

13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

In my trajectory, I have been driven by the will and aspiration that my work in public health, focused on tackling health inequalities, has relevant impact to advancing knowledge, policy and action on health disparities, particularly related to migration and health.

Overall, my experience has paved the way for relevant knowledge exchange with multiple experts, pushing forward the evidence generation to support knowledge translation into responsive policy and practice for health equity. It is my conviction, and experience has taught me, that science and multisectoral collaborative action are powerful allies for advocacy to influence further health policies and action strategies, for addressing health needs and for boosting innovative approaches to respond to complex public health challenges in a meaningful way, in order to obtain health gains and achieve health equity.

My vision for the coming years is to shape a future where health is realized universally as an inalienable human right, and cultural background, socioeconomic conditions, and migration status no longer determine the access and quality of care a person receives. I am driven by the belief that health equity is not a privilege, but a fundamental necessity for all, especially for those who have been uprooted from their homelands. In the face of rising racism, discrimination, and xenophobia, I envision a world where diversity is celebrated and respected. My aspiration is to foster a broad social consciousness that embraces a holistic understanding of migrant health - one that sees the human being beyond statistics and policies, and instead as part of a shared global community. A holistic approach to migrant health is key to guide our policies, actions, and research, recognizing the interconnectedness of physical, mental, and social well-being, and the relevance of a multisectoral approach to respond to migration and health challenges. My vision expands to actively combat disinformation and harmful myths about migrants and ethnic minorities health and replace them with truth and knowledge, through closing gaps and fostering groundbreaking evidence on migration and health to shape positively impactful policy and practice. Above all, I believe collaboration must be at the heart of our efforts. By engaging governments, stakeholders, professionals, academics, civil society, and migrant and ethnic minority communities, I aspire to foster partnerships that drive lasting sustainable change and raise political awareness of health disparities faced by migrants and ethnic minorities, ensuring that their voices are heard and their health needs addressed.

I truly believe that the EUPHA Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health Section has playing and will continue to play a key role in making this vision come true in Europe, and in contributing to its global advance. I offer my commitment at the service of the Section to walk and lead this path.

I trust my years of experience in the field of migration and health can contribute to continue the advances of the Section joint work: training and mentoring students at several national and international universities dedicated to global public health themes as migrants' health; researching and contributing to conceptual and methodological advances through involvement in numerous research projects; taking the leadership and managing scientific institutions and multidisciplinary teams; being actively involved in the genesis of breakthrough academic networks – all these experiences I gained over the years can contribute to support the Section's work. Particularly, my experience of many years as member of the Steering Committee, and most recently as Acting Vice-President, of the EUPHA Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health Section, as well as my hands-on experience in the recent roles of Chair of the 17<sup>th</sup> ECPH and Chair of the Local Organizing Committee of the upcoming World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, Race & Health give me confidence that my contribution to the Section will be strongly aligned with its strategy and activities, helping to continue strengthening its role within EUPHA, the collaboration with

external partners, and the representation of the Section/EUPHA outwardly. It also assures me I can contribute to the Section's work on promoting exchange of knowledge, sharing of experiences and co-learning between different stakeholders and different countries, within a true community of practice.

I am eager to contribute to the Section's mission, with the confidence that I can count on the valuable support of several highly experienced colleagues who have been deeply involved in the Section's growth, as Dr. Bernadette Kumar, Prof. Charles Agyemang and Prof. Allan Krasnik.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to lead the continuation of the joint work of this Section, as a flourishing, cooperative, inspired and motivated community to pursue and thrive its mission and goals of setting the European policy, practice and research agenda on Migration and Health and, ultimately, to contribute to achieve EUPHA's mission.

Please find attached my resume, which contains additional detailed information on my trajectory, experience and skills.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sónia Dias