

TEACHING PLANETARY HEALTH AT THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE OF GENEVA : A STUDENTS-LED INITIATIVE

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CONTEXT

- The **FMH** (*Swiss Medical Association*) is committed since **October 2021** to the sustainable integration of Planetary Health (PH) into pre-graduate curricula throughout Switzerland (1)
- According to the **AMEE** (*Association for Medical Education in Europe*) **Consensus** (2), universities should incorporate sustainability as a cross-cutting curriculum theme across all health professions education by **2025**
- The **PROFILES** (3), a set of competencies to be acquired by Swiss medical students during their pre-graduate training, target the following goal: “*Contribute to the literacy of patients and oneself regarding environmental and ecological safety*”
- A **coherent teaching** for all medical students is therefore needed to achieve these objectives

METHODOLOGY

February 2020: students survey to evaluate their needs and wishes

→ Only **10%** believe they have sufficient knowledge of the links between climate change and health

January 2021: systematic review of the learning objectives already present in the curriculum using the LOOOP tool (*Learning Opportunities, Objectives and Outcomes Platform*)

April 2021: creation of a working group between teachers and students mandated by the deanship

RESULTS

- Development of a **curriculum in PH** starting in September 2021 and addressing **3 main targets** : ① **Threats** to human health from climate change and global changes ② **Environmental impact** of the health system and the adaptations to be implemented ③ **Role of the physician** in addressing these threats: prevention and health advocacy
- **During 2021-22** : integration of about **30 new learning objectives** and **3 new lectures** for Bachelor’s students
- **Spring semester 2022** : **dedicated PH elective course** in collaboration with Lausanne and Geneva Universities for 10 Bachelor students, 3h per week

DISCUSSION

May 23rd 2022 : Official presentation of the PH teaching at a public conference **2022-23** : Integration of new objectives, mainly for Master’s students

From 2022 : Extension of the project to other faculties in the University of Geneva

From 2022 : Participation in the *Planetary Health Report Card* (4) to evaluate the 7 medical faculties in Switzerland, in collaboration with *Health for Future* (5) (student’s national group) to track progress in implementing PH teaching.

PERSPECTIVES

- ✓ PH is an **emerging** and **essential** component of pre-graduate medical education
- ✓ **Student-led initiatives**, supported by faculties, can lead to **rapid adaptations** of the medical curriculum
- ✓ **Embedding** teaching activities into pre-existing courses **facilitates** the integration of learning objectives
- ✓ **Cooperation between Universities** is key for maximizing the impact on education

References

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- (5) <https://healthforfuture.ch/fr/>

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