

Institute of Public Health Heidelberg hosted tropEd General Assembly Meeting

As a member of the international tropEd network, the Institute of Public Health Heidelberg was glad to host the second General Assembly meeting of 2016 from 16th to 18th of June. Over the past twenty years, tropEd has grown in to a global network of member institutions for higher education in international/global health from Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and Latin America. The General Assembly is comprised of authorized representatives from the member institutions and meets three times a year. These meetings function as a forum for exchange and as the decision-making committee for all issues relating to the tropEd postgraduate teaching program. They are thus integral to the continual improvement of both the quality of our academic programs as well as the comparability among Master of Science degrees in the various institutions. For the meeting in Heidelberg, we were able to welcome a total of seventeen representatives from fourteen tropEd-accredited institutions across Europe and Asia.

Heidelberg tropEd coordinator Pauline Grys with assistance from the teaching unit hosted the three-day meeting in the course rooms of our institute in the Neuenheimer Feld as well as in a meeting room in the center of the historic Old Town. In addition to general administrative issues and the accreditation and reaccreditation of a number of courses, the three-day meeting also provided a forum to discuss creative forms of non-written assessments and the emerging phenomenon of MOOC online courses. The diverse backgrounds and experiences from the meeting participants led to a lively discussion about expanding traditional modes of teaching led by our institute's director Prof. Rainer Sauerborn. After the long and productive meeting sessions, the participants enjoyed a group dinner in a typical German restaurant in Heidelberg's Old Town to continue their exchanges. In order to experience a short history lesson, we took the international group for a tour of the Heidelberg Castle which also included an interesting guided tour of the German Pharmacy Museum. Despite some inclement weather, the afternoon provided fascinating insights and a welcome opportunity to enjoy the city.



In addition to our residential Master of Science program, the tropEd part-time study program provides another option for postgraduate education in the field of international health. Young professionals are able to gain valuable work experience while taking advantage of the diverse educational opportunities offered during the core module at our own institute and the various short courses at other tropEd member institutions. Currently, there are nine students enrolled in

Heidelberg as tropEd students in the Master of Science in International Health program. Additionally, we have welcomed forty-three international tropEd students from ten different countries for one- and two-week short courses in Heidelberg over the course of the past few months. It was therefore a great opportunity to connect with representatives of other member institutions to establish even better working relationships. The Institute of Public Health looks forward to continuing the invaluable partnership within the tropEd network and is glad to be able to join the other members for the next General Assembly meeting in Amsterdam in October.