



GAPA

GLOBAL ADVOCACY
FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
Advocacy Council of ISPAH



GAPA: Global Advocacy for Physical Activity Still GAPA - Same mission, new name!

This 2009 edition of GAPA's newsletter provides up to date information on the recent developments and news on what is happening in physical activity and health around the world.

GAPA's history and recent changes

The Global Alliance for Physical Activity or GAPA was established in 2006 to coordinate and provide strategic orientation to the activities and actions developed by international and national NGOs, as well as civil society, to help countries initiate, strengthen and / or increase their efforts to address physical activity within the broad agenda of non-communicable disease prevention and health promotion. GAPA was started as a broadly representative body and works with physical activity networks and professionals in the health sector as well as those in local governments, transportation, education and urban design who share an interest in increasing participation in physical activity, walking and cycling, sport and active leisure. Last year, in order to strengthen GAPA's capacities, a decision was made to move towards a more formal status, with a membership base aimed to further develop interactions with WHO and other international agencies.

In 2008 the International Society for Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH) was established as a professional organisation with a specific and exclusive focus on physical activity internationally. The ISPAH provides an international voice to advance physical activity and health through the scientific study and the promotion of physical activity. GAPA has been incorporated into the ISPAH structure to serve as the advocacy council of the new Society. To reflect this new home and consolidate its primary focus, GAPA changed its name to Global Advocacy for Physical Activity – Advocacy Council of ISPAH.

GAPA remains focused on advocating for physical activity and communication between networks responding to the global physical activity and health agenda. GAPA aims to increase national level commitment in all regions to action on physical inactivity and encourage governments and interested stakeholders to develop, disseminate and implement national policies, programmes and services, and to support environments that promote physical activity and health.

What does GAPA do?

1. Disseminates physical activity information and evidence;
2. Advocates for the development, dissemination and implementation of national physical activity policies, action plans and guidelines;
3. Establishes an agreed Global physical activity and health Charter;
4. Advocates for capacity building and the development of workforce training initiatives;
5. Advocates for establishing and strengthening regional networks and global collaboration amongst these.

Three main principles underpin how GAPA will work:

- The development of priority actions based on evidence of effectiveness,
- The application of advocacy actions aimed at multiple levels: political advocacy, media advocacy, professional mobilisation, community mobilisation, and advocacy within organisations,
- The involvement of a wide range of organisations with direct and indirect interests in the promotion of physical activity across all regions of the world.

Who is behind GAPA?

As a Council of the newly created ISPAH, GAPA has initially established a small Steering Committee, but aims to include additional members in the future.

The Steering Committee currently comprises:

- Fiona Bull, Chair
- Trevor Shilton, Vice-Chair
- Claire Blanchard, Secretary

How to become a member of GAPA

GAPA is keen to expand the council's membership to achieve a broad and regionally balanced representation of dedicated professionals, researchers, practitioners, institutions, organisations and networks interested in contributing to the field of advocacy for physical activity globally.

GAPA is an open and inviting Council. Anyone wishing to become a member of GAPA, needs to first join ISPAH and select GAPA as the Council affiliation. You can affiliate with other Councils of ISPAH for an additional 15 US\$.

ISPAH Membership fees

- ▶ Professionals:
 - ▶ developing countries – 80 US\$
 - ▶ developed countries – 125 US\$
- ▶ Students: 70 US\$

For more information on ISPAH

and joining the society and GAPA, please visit <http://www.ispah.org>.

For more information, suggestions regarding GAPA's work plan or to offer assistance to GAPA – Advocacy Council of ISPAH please email fiona.bull@uwa.edu.au, Trevor.Shilton@heartfoundation.org.au, cblanchard@iuhpe.org or visit <http://www.globalpa.org.uk>

Development of a Global Charter for Physical Activity and Health

One of GAPA's major initiatives for the next 12 months is to work with the organisers of the 2010 International Congress on Physical Activity and Public Health to develop a Global Charter on Physical Activity and Health, which will be endorsed at the event.

A group of internationally respected researchers and public health practitioners are leading the drafting process: Dr Lise Gauvin (University of Montreal); Professor Fiona Bull (The University of Western Australia and Loughborough University), Dr. Bill Kohl (University of Texas), Dr. Adrian Bauman (University of Sydney) and Trevor Shilton (National Heart Foundation, Australia).

The "Toronto Charter" will be an advocacy tool to assist in gaining political commitment and policy support for action on physical inactivity. The Charter is still in the early stage of development and therefore the exact structure and scope is yet to be confirmed. A number of key elements underline the Charter, including:

- reaffirming the health benefits of physical activity;
- linking physical activity with other important population health issues;
- outlining the underpinning principles and infrastructure for effective interventions; and
- presenting a compelling and concise direction for action suitable for world wide use to influence decision makers and the policy process at national and regional levels.

It is critical that the Charter includes the widest possible input from all regions and is shaped to meet the needs of the intended audience. To this end, the planning process is focused on ways to gain input from regional physical activity networks, potential conference participants, different sectors, and international organisations that have a shared interest in population-based approaches to the promotion of physical activity. The organisers will welcome your input and suggestions. Over the coming months email and web-based communication channels will be set up to invite your contributions. Look out for more information!

Upcoming Conferences and Events

RAFA/PANA (Physical Activity Network of the Americas) Annual Meeting

São Paulo, Brazil – October 14th-16th 2009
http://www.rafapana.org/index_en.asp

7th Agita Mundo Network Annual Meeting

São Paulo, Brazil – October 15th-16th 2009
http://www.agitamundo.org/site_en.htm

32nd International Symposium on Sports Sciences

São Paulo, Brazil – October 15th-17th 2009
<http://www.simposiocelafiscs.org.br>

Be Active 09 – Australia's 7th National Physical Activity Conference

Brisbane, Australia – October 14th-17th 2009
<http://www.beactive09.com>

8th International Conference on Urban Health

Nairobi, Kenya – October 19th-23rd 2009
<http://www.icuh2009.org/>

7th WHO Global Conference on Health Promotion

Promoting health and development: Closing the implementation gap
Nairobi, Kenya – October 26th-30th 2009
<http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/7gchp/en>

4th IUHPE Latin American Conference on Health Promotion

Medellín, Colombia – November 4th-7th 2009
<http://fnsp.udea.edu.co/fnsp/Conferencia>

5th Annual Meeting of HEPA Europe, the European Network for the Promotion of Health-Enhancing Physical Activity

Bologna, Italy – November 11th-12th 2009
http://www.euro.who.int/hepa/events/20060906_2

3rd International Congress on Physical Activity and Health

Toronto, Canada – May 5th-8th 2010
<http://www.cflri.ca/icpaph/>

20th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion

Health, Equity and Sustainable Development
Geneva, Switzerland – July 11th-15th 2010
<http://www.iuhpeconference.net/>

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<http://www.globalpa.org.uk>

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