

As President of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 11th World Congress on Public Health. I am particularly pleased to welcome you to the Americas and appreciate your willingness to travel to this beautiful city in South America to participate in this global public health conference.

The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) – in a 2004 policy resolution - defined public health as “an art and a science, and also a movement dedicated to the equitable improvement of health and well-being (of communities with their full participation)”. First and foremost, public health leaders must be catalysts for the public health movement and must maintain and strengthen their roles and capacities as advocates for public health. The Federation recognizes these key global challenges: the promotion of human rights; the reduction of the burden of disease; the guarantee of appropriate nutrition; education on all aspects of health promotion; protection of the environment; and the achievement of worldwide access to essential drugs at reasonable cost.

As you will note, this Program, organized jointly with our local host, the Brazilian Association of Collective Health (ABRASCO) certainly reflects this commitment to strengthening the global public health movement. The staffs of ABRASCO and WFPHA, assisted by committed volunteers, have worked hard to put together a very provocative and first-rate scientific program. The program is a truly collaborative effort and a leading forum on global public health.

You will have the opportunity for dialogue about key global public health issues. The Congress is bringing together policy-makers and experts in governments, public health associations, international organizations, research institutes, and academia from across the globe. Participants will: explore perspectives on *Public Health in a Globalized World: breaking down political, social, and economic barriers*; attempt to reconcile goals for the global public health community; contribute to the development of principles that will guide nations in implementing responsible and equitable public health programs; and identify policies and measures that should be adopted to achieve “good health for all.”

While we have a full agenda of scientific activities and meetings this week, I hope that you will take the time to experience the culture and ambience of Rio de Janeiro, one of the marvelous cities of the Americas.

Sincerely,

Cuahtemoc Ruiz Matus
President of WFPHA/FMASP

