

Global Management Committee

The Global Management Committee are responsible for managing the logistical requirements and finances for the Conference.



Leanne Eruera (Co-Chair)

Ms Eruera is Maori, (the Indigenous Peoples of Aotearoa New Zealand). She affiliates to the tribes of Te Rarawa, Ngapuhi and Ngati Ruanui.

Leanne is the Business Manager of the Health Promotion Forum of New Zealand (HPF). A member of Chartered Accountants Australia, New Zealand, Leanne also holds legal executive and human resource qualifications. With close to 20 years combined experience in various business, and finance roles in the commercial and not for profit sectors, she has contributed at senior levels in areas of strategic planning, accounting and finance, system and business efficiencies, human resources and contracting.

As Co-Chair of the Global Management Committee for the IUHPE's 23rd World Conference on Health Promotion, Leanne brings all her relevant experience to support the world conference planning. She is the Project Manager of the conference, on behalf of HPF.



Marilyn Rice (Co-Chair)

Marilyn Rice is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of merci (Marilyn E Rice Consulting International), an international consulting firm specializing in advising on promoting equity in health and development. Until June 2011 she was the Senior Advisor in Health Promotion and Coordinator of the Urban Health and Determinants of Health Team for the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). Among many other positions, she also served as Community Development, Mobilization and Advocacy Technical Officer for Management Sciences for Health in the USAID BASICS Child Survival Project, as the Global Health Promotion and Education Specialist in Reproductive Health for the World Health Organization from 1993-2000, as the Chief of the Perinatal Addiction Prevention Branch for the US Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, and as the Regional Advisor in Health Education and Community Development for PAHO/WHO from 1978-1990. With over 40 years of experience working in multi-cultural, multi-lingual environments, she is known globally for her work in health promotion, education, and behavior change communication; community development; social mobilization; participatory research and evaluation; and the emerging field of urban health. Serving on boards of numerous international, non-profit and professional organizations, as well as on editorial boards of numerous peer review journals, she has published extensively in her fields of expertise and based upon her experiences in countries throughout the world. She continues to conduct workshops, courses and conferences in many of those places in any of 4 languages (English, French, Spanish and Portuguese), and she was awarded the honor of Distinguished Fellow by the Society for Public Health

Education and the US HHS Administrator's Award for Meritorious Achievement. Ms. Rice currently sits on the following executive boards: IUHPE (International Union for Health Promotion and Education) where she also holds the position of Global VP for Conferences and Chair of the Healthy Settings Interest Group and has served on the Global IUHPE Board almost continuously since 1980, Bridges4Health, and AFSM (Association of Former PAHO/WHO Staff Members). She holds degrees in Sociology, English, Public Health and Health Education.



John Allegrante

John Allegrante is Professor of Health Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he has been Chairman of the Department of Health and Behavior Studies, Deputy Provost, and Associate Vice President for International Affairs. He holds a joint appointment in Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia and is a member of the Faculty Steering Committee for the Columbia Global Centers|Paris. A Past President and Distinguished Fellow of the Society for Public Health Education, Allegrante has been a Fellow of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and Pew Charitable Trusts, a Fulbright Scholar, and a visiting scholar with the Soros Open Society Foundations and Erasmus Mundus European Public Health Programme. He is a graduate of the State University of New York and earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois. Allegrante was awarded an honorary doctorate from the State University of New York in 2015 and received the Elizabeth Fries Health Education Prize Award from the CDC Foundation in 2017.



Liane Comeau

Liane Comeau is Executive Director of IUHPE. She was born in Nova Scotia (Canada) and has lived in several cities and countries. She holds a doctorate from McGill University (2004) and her research interests focused particularly on child development. For 6 years, she worked in a pan-Canadian NGO, Invest in Kids, as Director of Research and Evaluation. Prior to taking up her post at the international Secretariat of IUHPE, she held a position as Scientific Advisor at the Institut national de santé publique du Québec since 2008. Her work focused on health promotion initiatives targeting children and families, particularly in the school context, as well as mental health through the life span and the planning and interpretation of populational surveys.

Ms Comeau maintains an active interest in applied research and teaching through her affiliation as lecturer with the École de santé publique de l'Université de Montréal (since 2013).



Paolo Contu

Professor of Public Health, Department of Medical Sciences and Public Health, University of Cagliari

Director of the School of Public Health, University of Cagliari

Vice-president for Communications – International Union Health Promotion and Education

Co-Chair of the Global Working Group “Competencies and Workforce Development” –

International Union Health Promotion and Education

1995- member of the European Training Consortium in Public Health and Health Promotion (lecturer and tutor summer courses)

2010 –2016: Vice-president for Capacity Building Education and Training – International Union Health Promotion and Education

2012 –2015: President of the Faculty of Medicine – University of Cagliari

Teaching public health, health promotion, epidemiology and medical statistics for undergraduate and postgraduate medical students, nurses, social workers, health visitors, PHD students

Research in the area of epidemiology and health promotion (clinical epidemiology, biostatistics, action research, participatory methods).



José Luis Castro

José Luis Castro is Executive Director of The Union and President & CEO of Vital Strategies. Under Mr Castro’s leadership and vision, The Union has expanded its global portfolio of projects and forged new strategic partnerships, including with the Global Fund, USAID, DFID, and Bloomberg Philanthropies. In addition to establishing the renowned International Management Development Programme (IMDP), which has trained more than 4,000 managers from 30 countries, Mr. Castro has strengthened the organisation’s programmatic and operational functions. In 2014, Mr. Castro co-founded the Global TB Caucus, an international network of over 2,300 parliamentarians from more than 132 countries, with the Rt. Hon. Nick Herbert MP, of the UK, to accelerate progress against the tuberculosis epidemic. This revolutionary initiative remains one of the world’s largest political networks dedicated to advancing a global health priority.



Patrícia Dias da Silva

Patrícia Dias da Silva is the Communications Officer of IUHPE. She has a Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies from the New University of Lisbon, a Master's degree in Communication, Culture and Information Technologies from ISCTE-IUL, and a PhD in Social Sciences from the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon. Patrícia has over 10 years of experience in knowledge dissemination for different audiences, including direction of collective works, organization of scientific and outreach events and preparation of innovative pedagogical content. More recently, she studied technology-based citizen science as part of her Postdoctoral fellowship at the Department of Communication of the Université de Montréal.



Lavinia Ngatoko is the Communications Advisor for the Health Promotion Forum of New Zealand (HPF). Lavinia who is of Fijian/Scottish ethnicity has a BA in English and History/Politics from the University of Canterbury and University of the South Pacific. She brings more than 20 years of professional experience in public relations and the media, where she has worked in television and print, to her role. Most recently Lavinia was a sub-editor for Pagemasters NZ (Australian Associated Press) where she worked on News Corp (Australia) and NZME's regional newspapers. She was keen to branch out into a role that would allow her to move in a different direction. Working for HPF has given her the invaluable opportunity to utilise her communications knowledge and skills on advancing the health and wellbeing of all peoples and communities.



Trevor R Shilton

Trevor has extensive experience across research, practice and policy, in government, non-government and academic institutions. He serves on the Boards of IUHPE and ISPAH.

Trevor was the founding National President of the Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA) and is a Life Member of AHPA. He has directed major community-wide initiatives, including social marketing campaigns in physical activity, obesity and tobacco control, as well as state-wide and national initiatives in workplace health and school health.

Trevor has published book chapters and over 60 papers in peer reviewed journals. He has participated in guideline and policy development in Australia, Canada, Asia and the United States and at global level with the WHO and leading Civil Society organisations.



Trevor Simpson

Te kotahi a Tuhoē ka kata te pō. Trevor joined HPF in May 2010 to manage the Māori portfolio. He is married to Vanessa with two grown children and has worked in the health promotion field since 2006. Prior to this he worked in a number of vocations including Crown Land administration, Treaty Settlements and special youth projects. His interests are in raising the profile of Māori issues particularly in the areas of health and matters of social importance. Trevor is committed to health promotion as a fundamental approach to improving Māori health status and believes that strong Māori leadership in this field is an essential facet if we are to contemplate success.

Trevor Simpson – White Ribbon Ambassador.

Ruben Wiki was the first White Ribbon Ambassador. There are now some 20 Ambassadors including the Prime Minister. White Ribbon Ambassadors are chosen for:

- their support for the principles of the campaign,
- their willingness to challenge the behaviour of abusive men,
- their willingness to encourage others to do the same,
- their commitment to conveying the messages of the White Ribbon Campaign to other men within their community.