

Prof. Didier Jourdan
Chairholder UNESCO Chair
Global Health & Education

Paris, February 22nd 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

As Chair Holder of the UNESCO Chair “Global Health and Education and Head of the W.H.O. Collaborating Centre for “Research in Education and Health” as well as vice-president of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education, I am committed to the health of young people at a global level.

The emergence of the field of adolescent health responds to a major need worldwide. The work carried out by the IAAH, the WHO, UNESCO and numerous other key academic institutions has demonstrated the importance of specific approaches that take into account the needs and determinants of health of adolescents, intersectoral collaboration between medicine, education and social work, participation of young people, etc.

Adolescent Medicine as a field has certain domains that one should acquire in depth, in order to be able to successfully support this area of expertise. Adolescent psychiatry, developmental health, learning disorders, social medicine, psychopharmacology treatment, building and running W.H.O. “youth friendly” services and transition, social emotional empowerment services are some basic areas of expertise. After adequate training in these domains, general knowledge of pediatrics or other core specialties that

can be involved may be appropriately embedded. Adolescent Medicine is a field that has been growing for the last decades, however in modern and western societies, specific needs have emerged, putting this area of expertise on the spotlight.

In Greece, I have been working with the Greek Society for Adolescent Medicine (G.S.A.M.) and your University N.K.U.A. participating in the MSc “Strategies of Developmental and Adolescent Health” and I’ll visit the Adolescent Health Unit (A.H.U.) of the Second Dpt of Pediatrics, “P. & A. Kyriakou” Children’s Hospital on the coming April, as a W.H.O. “youth friendly” service based in Athens–Greece. The work done in the field is quite impressive and there is a need to keep up the momentum especially by a strong support on the academic field of Adolescent Medicine.

