European Public Health needs strong drivers to keep pushing forward an agenda of health politics that is rooted in evidence. This is necessary both to safeguard the advances achieved in the health of our populations over the past decades as well as to challenge ourselves to break new frontiers in attempting to address well-established problems at local, national, European and global levels.

The European Public Health Association (EUPHA) is well positioned to fulfill this role. From its humble beginnings over 20 years ago, this small organization has established itself as a leader in bringing scientific evidence based on research to the attention of the public health community.

EUPHA has recently adopted a strategy for the period 2015–20, in which continues to build on the development of the four pillars of activity; namely, research, policy, practice and training. The strategy aims to strengthen the scientific and independent voice of public health in Europe. This objective will be complemented by the objectives of building capacity and knowledge across Europe and preparing young public health professionals to take up strong leadership roles thus ensuring the sustainability of public health research and practice in the years to come. Within the above mentioned strategic framework, I have identified the following areas as priorities I would particularly like to focus on in the coming years.

EUPHA has a role to play in shaping the public health research agenda at European level and can be a key driver for innovative collaboration pan European research projects.

EUPHA is a small organization. It is for this reason that we must identify like-minded partners who are intent on pursuing similar public health objectives. By working together with organizations that share our public health values, we can have a positive impact on health policy at European level to counteract the effect of disease promoting organizations.

Should a medical journal ever publish a political paper?

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Should a medical journal ever publish a political paper? This question has been debated at length in recent months following the publication by The Lancet of a letter drawing attention to the suffering of the victims arising from the recent conflict in Gaza.1 The