WFPHA: World Federation of Public Health Associations

www.wfp ha.org

Journal of Public Health Policy (2009) **30**, 465–466. doi:10.1057/jphp.2009.39

THE FEDERATION'S PAGES

The WFPHA opens a Geneva office

Geneva – the city that recently has been called ‘the World Capital of Health’ – is home to the World Health Organisation and offices of many governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Several of these organisations work on issues that pertain to health: the World Meteorology Organisation, the International Labour Office, the International Federation of Telecommunications, and the World Organisation for Intellectual Property; and on the NGO side, Doctors without Borders, the People’s Health Movement, and the World Medical Association, to mention just a few.

The World Federation has long wanted to work more closely with these organisations and interact with them more efficiently. This led to the recent creation of a Geneva office.

First, the mission of this new office will be to involve the Federation in relevant meetings and consultations. We also hope to highlight the importance of public health in a wider context and demonstrate the key roles that public health experts play, while underscoring public health aspects of key issues.

Second, the office will provide a link between Geneva consultations and meetings and the US-based headquarters of the Federation, the members of the board, and its member associations. The website of the Geneva office, www.wfp ha.ch, will post information on important activities, past and present.

The Geneva office also takes over the editorship of the Federation’s Pages in the *Journal of Public Health Policy*. (We thank Ulrich Laaser,

the incoming President, for his years of service as an editor of the Federation's Pages.) We, too, will work in close collaboration with the editors-in-chief, Phyllis Freeman and Anthony Robbins. The content of these pages is expected to point to public health events taking place in Geneva and around the world.

Two of us will manage the Geneva office:

Bettina Borisch, MD, MPH, FRCPATH, a tenure track professor of Social and Preventive Medicine at the medical school of the University of Geneva will head the office. She studies health communication about prevention and early detection. Her training and background are in pathology, modern history, and preventive medicine.

Laetitia Bourquin, a trained biologist with a keen interest in environmental biology and human development, will be the project manager in the office.

Bettina Borisch will also head the World Federation of Public Health Associations' (WFPHA) policy committee. Each year, member associations will be invited to submit resolutions, position papers, and/or technical papers to WFPHA's policy committee for review. Some may result from discussions at one of the Geneva-based organisations. The link between emerging issues and discussion in these corresponding organisations is likely help the work of the policy committee, which is in charge of reviewing submissions. Following review, the policy committee will recommend those submissions that should be voted upon at WFPHA's annual meeting.

The new Geneva office of the WFPHA will also link up with local actors in the field of global health in Geneva, as well as with the main Swiss stakeholders in the field.

The new office invites organisations and individuals who have an interest in one or the other aspect of our work to contact our office directly via Geneva@wfpha.ch or call:

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