Message from the President

This is an important year for the Association. With ever-increasing vigour our members engage in a wide range of activities that enhance public health training. We are also fortunate to welcome more and more members. Particularly new members are invited to attend our important annual General Assembly, this year in Torino (Italy). The theme of the conference is very close to the heart of ASPHER: quality in public health training. Our Scientific Committee is very busy organizing the various sessions in which the most recent advances in European public health training modalities will be presented. These range from problem-based learning and distance learning to the development of Europe-wide programmes in public health and health promotion. Not just our members would benefit from attendance, but educationalists and government representatives as well.

Our endeavours in the field of Peer Review are gaining ever more momentum. At this moment, roughly 20% of our members has already asked PEER to visit their institution. An evaluation carried out under the chairmanship of prof. dr. Christian

Rollet showed that PEER visits provide an opportunity to Schools of Public Health to reflect on a broad range of dimensions of their programmes, and take up the challenges posed to them by the reviewers. These dimensions and challenges can relate to both the infrastructure and substance of the programme.

Finally, the Association through its Paris Secretariat and the relentless Executive Director is opening up more and more opportunities for the Association as well as its members to engage in European Programmes. To mention a few, ASPHER is currently involved in, and has asked its members to contribute to, European inventories in health promotion and public health training and personnel, a series of European Community Expert Panels (for instance in cancer, AIDS prevention and drug use), and jointly with the European Public Health Association EUPHA, the EC evaluation of public health programmes.

I cordially invite you to our Torino Conference for a further sharing of interests and activities.

Richard Madeley