

ASPHER General Assembly

10 September 2020

Annex: COVID-19 Disruptions to ASPHER business

Over the course of the first half of 2020, COVID-19 introduced unexpected disruptions to the usual business of the running of ASPHER. The pandemic produced a double burden on the ASPHER office as available Secretariat staff hours reduced due to school/childcare closing, while actual workloads increased as the Association, with its specific mandate in the field of public health, responded to the crisis.

The ASPHER Secretariat, Presidency and the Executive Board have been working hard to provide continuity of ASPHER services at this time and we are proud to be moving forward with Presidential and Executive Board Elections as well as adoption of the ASPHER 2025 Strategy at the 10 September General Assembly meeting.

However, in order to ensure a smooth adoption of the 2025 Strategy, changeover of governance and wrap up of the ASPHER 2020 Agenda, we are proposing a longer-term transition period. To this end we present the ASPHER Membership with the following proposals for consideration:

- 1) The ASPHER 2025 Strategy will be adopted at this General Assembly and will go into effect. However, the ASPHER 2020 Agenda final wrap up will take place at the in-person Deans' & Directors' Retreat in Sofia in 2021 where the first progress report on the implementation of the 2025 agenda will also be provided.
- 2) The handover of the next ASPHER Presidency would be delayed until the 2022 ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat in Dublin. In effect, this would mean that:
 - a) Current ASPHER President, John Middleton would remain until the 2022 ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat in Dublin allowing him to see the ASPHER 2025 strategy through to its mid-term implementation and to complete his Presidency goals on ASPHER governance.

- b) The new ASPHER President-elect would assume the post as Incoming ASPHER President at the 2021 ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat in Sofia allowing the postholder to enjoy a full-year term as Incoming President to plan for his presidency.
- 3) The newly elected ASPHER Executive Board Members would assume their seats on the Executive Board at the 2021 ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat in Sofia moving the ASPHER 2020 wrap up to completion. The current Executive Board Members, expected to vacate in 2020, would remain in their seats and continue to serve until that time.

These are exceptional steps, proposed during an unprecedented time for the Association. ASPHER Executive Board considers them necessary and brings this proposal before the ASPHER Membership at the General Assembly for consent of the Association Members.

ASPHER Executive Board