

# **Mentors: Introducing: Global Public Health Connect Network**

## **Overview and Invitation**

As former Environmental Health Officers who have ascended to impactful, value-added roles on the global stage, you represent the pinnacle of what our profession can achieve. Your journeys embody the very essence of expanding public health careers beyond traditional boundaries. It is precisely this invaluable experience and global perspective that we seek to harness and amplify.

We are thrilled to introduce "Global Public Health Connect Network (GPHCoN)," a pioneering professional network designed to bridge critical gaps and foster unprecedented growth within our field.

## **Network Outline & Core Purpose:**

1. Vision: To empower environmental and public health professionals worldwide, particularly those in developing and underdeveloped countries, to unlock their full potential and navigate evolving global health landscapes.
2. Our "Why": Many dedicated professionals face challenges like limited access to advanced training, mentorship, and clear career pathways. Our network directly addresses these needs by leveraging the collective wisdom of seasoned experts.
3. Core Pillars:
  - Mentorship Facilitation: Creating structured and informal connections between aspiring professionals and successful leaders like yourselves.
  - Capacity Building: Providing resources, insights, and opportunities for skill development tailored to contemporary global health challenges.
  - Knowledge Transfer: Ensuring that critical, real-world expertise flows from those who have achieved global impact to those building their careers.
  - Research and Evaluation Support: Mentors will provide support for developing and co-investigating research ideas. Mentees must agree that mentors can become partners or co-investigators on research projects and be named on publications.
4. Network Activities:
  - Monthly Meetings: Members will meet monthly for structured sessions.
  - Teaching Sessions: Opportunities for knowledge sharing and skill development.
  - Practice Reflection: Dedicated time for members to reflect on their professional experiences and challenges.

- Project & Research Feedback: Intermittent sessions to share and receive constructive feedback on ongoing projects or research ideas.
  - Opportunity Sharing: A platform to share available professional and research opportunities with fellow members.
5. Membership:
- Inclusion Criteria: Open to genuine professionals who have attained entry-level qualifications and are actively working in environmental or public health (non-clinical roles). Priority will be given to those working in areas of managing health risks in the environment, ensuring the safety of air, food, and water, and investigating potential health hazards. This includes roles with direct involvement in:
    - Disease Surveillance and Control (environmental factors)
    - Food Safety
    - Water Quality
    - Air Quality
    - Waste Management
    - Climate Change (health impacts)
    - Disaster Response (public health assessment)
    - Vector Control
    - Case Investigation and Contact Tracing
    - Veterinary Public Health / Primary Industries Epidemiology
    - Environmental Epidemiology
    - Occupational and Industrial Hygiene
    - Work Health and Safety
    - Health Education and Promotion
  - Active Participation: Members are expected to demonstrate active participation and consistent attendance.
  - Collaborative Spirit: Willingness to share insights and provide constructive feedback on activities.
  - Growth Mindset: Commitment to being mentored with clear career goals.
  - Community Contribution: A willingness to give back to the community and the network.
6. The Mentorship Team (You!): Our mentorship backbone will primarily comprise accomplished public health professionals from diverse fields, with a strong emphasis on those who began their careers in environmental public health. Your unique blend of foundational EHO skills and subsequent global experience makes you ideal guides.
7. Value for Mentors: This is an unparalleled opportunity to:
- Give Back: Shape the next generation of global health leaders.

- Amplify Your Impact: Extend your influence beyond your current roles.
  - Network with Peers: Connect with other successful professionals passionate about nurturing talent.
  - Reaffirm Your Legacy: See your experiences directly contribute to tangible professional development.
  - Collaborate: Work together with field based professionals on developing projects, research and expand your track record, global reach and influence.
8. Call to Action: We invite you to join us in this vital initiative. Your leadership, insights, and willingness to share your journey will be the cornerstone of "Global Public Health Connect Network," transforming the future of environmental and public health globally.