on issues such as the war in Ukraine, intellectual property rights related to COVID-19 vaccines, and WHO. We also published an important paper in 2021 on Global governance for improved human, animal, and planetary health: the essential role of schools and programs of public health, which characterized the role of schools and programs of public health during the COVID-19 pandemic and in building the public health workforce.





## Partnerships

### **Europubhealth+**

Advertising opportunities for faculty to participate in this global masters program

### **Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE)**

Partnering on climate change and health education projects (see below)

### **International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI)**

Participating in joint meetings

### **Public Health Interprofessional Leadership Alliance (PHILA)**

Participating in joint meetings

### **World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)**

Co-organizing the 2023 World Congress on Public Health, where GNAPH organized five sessions

### **World Health Summit Academic Alliance (WHS AA)**

Participating in joint meetings and organizing sessions for World Health Summit Regional Meetings

### **Public Health Ethics and Law Network (PHEL Network)**

Co-organizing conference sessions on public health ethics and codes of conduct, and supporting work of the PHEL Network

### **University of Memphis School of Public Health Public Health Diplomacy Lab (UofM)**

Participating in first Public Health Diplomacy Summit, co-organizing sessions for conferences

## International Events

GNAPH members have participated in a number of international events that bring attention to the importance of public health education and issues of global public health. These events include:

- World Congress on Public Health 2023
- WHO Global Forum on Human Resources for Health 2023
- Public Health Diplomacy Summit 2024
- IANPHI Annual Meeting 2024
- Interdisciplinary World Health Congress on Post-Pandemic Readiness 2024
- PHILA Meeting 2024
- World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2024 and 2025
- World Health Summit 2024

GNAPH members also participated in the annual meetings of the regional associations.





## Climate and Health

GNAPH has partnered with GCCHE on a number of initiatives related to climate and health, including:

- The Climate and Health Education Survey for Public Health Schools, which aims to understand the current status of climate and health courses as well as knowledge and skills assessment at institutions worldwide with a mission to elevate climate and health education in schools of public health. This survey contributes to the Lancet Countdown indicator on climate and health education.
- The Role of Public Health Schools in a Climate-Changing World webinar, which explored the pivotal role of public health training institutions in shaping a healthier, climate-resilient future.
- Climate and Health Responder courses in Africa and Europe, which have trained thousands of health workers in climate and health.

We will continue this partnership in 2025 by developing a global climate and health course designed specifically for faculty from schools and programs of public health to teach about the impacts of climate change on health.

## Leadership Development

In 2021, the GNAPH advisory group determined that leadership training would be beneficial for its members. With funds provided by Dr. Richard and Mrs. Linda Riegelman, GNAPH members identified five academic public health leaders to participate in the established ASPPH Academic Public Health Leadership Institute (APHLI). APHLI is a year-long, cohort-based leadership development program designed to enhance the success of public health leaders. Scholarships were provided to help cover the cost of registration and travel for the in-person meeting.

## Faculty Development

GNAPH convened a faculty development working group to advise on what issues/topics would be most beneficial to GNAPH associations' institutional members. Composed of representatives from five of the seven association members, the working group met twice in 2024 to discuss what topics and activities would be useful in their regions and also conducted an informal survey of associations' members in their regions. The results of the survey and discussion clearly showed that the most valuable activity would be networking between faculty at different institutions, followed by online trainings. In line with this, GNAPH has identified a platform for an online community that will be piloted with the TIPH Global cohort 3 and teaching climate change and public health communities of practice. The Teaching Climate Change and Public Health course will be the first offering of faculty development online training. Future topics for trainings will be considered based on discussions with faculty from institutional members.





## CONCLUSION

The Global Network for Academic Public Health has in a short period of time accomplished a great deal. Future directions include providing additional resources to support the associations' institutional members; continuing to engage in priority topics like climate and health, workforce development, and TIPH Global; and beginning to collect dues to support additional projects. GNAPH will also continue to build on its relationships with partners to enhance opportunities for public health education globally.



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