

Accreditation of Public Health Education in the Asia-Pacific Region

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**Indika M. Karunathilake, MBBS (Col), DMedEd (UK),
MMedEd (UK), FHEA (UK), FCGP (SL, Hon)¹,
and Chiranthi K. Liyanage, MBBS (Col)¹**

Abstract

There has been dramatic advancement in health status in the Asia-Pacific region (APR) over the past 50 years. This ever-changing paradigm of public health calls for continuous review and quality improvement of public health education (PHE). Since its founding in 1984, the mission of the Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) has been to improve the quality and relevance of PHE to combat the diverse, dynamic, and unique challenges in the APR. Prof Walter Patrick was a forerunner in this movement and played an instrumental role in establishing APACPH's position in accreditation and improvement of PHE.

Keywords

education (public health), curricular, medical education, health management, primary health care, health equity, health policy

Introduction

There has been dramatic advancement in health status in the Asia-Pacific region (APR) over the past 50 years.¹ Multiple public health interventions have increased life expectancies and reduced morbidities to an extent unseen in previous eras. Overall socioeconomic development that promoted equity and comprehensive measures were central to health improvement at affordable cost.² With the application of Universal Health Rights, optimum health care for all became more a norm than a notion.³ Public health education (PHE) embedded such values and competencies into professional practice. The ever-changing paradigm of public health calls for continuous review and quality improvement of PHE.

The Diversity of PHE

PHE worldwide is a diverse mix of scholastic establishments based on distinct traditions and sociopolitical contexts. A synergistic approach between medicine and community-based public

¹Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Corresponding Author:

Indika Karunathilake, Medical Education Development and Research Centre (MEDARC), Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.
Email: karunathilake@hotmail.com