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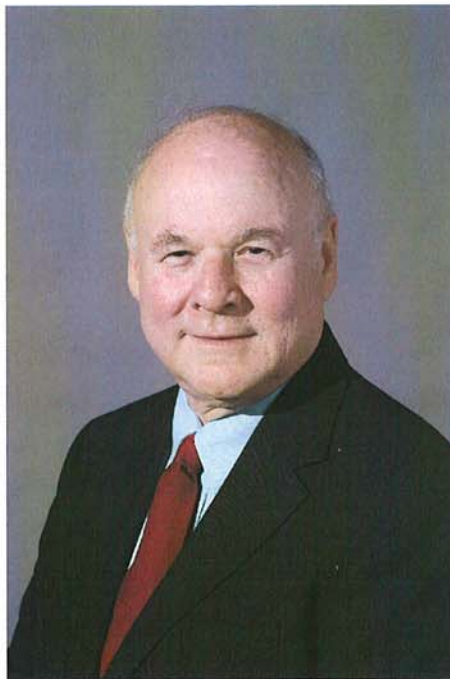
Change of leadership

Dear members and guests

I have started to act as director of the Public Health Group in a critical moment when Luub Wessels declared in Beijing in 2007, that he had decided to terminate his activities as per this very moment. A few weeks later he had a heart attack which prevented him to lend me any further support: He survived and managed to visit our next seminar in Florence in 2008.

Right from the beginning I have therefore announced that I would intend to take over the responsibility, however for as specific defined duration of 4 years but I had to extend it finally until this year 2012.

During this year's annual meeting in Oslo I had the pleasure to present as the new official director: **Prof George Mann** teaching at the A&M University in Texas. He is ready to take the lead, starting directly after the conference in Oslo. Since most of us know George I don't have to introduce him.



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One of my visions

I have learned myself on the hard way that one person all on its own is not a very solid construction for an international operating organisation. I have therefore promised to George that I will support him as the immediate past director keeping the contact with the WHO and the IHF. Both are large organisations with their headquarters in Geneva, a place which I can reach within 3 hours from my home. It is however for George more important to have at his side a number of executive members well distributed over the continents, each one responsible for a specific task. We even started to discuss the need for the nomination of a vice director among these executive members who could take over the responsibility of the leadership at a later moment in approximately 3 years.

I make a definitive step back however aiming for a more robust organisation.

Thanks for all your support

The Public Health Group depends on individual persons distributed over all continents. I thank everyone who has supported our ideas. The interest is growing. The number of official country representatives and associate members developed from 46 to 62 during the last five years. A continuous effort has to be made to organise our seminars for more and more participants at reasonable costs. The result however depends on the quality of the presented papers to some specific formulated actual topic themes and the discussion aiming for better solutions in health care facilities design and construction. During the annual meeting we heard that we can do more. Please give your support also to George. There are so many fascinating ideas on the table which can be developed.

The world is changing rapidly and new challenges have to be faced. This will never come to an end.

Kind regards

Hans Eggen

Immediate past Director UIA Public Health Group.

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