

The Primary Care Research Guide (PCRG)

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Primary Care

What is primary care?

Primary care is “care for all but the most uncommon disorders in the population” (Starfield, 1994).

The four core functions of primary care are:

- First-contact access for each new need
- Long-term person- (not disease) focused care
- Comprehensive care for most health needs
- Coordinated care when it must be sought elsewhere

(Starfield, 2005)

- **By WHR08:** Entry point / continuity / person-centred / comprehensiveness and integrated care.

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Publications

What are the core publications of primary care?

- “WHO Declaration of Alma-Ata 1978”
Link to PDF: tinyurl.com/3ghddfo
- “WHO World Health Report 2008: Primary health care – now more than ever”
Link to PDF: tinyurl.com/ntk584
- “WHO Resolution 2009 on Primary Health Care”
Link to PDF: tinyurl.com/3sgbp99
- “Contribution of Primary Care to Health Systems and Health (Starfield 2005)”
Link to PDF: tinyurl.com/4kolfbh

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Categories

What are the categories of primary care research?

The five categories of primary care research are (More information at: tinyurl.com/3bfg3rq):

- **Basic**
Developing research tools for primary care
- **Clinical**
Studies on epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment, context or clinical trials
- **Health Services**
Studies on processes, like informatics or team development
- **Health Systems**
Studies on health policies and their impact on effectiveness
- **Educational**
Studies on medical education and continuing professional development

Further reading:

- “What is research in primary care and why do we need it?”
Link: tinyurl.com/3fmohmu
- “The Need for Primary Care Research, Ann Fam Med”
Link: tinyurl.com/3jyyg3q

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International

If you want to take 1-2 years off ...

Masters of Primary Care (face-to-face)

- MSc Primary Care, City University London
tinyurl.com/3jtyprt
- MPH Primary Care, University of Glasgow
tinyurl.com/42pwgg6
- MSc Primary Care, Queen Margaret University Edinburgh
tinyurl.com/3tfwbya
- MSc Family Medicine Research, McGill University
tinyurl.com/3j77eor
- MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care, University of Oxford
tinyurl.com/3unwfjb

Masters of Public Health (incl. distance learning, also part-time)

- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
www.jhsph.edu
- Harvard School of Public Health
www.hsph.harvard.edu

- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
www.lshtm.ac.uk
- Many other Masters, Courses and Conferences:
www.goinginternational.org

Research Fellowships

- Graham Center
tinyurl.com/3st96su
- Commonwealth Fund, different fellowships
tinyurl.com/3z8fpbl

Other opportunities

- Health related research courses and training opportunities in the UK
www.rdlearning.org.uk
- WONCA collection of international research courses
tinyurl.com/3hg9699
- **Opportunities in:** Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Hong Kong, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, the United States.

If you want to take 3-5 years off ...

PhDs in Primary Care

The purpose and concept of a “PhD” program is very different among countries. E.g., in the UK it is usually an educational program, in the Netherlands it is usually a proof of research expertise (performing a major research project supervised by a Professor).

- University College London
tinyurl.com/3ptj6e5
- The University of Manchester
tinyurl.com/44vtvoa
- The Scottish School of Primary Care
www.sspc.ac.uk/vacancies2.htm
- The Netherlands School of Primary Care Research
www.researchschoolcare.nl
- University of Oxford, DPhil in Evidence-based Health Care
tinyurl.com/3unwfjb
- The University of Western Ontario, PhD in Family Medicine
tinyurl.com/3qqje58
- Karolinska Institutet (contact supervisor directly)
tinyurl.com/3vhbnlr

En Español

- Jordi Gol Primary Care Research Institute, Spain
www.idiapjgol.org
- Aragon Health Sciences Institute, Spain
www.ics.aragon.es

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Training Opportunities: From Home

Local training programs (full-time or part-time)

- Explore your local Universities, Research Institutes and GP Societies.
- Ask local experts for opportunities, advice and guidance.

Distance learning

Many MPH courses offer distance-learning opportunities (see also point 4)

- MRes Primary Care, The University of Manchester
www.mphe.man.ac.uk

Summer Schools & Short Courses

- Graham Center, 4 weeks visiting scholarship
tinyurl.com/3st96su
- Primary Care Course (150 hours, distance-learning), The University of Manchester
www.mphe.man.ac.uk
- EQuIP Summer School on Quality Improvement, tinyurl.com/3wuf8ev

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Organisations & Conferences

What are the major organizations, societies and conferences?

International GP Organizations / Meetings

- **WONCA Three-Annual Global Meeting**
www.globalfamilydoctor.com
- **WONCA Europe**
www.woncaeurope.org
- **WONCA Conferences**
(including Regional Meetings)
tinyurl.com/3ue4gqo

National GP Colleges

- **USA:** American Academy of Family Physicians
www.aafp.org
- **GBR:** The Royal College of General Practitioners
www.rcgp.org.uk
- **CAN:** The College of Family Physicians of Canada
www.cfpc.ca

- **AUS:** The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
www.racgp.org.au
- **NZL:** The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners
www.rnzcgp.org.nz
- **All (120) national colleges:**
tinyurl.com/3navck2

International Research Networks

- WONCA Working Party on Research
tinyurl.com/3mop43k
- European Forum for Primary Care
www.euprimarycare.org
- North American Primary Care Research Group
www.napcrg.org
- Society for Academic Primary Care
www.sapc.ac.uk

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North American
PRIMARY CARE
RESEARCH GROUP





**This guide is dedicated to
Dr. Barbara Starfield (1932-2011)**

Wikipedia:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Starfield

Publication:
"Contribution of Primary Care to Health Systems and Health", – tinyurl.com/4kolfbh

Book:
"Primary Care: Balancing Health Needs, Services, and Technology", – tinyurl.com/3wzpxh6

eBook:
„Dr. Starfield’s powerpoint book on PC”,
ocw.jhsph.edu/courses/starfieldcourse/presentations.cfm

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Getting Involved How can I get involved?

Newsletter

- By European Forum for Primary Care
www.euprimarycare.org
(Join the Forum, great update about recent publications, conferences etc.)

Social media

- LinkedIn.com
- Researchgate.net

How to build primary care research capacity in my country?

- "A framework for building capacity to improve health" (article)
tinyurl.com/2wrz9k3
- "Combining vocational and research training" (article)
tinyurl.com/3wys28r
- "A research agenda for primary care in Europe" (article)
tinyurl.com/3lb7dyd
- Motivate others to join primary care research by distributing this guide widely.

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Getting Started!

How can I start a research projects in my own office?

How to get started...

- Wiki: Getting started with Family Medicine Research, tinyurl.com/3p3csuw
- Simple research fact sheets, The University of New South Wales, tinyurl.com/3e4o3yk

Getting help and advice by international researchers...

- Practice Based Research Networks
pbrn.ahrq.gov
- European General Practice Research Network: egprn.org
- International Federation of Primary Care Research Networks, www.ifpcrn.org
- Brisbane Initiative (Training for young researchers): tinyurl.com/3cpqxml
- Start collaborations outside the family medicine department (article)
tinyurl.com/3j8gfnh



Feedback

Please tell us your opinion!

Your feedback is important to improve and update this guide:

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