

WONCANews

An International Forum for Family Doctors



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World Organization of Family Doctors www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com

Wonca President

Professor Chris van Weel
Department of Family Medicine,
117 HAG
University Medical Centre Nijmegen
PO Box 9101
6500 HB Nijmegen
The Netherlands
Tel 31 24 361 6332
Fax 31 24 354 1862
Email C.vanWeel@hag.umcn.nl

Wonca Chief Executive Officer Dr Alfred W T Loh

Wonca World Secretariat
College of Medicine Building
16 College Road #01-02
Singapore 169854
Tel 65 6224 2886
Fax 65 6324 2029
Email admin@wonca.com.sg

Wonca President Elect Richard G Roberts, MD, JD, USA

Immediate Past President
Professor Bruce L W Sparks, South Africa

Honorary Treasurer Professor Michael Kidd, Australia

Executive Members at Large
Dr Javier Dominguez del Olmo, Mexico
Dr Iona Heath, United Kingdom
Professor Michael Kidd, Australia

Regional Presidents

Wonca Africa
Professor Khaya Mfenyana, South Africa

Wonca Asia Pacific
Dr Donald K T Li, Hong Kong

Wonca Europe
Professor Igor Svab, Slovenia

Wonca Iberoamericana - CIMF
Professor Adolfo Rubinstein, Argentina

Wonca Middle East South Asia
Dr Preethi Wijegoonewardene, Sri Lanka

Wonca North America
Dr Alain Montegut, USA

Chair, Bylaws & Regulations Committee
Dan Ostergaard MD, USA

Chair, Wonca Publications and Communications Committee
Dr Geoffrey D Martin, Australia

Editor, Wonca News & Editorial Office
Marc L Rivo, MD, MPH
4566 Prairie Avenue
Miami Beach, FL 33140, USA
Tel 1 305-671-7327
Fax 1 305-674-8839
Email marcivo@aol.com

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FROM THE WONCA PRESIDENT :

POLITICAL IMPACT AND ACADEMIC CLOUT

A special feature in the Wonca agenda and reported in this issue of Wonca News is the Ibero-Americana CIMF primary care summit – a tri-annual meeting of all the regional Colleges and Departments of Health. Earlier this year, I had the pleasure to attend its third version.

From Brazil and the Ibero-Americana primary care summit
.....

The summit was held in Fortaleza, Brazil, in April, with the stormy family medicine development in the host country as exciting background. Elsewhere in this issue more in-depth reporting can be found of how Governments and Colleges are planning to work further for the health of the people in the region, and how they seek to capitalize on what has been achieved. Brazil poses an example here that is as exciting as it is challenging. Since the beginning of this Millennium, it has managed to provide primary care based coverage to 50% of its vast population. This fact, with family physicians and other primary care professionals in the driving seat, can in itself be seen as an achievement. Particularly important, though, is that in this limited period of time, relevant indicators of population health – maternity and neonatal deaths; vaccination rates – are changing for the better.

These are the rewards of the investment in the primary care capital – a family doctor in every community, or in the words of one of the motions adopted at the Wonca world Conference in Singapore ‘every family a family physician’; investing through teaching, training and health care innovation. The Brazilian – and more in general Ibero-Americana experiences illustrate the political impact of primary care. This important success emphasizes, at the same time, the importance to build further. There are still large areas to cover, all with their specific health problems. This requires more study, more teaching and training, more primary care advocacy.

And that brings me to the second part of the title of this Column: a pillar of successes as now witnessed in Brazil, is the contribution of ‘academia’: through research, education of medical students and training of residents in primary care. Universities play a key role in this – ‘every medical student should be exposed to primary care, as early in their study and for as long as

possible’ was another Singapore motion – hence the need of departments of family medicine/primary care in every medical school. This stresses the need to foster links to university departments. To do so, Wonca is proud to announce a new ‘membership category’ of University Departments of Family Medicine/Primary Care.

..... To the inauguration of a Wonca membership of University Departments

Our new membership category of University Departments of Family Medicine / General Practice / Primary Care seeks to strengthen Wonca’s ties with the academic field. It aims to attract more primary care researchers, educators, teachers and trainers to Wonca meetings. Another objective is to improve academic leadership of family medicine/primary care around the world. For example, assessment of research, teaching and training is becoming an ever more important mechanism of academic development. It is essential that primary care does well in these departments, in as many universities worldwide. The existing experience should be made available and shared, and this is the reason Wonca has developed a new membership category – membership of university departments of family medicine/general practice/primary care. Details of the membership are presented in our Wonca CEO’s Column. The new membership will be highlighted at the forthcoming regional conferences, beginning in Melbourne at the Asia Pacific regional conference this coming October, with the inaugural meeting of heads of departments of family medicine/primary care. Wonca is looking forward to a large response to this new membership category from all regions of the world. At this place I like to acknowledge the initiators, Professor Dada Leopando and Professor Bruce Sparks. It is magnificent that their vision has materialized now, which promises to strengthen the potential of Wonca. The Brazilian example should help to see the potential for the health of people, and also the exciting task that waits for us!

Professor Chris van Weel

President of Wonca

FROM THE CEO'S DESK:

WONCA MEMBERSHIP OF ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS OF FAMILY MEDICINE

The many Departments of Family Medicine / General Practice / Primary Care in the various member countries of Wonca are an untapped potential source of expertise and human resource to assist Wonca in its global objectives and mission.

Realising this, the Wonca Executive at its meeting in Ithala, South Africa in May 2001 discussed at length the possibility of introducing a special category of Academic Department Membership (ADM) to accommodate departments that can identify with the aims, objectives, and mission of Wonca and that are prepared to support Wonca's activities locally, regionally and internationally. Particularly in the developing countries like those of Eastern Europe and South America, emerging departments in our discipline are likely to become the champions of the discipline in their fast evolving health care scene. Wonca working in close collaboration with these establishments will mean for these emerging departments greater recognition and empowerment within their parent universities. There are therefore obvious advantages for both parties in coming together.

Academic Departments will benefit from such membership of Wonca in the following ways:

1. Networking with other Academic Department Members (ADM) – this will be especially useful for new emerging departments in developing countries who may “twin” with other ADMs from more developed countries as part of this Wonca initiative.

2. ADMs may in time be able to use Wonca membership databases for research purpose with the necessary safeguards in place.
3. ADMs initiated research may in time be accredited by Wonca and enjoy greater exposure and publicity. They may also be participants of larger Wonca initiated or coordinated research.
4. ADMs may gain access to wider research funding support through our Wonca network and may also enjoy facilitation of cooperative ventures between the ADM and the local Wonca member organizations.
5. ADMs may use the Wonca international network to market their activities and educational programmes.
6. ADMs may enjoy discounts at Wonca international and regional conferences and workshops and for special Wonca publications and promotional items.
7. Wonca will provide ADMs an international forum of high academic standing to present their research and activities and in time an International Network of Teachers of Family Medicine/General Practice may be formed.
8. Wonca will provide ADMs an international and regional forum for faculty development and faculty exchange as they network with the various other ADMs within Wonca.

Wonca will in turn benefit from the establishment of this category of Academic Department Membership through:

1. A larger representative base of family doctors with the potential power to lobby on Wonca's behalf.
2. A repository of consultative experts to support, develop and expand Wonca global aims, objectives, mission and activities.
3. A larger base of membership subscription as these ADMs will pay annual dues to Wonca.

4. Increased involvement of academic departments in Wonca which will result in:
 - a. Development of educational programmes on Wonca's behalf;
 - b. Facilitation of constructive partnerships between academic departments and Wonca member organizations at the local level;
 - c. Increased academic credibility of its publication, research and academic meetings;
 - d. Assistance in the development of academic programmes in developing countries as part of Wonca's mission and objectives.

Following up on the proposal at Ithala, South Africa, the Wonca Executive held further discussions on the Academic Department Membership at the subsequent Full Executive Meeting in London in June 2002. At this meeting Prof Bruce Sparks and Dr Geoff Martin presented the final draft of the proposal. Wonca Executive accepted their proposal. The Bylaws and Regulations Committee was then requested to make the necessary amendments to the Wonca Bylaws and Regulations in time for the Wonca World Council in Orlando, Florida, USA. The Bylaws Committee completed their work in September 2003 and the changes to the relevant parts of the Wonca Bylaws and Regulations were then presented to and accepted by the Wonca World Council in Orlando, in October 2004. At the following Wonca World Council in Singapore in July 2007, the changes to the Bylaws and Regulations were ratified by Council and became effective immediately after the Council Meeting.

The relevant articles and sections of the Wonca Bylaws and Regulations relating to the newly created Wonca Academic Department Membership read as follows:

**WONCA BYLAWS (JULY 2007)
ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP**

1 Eligibility and Classification: The membership of The Organization shall consist of Academic Members Academic Departments/Training Programs of general practice/family medicine which are actively involved in teaching and research, support the Mission of The Organization and desire affiliation with The Organization.

**ARTICLE 8: DUES
(SUBSCRIPTIONS) AND FUND
RAISING**

3 Annual Dues of Academic Members: Each Academic Member shall be required to pay annual dues which shall be recommended by the Executive Committee, prescribed by Council at each of its regular meetings, and collected in accordance with the Regulations.

**WONCA REGULATIONS (JULY
2007)
CLAUSE 7: DUES
(SUBSCRIPTIONS)**

- 4 Annual Dues of Academic Members:
- .1 Annual dues for Academic Members shall be prescribed by Council, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, for the next three (3) ensuing years.
 - .2 Academic Member dues are due and payable to The Organization on the first day of January of the year in which the Academic Member is levied.
 - .3 Dues of a new Academic Member shall be prorated as follows: If enrolment occurs after July 1 but prior to December 1, dues for the balance of the calendar year shall amount to one-half (1/2) the annual dues; if enrollment is completed after December 1, dues for the

current calendar year shall be waived, but annual dues for the ensuing calendar year shall immediately become due and payable.

At the recently held Full Executive Meeting in Dubai, an appropriate date and occasion for the launch of the new category of Academic Membership was discussed. Executive agreed that Academic Department Membership will be launched at the Wonca Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Melbourne on 1-5 October 2008. This would be an appropriate occasion as the major Heads of Departments would be holding their meeting at this conference. Following that launch, similar regional launches of the Academic Department Membership will be held at the regional conference in Johannesburg in March 09, in Puerto Rico in April 09, and in Basel, Switzerland in September 09.

In the meanwhile, the Wonca Secretariat will be sourcing information on the many Academic Departments of Family Medicine / General Practice / Primary Care in the medical schools and universities of the Wonca Regions. These departments will be the target of publicity and promotion of this special and new category of Wonca membership. The Wonca Secretariat in consultation with the Wonca Membership Committee will finalise the application form and membership information sheet.

Readers of this column keen to find out more on this Wonca Academic Department Membership should send their enquiries to the Wonca Secretariat at admin@wonca.com.sg

Dr Alfred Loh
Chief Executive Officer
World Organization of Family
Doctors

FROM THE EDITOR:

**MAKE YOUR PLANS
TO ATTEND WONCA'S
CONFERENCES**

Now is the perfect time to make plans to attend Wonca's upcoming regional conferences beginning this fall and to explore the newly launched website for the 19th World Wonca Conference in Cancun set for May 19-23, 2010. My first Wonca World Conference in Vancouver in 1992 taught me the enormous value of our Wonca conferences to help us improve health systems, primary health care, family medicine and people's health. In this issue, Dr Bando's letter to the editor described how the 8th Wonca World Rural Health Conference in Calabar, Nigeria exposed him to best practices in teaching, research and health care delivery.

Five exciting Wonca Regional Conferences are scheduled in the coming year. First, Wonca Europe gathers meets in Istanbul, Turkey in September, followed by the Asia-Pacific Region in Melbourne, Australia in October, the North American Region in November, the Africa Region in Johannesburg, South Africa in March, and finally Iberoamericana-CIMF in San Juan, Puerto Rico in April. In addition, Wonca launched its website for the 19th World Conference to be held May 19-23, 2010 in Cancun, Mexico. Details of each Regional Conference, as well as the announcement of the new 19th Wonca World Conference website can be found in this issue of Wonca News.

Wonca and its Working Groups, Regions and Member Organizations also conduct important meetings and projects with Ministers of Health, Medical Schools, policymakers,

elected officials and the public. This issue of Wonca News reports on Wonca's participation in the WHO's World Health Assembly; the III IberoAmericana-CIMF Summit on Family Medicine in Forteleza, Brazil; the Family Medicine Research Meeting in Cali, Columbia, and a series of important meetings held throughout Wonca Europe.

Readers are encouraged to visit Wonca Online – GlobalFamilyDoctor.com for a complete listing of information on relevant meetings of Wonca's Regions, Working Groups and member organizations.

If you have a relevant meeting that you would like to publicize in Global Meetings for the Family Doctor, please email me the information in the format displayed in the Global Meetings section of Wonca News.

Marc L. Rivo, M.D, M.P.H.
 Editor, Wonca News
 marcrivo@aol.com
 4566 Prairie Avenue
 Miami Beach,
 FL 33140 USA
 1-305-674-8839 (fax)

FEATURE STORIES

WONCA WORKING PARTY ON EDUCATION HOLDS INAUGURAL MEETING

The first meeting of the new Wonca Working Party on Education was held in Singapore on 24th July 2007. Education is core business for Wonca. Our global organisation and our member organisations have an important leadership role in the ongoing development of education, training, assessment and continuing professional development for family medicine and general practice.

The Wonca Working Party on Education was established to:

1. Support quality education, training, assessment and continuing professional development in general practice / family medicine
2. Support the setting and maintaining of national and international standards for education, training, assessment and continuing professional development in general practice / family medicine
3. Develop education, training, assessment and continuing professional development policy for Wonca
4. Provide links to education, training, assessment and continuing professional development resources and people for the member organisations of Wonca
5. Support high quality education at Wonca conferences by acting as a resource, if invited, for Host Organising Committees of Wonca World and Regional conferences
6. Act as a resource on education, training, assessment and continuing

professional development for the Wonca Executive, World Council and Regional Councils

The Wonca World Council has agreed that members of the working party will be appointed by each Wonca Regional Council. International experts nominated by Wonca member organisations will also be welcome as members and there is an expectation that they will bring with them the capacity to facilitate the sharing of their organisation's education, training and assessment resources. Membership of the working party will be gender balanced. Membership of the working party is now open. The Wonca Webmaster has set up a list serve for the working party.



Wonca Working Party on Education holding their historic first meeting in Singapore on July 24, 2007

Planned activities of the working party this triennium include:

- A survey of the education, training, assessment and continuing professional development resources and policies of each of our member organisations which can be freely shared with other member organisations
- The establishment of discussion lists for member organisations and Wonca Direct Members through the Wonca website on education, training, assessment and continuing professional development in general practice / family medicine.
- An invitation to Wonca Direct Members to join a web-based

register of external experts on aspects of education, training, assessment and continuing professional development in general practice / family medicine, which can be used by member organisations, universities and other organisations seeking support for examinations, course development, training and standards development.

- A workshop on the role of Wonca in education, training, assessment and continuing professional development in conjunction with a Wonca regional conference in 2008-2010.
- The development of a statement of principles for medical student training, postgraduate training and continuing professional development
- The longer term development of a guidebook on education for family medicine with the aim of seeking the involvement and endorsement of the World Health Organization.

The working party was pleased to have the Wonca World Conference in Singapore last year support the Singapore Statement which was developed by the Working Party and put to the conference by our President: The Singapore Statement is that:

- Every medical school in the world should have an academic department of family medicine / general practice, or an equivalent academic focus.
- Every medical student in the world should experience family medicine / general practice as early as possible and as often as possible in their training.

The working party has begun

work on the development of global family medicine education standards in three broad areas – medical school education, post-graduate training and continuing professional development. The late Dr Jack Rodnick was leading this work, and this project will continue as a tribute to Jack’s inspirational contribution over many years to family medicine education around the world.

Professor Michael Kidd
Chair, Wonca Working Party on Education
michael.kidd@med.usyd.edu.au

WONCA IBEROAMERICANA-CIMF HOSTS 3RD FAMILY MEDICINE SUMMIT

Continuing its strategy to sensitize health policymakers in Latin America and advocate for Primary Health Care and Family Medicine, Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF held its third Iberoamerican Summit in Family Medicine in Fortaleza, Brazil April 29-30, 2008. The first Iberoamerican Summit in Family Medicine was held in Seville in May, 2002 and the second summit in Santiago de Chile in October 2005.

Brazil served as a model for what enlightened policymakers and the public can do to strengthen health systems through primary health care and family medicine. Brazil has established a nation-wide Family Health Program (FHP) based on the Family Doctor, which has expanded its coverage from a negligible population in 1996 to almost 100 million people (more than 50% of the population) at this time. This Federal program is one of the leading health policies in Brazil to increase equity and quality in health care through improvement in access, coverage and outcomes, especially for the most vulnerable populations. Because of its magnitude and extension, FHP has

become one of the most important developments in Primary Care and Family Medicine worldwide.



Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF President Dolfi Rubinstein addresses the participants, with (at his left), Inez Padula Anderson, President of the Brazilian Society and Chair of the Conference, (at her right) the Minister of Brazil, and (at Dolfi’s right) the Minister of Portugal.



Wonca President Chris van Weel receiving a special picture from the Chair of the III Summit, Inez Padula Anderson, with a logo in English, Spanish and Portuguese for the Wonca slogan “A Family Doctor for Each Family” .

The III Summit was a high-profile political event organized by the Ministry of Health of Brazil and Wonca Iberoamericana CIMF, with the support of PAHO/WHO, coordinated by the Brazilian Society of Family and Community Medicine (SBMFC) and chaired by Dr Inez Padula Anderson, her President. The conference was attended by almost 150 delegates, including Ministers of Health (Brazil, Portugal and Uruguay) and high officers of the Ministries from most of the countries of the Region, Deans of medical schools and other policy

makers involved in PHC in the region. Additionally, Wonca President Chris Van Weel, Wonca President-elect Rich Roberts, as well as the Presidents and Delegates of all 20 Family Medicine Associations of Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF, participated actively in the meeting. Conferences, panels and working sessions were very intense and productive. At the end of the Summit the “Carta de Fortaleza”, containing the main conclusions of the small-group sessions, was read to all the audience.

The III Family Medicine Summit provided a unique opportunity to join policy makers, PAHO/WHO, academia and leading family doctors together to focus on health system improvement. The Fortaleza Summit provided an important forum to advocate for the betterment of population health in terms of equity, effectiveness and quality by strengthening and expanding Primary Health Care and Family Medicine. The Fortaleza Summit showcased the remarkable visibility and growth of our specialty in the region.

Professor Adolfo Rubinstein
IberoAmericana-CIMF Regional
President
adolfo.rubinstein@hospitalitaliano.
org.ar

WEBSITE LAUNCHED FOR 19TH WONCA WORLD CONFERENCE 2010 IN CANCUN

We have officially launched our website to publicize the 19th Wonca World Conference to be held May 19-23, 2010 in Cancun Mexico. The address is: www.wonca2010cancun.com

In October 2004, the Wonca World Council designated the Mexican College of Family Medicine as organizer of the 19th Wonca World Conference of Family Doctors, to be held in the city of Cancun, state of Quintana Roo, Mexico, from 19th to 23rd May 2010. This historic World Council decision marked the first time in the history of the World Organization of Family Doctors (World) that a Latin American country will be the venue for a world event of this kind, the 19th Wonca World Conference of Family Doctors. Come and enjoy our incredible culture and the best hospitality.

This Conference will spread the latest scientific and technological breakthroughs in our discipline. It will draw the attention of the family doctors from different parts for the world and will lead to the reflection on the technical and social role that Family Medicine must have to achieve the international goals that were proposed in the 2000 Millennium Summit: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Mexican College of Family Medicine invites you to join more than 6,000 international colleagues in Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico in May 2010.

Dr. Javier Dominguez del Olmo
Chair, Host Organizing Committee
19th Wonca World Conference
Jdo14@hotmail.com

WONCA REGIONAL NEWS

WONCA HOLDS FAMILY MEDICINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE IN COLUMBIA

Although South America has not been noted for its strength in Family Medicine Research, a meeting held in Cali Columbia February 27 to 29th went a long way to reverse this perception. The first day opening by Julian Herrera, who led the scientific program for the meeting. Some 325 students, residents, and researchers attended from 18 South and Central American countries, including Mexico and Santo Domingo. The first day opening by Julian Herrera, who lead the scientific program for the meeting, was followed by all day workshops for developing research capacity building programs, developing a research culture and epidemiologic methods. At least five countries committed to begin a five-weekend research program for practitioners and faculty to learn about research in Family Medicine by developing answers for their research questions. Subsequent to the meeting an application for funds to support 5 to 7 programs has been made.

Liliana Arias-Castillo, a family physician researcher and Dean of the Faculty of Health Science at Universidad del Valle, who also chaired the Conference Organizing Committee, introduced the second and third days. Adolfo Rubenstein, Wonca Ibero-Americana CIMF Region President, also brought greetings and presented two papers on his own research. The two-day meeting that followed included 35 papers presented in three simultaneous sessions covering a wide range of topics and issues.



Family Doctors at the Wonca Cali Research Conference, from left to right: Dr Yclin Jaén Resident of Family Medicine, Panamá; Dr Howard Tandeter Professor of Family Medicine, Ben Gurion University, Israel; Dr Walter Rosser, Chairman Department of Family Medicine, Queens University, Canada and Chair, WONCA Research Working Party; and Dr Rodrigues, family physician and Dean of Faculty of Health, University of Panama



Professor Liliana Arias-Castillo, a family physician researcher, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Universidad del Valle, and Conference Organizing Committee Chair, leads the Cali Research Meeting participants in a display of their national flags

Julian Herrera, a professor at the Universidad del Valle, reported one outstanding research program of more than two decades. In the early 1990's, he determined that a combination of Linoleic Acid and Calcium as well as use of a bio psychosocial model to deliver prenatal care would dramatically reduce the incidence of preeclampsia. Preeclampsia was the leading cause of both maternal and perinatal mortality in Columbia. Julian presented a 10-year follow up of this program. In areas where the program has been adopted the maternal mortality rates dropped dramatically, and even to zero in some communities. Not surprisingly, governments and health departments have become very supportive in adopting this program to see the decrease in the high costs of premature births.

This particular research example illustrates the huge potential for saving lives and improving health through the findings and implementation of excellent family

medicine research. This example also illustrates how long and difficult a road it is to implement these ideas that were initially rejected by Obstetricians and only after out of country validation in Bangladesh, where the research findings were widely accepted. This work also illustrates that governments will be supportive of research if they see positive impacts from the implementation of such research findings.

The meeting closed with an agreement among participating South American countries that a research network would be formed between them and that a follow up meeting would occur next year. Discussion also ensued about the formation of a Family Medicine research institute similar to the one described by Howard Tandeter of Ben Gurion University in Israel.

A meeting could not be held in Cali, the world center for Salsa, without dancing and entertainment. Liliana and Julian made sure that all had a great time mixed with the hard work and little sleep. This meeting should provide inspiration for other WONCA regions where research has not been in the forefront of Family Medicine development. The concrete outcomes from the first research meeting of this kind held in South America are agreements to develop a strong and effective research network and research programs throughout South America. WONCA and the Family of Family Medicine are very grateful to Liliana and Julian for their remarkable leadership.

Professor Walter Rosser
Chair, Wonca Working Party on Research
janwalt2000@yahoo.com

WONCA EUROPE REGION UPDATE

After the meeting of the Wonca Region Europe Executive, which took place in Istanbul in February, I have made the following travels:

The conference of ESR in Vienna – March 7-8

I attended the meeting of the European Society of Radiology (ESR). They hold their meetings annually in Vienna and the conferences attract about 25 000 participants. This year they have added a session, 'ESR Meets Other Disciplines' and family medicine was selected for the first session. Christos Lionis, Manfred Maier and I represented Wonca in a session where the same issue were commented on by radiologists and us. The atmosphere was very friendly and there was a genuine feeling that this was a fruitful session and that we can and should learn from each other.

European Forum for Primary Care meeting in Ljubljana-March 28-29

The meeting of the European Forum for Primary Care was organised in Ljubljana in March. I was asked to give a keynote about the perspective of primary health centres in Eastern Europe. The meeting was hosted by our National Health Insurance and organised by the European Forum for Primary Care and Wonca Europe. It was well attended by policymakers and colleagues, a lot of them from Eastern Europe.

Meeting of heads of colleges in Lisbon – April 4-6

This event was organised by the Portuguese College on our behalf. It was a very impressive and important meeting of 23 head executives of European colleges. The aim of the meeting was to exchange opinions about the future and the functioning of member colleges. An important issue that was discussed during the conference was the relationship of Wonca and the European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO) and the potential of Wonca to get involved in policy discussions. There was a general dissatisfaction as to how UEMO is representing family medicine at the European level. I explained the history of the relationship. I am hopeful that the situation will improve, but would also like to have your suggestions as to how this should be improved. I am grateful to Luis Pisco and the entire Portuguese college to have the courage and vision to organise this initiative. I hope it will become a regular one, since it has obviously proven to be successful.

Meeting with the Teachers of General Practice in Dublin – April 8-10

I was invited by the organisers of training schemes in Ireland to give a presentation about a potential use of teaching agenda. After the presentation, I ran a series of three workshops on family medicine teaching and the use of teaching agenda in one-to-one teaching.

Portuguese College Meeting in Porto - April 18-20

I was invited by the organisers to give a presentation on the use of educational agenda in construction of the curricula and other uses in general practice. The meeting was attended by heads of teaching institutions of general practice from Portugal and some high policy officials (deans etc.). It was sponsored by a pharmaceutical industry which seems very keen in supporting primary care and family medicine without direct marketing for drugs.

A Conference on E-Health in Slovenia – May 6

The Slovenian government has organised a conference on e-health without frontiers in Portorož, Slovenia. I was invited to attend as a keynote at the opening of

the conference, together with the Swedish Minister of Health, a representative of software producers and a representative of consumers. My role was to represent the medical profession and primary care.

Professor Igor Svab
Wonca Europe Regional President
Igor.svab@mf.uni-lj.si

WONCA EUROPE REGIONAL IN ISTANBUL SEPTEMBER 4-7

The Turkish Association of Family Physicians welcomes you to the Wonca Europe 2008 Conference that will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, on September 4-7, 2008. The theme of the conference is “Overcoming the distance” Family practice - bringing the art of medicine to the people. Working together with National Colleges, European Network Organizations and Special Interest Groups we aim to come together in largest collaboration possible also with a large number of Turkish colleagues. Even with attendance beyond Europe, we will have the opportunity to find out our similarities and differences in a comprehensive scientific program.

We are very excited for this opportunity to meet our colleagues from various countries in Istanbul, a magnificent metropolis with a rich history. We aim to bring together family physicians of different affiliations like universities, hospitals or community based settings to review basic principles of and latest evidence about family medicine, and exchange experiences in the framework of a rich, comprehensive scientific program. The conference will feature sessions on the primary health care/family medicine approach to various clinical issues, undergraduate and postgraduate training in family medicine, a comparative review of family practice in different countries with different health care systems, and basic principles of family medicine.

In Turkey, family medicine is a relatively young discipline and much has been accomplished in its rich history of 23 years. There is constant effort to further develop and strengthen family medicine as a clinical and academic discipline through our professional association TAHUD, our Board TAHYK, our peer reviewed journals, 38 academic departments of family medicine, and our broad community of family physicians, who work as clinicians in hospitals and community based settings. We believe that your participation in this conference will constitute an important contribution to our efforts to strengthen the discipline of family medicine and to improve quality of primary health care in Turkey and in Europe as well.

Istanbul, at the Southeast end of geographical Europe, where Europe meets Asia, where cultures and civilizations meet, will be the ideal place to discuss “Overcoming the distance”. Looking at the other continent, with all its beauty, just a few hundred meters away, within minutes to reach, will make us think again about how far really “the distance” is. We will be looking at various aspects of our discipline thoroughly, from many different viewpoints, but to learn from each other, in order to bring our distance as near as possible.

The challenge is ahead of us, to have a WONCA Europe Conference with more than 4500 colleagues and also making it a long remembered one, both with its Scientific and Social events.

Registration is available online at www.WoncaEurope2008.com.

We look forward to welcoming you to Istanbul.

With our kindest regards,
 Assoc. Prof. Nezhir Da deviren, MD
 Erdem Birgül, MD
 Co-Chairman, Host Organizing Committee
 Prof. Füsün Ersoy, MD
 Chair of the Scientific Committee

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL IN MELBOURNE OCTOBER 1-5

Family doctors, general practitioners and all those interested in the practice of family medicine are invited to Melbourne, Australia for the WONCA 2008 Asia Pacific Regional Conference which is being combined with The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) 51st Annual Scientific Convention (ASC) on 1-5 October 2008.

Our conference theme, ‘A celebration of diversity’ explores the wide ranging, all encompassing nature of the way our profession provides primary care to our patients, and supports health care in our communities and nations.

The Scientific Program will feature several renowned national and international speakers and includes the world and regional presidents of Wonca. The presentations will comprise a mix of expert plenary lectures, workshops, paper and poster sessions, all of which will address the conference theme of “a celebration of diversity”. Topics will include updates in clinical care, developments in medical education, health service delivery, primary care

in challenging environments, general practice research, and the social and cultural contexts of family medicine. Overseas visitors will have an opportunity to learn about family medicine in Australia, while Australians will learn from a diversity of international experiences.

Registration is available online at www.wonca2008.com

Come to the multicultural city of Melbourne and experience a high quality professional program in first class conference facilities, and the world-class attractions of this city. Cosmopolitan Melbourne offers a unique mix of international cultures, reflected in the diversity of food, cultures and lifestyles and promises an unforgettable conference experience.

Forever known as the “Garden City” owing to its picturesque botanic gardens and parks, Melbourne now claims the privilege of being the “the world’s most livable city”. Melbourne is renowned for its festivals and sporting events, staging an exciting variety of entertainment each year including the Formula One Australian Grand Prix, the Australian Open Tennis, the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, the Melbourne Film Festival, the Boxing Day Test Cricket, the AFL Grand Final, the Heineken Golf Classic, and the Spring Racing Carnival.

The RACGP and WONCA looks forward to welcoming you to Melbourne in 2008.

Professor Michael Kidd
 Dr Vasantha Preetham
 Co-Covenor
 Associate Professor Peter Schattner
 Chair, Scientific Program Committee

HEALTH AND HEALTH SYSTEM NEWS

WONCA ATTENDS WHO'S 61ST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY IN GENEVA

Wonca is recognised as one of the nongovernmental organisations in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and is the recognised nongovernmental organisation for family medicine. This is recognition of the importance to global health of family medicine and primary health care and the recognised role of Wonca as the international leader in setting standards for clinical practice and education and training and research in family medicine around the world and as the representative of colleges, societies and associations of family medicine and general practice in over 100 countries. In this role Wonca can advocate with the WHO about primary health care and the role of family doctors in ensuring strong primary care is available to all people in each of the countries of the world.

The WHO is the authority on international health within the United Nations' system and is led by its Director-General. WHO experts produce health guidelines and standards, and assist countries to address public health issues. Through the WHO, governments can jointly tackle global and regional and local health problems and work together to improve the well being of the people of the world.

The World Health Assembly is the annual meeting of the delegations from the 193 countries that make up the WHO membership. The World Health Assembly is held in the main United Nations assembly hall in the Palace of Nations in Geneva. Each

national delegation usually includes that nation's Minister for Health and other senior government members and senior Health Department bureaucrats. The assembly meets each year to set policy for the WHO, to approve the WHO budget and, once every five years, to appoint the Director-General. A 34-member Executive Board that is elected by the Assembly supports the work of the World Health Assembly. There are also six regional committees which focus on health matters of a regional nature. Non-government organisations in official relations with the WHO, including Wonca, are invited to attend the annual World Health Assembly as observers.

This year's World Health Assembly was the celebration of 60 years of the World Health Organization. Wonca's delegation to the 61st World Health Assembly included Wonca CEO Dr Alfred Loh and Wonca's WHO Liaison person Professor Michael Kidd.

ADDRESS BY THE WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

One of the highlights of the WHO World Health Assembly is the annual address where the Director-General outlines the work plan for the organization over the coming year. At last year's World Health Assembly, the then newly appointed Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, outlined her aims for strengthening the role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in primary health care. Since last year there has been significant action, especially with the development of the 2008 World Health Report, which is devoted to primary health care, the focus around developments in primary health care since the Declaration of Alma Ata 30 years ago, and attention throughout the WHO to aspects of primary health care. Last year also saw the first formal meeting by a delegation from Wonca with the WHO Director-General.

In her address to the World Health Assembly Dr Chan said, "When I took office at the start of last year, I called for a return to primary health care as an approach to strengthening health systems. My commitment has deepened. If we want to reach the health-related Millennium Development Goals, we must return to the values, principles, and approaches of primary health care. Fortunately, the Commission on Social Determinants of Health will be releasing its report later this year. The findings should help us address the root causes of inequities with greater precision."

Dr Chan spoke about this year's World Health Report that will be released in mid-October to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata, the WHO statement that called for health for all through primary health care. Dr Chan advised the assembly, "the report has undergone unprecedented peer review from top experts in every region, representing the most intensive consultation process since the first World Health Report was issued in 1995." She stated, "the report will help concretize my commitment to primary health care, while giving policymakers a realistic assessment of what can be achieved and how it can be done." Wonca members have been involved in the development and review of this year's World Health Report.

In her address to the assembly, Dr Chan, spoke about the impact of the recent humanitarian crises following the cyclone in Myanmar and the earthquake in China. She also outlined the three global crises that she sees "looming on the horizon": problems with access to adequate food and soaring prices leading to undernutrition, the growing impact of climate change and the continuing risk of pandemic influenza.

Dr Chan also spoke about the health-related Millennium Development Goals. The timetable for meeting the goals has now passed the halfway mark with the goals set in 2000 due to be attained by 2015. Dr Chan called for more investment in “human and institutional capacity, in health information and in the systems for delivery” in order to strive to meet the Goals.

In reference to the health-related Goals, Dr Chan spoke about progress in tackling the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the growing problem of extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, the co-epidemics of HIV and TB, and encouraging progress on malaria with rapid declines in mortality in parts of Africa. Dr Chan spoke about achievements in reducing childhood mortality and research on primary health care successes through models of community and home-based care. Dr Chan also spoke about the persisting and unacceptable high level of maternal mortality.

Dr Chan reinforced that any discussion of health development must include the chronic non-communicable diseases and detailed the action plan being presented to the World Health Assembly for consideration. Wonca members have had input into the development of this action plan.

Dr Chan highlighted how in February 2008 WHO launched the first-ever report on the global tobacco epidemic that sets out country-specific data on tobacco use and also the use of proven control measures such as tobacco taxes.

Dr Chan outlined progress in the control of neglected tropical diseases with safe and powerful drugs being donated or made available at very low cost, and the development of integrated approaches for tackling several of these diseases at once.

In conclusion Dr Chan stated, “Good health is a foundation for prosperity and contributes to stability, and these are assets for every country. A world that is out of balance in matters of health is neither stable nor secure.”

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

One of the main features of this year’s World Health Assembly was a technical briefing on revitalizing primary health care.

The session was opened with a strong address from Dr Margaret Chan on how the WHO is responding to the calls from so many nations to strengthen the WHO initiatives

in primary health care and provide active and practical support. Dr Chan especially focused on community ownership of primary health care and the challenges of long-term sustainability.

This was followed by an address from Dr Mahler who was WHO Director-General at the time of the original Alma-Ata Declaration 30 years ago and who outlined the need for social change as well as medical technology to promote health for all, and the need for individual, family and community participation. He ended with the quote that “Visionaries have always been the true realists”.

This was followed by excellent presentations from speakers from India, Brazil and Thailand about community engagement in primary health care in India, the strength of family health teams in Brazil, and the huge shift of patient care from tertiary to primary care in Thailand. The speaker from Thailand, Komatra Chuengsatiansup said, “Primary health care is a compassionate scientific practice”, which is an interesting equivalent to the motto of the RCGP and many of our other member organisations “cum scientia caritas.”

The session concluded with a statement from the Minister of Health of Kazakhstan, where Almaty is now located. A WHO conference will be held in Almaty in October for the launch of the World Health Report.

WONCA’S WORK WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Wonca continues a strong program of work with the WHO especially in the areas of primary health care, chronic disease prevention and management, mental health and classification. Wonca has had involvement in 2008 in the development of the World Health Report on Primary Health Care and in the Action Plan on Noncommunicable Diseases.

Wonca and the WHO will be releasing a major report on integrating mental health into primary care later in 2008.

Wonca continues to work closely with the WHO on the incorporation of Wonca’s International Classification on Primary Care (ICPC) into the WHO Family of International Classifications.

Wonca is developing a resolution for the 2009 World Health Assembly on the importance of primary care for all people in the world, based on the excellent work of our Rural Working Party on seeking health for all rural people.

Many areas of the WHO are interested in further work with Wonca bringing the perspective of family medicine into WHO initiatives on the prevention and management of major health problems. The relationship between the two organisations is strong and mutually respectful, especially following the historic meeting between the Wonca President and the WHO Director-General in November 2007.

Professor Michael Kidd

Wonca Liaison Person to the World Health Organisation

and Wonca Treasurer and Member at Large

MEMBER AND ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

RESEARCH WORKING GROUP ADOPTS AMBITIOUS MISSION

The WONCA working Group on Research has adopted the Mission of having every WONCA family incorporate the development of new knowledge as an integral part of their practice. The Working group sponsored a workshop at the WONCA Singapore meeting to assess where we were at in achieving our lofty goal. We first heard from Francisco Cavalino Gomez of Mexico, the newly elected leader of the International Federation of Primary care Research Networks. He proposed that the 153 corresponding members of this organization can assist and promote network development around the world. Networks provide an excellent way for practitioners in any country to participate in the generation of new knowledge. Anyone interested should contact Francisco.

Julian Herrera of Colombia reported on behalf of the IberoAmericana region. Although European developments in research have occurred in Portugal and Spain there had been little development in South America. Although this is a populous region with many medical schools majority of medical schools do not have departments of family medicine. Julian's Medical school in Columbia along with two medical schools in Mexico sponsored a meeting in January 2008 with representatives from many South American medical schools with the idea of discussing how this situation might change (see accompanied article). The Italian model of developing research endeavours with private research institutes may be worth considering in his environment.

Larry Green reported on behalf of North America. All Canadian medical schools and most American medical schools have Departments of Family Medicine, many of which also support research development. All residency programs are required to have exposure to research as part of their curriculum. The American Academy of Family Physicians first adopted the idea that the generation of new knowledge be incorporated into every family practice. The North American Primary Care Research group in its 35th year has been a major contributor to research capacity building and is now promoting research in the English speaking Caribbean. The Working Group plans its next meeting in 2008 in Puerto Rico in conjunction with WONCA North America and NAPCRG.

Christos Lionis reported as Chair of the European Primary Care Research Network (EGPRN). This organization has been very creative and active in Europe for more than 20 years. There are now thirty countries participating in research capacity building programs. Most countries have language barriers to overcome. The fact that there are at least 30 journals those are in languages other than English that are not registered with Index Medicus suggests that a considerable volume of research knowledge in Family Practice is not being shared widely. It is hoped that publishing abstracts of this work in English and displaying them on the WONCA web site might overcome this loss of new knowledge. The EGPRN will continue its development, with workshops, paper presentations and promotion of networks. The Brisbane group has developed a 1 week workshop occurring in Oxford England bringing together individuals who are working towards a PHD in primary care to stimulate networking and thinking in primary care issues. The first week was very successful in June 2006 and a second group of 10 individuals

has been chosen and will meet in the next few months. Many European countries have developed strong research programs usually linked with PHD programs in University departments. (Visit GlobalFamilyDoctor.com to link with the WONCA Research Working Group site for details),

Cindy Lam presented a summary of activities in the Asia Pacific region. This is the world's most populous region with great variation in the development of Family Medicine as a discipline. Strong departments can be found in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore. Departments are developing in Japan, Thailand, Taiwan and Malaysia. However much work remains to be done in the giants of India and China the world's two most populous countries. (Cindy's excellent slides can be found at GlobalFamilyDoctor.com at the WONCA Working Group on Research site) A number of regional research meetings have been held in the past and more are planned. The very generous contribution from the Taiwan Chinese Family Practice Association will assist one or two young researchers a year to present their papers at an international WONCA meeting.

Although there were no representatives present from Africa, there was excellent news from Jan De Maeseneer of Ghent Belgium who has developed a partnership with 9 African countries' medical schools. The European common Market has agreed to support the development of new Departments of Family Medicine in these and hopefully more African countries over the next decade. The Research Working Group plans to meet representatives from these schools in March of 2009 facilitating development of research programs throughout the continent.

Although our mission is very challenging and may seem impossible, we are optimistic that much progress can be made toward achieving the generation and then integration of new knowledge into every one of the worlds' family practices. The Mission will become much more possible if all current members of WONCA join in the effort.

Professor Walter Rosser
 Chair, Wonca Working Party on Research
 janwalt2000@yahoo.com

TEN YEARS OF FAMILY MEDICINE IN THE UKRAINE

The end of 2007 and the beginning of 2008 were important times in the development of Family Medicine in Ukraine. From the days of independence in 1992 the Ukrainian

Government has been very positive in its view that Family Medicine was a necessary and important entity in the move towards an efficient and cost-effective health service. This led to the development of a very strong link programme with the United Kingdom's Royal College of General Practice (RCGP) that ran from 1994 until 2001 and the formation of the first departments of Family Medicine (1996), the Ukrainian Association of Family Medicine (1997), and the creation of the first specialised Ukrainian journal "Family Medicine" (1997).



The Ukraine delegation being received by RCGP-Scotland (Left to right): Dr Lyudmila Khimion (Vice President Ukraine Association) Prof. Trevor Gibbs (Deputy Chair RCGP-Scotland) Prof. Grygorii Lysenko (President Ukraine Association) Mrs. Ruth Wallace (Head RCGP-Scotland) Dr Ken Lawton (Chair RCGP-Scotland)



Rusanivka clinic, Darnitsa district of Ukraine. One of the new Family Medicine clinics being developed

The year 2007 saw the tenth anniversary of the Association, which was marked by a Ukraine-wide Conference held in Kiev on the 2nd and 3rd of October, 2007. At that conference, the Association was able to reflect upon the developments that have occurred, under the expert leadership of its President, Professor Grygorii Lysenko. Developments have included:

- The creation of 17 Departments of Family Medicine throughout Ukraine, each with a departmental head and academic members, and in some instances a Professorial Chair.
- At least 7,000 Family Doctors throughout Ukraine (not as many as is required for the population, but growing).
- Organisation of 3000 ambulatories (community-based clinics) of general practice, some of them are well equipped, “state of the art”, community-based practices, having computer based registration for patients and attached practice nurses. This is associated with the parallel conversion of many buildings to suit community-based Family Medicine.
- An input from Family Medicine into Ukraine’s undergraduate medical schools training through community-based education.
- A developing vocational training scheme for postgraduate medical practitioners who wish to become Family Doctors.
- A conversion course to those graduates who wish to enter Family Medicine later in their career.
- The beginnings of a Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Professional Development programme .
- An annual Conference held through the Association attracting Family Doctors from all across Ukraine.
- The production of a highly acclaimed Family Medicine journal, which has recently been given National Accreditation status.

At the same time, the Conference was able to look forward to the future and hear what the year 2008 will bring. A Keynote speaker at the Conference was Professor Trevor Gibbs, RCGP-Scotland Deputy Chair, who having been involved with the Association since its inception, and was now able to tell the participants of several new and exiting prospects:

- The creation of a new link between the Ukraine Association and RCGP-Scotland. This has been created to allow Ukraine Family Doctors to visit Scotland and observe and work with Scottish General Practitioners as well as Scottish General Practitioners visiting Ukraine and developing teaching, learning and research opportunities.
- The start of two new areas of community-based research looking at the effect of developing clinical guidelines for Family Doctors (research shared with

the Scottish Intercollegiate Guideline Network) and the importance of a youth –friendly healthcare service (research shared with the WHO)

Not wanting to rest on its laurels, The Ukraine Association of Family Medicine is well aware that there are still major obstacles ahead. Despite the Government and Ministry of Health support, Family Medicine still needs an appropriate legislative basis and recognition as in independent medical specialty by the medical fraternity. Until this happens, there can be no expansion of its vocational training programme to the style experienced by other European countries.

Much has occurred in Ukraine in the last ten years, more is to come. Despite the obstacles, Ukraine is continuing to develop its Family Medicine workforce.

For more information, contact:

Prof. Grygorii Lysenko at fammed@kmapo.kiev.ua
Dr Lyudmila Khimion at ludmilahimion@hotmail.com
Prof. Trevor Gibbs at tjg.gibbs@gmail.com

JAPANESE DELEGATE ATTENDS 8TH WONCA WORLD RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE IN NIGERIA

I attended the 8th WONCA World Rural Health Conference in Calabar, Nigeria in February 20-23, 2008. Thanks to the effective and hospitable management of the Host Organizing Committee, I had a productive meeting and enjoyable visit. The Rural Health Conference provided a wonderful opportunity to communicate with many delegates, who taught me everything from the role of family doctors as care coordinators after the large tsunami in Indonesia, how family doctors in rural hospitals treat babies and infants, to the important contribution of Mary Slessor who as Scottish missionary to Nigeria promoted women’s rights.



Delegates visiting the house (museum) and learning the story of Mary Slessor

Furthermore, I was interested in the Nigerian health education programs provided for women, infants, children and their families from the family medical clinic. I learned that proper maternal and child health is essential in developing countries such as Nigeria. According to global estimates, the population in developing countries between 2000 and 2050 is projected to increase rapidly from 4.89 to 7.83 billion, compared with a minimal increase from 1.19 to 1.23 billion people in developed countries.

As for Nigeria, I learned that the birth rate is 5.1 times and the infant death rate is 25 times that of Japan. Population growth can magnify economic problems, in countries such as Nigeria where 70% of population have incomes of \$1 US per day. The speakers gave me some hope that Nigeria would solve its various problems and continue to improve its health, health care, education and economic conditions in the future, through several projects its people have launched, such as the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and Universal Basic Education (UBE) Strategy.

I always enjoy and learn so much from our Wonca conferences, such as Calabar.

Hiroshi BANDO, MD, PhD, FACP
The Chairman of Public Information and Executive
Board Member,
Japanese Academy of Primary Care Physicians,
pianomed@bronze.ocn.ne.jp

RESOURCES FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR

AFRICAN PRIMAFED PROJECT AND ITS FIRST NEWSLETTER

The mission of Primafed, under the leadership of Jan De Maeseneer from Ghent University, Belgium, is to assist partner universities in Sub-Saharan Africa to improve family medicine, health systems and ultimately people's health. Primafamed is a 2-year project financed by Edulink-ACP-EU. The objective of the Primafamed academic family medicine network is to develop a comprehensive vision and strategy to delineate the integral contribution of family medicine and primary health care team to an equitable and accessible primary health care system of good quality for all.

Primafamed is coordinated from Ghent University, Belgium, and is working together with 10 partner universities in 8 African countries: Universite de Goma in the DR Congo; Moi University in Kenya; National University in Kenya; Aga Khan University in Tanzania; University of Lagos in Nigeria; Makerere University and Mbarara University in Uganda; Ahfad University for Woman and the University of Gezira in Sudan; and the University of Ghana, in Ghana.

The first Primafamed newsletter has been published and can be read at the Primafed website at www.primafamed.ugent.be.

Maaïke Flinkenflögel, MD
Coordinator Primafamed
Ghent University
primafamed@ugent.be

WONCA CONFERENCES 2008 – 2013 AT A GLANCE

Information correct as of February 2008.
May be subject to change.

**Wonca Direct Members enjoy lower conference registration fees

See Wonca Website www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com for updates & membership information

2008			
4 – 7 Sept	Europe Regional Conference	Istanbul TURKEY	Overcoming the distance, Family practice - bringing the art of medicine to the people
1 – 5 Oct	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Melbourne AUSTRALIA	A Celebration of Diversity
2009			
1-4 March	African Regional Conference	Johannesburg SOUTH AFRICA	Family Medicine in the African Context
23-26 April	Iberoamericana -CIMF Regional Conference	San Juan PUERTO RICO	Theme to be confirmed
5 – 8 June	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Hong Kong	Building Bridges
16 – 19 Sept	Europe Regional Conference	Basel SWITZERLAND	The Fascination of Complexity - Dealing with Individuals in a Field of Uncertainty
2010			
19 – 23 May	19 th Wonca World Conference	Cancun MEXICO	Millennium Development Goals: the Contribution of Family Medicine
6-9 October	Europe Regional Conference	Malaga SPAIN	Family Medicine into the Future Blending Health & Cultures
2011			
February	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Cebu PHILIPPINES	Paradigms of Family Medicine: Bridging Old Traditions with New Concepts
2013			
June	20 th Wonca World Conference	Prague CZECH REPUBLIC	Proposed theme: Family Medicine: Care for Generations

GLOBAL MEETINGS FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR

WONCA WORLD AND REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Istanbul 2008

Host: Turkish Association of Family Physicians
 Theme: Overcoming the Distance – Family Practice: Bringing the Art of Medicine to the People
 Date: 4-7 September 2008
 Venue: Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Center Istanbul, Turkey
 Email: info@woncaeuropa2008.org
 Web: www.woncaeuropa2008.org

Wonca Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Melbourne 2008

Host: Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
 Theme: A Celebration of Diversity
 Date: 1-5 October 2008
 Venue: Melbourne, Australia
 Contact: The Meeting Planners 91-97 Islington Street Collingwood Victoria 3066 Australia
 Tel: 613 9417 0888
 Fax: 613 9417 0899
 Email: wonca2008@meetingplanners.com.au
 Web: www.wonca2008.com

Wonca North American Regional Meeting, Puerto Rico 2008

Host: Wonca North American Region (in conjunction with 36th North American Primary Research Group (NAPRG) meeting)
 Date: 15-19 November 2008
 Location: Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
 Venue: Wyndham Rio Del Mar Beach Resort & Spa
 Contact: Dr. Alain Montegut, Wonca North America Region President
 Angela Broderick, NAPCRG Executive Director
 Tel: 800-274-2237, ext 5406 (NAPCRG)

Email: Alain.Montegut@bmc.org (Wonca North America Region) abroderick@stfm.org (NAPCRG)
 Web: www.napcrg.org

Wonca Africa Regional Conference, Johannesburg 2009

Host: South African Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care
 Theme: A Celebration of Diversity
 Date: 1-4 March 2009
 Venue: Johannesburg, South Africa
 Contact: Professor Khaya Mfenyana – Convenor
 Wonca Africa Regional President
 Walter Sisulu University Private Bag X1 Mthatha, South Africa
 Tel: 27 833 244 4259 or 27 47 502 2728
 Fax: 27 47 502 2235
 Email: kmfenyana@wsu.ac.za

Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF Regional Conference, Puerto Rico 2009

Host: Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF
 Date: 23-26 April 2009
 Location: Puerto Rico
 Contact: Professor Adolfo Rubinstein Iberoamericana-CIMF Regional President
 Email: adolfo.rubinstein@hospitalitaliano.org.ar
 Web: www.cimfweb.org

Wonca Asia-Pacific Regional Conference, Hong Kong 2009

Host: Hong Kong College of Family Physicians, HKCFP
 Theme: Building Bridges
 Date: 5 - 8 June 2009
 Venue: Hong Kong Conventional and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
 Contact: Dr. Andrew Ip
 Chairman, Host Organising Committee
 Hong Kong College of Family Physicians, HKCFP
 Rm 701 HKAM Jockey Club Bldg.
 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road Aberdeen, Hong Kong
 Tel: +852 25286618
 Fax: +852 28660616
 Email: hkcfp@hkcfp.org.hk enquiry@wonca2009.org
 Web: www.wonca2009.org

Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Basel, Switzerland 2009

Host: Swiss Society of General Medicine SSMG/SGAM
 Theme: The Fascination of Complexity - Dealing with Individuals in a Field of Uncertainty
 Date: 16 - 19 September 2009
 Venue: Congress Center Basel, Switzerland
 Contact: Dr Bruno Kissling
 Chair Host Organizing Committee
 Swiss Society of General Medicine SSMG/SGAM
 Elfenuweg 6, CH-3006 Bern Switzerland
 Tel: 0041 352 48 50
 Fax: 0041 352 28 84
 Email: bruno.kissling@hin.ch
 Web: www.woncaeuropa2009.org

19th Wonca World Conference, Cancun 2010

Host: Mexican College of Family Medicine
 Theme: Millennium Development Goals: The Contribution of Family Medicine
 Date: 19-23 May, 2010
 Venue: Cancun Conventions and Exhibition Center, Cancun Mexico
 Contact: Mexican College of Family Medicine
 Anahuac #60 Colonia Roma Sur 06760 Mexico, D.F.
 Tel: 52-55 5574
 Fax: 52-55 5387
 Email: jdo14@hotmail.com

Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Malaga, Spain 2010

Host: The Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine (SEMFYC)
 Theme: Family Medicine into the Future: Blending Health and Cultures.
 Date: 6-9 October 2010
 Venue: Málaga Conference Hall (Palacio de Ferias y Congresos de Málaga)
 Contact: Dr. Luis Gálvez-Alcaraz
 Chair Host Organizing Committee
 Spanish Society Family and Community Medicine

Address: Portaferriassa, 8, pral.
08002 BARCELONA (España)
Tel: 93 317 03 33
Fax: 93 317 77 72
Email: luisgalvez@semfyc.es

MEMBER ORGANIZATION AND RELATED MEETINGS

RNZCGP Annual Conference, Queenstown 2008

Host: The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners
Theme: Thrills and Spills of General Practice
Date: 16-19 July 2008
Location: Queenstown, New Zealand
Venue: Millennium Hotel
Contact: Tracey Thomas
Conference Innovators
PO Box 13494
Christchurch, NZ
Tel: 03 379 0390
Fax: 03 379 0460
Email: tracey@conference.co.nz
Web: www.rnzcgp.org.nz

5th AAFP Family Medicine Global Health Workshop, Denver 2008

Host: American Academy of Family Physicians
Theme: International Healthcare: Connecting Universal Family Medicine Concepts with Local Needs
Date: September 4-6, 2008
Location: Denver (Broomfield), Colorado
Venue: Omni Interlocken Resort
Planning Committee Co-Chairs: Edward J. Shahady, MD and Calvin L. Wilson, MD
Contact: Rebecca Janssen
Email: rjanssen@aafp.org
Web: www.aafp.org/intl/workshop08

The Network - Towards Unity for Health International Conference, Bogota, Columbia 2008

Host: Toward Unity for Health and Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de La Sabana, Chia-Bogota, Columbia
Theme: Adapting Health Services and Health Professions Education to Local Needs: Partnerships, Priorities and Passions

Date: September 27 – October 2, 2008
Location: Bogota, Columbia
Contact: www.the-networktuffh.org/conference/registrationform.asp
Web: www.the-networktuffh.org/conference

RCGP Annual Conference, United Kingdom 2008

Host: Royal College of General Practitioners
Theme: Creating Solutions for the Future
Date: 2-4 October, 2008
Location: Bournemouth International Centre
Contact: Profile Productions
Tel: 020 8832 7311
Email: rcgp@profileproductions.co.uk
Web: www.rcgpannualconference.org.uk

International Society for Quality in Health Care, Copenhagen 2008

Host: International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQUA)
Theme: Healthcare Quality and Safety: Meeting the Next Challenges
Date: 19-22 October 2008
Location: Belle Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark
Contact: To register, send email or fax with your name, position and organization
Email: isqua@isqua.org
Fax: +61 3 9417 6851

36th NAPCRG Annual Meeting, Puerto Rico 2008

Host: North American Primary Research Group (NAPRG)
Date: 15-19 November 2008
Location: Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
Venue: Wyndham Rio Del Mar Beach Resort & Spa
Contact: Angela Broderick, NAPCRG Executive Director
Tel: 800-274-2237, ext 5406
Email: abroderick@stfm.org
Web: www.napcrg.org

Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders in Primary Care, Spain 2008

Host: World Psychiatry Association and Wonca
Theme: Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders in Primary Care
Date: 18-21 June 2008
Location: Grenada, Spain

Contact: To register, send email or fax with your name, position and organization
Email: isqua@isqua.org
Info@wpa2008granada.org
Tel: 902 430 960
Fax: 902 430 959
Web: www.fase20.com

1st International Second Life Conference on Family Medicine, (XXVIII Conference of Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine), Spain 2008

Host: The Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine (SEMFYC)
Theme: "Always with the patients"
Date: November 19-23, 2008
Venue: "Isla de la Salud" Semfyc Island
Madrid, Spain
Contact: Carmen Moliner Prada, Chair Host Organising Committee
Semfyc Congresos
C/ del Pi, 11 - 2ª PL., Of. 13
08002 Barcelona. Spain.
Language: Spanish/ English
Tel: 0034 93 317 71 29
Fax: 0034 93 318 69 02
Email: congresos@semfyc.es
Web: congreso2008.semfyc.gatewaysc.com/index.cfm?nav_id=339

The College of Family Physicians of Canada Family Medicine Forum, Toronto 2008

Date: November 27-29, 2008
Venue: Sheraton Centre
Toronto, Ontario
Contact: Michelle Gutkin
Registration Coordinator
The College of Family Physicians of Canada
2630 Skymark, Mississauga (ON), L4W 5A4
Tel: 1.800.387.6197 #800
Email: mg@cfpc.ca
Web: http://fmf.cfpc.ca

WONCA EUROPE 2008



İSTANBUL

14th Regional Conference

“Overcoming the Distance”

Family doctor, bringing the art of medicine to the patient



04 - 07 September 2008

Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Center
Istanbul - TURKEY



www.woncaeurope2008.org

Correspondence
info@woncaeurope2008.org
Scientific Correspondence
scientificsecretary@woncaeurope2008.org

Professional Congress Organization
interium
congress • meeting • incentive
head office : siraselviler cd. phone : +90 212 292 8808
hrisovergi apt. 10/5-7-8
taksim, istanbul, turkey fax : +90 212 292 8807
www.interium.com.tr info@interium.com.tr