

Curriculum vitae: summary

Professor Pekka Puska

Director General, National Public Health Institute, Finland, KTL

- Born in 1945, Vaasa, Finland
- Family: Wife, daughter (b. 1992) and son (b. 1993)

Education and academic affiliations

- Master of Political Sciences 1968
- Doctor of Medicine 1971
- PhD in epidemiology and public health 1974
- Docent of public health at the Universities of Helsinki and Kuopio
- Visiting scholar, Stanford University, 1983

Professional background

- Principal investigator and Director of the North Karelia Project 1972–1997
- Professor and Director of Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion, KTL 1978–2001
- Director, Department of Non-communicable Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, WHO 2001–2003
- Director General, KTL 2003–

International positions held

- Director, WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Programmes for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (KTL) 1985–1999
- Chair, Management Committee of the CINDI Programme of WHO/EURO 1994–2001
- Director, International QUIT AND WIN 1994–2006
- Vice President, International Association of National Public Health Institutes 2006–
- Chairman in numerous international conferences and committees
- Several advisory positions in international scientific conferences and journals
- Temporary advisor and short-term consultant of the WHO on numerous occasions
- Several assignments and major positions with various international organizations and agencies
- Technical and expert advice to more than 100 countries

Positions held in Finland

- Member of Finnish National Parliament (and its health committee) 1987–1991
- Member, City Council of Joensuu 1993–1997
- President, Finnish Heart Association 2004–2006
- Chairman, National Nutrition Council 2005–2008
- Chairman, UKK Health Promotion Institute 2005–2008
- Member of numerous governmental committees and working groups in the field of public health and research
- Several assignments and major positions with Finnish non-governmental organizations

Publications

- Some 500 international scientific publications in the field of public health, epidemiology, disease prevention and health promotion
- Ten books in the field of public health (several of them for the general public)
- Several health promotion TV series for the general public

Honours and grants

- WHO Annual Health Education Award 1990
- International Union for Health Education, European Office, AMIE Award 1991
- Academician, Russian Academy of Natural Sciences 1997
- WHO Tobacco Free World Award 1999
- Honorary Doctor of Science (D.Sc.), University of St. Andrews (Scotland) 1999
- Nordic Public Health Award 2005