

Visit of the Health Advisory Board of the JHSPH at the Pompeu Fabra University

The **Health Advisory Board of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**, a body that facilitates the dialogue between outside organizations and the School, as well as **Trustees from the Board of the Johns Hopkins University**, visited **Pompeu Fabra University** from *March 29th to April 3rd*, holding their bi-annual meeting on April 1. This meeting took place at the Ciutadella Campus of UPF, where the **Johns Hopkins University- Pompeu Fabra University Public Policy Center** (JHU-UPF Public Policy Center) is located. They chose the Public Policy Center as an ideal setting to celebrate the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Centennial Anniversary, and in order to pursue the opportunity to further collaboration between Pompeu Fabra and Johns Hopkins University as a whole.

The Health Advisory Board of the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University was established in 1981. It is composed of alumni and members of corporations, foundations, private organizations, and also individuals with specific interests in research, education programs and professional practice. This body works closely with the School to create new programs to support key initiatives and provide advice on strategic issues.

The 30-person US delegation underwent a program of activities that began with a welcome session, held on *March 31st* in the conference hall Albert Calsamiglia, in which **Dr. Jaume Casals**, President of the UPF, and **Dr. Michael Klag**, Dean of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, presided. **Josep Ferrer**, Vice Chancellor for International Relations at the UPF, also attended that meeting.

In their respective speeches, and after the screening of an institutional video about the university, Rector Casals and Dean Klag expressed their satisfaction with the close collaboration between the two institutions, especially through the JHU- UPF-Public Policy Center. The areas in which the Center is developing its research programs include climate change, economic and financial crisis (social and political), international trade agreements and migration, and how these areas impact the health, quality of life and wellbeing of populations. The leaders of the two institutions emphasized the longstanding relationship between their respective universities, and applauded the exciting opportunity for further exchange of faculty and graduate students at the Center.

Once the conference had finished, members of the HAB received a **guided tour of the Ciutadella campus**. They visited the Roger de Llúria and Jaume I buildings, "Sala de Reflexió" and "Dipòsit de les Aigües" areas, among others. After an informal lunch in the Merce Redonda building, the group proceeded on to City Hall, where they met with Deputy Mayor Gerard Pisarello of the City of Barcelona, along with Barcelona Public Health Agency President Gemma Tarafa and Director Carme Borrell.

The HAB's bi-annual meeting took place on Friday, April 1st, and provided another opportunity for the Hopkins delegation to learn about the Center. Stephen Moore, Chair of the Board, led the sessions. During an informal lunch reception, the Center's students and researchers explained their projects to members of the Board alongside a poster display. These posters

included: “Large City Heatwave Vulnerability Review,” by Mary Sheehan; “Climate Change and Health: The City of Barcelona,” by Irma Ventayol and Joan Ramon Villalbi; “Economic Change and Mortality: Do Social Protection Policies Matter?,” by Usama Bilal; “Identifying Social Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Health in Elderly Populations of Spain, Sweden and USA: a research proposal,” by Paloma Navas; “Access to Primary Health Care in Africa: A Scoping Review,” by Lucinda Cash-Gibson, Alba Llop Gironés and Joan Benach; “Diagnosing Global Capacities for Research on the Social Determinants of Health Inequalities: Outcomes, Information, Resources,” by Lucinda Cash-Gibson, Alba Llop Gironés and Joan Benach; “Monitoring quality of employment, precarious employment and health inequalities,” by Mireia Julià, Christophe Vanroelen and Joan Benach; “Tuberculosis and Employment Conditions in Europe: Unraveling its Liaison with Economic and Migration Crisis,” by Joan M. Pericàs, Alba Llop and Joan Benach; “Employment Conditions and quality of employment and their relation with health inequalities,” by Mireia Julià, Gemma Tarafa, Laia Ollé and Joan Benach; “Labour Market Policies Impact on Workers' Health,” by Mireia Julià, Laia Ollé, Esther Sánchez, Lucía Artazcoz, Christophe Vanroelen and Joan Benach; “Public Opinion, Welfare Policy and the Shaping of Immigration Policy in the EU,” by Javier Arregui and Mathew J. Creighton; and “Extreme Weather-Driven Disasters (EWDDs) and Child Health” by Mary Sheehan and Michael Garcia.

In the Board’s afternoon sessions on Friday, Professor Ellen Mackenzie, Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management and the Chair of the Executive Board of the Center, informed the Board about the origins of the Center and the nature of the work, discussing the purposes and principles of the Center. Professor Vincent Navarro, Center Director, introduced the teaching and research activities of the PPC and highlighted how students and faculty had successfully participated in this exchange in the past, reporting back positive experiences. He then introduced two research projects, involving over a dozen researchers each, that the Center is currently conducting.

After Professor Navarro’s introduction, Professor Mary Sheehan, coordinator of the Climate Change and Wellbeing Working Group of the Barcelona Public Policy Center, explained her research group’s work in a presentation entitled “Connecting cities to reduce health risks from heatwaves.” The group, founded in the Center over a year ago, has already successfully conducted several conferences and has commitments from the cities of Barcelona and Baltimore to establish a city network dedicated to addressing the public health implications of climate change. Following Professor Sheehan’s presentation, Center researcher Professor Joan Benach of the UPF also presented the work of his research group, The Health Inequalities Research Group (GREDS) - (Employment Conditions Network), and their current project entitled, “Project on Monitoring Employment to Improve Population’s Health: Advancing a Global Observatory on Employment and Health.” The Board expressed how they were impressed with the high caliber of the academic work at the Center.

After the Friday meetings, the Board held a supper in 7 Portes, attended by Center faculty, students, and guests. Again, this gathering provided an opportunity for the Hopkins delegation to interact with Center faculty, students and staff in an informal and intimate setting that facilitated more extensive conversations.

The visit culminated in an evening reception for former Hopkins students, current Center researchers and students, and the Board at the Museu d'Art Nacional de Catalunya (MNAC) on April 2nd. The reception celebrated the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Centennial, as the guests enjoyed the view from the Montjuic Palace. Again, the Board was afforded the opportunity to interact with Center students and faculty in order to learn more about the Center's activities and research. Gifts were exchanged between the two universities in a ceremony commemorating the universities' relationship.

For further information on this issue in Catalan, visit the UPF website by clicking [here](#).