

Seminar (new date!)

on Thursday, February 23, 2017, 16:00 (ISPM seminar room 504, ground floor)

Large population-based cohort in Switzerland: where do we stand?

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Large-scale prospective population-based cohorts provide key and unique insights into the determinants of health and disease. They are invaluable resources for planning health care and health promotion services. Several countries throughout the world have set up such large-scale cohorts (UK Biobank, National German Cohort, the French Constances Cohort, etc). Whereas these projects will provide valuable insight into the determinants of common chronic diseases and life-course health trajectories in their respective settings, they cannot capture the specific social and economic environment of Switzerland. Swiss-specific data are therefore needed to adequately capture social, biological, environmental, and cultural early and late determinants of health in Switzerland, while taking the decentralized health care system into account. Such a project is being discussed at multiple levels by various authorities. The challenge lies in joining forces and resources into a large-scale project using standardized procedures across all Swiss regions, allowing for adequate critical mass in key areas such as big data management, analysis and generation (e.g., whole-genome sequencing, exposome assessment), high-quality biobanking, and long-term follow-up. Securing long-term funding is a major issue, as is putting in place adequate governance.



Murielle Bochud holds a diploma in medicine from the University of Geneva (1994), an MD from the University of Lausanne (2002) and a PhD in genetic epidemiology from Case University (2007, Cleveland, USA). She currently works as a full professor of epidemiology and public health and as head of the chronic disease division at the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (IUMSP) of Lausanne University Hospital, Switzerland. Her research focuses on the epidemiology of chronic diseases and, particularly, the genetics of blood pressure, renal function and obesity, based on population and family data. She is also studying nutritional epidemiology, with a specific interest in dietary determinants of common chronic diseases. Her work uses a multidisciplinary approach involving epidemiologists, public health specialists, clinicians, geneticists, statisticians, bioinformaticians and molecular biologists. She is interested in developing public health genomics, which attempts to translate molecular findings into clinical and public health applications, and vice versa.

Organisation:

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