

It is a pleasure and honour to welcome our colleagues and friends to the first website on public health in Malta set up by the Malta Association of Public Health Medicine. This site contains valuable information to all members, other professions and anyone who may be interested in the public health profession and public health issues.

Public health plays an important role in protecting lives and well-being. From 'No Smoking' signs to immunization, from water sanitation to bike and walking paths, public health is all around us – protecting our health by safeguarding the places where we live, work, and play. Public health also strives to improve the conditions and behaviours that affect the health of each and every one of us. It battles against deadly contagious diseases and promotes healthier lifestyles. This common health approach seeks to reduce incidences of preventable diseases, minimize the consequences of catastrophic events, and provide the basics of sanitation, safe food, and water.

The health of a person is determined not only by their own genetics and personal choices, but also by the environment which surrounds us. Expertise in public health investigates the ecology of health – from social networks and economic circumstances to our environment – and suggests strategies to minimize health risks.

Efforts in the health of communities allow us to save lives – your life, the lives of your family and friends, and the lives of people around an ever smaller world. If we can save lives, we should. The aim is not solely to make people healthier, but also to address soaring healthcare costs by preventing unnecessary death and illness.

The role of MAPHM is very wide and includes teaching and practice of public health medicine; promoting professional interests of qualified practitioners including CPD; provide an independent forum for health and other professionals to address public health issues facing the country; facilitate exchange of information, experience and research on public health matters in Malta and to advocate for and advise upon policies and programmes that contribute to the improvement of public health in the country. Hence our role will be of great contribution to public health and health status of our population in Malta.

I wish to thank the many persons who have helped us to develop this site and who have contributed or will contribute in the months and years ahead, in order to sustain the MAPHM in its goals through this medium. Special thanks go to the MAPHM sub-committee responsible for the development and maintenance of the website,

Meanwhile, allow me to thank publicly all those past and present who have dedicated their time and energy to promote public health via the MAPHM committee for their dedication and commitment to their belief in this noble cause.

Dr Charmaine Gauci

President, Malta Association of Public Health Medicine