

PRESS RELEASE

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AUA ABSTRACTS ACCEPTED BY EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The European Public Health Association (EUPHA) accepted eight abstracts submitted by the American University of Armenia's (AUA) Center for Health Services and Research and Development (CHSR) for presentation at its 2002 Annual Meeting in Dresden, Germany focusing on "Bridging the Gap Between Research and Policy in Public Health. Information, Promotion, and Training." EUPHA is an international, multidisciplinary scientific organization, bringing together public health workers for professional exchange of information and collaboration throughout Europe, with 27 members from 22 different countries.

"We were stimulated by our recent acceptance into membership in the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), sponsored by the Open Society Institute, to begin establishing practice and research linkages with the wider European Public Health Community," noted Dr. Michael Thompson, Director of the CHSR. "All of the staff were encouraged and supported in writing professional papers from the various research projects they have worked on during the past several years so that the knowledge they have generated will have the greatest impact on the health of the population."

AUA CHSR's oral and poster presentations discuss research conducted in primary healthcare, the promotion of family planning services in Armenia, women and children's care, patient and doctor relationships, and assessments of USAID's *Green Path* campaign for reproductive health in Armenia. Dr. Haroutune Armenian, Dean of the College of Health Sciences noted, "The fact that all eight research abstracts were accepted for presentation is an indication of the quality of the research program at the CHSR/AUA. Also, our students of yesterday have become our productive junior colleagues within the various projects of the AUA."

CHSR is an applied research center located within the College of Health Sciences and was established in 1995 to develop the infrastructure and support assessment, policy/programming, and quality assurance functions of public health practice in Armenia. It offers its expertise as a resource to support and facilitate the existing public health infrastructure in Armenia, primarily by serving as a venue for linkages between the Ministry of Health, donor agencies, and the expertise of the Center's staff. The center responds to requests for technical assistance from local Armenian ministries, research institutes, and international agencies working on health issues in the region.