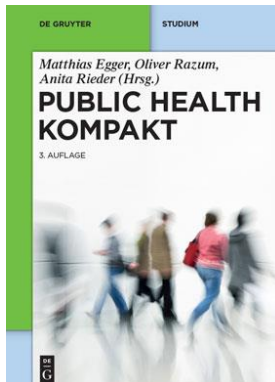


ISPM News Archive 2017

New version of Public Health Kompakt



19.12.2017

The third edition of *Public Health: A Compact Introduction to Social and Preventive Medicine* (otherwise known as *Public Health Kompakt*) is available as an eBook beginning in December 2017. The 525–page German–language textbook provides basic information about public health, including prevention, health promotion, epidemiology, biostatistics, and healthcare systems. The book is directed toward students of medicine, public health and nursing, as well as population scientists, health economists, and other healthcare professionals.

The new edition has been updated and expanded to address issues such as the global approach to public health; migration and refugees; work and health; the aging of the population; and the “Life Course Approach to Health”.

Commissioning Editors for the book were Matthias Egger of the University of Bern’s Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, Oliver Razum of the University of Bielefeld (Germany), and Anita Rieder of the Center for Public Health at the Medical University of Vienna. It was a “great collaboration between colleagues in Austria, Germany and Switzerland,” says Egger.

The book is available online from Berlin–based publisher *De Gruyter* (www.degruyter.com). A campus–wide eBook license costs 400 Euros and the paperback sells for €39.95.

Open science communication @ISPM



18.12.2017

Listen to our latest podcasts about predatory publishing and about research assessment. As well as keeping up to date with new research findings, researchers also need to follow the changing world of science publishing and how their research is evaluated. We are now recording our regular research meetings and making the podcasts and slides available to all.

The first two in our series are:

13.11.2017

[Nicola Low – The good, the bad and the ugly: reflections on doing and publishing research in a changing world](#)

20.11.2017

[Matthias Egger – A new model for the Research Assessment Exercise at the Medical Faculty](#)

View all seminar video podcasts [here](#).

Hans Wolff talks about prisons, health and human rights



30.10.2017

Prisons are a mirror of the quality of democracy in a country, says Professor Hans Wolff, who kicked off ISPM's monthly seminar series in Bern on October 26th. Wolff, who heads the Geneva University Hospitals' Division of Prison Health, spoke about trends in incarceration in Switzerland and the world, and about his work as Switzerland's representative on the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT).

Since 1989, the CPT has been conducting visits to prisons located in the 47 member states of the Council of Europe on a regular basis. "The aim is not to shame and blame," says Wolff. "It's to help the countries improve their prison conditions."

Wolff shared photos of inhumane conditions in a number of prisons, including a tent prison built in the US state Arizona by Joe Arpaio, known as "the toughest Sheriff in the West" in part due to measures he instituted to make prison life as uncomfortable as possible for prisoners.

Trends in incarceration

The United States leads the world in the percentage of people incarcerated, with 750 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants. Switzerland, in comparison, has only 75 prisoners per 100,000, Wolff said.

Prison is "a highly ineffective way to deal with crime," according to Wolff. Whether an inmate is confined for three years or five years makes no difference in rehabilitation, but a longer stay is associated with higher costs. "I think that a

substantial proportion of the 7,000 prisoners we have today in Switzerland could be let out,” Wolff says.

Instead, there is a trend toward increasing the number of prisoners in many countries of the world, including Switzerland, where cases like that of the social worker Adeline, who was murdered by her patient in 2013, have led to a call for stricter laws and sentences.

In Turkey, the number of prisoners had dropped to around 50,000 by the year 2000, and systematic torture in police stations and prisons had completely disappeared, Wolff said. Since Recep Tayyip Erdoğan took office as President of the Republic of Turkey in 2002, the prison population has increased four-fold, to 220,000 in 2017.

Health and human rights

Violations of the human rights of prisoners have ranged from force feeding to handcuffs during childbirth to the twin studies conducted by Josef Mengele in the concentration camps during World War II. The Council of Europe was created in response to the atrocities of the war.

In 1987, the need to protect human rights worldwide led to the creation of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, ratified by the 47 member states of the Council of Europe.

Overseeing compliance is the task of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture. Members of the CPT have unprecedented access to prisons, prisoners and government officials in the 47 countries, says Wolff, who has visited more than 100 prisons on three continents.

“The prison world is a world made for men by men,” says Hans Wolff. In this setting, women are minorities, and at risk, and healthcare for women is deficient. Because there is no women’s prison in Geneva, female prisoners are housed in a high-security pre-trial prison, which “has much harsher conditions,” says Wolff.

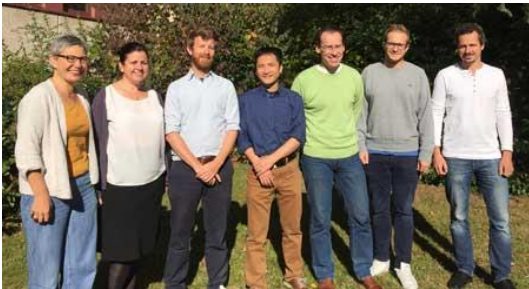
Improvements in the equivalence of hospital healthcare (providing the same level of care inside and outside a prison) are also needed. Although opiate substitution and needle exchange programs have been shown to reduce the spread of HIV and hepatitis, and many countries sponsor these public health measures in the community, often the same countries do not extend the measures to the prison

population, where there is an even greater need for them. In Switzerland, only 13 of the 110 prisons offer needle exchange, Wolff says.

There are other, more worrying developments. "Prison health has the advantage to play a good role. We fight for human rights, for humanist values, for access to healthcare, for good things. . . . Ten years ago, I would have told you, this is set. Human rights – we have it. No need to think it could be destroyed again. What's happening now in Europe: in Turkey, Hungary, Poland, and maybe the Czech Republic tomorrow – they voted for an populist right wing President last week – in Russia. . . . If you would have asked me five years ago, would these fundamental values of prison health, like consent, like medical secrecy, be endangered, I would have said maybe somewhere, but never in Geneva." But today, says Wolff, he is concerned by the many recent changes in the world, in Switzerland and even in Geneva, the world capital of Human Rights.

Author: Jeannie Wurz

New SNSF project grants for Ben Spycher and Nicola Low



17.10.2017

Pictured from right, PD Dr Ben Spycher, Garyfallos Konstantinoudis and Dr Christian Kreis will investigate cancer risks in children exposed to low dose ionising radiation. Pictured from left, Prof Dr med Nicola Low, Dianne Egli-Gany, Michel Counotte and Dr Phi Hung Nguyen are investigating the risks of Zika virus transmission and its complications.

Ben Spycher is a biostatistician and epidemiologist whose research focuses on risk factors of cancer in children. It is clear that medium to high doses of ionising can cause cancer. However, for low doses (<100 mSv), which affect the general population, radiological protection currently relies on extrapolation from higher doses due to a lack of direct epidemiological evidence. Children are more sensitive to radiation than adults are. Recent studies of cancer risks associated with paediatric CT-scans and natural background variation, including a Swiss study by Ben Spycher's group, have provided new epidemiological evidence for effects of low-dose radiation. This project aims to assess the effects of low dose ionising radiation on cancer risks in children. It will involve a nationwide study of background radiation and childhood cancer in Switzerland, the pooling nationwide data from several European countries, and a meta-analysis of all epidemiological studies involving low dose exposures in young people. [Read the project summary here.](#)

Nicola Low is an infectious disease epidemiologist who has been involved in epidemiological research about Zika virus, together with the World Health Organization, since February 2016. Zika virus, carried by mosquitoes, was newly recognised as an infectious cause of congenital abnormalities, including microcephaly and of neurological disease, in 2016 after large outbreaks in the South Pacific Islands in 2013–14 and South America in 2015–16. It is now clear that Zika virus can be transmitted through sexual intercourse as well as by

mosquitoes and from mother to child. Scientists have published nearly 3000 research papers about Zika virus infection and complications since 2015 and made important progress. However, substantial questions remain about Zika complications, the risk of sexual transmission and about how common Zika virus infection is in different populations. This project aims to answer these questions in a way that makes the results rapidly available to the whole scientific community and the public. [Read the project summary here.](#)

Lukas Fenner appointed as new cantonal physician in Solothurn



11.09.2017

On 4 September 2017, the Governing Council (Regierungsrat) of Canton Solothurn appointed Lukas Fenner from the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine as the new cantonal physician. He will take office on 1 December 2017.

Since 2008 Prof. Dr. med. Lukas Fenner has been at the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine where he is currently an associate professor. He is an experienced epidemiologist with an MSc. in international health, additional training in medical microbiology, and a graduate diploma in tropical medicine and public health. His numerous research projects include having led a medical research team of physicians and scientists in Tanzania for two years studying tuberculosis. In addition to Fenner's new cantonal physician duties, he will retain his professorship and a research position at the University of Bern.

ISPM Professor Claudia Kuehni to be first recipient of Ewald Weibel Prize for lung research



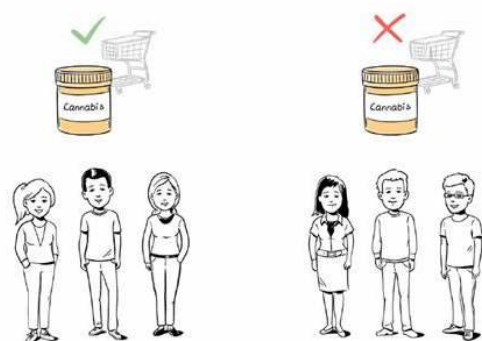
The Ewald Weibel Prize for lung research in Switzerland will be awarded for the first time in 2017. The recipient is Claudia Kuehni of the University of Bern's Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine.

Professor Kuehni will receive the prize in recognition of her “outstanding epidemiological and clinical work on lung disease in children,” particularly in the fields of lung development, childhood asthma, and primary ciliary dyskinesia, as well as for her contribution to the development of neonatal screenings for cystic fibrosis.

The Swiss Lung Foundation and the University of Bern's Anatomical Institute will confer the prize – which includes an award of CHF 10,000 – for Kuehni's outstanding achievements in Switzerland in the research field “Lungs and Breathing”.

The award was created in recognition of Ewald Rudolf Weibel, Professor Emeritus and former Director of the Anatomical Institute. The award-winner will present her work at an awards ceremony on Wednesday, August 30, at 4 p.m. in the Ewald Weibel Auditorium of the Anatomical Institute, Bülhlstrasse 26, Bern.

Now online: the website for the proposed cannabis study in Bern (the SCRIPT study)



The goal of the SCRIPT study is to investigate the effects of allowing the regulated sale of cannabis in selected Bern pharmacies. Two groups will be compared: a group of cannabis users who are allowed to buy cannabis in a pharmacy, and users who have to use their usual channels to obtain the drug.

A website containing information about the planned study and answers to frequently asked questions (in German) was launched in August.

Website: <https://www.script-studie.ch/>

The study requires special authorisation by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH). At present FOPH is evaluating the application submitted by the University of Bern's Clinical Trials Unit and the university's Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine. The results of the evaluation, and other news, will be posted here when they are available: <https://www.script-studie.ch/news/>

ISPM collaborator Dr. Mazvita Sengayi reports on her HIV research in South Africa



20.07.2017

“Uncovering linkages between HIV and cancer in South Africa” was the title of [a Q&A interview with epidemiologist Dr. Mazvita Sengayi](#) published recently on the website of US-based CRDF Global, a non-profit organization that promotes international scientific and technical collaboration through grants, technical resources, training, and services.

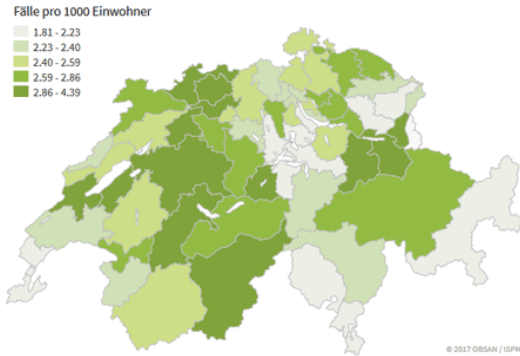
Dr. Sengayi, a senior epidemiologist at the National Health Laboratory Service in South Africa, completed her PhD degree at the ISPM in 2016. She was awarded a grant to investigate the burden of cancers attributable to HIV at a national level. South Africa has about 6.8 million HIV-positive residents and the largest population living with HIV in the world.

“What many people don’t know is that HIV is actually a carcinogen — capable of causing cancer,” says Sengayi. “While the impact of HIV/AIDS is well documented, cancer is sometimes overlooked in the public as an emerging and deadly health issue among low-to middle-income countries.”

The project builds on a collaboration between South Africa’s National Cancer Registry (NCR) and ISPM (collaborators: PD Dr. med. Julia Bohlius and Prof. Dr. med. Matthias Egger) to create a South African national cohort of HIV-positive children and adults and link this cohort to the NCR. The South African HIV Cancer Match study (SAM) receives funding from PEPFAR and the Swiss National Science Foundation (grant number 320030_169967). According to Sengayi, SAM is “a probabilistic record linkage study of a national HIV cohort created from HIV laboratory data (CD4 counts, viral load, HIV tests) linked to NCR data in order to study spectrum and incidence of cancer in HIV-positive people at a national level.”

Now online: The Swiss atlas of selected medical interventions

Totalendoprothese des Kniegelenks



28.06.2017

Now online: The Swiss atlas of selected medical interventions (Schweizer Atlas der Gesundheitsversorgung), developed by the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine in collaboration with the Swiss Health Observatory (Obsan).

The atlas shows regional differences in rates of the 30 most common medical interventions in hospitals for the years 2013–2015 by canton and hospital service areas. The information is currently only available in German.

www.versorgungsatlas.ch

Online course to teach how to use evidence when developing medicines

elevate your health knowledge

Controlled setting

Real world



elevate Online academy that educates international health professionals, elevating professional knowledge and improving health worldwide.

19.06.2017

Six members of ISPM were involved in the development of a new online course covering the use of real-world evidence in medicine development. The six-week course will run from October 2 to November 12, 2017, and will be offered in English by the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

[“Real-world evidence in medicine development: an online introductory course”](#) will be particularly relevant for employees of pharmaceutical companies, regulatory authorities, health technology assessment bodies, patients’ organisations, consultancy companies, and academic institutions. It will facilitate discussion, interaction, and mutual learning across all professionals involved in medicine development.

The interactive online course will be supervised by leading academics involved in the GetReal project, which was part of the European Union’s Innovative Medicines Initiative. ISPM Director Matthias Egger was co-leader of Work package 4.

The aim of the GetReal project was “to identify and develop best practice in evidence synthesis and predictive modelling, to improve estimates of the real world effectiveness of medicines by incorporating the results of RCTs with other sources of clinical data, including observational data.”

Fake news: Sherlock among the tulips

Horizons - the Swiss magazine for scientific research No. 113, June 2017

horizons

07.06.2017

The “scandalous monopolistic misuse of power by scientific publishers” is the topic of a column by ISPM Director Matthias Egger in the June 2017 issue of *Horizon*, a quarterly magazine published by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Egger became President of SNSF in January 2017.

There's also a [german version of this text](#).

By Matthias Egger

The camera roams over the picturesque Prinsengracht in Amsterdam, but the horror is just around the corner. The bloated corpse of a young man is being recovered from the Bouwersgracht. The dead man is a Russian cancer researcher who has made millions of scientific articles freely accessible online via an Internet platform, and thereby made himself liable to prosecution. In his pocket he has a receipt from a taxi ride to Sonarweg 31, the headquarters of the Greed Elsevier Concern, the most powerful scientific publishing company in the world. A few days later, its CEO is found dead in his office chair.

With its exciting plot, this imaginary episode of a successful TV thriller series would lay bare the scandalous monopolistic misuse of power by scientific publishers. Their business model is ingenious: they take knowledge financed by tax monies and privatise it. They publish the results of this research in journals to which the universities have to subscribe at inflated prices – again paid for with tax money.

The market is dominated by just a few publishers who exercise their power ruthlessly. With their ever-rising prices they have long reached profit margins of over 30 percent. The salary of the CEO of Reed Elsevier was GBP 16 million in 2015.

If only such a thriller could really be made, then awareness might be raised, among both the public and our politicians, of the importance of the Open Access movement, whose aim is simply to prevent the general public from having to buy

back knowledge from academic publishers that their tax dollars have already paid for.

But we don't have to wait for TV to tell the world about it. We ourselves have the power to change the rules of the game. We simply have to stop funding this all-too-profitable business with public money.

Matthias Egger has been the President of the National Research Council since January 2017.

Here you'll find the [Horizons edition Nr. 113, June 2017](#)

ESTHER Switzerland: 2017 call for proposals



31.05.2017

August 21st is the deadline for submitting 2017 proposals for Partnerships Project Grants and Start-up Grants to ESTHER Switzerland. Partnerships Project Grants should focus primarily on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and can include HIV/AIDS.

The maximum amount for a Project grant is CHF 100,000. Start-up Grants support initiatives to assess potential new projects within the scope of the ESTHER programme. The maximum amount for a Start-up grant is CHF 10,000.

Both types of grants are available to institutional health partnerships that include at least one healthcare institution in Switzerland (preference is given to hospitals, universities and research institutions) and one healthcare institution in a low- or middle-income country. Typical projects focus on service delivery, such as the training of healthcare staff (medical staff, nurses, management positions, etc.).

ESTHER Switzerland promotes institutional health partnerships through knowledge generation, sharing best practices, collaboration, and advocacy. Switzerland's ESTHER programme is currently a collaborative initiative between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) at the University of Bern. The ESTHER Secretariat is hosted by ISPM.

For further information about the call for proposals and to submit an application see www.esther-switzerland.ch/grants, or contact the ESTHER Switzerland Secretariat: luciano.ruggia@ispm.unibe.ch.

ISPM Bern's Sexual and Reproductive Health group collaborates on newly awarded grant to improve the sexual health of migrants and refugees



22.05.2017

The Europe and Global Challenges funding initiative has granted funding for the project "Identifying and implementing appropriate and effective public policy responses for improving the sexual health of migrants and refugees". The project aims to examine the evidence and acceptability of effective public health policy responses for tackling inequalities by improving refugee's and migrants' sexual and reproductive health through the prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

An interdisciplinary approach to improving sexual health may offer new ways of improving sexual health for all. The Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, the Volkswagen Foundation and the Wellcome Trust co-fund the scheme to encourage European and international researchers to work together on important global issues.

Prof. Sarah Hawkes, Centre for Gender and Health, Institute for Global Health, University College of London leads the project. Collaborators include Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Iran, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar and UNAIDS. Prof. Nicola Low and Dianne Egli-Gany at ISPM Bern will be responsible for systematic reviews of evidence about social determinants and interventions to tackle STIs. The results from these reviews, in combination with mathematical modelling, will be synthesized to identify effective interventions that can be translated into policy. Policy analysts will assess the "palatability" of implementing these STI policies in selected countries in Europe, West Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

New e-learning module Public Health Research Ethics



TRREE

16.05.2017

Standard ethical and legal frameworks do not seem to be well adapted to the requirements of public health researchers. A new, free, open-access, online module aims to provide basic training on the ethics of public health research involving humans, to help ensure that research meets the highest ethical standards and promotes the health and welfare of participants and local populations.

The new e-learning module – Public Health Research Ethics – is designed for people and organisations involved in planning, conducting, and evaluating research in public health. The module, supported by the Swiss School of Public Health + (SSPH+), is available in English and French.

Public health ethics is the newest topic offered by [TRREE](#) – Training and Resources in Research Ethics Evaluation. Other topics include Introduction to Research Ethics, Research Ethics Evaluation, Informed Consent, Good Clinical Practice, HIV Vaccine Trials, and Adolescent Involvement in HIV Prevention Trials.

As of the beginning of May 2017, more than 28,000 participants from 179 countries and territories around the world had registered for one of the TRREE self-learning modules.

ISPM's Evidence Synthesis Methods group receives Campbell methods grant

CINeMA



15.05.2017

CINeMA (Confidence In Network Meta-Analysis) is a web application that aims to simplify the evaluation of confidence in the findings from network meta-analyses. The Campbell Collaboration awarded a grant to CINeMA as part of its programme supporting innovative methods development.

Policy makers and guideline developers face challenges in evaluating the quality of evidence from systematic reviews with multiple interventions. A framework was previously developed based on the GRADE (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluations) system, and can be used to evaluate the credibility of the results from network meta-analysis. Core aspects of the approach include considerations about the plausibility of the transitivity assumption underlying network meta-analysis and understanding the relative contributions of direct and indirect evidence. However, the process is cumbersome and time-consuming for large networks.

The aim of this project is to develop a user-friendly web application (Confidence In Network Meta-Analysis, or CINeMA) that considerably simplifies the evaluation of confidence in the findings from NMA. Only study outcome data and study-level risk-of-bias assessments are required as input; with these, CINeMA produces graphical and numerical summaries of NMA output, indicating likely judgments for the five credibility domains.

The team at ISPM includes Georgia Salanti, Theodoros Papakonstantinou, Adriani Nikolakopoulou, and Matthias Egger.

Tuberculosis mortality and living conditions in Bern, Switzerland, 1856–1950



15.05.2017

ISPM research assistant Kathrin Zürcher received a special CHF 1,000 prize in March 2017 from the Swiss Foundation for Tuberculosis Research (swissTB) for her historical article looking at correlations between the tuberculosis mortality rate and living conditions in the Swiss capital between 1856 and 1950.

[The article](#), published in February 2016 by *PLoS One*, was based on historical documents from the city of Bern archives. Zürcher and co-authors found that more people living in an apartment, fewer windows, and less direct sunlight were associated with a higher mortality rate.

According to the publication, TB mortality in Bern, Switzerland, decreased 10-fold between 1856 and 1950, from 330 per 100,000 to 33 per 100,000. A number of factors are believed to have contributed to the massive decline, including improvements in housing conditions, a decrease in indoor crowding, introduction of open-air schools and sanatoria, and the institution of systematic tuberculin skin testing of school children and chest radiography screening.

“We consider it very important that the history of this still widespread disease is recognised,” said Dr. Otto Brändli, President of swissTB. Tuberculosis is the leading cause of death from an infectious disease worldwide. In 2015, an estimated 10.4 million people worldwide developed active TB, and 1.8 million individuals died from the disease. People with a compromised immune system, particularly those infected with HIV, are at much higher risk of developing active TB. In Switzerland, around 500 people contract TB annually, primarily immigrants, the aged, and people with compromised immune systems, and around 20 TB-infected individuals die from the disease.

Crowdfunding to support trial of chronic medicine dispensing machines in South Africa



12.05.2017

1000 hackers gathered in nine regions on five continents around the world on March 10–12, 2017, to brainstorm solutions for three of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The winning proposal at the Geneva site was a pilot project to provide medicine dispensing machines in South Africa, presented by ISPM's "24/7 access to treatment team".

Ensuring round-the-clock access to drugs could help improve retention in care and consequently outcomes of HIV-positive patients in low- and middle-income countries. The project, which can be supported through crowdfunding until May 30, 2017, would examine the impact of installing a 24/7 medicine dispensing machine in a busy urban HIV clinic in South Africa.

The treatment team (ISPM's Matthias Egger, Julia Bohlius and Janet Michel) hypothesize that convenient access to medicine dispensing machines will decrease disengagement from treatment by people who are on anti-retroviral therapy or suffering from other chronic illnesses, ultimately improving health outcomes.

For an overview of the "24/7 access to treatment project" watch the video on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5Oi82nKJLE>

For more information on the connect2effect hackathon see <http://www.connect2effect.com/index.html>.

Together we can innovate HIV/AIDS away!

Manes–Kartagener prize won by ISPM'S Myrofora Goutaki



Myrofora Goutaki (centre) with the prize awarded by Katja Pier, member of the patients association management committee, and Professor Heymut Omran of the University of Münster, an expert on PCD and head of the GPP's PCD group.

11.04.17

[Myrofora Goutaki](#) of ISPM's Pediatric Respiratory Epidemiology Group was honoured for her outstanding research in the field of primary ciliary dyskinesia at the 39th annual meeting of the [Gesellschaft für Pädiatrische Pneumologie](#) (the German-language Association for Paediatric Pulmonology).

At the conference, which took place in Essen from March 30th to April 1st 2017, Dr. Goutaki received the Manes–Kartagener Prize from the [Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia \(PCD\) patients association](#) for her publication "[The international primary ciliary dyskinesia cohort \(iPCD Cohort\): methods and first results](#)".

The paper, published in the *European Respiratory Journal*, describes the build-up of the largest international retrospective cohort on PCD, with more than 3,200 patients from 19 countries.

The iPCD Cohort was developed in the framework of the EU-funded project BESTCILIA under the lead of ISPM Professor Claudia Kuehni, and is one of the largest epidemiological projects of the COST Action [BEAT-PCD](#). Professor Kuehni and her group recently received further funding from the Swiss National Science Foundation to explore this large dataset. The goal is to describe PCD disease course and severity predictors as well as possible existing disease phenotypes.

Charles Eugster wins two golds: Age is just a number



03.04.2017

97-year-old Charles Eugster of Zurich practices what he preaches. ISPM's 2017 [Christmas seminar keynote speaker](#) won two gold medals in March at the World Masters Athletics Championships Indoor in Daegu, South Korea.

“Aging could be so different”, Eugster told the audience assembled on December 8, 2016, in Bern.

His talk (delivered standing up over the course of an hour) addressed issues ranging from the proper way to build muscle mass (it's important to give your muscles a chance to recover) to the benefits of dietary supplements (he takes several) to the reason he took up body building at age 87 (“I wanted to look good for the ladies”).

Eugster's key message for the researchers in attendance: more research is needed on the body and aging!

In South Korea the retired dentist won the 60-metre dash with a time of 15.42 seconds and the long jump with a distance of 1.25 metres in the age class 95 to 99.

New study MIWOCA kicks off April 1



31.03.2017

Although Switzerland has one of the best healthcare systems in Europe, access to healthcare is limited for certain groups within the population, among them migrant women. ISPM's new study "Migrant women's experience with Swiss healthcare services" (MIWOCA) is starting on April 1.

How do migrant women with chronic diseases experience and use healthcare in Switzerland, and how can their knowledge help improve services? ISPM's Social Environment research group hopes to answer these questions with a new three-year study.

The study, focusing on the health needs of Portuguese, Turkish, German, and Swiss women, applies a mixed-methods approach. It investigates how patients' perception of their own health, their needs and available resources, as well as their past experiences with the healthcare system, affect their usage of healthcare services.

Utilizing the findings from qualitative and quantitative interviews and focus groups, healthcare specialists, social workers and patients will take part in participatory planning groups to develop recommendations for improving healthcare for chronically ill migrant women.

By improving healthcare structures for migrant women and promoting their access to healthcare, this study aims at reducing social inequalities in health.

Health literacy prize for NRP 69 project 'Salt consumption'



28.03.2017

ISPM and the Bern University of Applied Sciences received the 2016 health literacy prize from Allianz Gesundheitskompetenz at the national health promotion conference in Neuchâtel in January 2017. Accepting the CHF 13,000 main prize were Corinna Krause of ISPM (pictured right) and Sandra Jent from BFH (pictured left).

The nine-member project team, directed by Sigrid Beer-Borst (ISPM), is investigating the impact of educational and structural measures in the workplace aimed at lowering employees' salt consumption. See more at

<http://www.nfp69.ch/en/projects/how-can-people-achieve-a-healthy-diet/project-salt-consumption>

The workplace intervention trial "salt consumption" is one of six projects making up the National Research Program "Healthy nutrition and sustainable food production" (NRP 69). NRP 69 is investigating the link between today's predominant diseases and nutrition. It aims to develop scientific bases and practical approaches for promoting public health through diet and to make the food production chain more sustainable.