

# Explaining who we are and what we do

## October 2018



**FACULTY OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

The UK Faculty of Public Health (FPH) is a membership organisation for nearly 4,000 public health professionals across the UK and around the world. We are also a registered charity. Our role is to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities and national populations. We do this in a number of ways:

1. We support the training of the next generation of public health professionals. We design and manage the curriculum and exams that people training for a career in public health need to take. Public health trainees come from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds, have already passed their first degree, and undergo a minimum of four years additional training and assessment to become a public health specialist.
2. We support the training and development of our members after they've passed their exams, throughout their careers, and even after they retire. As part of this we offer advice and guidance to our members on what they need to do to have their licence to practice renewed by the General Medical Council. We also provide a revalidation service for our members to help them to navigate the licence renewal process they need to go through every five years.
3. We are a place for our members to discuss new policy ideas and share best practice and learnings through our growing network of Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Our SIGs cover a wide variety of public health issues including Global Violence Prevention, Europe and Sustainable Development.
4. We encourage and promote new research and understanding of public health through our Journal of Public Health, award-winning blog and annual events, lecture and conference programme.
5. We champion excellence in public health through our annual awards and prizes programme.
6. We seek to improve public health policy and practice at a local, national and international level by campaigning for change and by working in partnership with local and national governments on specific public health projects.

For us 'public health' is about promoting and protecting the health and wellbeing of people at a population-level. It is a very broad agenda covering everything from tobacco to transport, children's health to climate change, and violence to viruses – pretty much anything which directly or indirectly impacts on people's health and wellbeing.

Working to improve the public's health

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Not surprisingly, our members do a wide variety of jobs. The majority work in local government leading or working within public health teams doing things like developing strategies to tackle air pollution or reduce smoking, obesity and drug-use in their local communities. They also help to protect the public from things like infectious diseases, flooding and unsafe housing.

Our members also work in the NHS helping to ensure hospitals and other health services are run as effectively as possible.

And they work in universities, think tanks and public-sector bodies such as Public Health Wales.

We also have a growing number of student and international members in more than 80 different countries.

As the first ever public health professional body in the UK our history is really important to us. We were set up by the three Royal Colleges of Physicians in the UK in March 1972 following a recommendation in the 1965-68 Royal Commission on Medical Education. We were tasked with the assessment of specialist training for, and standards of practice in, 'community medicine'.

But our future is even more important to us.

We're determined to do even more to improve people's health and wellbeing and give everyone the best chance to live a healthy life, no matter who they are or where they live.

We want to grow our membership, find new ways to offer value to our members as their needs and roles change, and support more members in more countries.

We want to continue to improve the training and development of public health professionals so that our members are even better equipped to tackle the many new health challenges facing our local communities.

And we want to play an even bigger role in shaping public health policy across the UK and around the world.

We can only realise our ambitions with the help and support of our members. If you're interested in becoming an FPH member you can find out more on our website [www.fph.org.uk/membership](http://www.fph.org.uk/membership). Associate Membership starts at £51 a year and gives you access to all of the benefits and opportunities outlined above.

**Gus Baldwin**  
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