

## GAPA COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ NO. 3: JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

[www.globalpa.org.uk](http://www.globalpa.org.uk)

Dear members of the GAPA Council of ISPAH,

### Welcome to the GAPA Council and to the third Communiqué

The GAPA Council Executive will send its membership an e-communicé after each Executive Committee Teleconference (approximately every 2 months) to keep you informed and invite your assistance with the actions of the GAPA Council. This communiqué outlines a few developments from the last 4 months.

### 1 - Update on the Toronto Charter for Physical Activity: A Global Call for Action

Since the launch of the charter at the 3<sup>rd</sup> ICPAPH the focus has been on translation and dissemination. The following progress has been made:

- \* Almost 500 individuals and 135 organisation from 40 countries have signed up their support for the Charter. To register your individual or organisation support visit the GAPA website at <http://www.globalpa.org.uk/charter/>;
- \* the charter is now available in English, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish and Thai at [www.globalpa.org.uk](http://www.globalpa.org.uk). Soon we will have Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Croatian, Hindi, Italian, Korean, Polish, Slovak, Turkish and in total 20 languages available. Many thanks go to the volunteers who have generously coordinated the translation process. If you are interested in translating the charter please contact Karen Milton at [K.Milton@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:K.Milton@lboro.ac.uk);
- \* the charter continues to be disseminated through a wide range of physical activity regional networks, international and national NGOs and other key contacts and presented at key events and meetings;
- \* GAPA are in the process of drafting a document outlining 6 best investments to increase population levels of physical activity - *Investments that work* to support the implementation of the principles and framework for action of the Toronto Charter. If applied at sufficient scale, these will make a significant contribution to reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases and contribute to improving the quality of life and the environments in which we live.

### What can you do with the Toronto Charter?

- \* Continue to register your personal support at [www.globalpa.org.uk](http://www.globalpa.org.uk);
- \* Send a copy of the **Toronto Charter for Physical Activity** to at least five of your colleagues and encourage them to do the same;
- \* Advocate for and register your employer/organisation to support the Charter;
- \* Arrange to meet with a key decision maker to discuss how their program and policies can align or adopt the principles and recommended actions of The **Toronto Charter for Physical Activity**;
- \* Mobilise networks and partnerships across all sectors to support and implement The Toronto Charter.

Also, tell us what you did. We are keeping a log of implementation activities. Please send emails of actions or questions to [info@globalpa.org.uk](mailto:info@globalpa.org.uk).

### 2 - Developing a global physical activity information service - Global-PA-net

GAPA is almost ready to establish a regular physical activity information service via an e-news and website. **Global-PA-net** plans to share physical activity evidence, best practice and knowledge across a global network of physical activity practitioners, scientists, policy makers and advocates. This initiative is led by Trevor Shilton (Director Cardiovascular Health Programs, National Heart Foundation of Australia (WA), and Adrian Bauman (Professor of Public Health and Epidemiology, University of Sydney, Australia).

So far, GAPA fundraising efforts for a two-year start-up phase with a plan for sustainable financing as an ISPAH / GAPA core product, have secured support from the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), the West Australian Health Promotion Foundation (Healthway), the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth), the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) (pending), and the World Heart Federation (WHF). If you are interested or know of an organisation that would like to support this activity for the start-up phase, please contact Trevor Shilton (Deputy -Chair of GAPA) at [Trevor.Shilton@heartfoundation.org.au](mailto:Trevor.Shilton@heartfoundation.org.au)

**GAPA plans to launch Global-PA-net in 2011!**

### 3 - Supporting and building advocacy for physical activity

One of GAPA's core functions is to support training opportunities in advocacy for physical activity within existing capacity building activities and as dedicated 'advocacy' courses. GAPA will soon define how to implement this activity. The intent is to develop and disseminate advocacy training tools (e.g. webinars) for both virtual and face to face training.

### 4 - Linking physical activity regional networks

GAPA welcomes Tracy Kolbe Alexander onto its Executive Committee ensuring African representation to better support the African Network for Physical Activity (AFPAN). GAPA continues to advocate for and support the work of regional networks for physical activity at the global level and particularly to explore ways to partner in projects that support the dissemination and implementation of the Toronto Charter and Global-PA-net.

### 5 - Linking physical activity with the global focus on NCD Prevention and Health in All Policies

GAPA has an important role in advocating to reinforce the critical link between physical activity and two vital global issues that have emerged from key meetings in 2010:

- \* **Health in All Policies (HiAP).** The current priority afforded by the WHO and other global bodies to inter-sectoral action and Health in All Policies (HiAP) remains an important opportunity for physical activity. The Toronto Charter clearly articulates how transport, planning, education, sport, recreation, urbanisation & sustainability are vital in advancing global physical activity.
- \* **Non-communicable Disease prevention.** The United Nations (UN) and World Health Organization (WHO) focus on Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Control in the lead-up to the upcoming UN high-level summit in September 2011 provides another important advocacy avenue for GAPA. GAPA aims to ensure physical activity promotion is a priority for action and contributes to the NGO voice in build up activities. Key actions include:

→ A place at the table at the November 2010 Informal Dialogue with the NGO sector on the way forward to the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Non-communicable Diseases. The IUHPE and GAPA successfully advocated for addressing "Physical Inactivity" as a major risk factor with Physical Activity promotion in its broader sense integrated in the final meeting communiqué

→ GAPA joins the NCD Alliance Common Interest Group

→ GAPA continues to develop and strengthen relationships with key international partners and major NCD prevention and control organisations

→ GAPA tries to ensure representation at key 2011 events

### 6 - GAPA releases its 2010 newsletter

In December 2010, GAPA released its annual newsletter providing an update on progress in the field of physical activity and health promotion including a brief update of what the regional networks have done over the year. The newsletter is available on our website at <http://www.globalpa.org.uk/whats-new.php>.

### 7 - Connecting with GAPA members – possible 'web meeting' in 2011

In order to further engage with its membership, GAPA plans to organise a 2 hour 'virtual meeting' to discuss and interact on a wide range of topics as well as engage our membership to advance our work in 2011. We are currently looking into technology aspects of making this happen and will have more news soon.

Finally, please contact us directly if you have suggestions, funding opportunities or ideas in relation to these or other potential GAPA activities. We'd love to hear from you - [info@globalpa.org.uk](mailto:info@globalpa.org.uk)

Stay tuned for the next GAPA Communiqué

Wishing you an active and healthy new year 2011!

#### The GAPA Executive

Fiona Bull (Chair)

Trevor Shilton (Deputy Chair)

Claire Blanchard (Secretary)

Beatriz Champagne

Tracy Kolbe-Alexander

Olga Sarmiento

Karen Milton (technical support)

Marie-Claude Lamarre (*ex-officio*)

