

ISSUE: February 2022

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT - *Professor Gregory Kolt*



Welcome to 2022. I hope you were able to enjoy some time with family and friends before the commencement of the 2022 academic year. In this email, I take the opportunity to update you on a range of CAPHIA matters.

2021 Achievements

Late in 2021 we saw the departure of our Executive Officer, Tracy Gurnett. I wish to acknowledge the wonderful work that Tracy did in advancing so many of CAPHIA's objectives and activities. Our significant progress toward CAPHIA's mission is documented in the [2021 Year in Review](#), available online for your convenience.

A particular highlight of 2021 was CAPHIA's key role as part of the Global Network for Academic Public Health (GNAPH - <https://www.aspph.org/connect/global-network/>). GNAPH is an alliance of the regional associations that represent schools and programs of public health around the world. I encourage you to explore their website. Of interest will be a position paper that GNAPH published in the journal *Public Health Reviews* titled "Global governance for improved human, animal, and planetary health: The essential role of schools and programs of public health" that can be found at <https://www.sspj-journal.org/articles/10.3389/phrs.2021.1604610/full>

Please note that the Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) is offering prizes for top introductory Epidemiology or Biostatistics 2021 students (undergraduate or postgraduate). If you would like to nominate students from your institutions please contact Keeley Allen (student.rep@aea.asn.au) for details.

2022 at CAPHIA

This year will be a big one for CAPHIA as we progress a number of initiatives to meet our three [strategic pillars](#):

1. Member Capacity Building and Skills Development
2. Advocacy and Promotion of Collective Member Views
3. Partnerships and Networks Enhancement

Together, these priorities serve to support and strengthen public health education and research within and beyond Australasia.

The CAPHIA constitution is in the final stages of being revised and updated, to ensure that it reflects our organisation both now and into the future. We will shortly send out a draft for your further input and feedback, after which we will need to take it to a Special Meeting for approval. I wish to thank all University members for their initial input earlier last year and then to the Executive Committee for their work on this in the latter part of last year.

As previously announced, the 2022 Teaching and Learning Forum will be co-hosted by the University of Melbourne and Monash University and we look forward to building the success of blended and online offerings to provide flexible engagement options.

CAPHIA now has a LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/council-of-academic-public-health-institutions-australasia>. We will be building up our presence on this professional networking site throughout 2022 to progress our vision and mission and to celebrate achievements.

New Executive Director

To help drive CAPHIA's ambitious agenda I am pleased to advise that Holly Donaldson has been appointed to the position of Executive Director of CAPHIA and commenced on 31 January 2021.

Holly has worked in the tertiary education sector for 15 years in Australia and Canada and has a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Public Health. Holly's professional experience includes as the Director of Training and Accreditation at the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine and delivering strategy for Monash University's IT and Student Services portfolio. Holly will be based in Melbourne, and will reach out in the coming weeks to meet you all.

If your CAPHIA member nominee/s have recently changed, please advise Holly via caphia@phaa.net.au or +61 404 757 599.

I look forward to another exciting year working with you to progress public health education, research, and workforce development.

Kind regards,

Gregory Kolt

Chair, Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australasia