

GAPA COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ No. 1: JULY 2010

www.globalpa.org.uk

Dear members of the GAPA Council of the International Society for Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH),

Welcome to the GAPA Council and welcome to your first Communiqué

If you are a recipient of this communiqué it is because you have indicated on your ISPAH membership application that you wish to join the GAPA Council. The GAPA Council's core function is Global Advocacy for physical activity. We welcome as many people as possible from all over the World to join us in the advocacy activities below

The GAPA Council Executive will send you a communiqué after each Executive Committee Teleconference (about every 2 months) to keep you informed and invite your assistance with the actions of the GAPA Council. **A very high priority is seeking your input and involvement so read on for ways you can be actively involved with GAPA.**

The period of April to June 2010 has been a hectic and exciting time for the GAPA Council. Outlined below are the key developments and how you can get engaged.

1 - The 3rd International Congress on Physical Activity and Public Health

The ICPAPH Congress in Toronto was a great success with an outstanding program providing numerous opportunities to engage with the world's best science, policy and practice relating to physical activity. A small GAPA council meeting was held and we look forward to more interaction in person, via email and via virtual (webinar) meetings. The next Congress is in Sydney, Australia - Oct 31 through Nov 3 2012. We look forward to seeing you there!

2 - Launch of the Toronto Charter for Physical Activity: A Global Call for Action

Without doubt a highlight of the 3rd ICPAPH was the interaction between the delegates and the launch of the Toronto Charter for Physical Activity. It was a

fantastic platform for GAPA. GAPA has worked hard alongside the congress committee for two years to develop the Charter.

The process involved several stages of e-mail and web-based consultation. We received over 1,700 separate comments from 55 countries. We were delighted to place a particular emphasis on inclusion of developing countries and consultation in French and Spanish as well as in English. The Charter was launched with great fanfare on Saturday 8th May 2010 – a true reason to celebrate!

The Charter - what's happened since May?

Agreements for translation of the Toronto Charter into 17 languages (that's right seventeen!) have been received. French, Spanish and Portuguese versions are well underway.

Plans to publish the Charter in the Congress Supplement of JPAH (November 2010).

Registration of support and downloads via the GAPA website which we are tracking for promotion and advocacy.

Emails and various proactive actions are increasing the dissemination world wide.

Planned endorsement at the 20th World Conference of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) on Health Promotion – *Health, Equity and Sustainable Development* in Geneva, Switzerland - July 11th through 15th 2010.

Possible launches of future versions of the Charter in languages other than English (Keep an eye out for Spanish and Portuguese)!

The Charter - what can you do?

Vital to the success of the Toronto Charter is its widespread distribution and Global advocacy for its principles and actions. We encourage all of you, as GAPA Council members to:

*Register your personal support at 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 all sectors to support and implement The Toronto Charter

Also, tell us what you did. We are trying to keep a log of implementation activities. Please send emails of actions or questions to info@globalpa.org.uk

3 - GAPA priority activities – and how you can help

GAPA as a new Global Advocacy Council could do many things, but in our early development we have decided to limit our activities to a few that will make the biggest difference to Global physical activity. You can read about **GAPA's five core activities** on the website at <http://www.globalpa.org.uk/pdf/core-functions.pdf>. **Below are three of the ideas we wish to progress and ways you could help.**

Physical activity information dissemination: We are well advanced in plans to initiate a way to distribute regular, up to date physical activity knowledge Globally via an e-news. **How can you help?** Once established, we will be looking for our GAPA Members to contribute items to ensure this is a truly global information

service. We are also seeking support from funding bodies. If you can help with this please let us know.

Dissemination and advocacy for the uptake of a Global Charter for Physical Activity; How can you help? Keep reminding people to go to the GAPA website and log on their support for the Charter! (see above)

Advocacy for capacity building and training: GAPA is keen to ensure availability of appropriate training for those who promote physical activity. We are particularly keen to advance specific training to develop advocacy skills. **How could you help?** We will be compiling generic training materials, fact sheets, presentation materials etc for the website and would welcome your contributions. Of course we would also like to hear about funding opportunities for training.

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

Stay tuned for the next GAPA Communiqué

Best wishes

The GAPA Executive

Pictured below (from left to right)

Claire Blanchard (Secretary)
Karen Milton (technical support)
Fiona Bull (Chair)
Beatriz Champaign
Trevor Shilton (Deputy Chair)

Absent

Marie-Claude Lamarre (ex-officio)
Olga Sarmiento

