

WONCA News

An International Forum for Family Doctors



CONTENTS

From the Wonca President	: Family Medicine is Alive and Well in the Gulf	2
From the CEO's Desk	: Promising Developments for a 7th Wonca Region	3
From the Editor	: Improving Health Care and People's Health – Family Doctors Helping Family Doctors	4
FEATURE STORIES		5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flemish Council Funds Family Medicine Network in East and South Africa • GFD's Three Medical Editors Keep Wonca Online Relevant 	
Wonca REGIONAL NEWS		8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonca Americas Region Council Meets in Vancouver • Wonca Europe Region to Convene in Florence 	
HEALTH AND HEALTH SYSTEM NEWS		11
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAFP Works to Improve Primary Health Care in Albania • New Zealand's GP's Ageing Faster Than Being Replenished 	
MEMBER AND ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS		13
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamar Gabunia: Wonca Global Family Doctor for December 2005 • Sugito Wonodirekso: Wonca Global Family Doctor for January 2006 • Celebrating the Life of Jack Marshall • In Memoriam: Dr H Shigemoto 	
RESOURCES FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR		16
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO Report Calls for Greater Global Focus on Chronic Diseases • Online Educational Resources on Tobacco 	
WONCA CONFERENCES 2006-2011 AT A GLANCE		18
GLOBAL MEETINGS FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR		19

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FROM THE WONCA PRESIDENT:

FAMILY MEDICINE IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THE GULF

“Our vision is that Primary Health Care Centers will be GCC’s first choice for health care.”

Dr. Tawfik A. M. Khoja,
 Director General, Health Ministers’ Council - Gulf
 Cooperative Council

An invitation, earlier this month to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to be an external examiner in the clinical examination of the Arab Board for Medical Specialization in the field of Family Medicine, proved to be an exciting and enlightening experience. The Arab Board was founded in 1978 by the Council of Arab Health Ministers, within the Arab League with the aim of standardising training and assessment of residents across the region. Training is however the responsibility of the local board or organisation responsible for accreditation and training in each country across the Arab World from Libya, Egypt and Sudan in Africa, through the Arabian Peninsula, to the Middle East. The clinical examinations were held in Jeddah, Dubai, and Bahrain. Prof Michael Kidd, from Australia was the external examiner in Bahrain and Dr Salmon Rawaf, from the UK, joined the team in Dubai.

My hosts in Jeddah on the Red Sea were the local Members of the Arab Board and the Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine. Their hospitality was of course superb and I am still suffering from a massive overdose of shell fish, cuscus and Um Ali (Mother of Ali), a delicious local version of bread pudding!

The candidates in Jeddah were residents from across Saudi Arabia. What amazed me was that all candidates were examined in English, and the majority were able to communicate with aplomb in this second language not only when discussing clinical issues, but also when the more complicated nuances of the language were required to deal with ethical and philosophical issues. The standard of knowledge and expertise of the candidates was in the main excellent and, without hesitation and with total confidence, I would, have handed over the care of my own shellfish and Um Ali induced myocardial infarct to a number of the candidates! What also struck me, as it has in other parts of the world, was the universality and commonality of the content and scope of the family

medicine curriculum with that across the world, be it in New Zealand, South Africa, UK, Malaysia or Canada.



Wonca President, Bruce Sparks, cutting his birthday cake while in Saudi Arabia. Looking on are Dr Sameer Alsabban, from Makkah and Mohammed Al-Ghamdi, Director of the Joint Programme for Family and Community Medicine, Jeddah.



Examining panel for the clinical examinations in Jeddah. Dr Sameer Alsabban (Makkah), Prof Bruce Sparks, Dr Shawki Ameen (Bahrain), Dr Khaldoom Al-Roomi (Bahrain)

Another exciting element of the training and assessment was the seamless integration of community/public health elements in the curriculum for family physicians. Funding of training programmes in Family Medicine is a major inhibitor in many countries around the world. Traditional specialist disciplines often have first grab at any health education budget. In Jeddah, the training occurs in the Joint Family and Community Medicine Programme. It is a junction in two senses. Not

only is there considerable integration of the two community-based disciplines in a single training entity, but the Programme which has been functional for over a decade, has developed out of a true collaboration using the combined resources of the Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine, The National Guard, and the National Departments of Health and Defence. The resultant programme conducted in the grounds of the National Guard is of a high academic and clinical standard.

Embryo of a New Wonca Arab Region

For some time, there has been discussion within and outside Wonca about the possibility of establishing a new 7th “Arab Region” of the organisation. The WHO in its Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO) has 21 member countries ranging from Morocco in the west to Pakistan in the east and from Syria down to Somalia in Africa. At present, the North African countries are not part of Wonca. There are suggestions that the new Wonca Region could incorporate as its core members 5 of the countries presently represented in the MESAR (Middle East South Asia) Region, namely Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia. Such a region could then include other countries in North Africa, the Gulf Region, and the Middle East. Organisations in many of these countries have already indicated an interest to join the World Organisation. We will watch developments in this part of the World with interest.

Professor Bruce Sparks
 President
 World Organization of Family Doctors

P.S. In my message in the last edition of Wonca News, I asked, “Are the World’s family doctors prepared for an avian influenza pandemic?” It is with regret that this month we are witnessing a spread of Avian Flu as far west as Italy and also now south into Nigeria. We hope that the occurrence in Africa will not signal a major spread and mutation to a human form, given the poor veterinary services in the continent. Is the Pandemic getting closer and are we really prepared?

FROM THE CEO’S DESK:

PROMISING DEVELOPMENTS FOR A 7TH WONCA REGION

I was invited to attend the First International Primary Health Care Conference in the Emirates of Abu Dhabi sometime in early May 2005. I accepted the invitation as I felt it would provide Wonca with a good opportunity to progress the agenda of creating a new seventh region for Wonca. This move to create the new region started following my attendance at the Lebanese Society of Family Medicine Annual Scientific Conference in Beirut in 2003 where I met a good number of representatives from the

various national organizations of family doctors in the Middle East. Following that initial enthusiasm, progress had been slow. The conference in Abu Dhabi provided an opportunity for some fresh initiatives to be launched.

The Conference was hosted by the Department of Primary Healthcare and Preventative Services of Abu Dhabi. It was organized in collaboration with WHO’s Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, the Council of Health Ministers of the GCC States, the World Federation for Medical Education, the International Primary Care Research Group and Wonca among others. The theme of the Conference was “The Challenges in Primary Care” and was held from 21st – 23rd January 2006 at the Rotana Beach Hotel and Conference Centre.

The morning plenary sessions included among others :

1. Models of Primary Health Care in countries of the Middle-east and elsewhere.
2. The Changing Concepts of Primary Health Care.
3. Challenges of Family Practice in the Arab World.
4. Mental Health.
5. Postgraduate Programmes in Family Medicine

The afternoon concurrent sessions covered topics such as:

1. School Health
2. Dental Health
3. Maternal and Child Health
4. Postgraduate training programmes
5. Accreditation in Primary Health Care
6. Family Medicine Research

The quality of the papers presented in all the sessions were of a high standard with very active audience participation during the afternoon concurrent sessions.

Credit should be given to the Host Organising Committee for the high scientific standard of the presentations.

The presence of various representatives from the different national organizations in the Middle-east provided the opportunity for two significant side meetings to take place.

Firstly, the Wonca Special Interest Group (SIG) in Psychiatry headed by Dr Gabriel Ivbijaro with family doctors from the region and I held a special meeting with Dr Michelle Funk, Mental Health Policy and Service Development of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, WHO, to advance the WHO-Wonca collaboration for a proposed paper on “Recommendations On Integration of Mental Health Into Primary Care”. The meeting ended with some very constructive suggestions on how best to approach the issue and to make the recommendations practical and user-friendly to busy family doctors.

Secondly, with the kind help of Dr Abyad, Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Conference, I met with all the representatives of family doctor organizations present at the Conference. The main intention of this meeting was to further explore the formation of a Middle East Region of Wonca. Representatives from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Sudan were present. All of these representatives were highly in favour of forming the new region. Currently, six member organizations from the Middle-East are members of Wonca: Bahrain, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq and UAE. It was agreed at the meeting that the new Wonca Region will be formed when there are eight member organizations from the Middle East Region to form the Regional Council.

When this new Seventh Wonca Region is ready to be formed, it is proposed that the existing Middle East South Asia (MESA) Region become two separate regions - The Wonca South Asia Region and The Wonca Middle East Region.

Dr Alfred Loh
Chief Executive Officer
World Organization of Family Doctors

FROM THE EDITOR:

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE AND PEOPLE'S HEALTH: FAMILY DOCTORS HELPING FAMILY DOCTORS

Founded with a dozen member organizations in 1972, today Wonca and its 105 member organizations in 88 countries and their family doctors cover an estimated 85% of the world's population. A multicolored tapestry of articles in this February issue of Wonca News record how family doctors are helping their fellow family doctors improve health care and people's health around the globe.

In his President's Column, Bruce Sparks reports on the invitation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the resultant work of several family doctors to assist the Arab Board of Medical Specialization in their clinical examination in Family Medicine. Wonca Executive member Michael Kidd (Australia), Salmon Wawaf (United Kingdom) and Bruce traveled to Bahrain, Dubai and Jeddah, respectively, to serve as clinical examiners in their family medicine examinations.

This issue features several other examples of how family doctors are helping family doctors around the globe. The Flemish Inter-university Council recently approved a three year, 310,000 EU grant to support Ghent University's Department of Family Medicine and Primary Health Care together with the family medicine departments of the Universities of Louvain, Antwerp and Brussels to foster newly developing programs of family medicine in East Africa, strengthen the already functioning network of family medicine departments in South Africa, and improve people's health in the region. Wonca Americas Region President, Warren Heffron, reports on their Regional meeting in Vancouver where family medicine development in North America and the Caribbean were discussed. This issue reports on the American Academy of Family Physicians' new Center for International Health Initiatives project to strengthen family medicine in Albania.

This issue honors a number of family doctors who have made a difference. Tamar Gabunia has been actively involved in the development of Health Care Reform in the Republic of Georgia. Sugito Wonodirekso is a Wonca Council member representing the Association of Indonesian Family Physicians. Both were nominated selected as Global Family Doctors of the Month. Wonca News celebrates the life and global contributions of two

Wonca leaders, Jack Marshall and Hirosada Shigemoto.

Three family doctors help Global Family Doctor - Wonca Online - serve as a relevant and timely resource helping family doctors around the globe. Wes Fabb has been Medical Editor since the inception of Global Family Doctor in 2001. Stephen Wilkinson joined him in 2004 and Jim Vause in 2005. This issue reports that they scan the contents of over 170 family medicine, general and specialist online journals and medical news services for articles relevant to family doctors.

Please continue to send me stories of how Wonca's member organizations, Working Parties, Task Forces and Special Interest Groups, family medicine/general practice departments and individual family doctors are helping family doctors improve health care and people's health around the world.

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FEATURE STORIES

FLEMISH COUNCIL FUNDS COLLABORATIVE FAMILY MEDICINE NETWORK IN EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA

The Flemish Inter-university Council recently approved a three year, 310,000 EU grant to foster newly developing programs of family medicine in East Africa, strengthen the already functioning network of family medicine departments in South Africa, and promote the realization of health for all through South-South cooperation. This represents the culmination of synergistic efforts among a variety of collaborators under the leadership of Ghent University's Department of Family Medicine and Primary Health Care together with the family medicine departments of the Universities of Louvain, Antwerp and Brussels (the Flemish Consortium ICHO).

Wonca's designation of East Africa as a high priority for its global mission provided impetus for the pursuit of supportive grant funding. With this in mind, a workshop was held in January, 2005 in Pretoria, South Africa to explore the feasibility of a proposal to the Flemish Inter-university Council through Ghent University and the Flemish Consortium. Administrative and technical support was provided by Global Health for Education, Training and Service (GHETS) with encouragement from the Network: TUFH. Educators and practitioners from eight countries in East and Southern Africa attended this workshop. Wonca president, Bruce Sparks, and Wonca Africa Regional President, Abra Fransch, were active participants. As background for their deliberations, attendees first reviewed the success of South Africa's Family Medicine Educational Consortium (FaMEC) in developing postgraduate training for family physicians in primary health care. This consortium was initiated in 1997 and, since April 2003, has received significant support from Belgium's Ghent University and the Flemish Inter-university Council's Own Initiatives Project.

Eight South African departments of family medicine founded FaMEC as an interactive network to exchange information, teaching modules and a variety of educational resources. This unified approach has also strengthened their ability to advocate for family medicine at the national level. FaMEC has developed a national training program in family medicine through the establishment of training complexes in remote and underserved areas, a core curriculum in family medicine and shared didactic and content materials. Training is now organized within the context of primary health care in district health systems throughout the country. The South African experience provides an exemplary template for combining resources and expertise to create sustainable, high quality approaches to the education of generalist physicians at the undergraduate, postgraduate and continuous professional development levels.

Attendees at the Pretoria conference felt that these experiences would be especially relevant for neighboring African countries and that those in East Africa would likely benefit from a comparably organized regional network. The January workshop in Pretoria enabled representatives from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Botswana and Zimbabwe to communicate lessons learned and to identify challenges they had encountered in establishing family medicine training programs. Participants agreed on the need for

community-based training in primary health care in sub-Saharan Africa and for mutually beneficial exchanges between South Africans and East Africans.

The momentum from the shared commitment emerging from Pretoria led to a follow-up meeting in Kampala, Uganda in August 2005, at which time 11 representatives from family medicine organizations in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, the DRC and South Africa met to develop the framework for a proposal to the Flemish Inter-university Council consistent with the grant's requirements. Through a collaborative process of discussion and debate the group identified challenges, objectives to be achieved, strategies to be pursued and a work plan. Following the 3-day conference, participants continued to contribute to the final grant proposal which was coordinated through the offices of GHETS and the University of Ghent with oversight from Professor De Maeseener.



A happy group of hard-working colleagues representing 8 countries in East and Southern Africa



The Rugazi Health Center



Attendees at the Kampala meeting



Small group working party at Makerere



Participants reflecting on a presentation at the Pretoria workshop

When fully implemented, this project will support the creation of a South-South network of training programs that will contribute to family medicine development in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and the DRC with provision for future outreach to neighboring countries such as Rwanda and Zimbabwe. A forum will be created for this process that will be led by African institutions to:

- Define the discipline and specialty of family medicine within the African context in a manner consistent with the specific needs, resources, and cultural heritage of Africa;

- Based on this definition, enhance the quality of program content, training and educational methods including community-based education programs within training complexes;
- Promote collaborative research ; and
- Foster high quality and locally relevant continuing professional development.

This grant will support a network that integrates primary health care training within and between African countries similar to the role of FaMEC in South Africa. Departments of Family Medicine at the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Moi University in Kenya, Mbarara and Makerere Universities in Uganda, Centre Universitaire de Goma in the DRC, and the fledgling family medicine organizations in these countries will collaborate to form this network. Training will focus on the best way to educate family physicians to contribute optimally to interdisciplinary primary health care services oriented towards the needs of individuals, their families and the communities in which they live. This will require capacity building, community participation, sharing of educational approaches, and relevant research.

These efforts to develop a consortium of strengthened family medicine departments with a flexible core curriculum and an established means of communication and sharing are likely to enable significant contributions to more equitable and locally relevant primary health care systems. - thus affirming respect for the integral role of the generalist/ family physician within the primary health care team. In addition to benefiting those in sub-Saharan Africa, this collaborative model

provides an exemplary blueprint for achieving WHO’s elusive goal of a level of health for all citizens of the world that will permit them to lead socially and economically productive lives. Invigorated by the cumulative input from so many committed individuals, this project represents a tangible step towards achieving “Health for All” and relieving the immense burden of disease throughout the world, especially in low-income countries.

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TUFH

GFD’s Three Medical Editors Keep Wonca Online Relevant

Wes Fabb has been Medical Editor since the inception of Global Family Doctor in 2001. Stephen Wilkinson joined him in 2004 and Jim Vause in 2005. Between them they scan the contents pages of over 170 family medicine, general and specialist online journals and medical news services for articles relevant to family doctors. Over 4,000 article titles are scanned each month. Interesting articles describing clinical, epidemiological and health services research are summarized into items in Journal

Watch, and reviews of topics relevant to family doctors are featured in Clinical Reviews. Summaries are posted within days of publication. The purpose of this service is to enable busy clinicians to keep right up-to-date with minimal time and effort. The following is a brief introduction of each GFD Medical Editor.

Professor Stephen Wilkinson

Stephen is a GP in Melbourne and a Medical Educator with the Joint University Centre for Education and Training for General Practice (JUCETGP) and regional coordinator for two regions of metropolitan Melbourne for the Victorian Metropolitan Alliance (VMA), an Australian GP Training Provider.

He has worked as a rural general practitioner in southern NSW and as a general practitioner in Hobart.

He has been involved in undergraduate medical teaching and assessment at the University of Tasmania, the University of Melbourne and Monash University.

He has many years of experience in GP training including workshops, practice visits and remediation of registrars. He has also been involved in programs to up-skill doctors preparing for Fellowship of the RACGP examination.

Stephen is an FRACGP, AMC (Australian Medical Council) and RWAV (Rural Workforce Agency of Victoria) examiner.

He has contributed cases to the RACGP site, ‘gplearning’ (www.gplearning.com.au), an interactive online CPD education service.

He is a single full-time father of three teenage girls and is working on other interests.

Professor Jim Vause

Having been a general practitioner for some twenty-seven years, Jim has always believed in the critical importance of research in providing the guidance for clinical care in general practice. A personal favourite is the often quoted “evidence trumps opinion” statement which provides a lead in to the world of evidence based medicine as it applies to general practice, and he feels privileged to be able to work for Wonca with Wes and Stephen in scanning the literature for article of relevance to the world of primary medical care.

Jim is a kiwi, being New Zealand born and bred with a family tree that stretches back to the very days when the nation was born in the early 1200’s with settlement from Polynesia. He began his medical work in rural general practice in the southern south island of NZ, a place his ancestors settled many many moons ago. As a bright eyed young doctor the excitement of rural practice was very attracting, however the arrival of two sons led to his family’s settlement in the Top of the South Island at Blenheim, from where Jim became progressively more involved in the work of the RNZCGP culminating in becoming President in 2003. It was through the College that Jim became involved in WONCA and the GFD work which has aligned well with his personal interest in EBM and application to practice.

While no longer RNZCGP President, Jim serves on various national health committees for workforce, screening and quality in addition to a governance role for his

province’s Primary Care Organisation. Jim still manages to work about 5/10ths in his 4 doctor practice which his wife manages. Ruth is also a board member for their local District Health Board. Occasionally other interests such as skiing, motorsport and windsurfing obstructs his medical work.

Professor Wes Fabb

Professor Wes Fabb was born in 1930, graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1955, and after two years of residency and 14 years in family practice in rural Victoria, became the first Chief Examiner of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Editor of Australian Family Physician and Director of the Check Program of self assessment.

From 1973 he was Director of Education of the College’s vocational training programme, the Family Medicine Programme, until 1993 when he was appointed Professor of Family Medicine at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

In 1997 he returned to Melbourne to give full-time attention to Wonca as CEO, a position he held for 20 years, from which he retired in 2001. He has been an honorary staff member of the Department of General Practice at Monash University for almost 30 years. He is an honorary member of several overseas colleges/academies. He has over 100 publications to his credit and has been a speaker at numerous international conferences.

Wes is now the Medical Editor of Global Family Doctor - Wonca Online and oversees the maintenance and development of the site.

He and his wife Marian, who for 20 years was Administrative Officer of Wonca, have six children, nine

grandchildren and a great grandson. Most of the time they live at their seaside home at Inverloch on the south coast of Victoria, Australia.

WONCA REGIONAL NEWS

WONCA AMERICAS REGION COUNCIL MEETS IN VANCOUVER

On December 8, 2005, the Wonca Americas Region Council met in Vancouver, BC in conjunction with the College of Family Physicians of Canada’s Annual Family Medicine Forum. Attendees included Doctors Warren Heffron (President, Americas Region), Alain Pavilanus (President, College of Family Physicians of Canada), Cal Gutkin (CEO, CFPC), Francine Lemire and John Maxted (Staff, CFPC), Dr Alverston Bailey (Caribbean College of Family Physicians), Larry Fields (President, American Academy of Family Physicians), Perry Dickinson (President, North American Primary Care Research Group), William Mygdal (President, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine) and Mr Roger Sherwood (CEO, STFM). The Wonca World Executive was represented by Doctors Alfred Loh (CEO), Chris Van Weel (President Elect), Richard Roberts (Treasurer), and Dan Ostergaard (Chair, Bylaws Committee). Attendees also included Doctors Cheryl Levitt (CoChair - Wonca Working Party Women and Family Medicine), and Edwina Yen (Pan American Health Organization).

The Council was pleased that our region has had two co-hosted meetings with member organization

annual meetings in each of the last two years. The group urged other organizations to consider doing this. It is too late to have this happen in 2006 so we will have a Council meeting at some point during the AAFP annual meeting in Washington D.C. in September of 2006. We will plan to have at least a council meeting each year, hopefully in conjunction with a member organization meeting.

ICPC2 was discussed in length and an update was given as to where it is currently being used and that it is being considered by one or two Canadian provinces and hopes are that it may be used across Canada as the most appropriate coding standard for family medicine. For widespread use it will be imperative that either Wonca gain exclusive rights to it or that an ICPC3 be published.

Given the dramatic and much welcomed growth of Wonca's regions and with the diversity of membership categories, the Council clarified member organization status in our region. A request was made for clarification of how the Caribbean member organizations are divided. The Spanish speaking organizations are members of the Ibero-American region, with the exception of Puerto Rico which is a commonwealth of the US and hence is an AAFP chapter. The English, French and Dutch speaking organizations are members of the Caribbean College.

The Council reviewed the name of its region in light of Wonca's new Iberoamericana-CIMF Region. The Americas Region has been our name since the inception of Wonca. Today, however, the Caribbean is divided linguistically into both regions and Mexico, while in North America, are members of Ibero-America. The consensus was that it is not really appropriate to call ourselves the

Americas Region. The Council decided to recommend to the Wonca World Executive to change our name to the North America Region.

The term of office of the president was reviewed. The bylaws permit the regional president to serve two consecutive three year terms. Historically it has been rotated to elect a member from the three full member organizations and recently each president has served two terms. With a fourth full member coming at the next World Council meeting there was some sentiment that we should limit the terms to one term so a rotational representation could be more equitable. However, after discussion it was decided to continue the informal rotation but that order and number of terms be left open to let the council decide on the best person every three years. A suggestion was made that the group be sensitive to diversity in future decisions.

Dr. Edwina Yen presented a paper on PAHO activities and offered to explore avenues of collaboration in the future. The Council and Dr. Yen were in agreement that there may be many areas to collaborate but that we would not pursue becoming a collaborative center at this time.

Warren Heffron
President, Americas Region
wheffron@salud.unm.edu

Wonca Europe Region to Convene in Florence

It is our pleasure to invite you to the 12th Wonca Europe Regional Conference that will be held in Florence, Italy on August 27-30, 2006. The aim of the organizing

committee is to prepare in Florence 2006 an event to be remembered as one of the most important offered by WONCA Europe to its members and all those caring for General Practice/Family Medicine.

WONCA Europe has more than 30 member organizations and represents more than 45,000 family physicians in Europe. The society is the academic and scientific society of general practitioners in Europe. The aim of the society is to improve standards of care in General Practice/Family Medicine; stimulate networking among GPs with an interest in professional development, research, education and quality improvement.

The conference theme "Towards a Medical Renaissance: Bridging the Gap Between Biology and Humanities" seeks to bridge the gap between biology and the humanities. Illness, disease and sickness, three words full of meanings for one very specific human biological condition, to be understood, needs to be observed from many different points of view. That is precisely the exciting underlying thread of the 12th WONCA Europe Conference; a thread that will conduct participants through six main topics

1. biology and humanities
2. caring for the world
3. family practice research
4. quality
5. education
6. risk and safety

These themes will allow doctors, while easily surfing through their preferred conference sessions presenting, discussing and facing their own everyday real problems, to be exposed to new ideas, state of art knowledge and reliable guidelines. Every moment of the conference will be an occasion to "think globally" in a rigorous

scientific manner and to “act back locally” in a highly professional way.

Each one of these topics will have a dedicated chairman that will follow the works during the three days of the conference and will summarize the State of the Art in the last plenary session. So participants may follow the lectures and sessions of their main interest but, before leaving the conference, will be informed about what of relevance has been told in all the other ones. Everyone will be able to bring back home a clear idea about the important ideas which emerged during the ongoing process of the conference.

With such relevant philosophical and scientific inheritance, with its beautiful Mediterranean climate, good and healthy food, and great shopping, Florence is the ideal place for the 12th Conference of WONCA Europe ESGP/FM. Florence is one of the most beloved cities in the world, an open sky museum famous worldwide. In the fifteenth-century Florence, a self-governed, independent city-state with a population of 60,000 became with its writers, painters, architects and philosophers the cradle of Renaissance culture; Renaissance shifted mankind into the centre of the known cosmos and man became its measure.

Since the thirteenth century travelers praised the warmth and comfort of Florentine hospitality. The tradition is carried on today by a highly organized service totalling more than 350 hotels and pensions of different categories, able to accommodate more than 20,000 guests. Most hotels are in the city centre near the Congress Centre Fortezza da Basso. Special rates have been negotiated for congress participants.

To register and for additional information, please contact us via phone (39 055 50351), email (info@woncaeurope2006.org) or the web (www.woncaeurope2006.org)

We surely want you to have a marvelous stay and no doubt Florence will be able to marvel you; but we do not want for you only a beautiful show. We would like you to go back home pleased by the certainty to have lived a very exciting and scientifically relevant experience in being where important topics, for general practitioners from all over Europe and the Mediterranean area, were stated and discussed.



We strongly want Florence 2006 to become another important step for all GPs attending, on the way toward a thriving General Practice both for Italy and Europe. We are lucky enough to have at our disposal Leonardo’s land: the best place to build a new Renaissance for Family Medicine.

Dr. Giorgio Visintin
Chairman, Organizing Committee

Dr. Massimo Tombesi
Chairman, Scientific Committee

Professor Igor Svab
President, Wonca Europe

Professor Chris van Weel
President-elect, Wonca World

HEALTH AND HEALTH SYSTEM NEWS

AAFP WORKS TO IMPROVE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN ALBANIA

The American Academy of Family Physicians' (AAFP) new Center for International Health Initiatives (CIHI), the AAFP's global initiative to foster the development of family medicine around the world, is carrying out an exciting project to help strengthen family medicine in Albania. This project is carried out through a series of consultations funded by the United States Agency for International Development through a subcontract from University Research Co., LLC.

An important component of the project is the provision of family medicine training courses for Albanian General Practitioners (GPs) who staff the commune health centers throughout the country. These GPs received no postgraduate training and very little continuing medical education.

The first prefecture (district) level retraining sessions took place in the northern prefectures of Lezhë and Shkodër during the week of Sept 12-17 led by Drs. Don Asp and Cal Wilson of the AAFP-CIHI. Most recently, a second training session took place in the southeastern prefecture of Korçë, a spectacular five hour drive through the Balkans from Tirana, during the consultation provided by Drs. Warren Heffron and Brian Jack during their visit of November 11-13, 2005. The third course is scheduled for May 2006.



Warren Heffron teaches at Albanian retraining session



Albanian physician participants with Warren Heffron and Brian Jack

In general, the course demonstrated modern teaching techniques including case-based learning, role-play, demonstration, and competency-based learning. There was plenty of interaction. Topics included subjects that are less established in Albania such as mental health, behavioral science, prevention, suturing workshop, use of otoscope, among others. Dr. Marcel Reyners of URC said of the course, "This was the best training course I have attended in 18 years of such work."

This AAFP-CIHI course is then followed by a series of 24 teaching modules containing clinical, pedagogical, and practice management skills taught by the faculty of the Tirana Medical University Department of Family Medicine. It is planned that the trained GPs from each prefecture will then be responsible for organizing similar training sessions for all the GPs in their prefectures.

The trainings will occur in five target prefectures that contain about 550 commune health centers and about 1050 physicians. These areas represent about one-third of the populations, commune health centers and physicians.

Besides assisting with the retraining of GPs, over the coming years, AAFP-CIHI consultants will focus on the following additional activities:

- Assist the Department of Family Medicine at Tirana Medical University;
- Support the formation of the new Albanian Associations of Family Physicians; and
- Help define the Licensing, Certification and Accreditation needs of GPs/FPs in Albania.

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New Zealand's GP's Ageing Faster Than Being Replenished

A stressed and diminishing general practice workforce ageing faster than it is being replenished paints an alarming future for primary health care in New Zealand. It may be just five years away. Preliminary figures from additional research being done shows more than one-third of GPs plan to be out of general practice before then. Ten percent cite having a family, or following their spouse, 10 percent in general medicine, 10 percent overseas and 10 percent will retire. "Take parallel figures on New Zealand's population ageing, overlay the GP figures, and we're looking at a workforce in crisis," said Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioner's (RNZCGP) President Dr Jonathan Fox, in a December 12, 2005 press release.

Dr Fox said other health professionals were reporting the same disturbing trends.

"At a time we're being asked to work smarter and change to incorporate new strategies from the Government, our members are reporting rising stress levels and extra hours just to deal with the bureaucracy and compliance demands on top of an ageing, growing patient population."

"We need action now," Dr Fox said. "It takes at least 12 years to train a GP." The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners today released figures showing the mean age of GPs has increased six years [over 14%] in the last eight years. In 1998, it was 42, today 48. "Thirty-seven percent of the workforce is over 50, with a further 10 percent over 60," Dr Fox said. The ageing

trend is accelerating. In 1998 40.8 percent of GPs were under 40, this year just 18.7 percent are under 40. "That's 71 percent of GPs aged 41 to 60."

This release is the first of four thematic papers, presenting the findings of the 2005 survey. This particular paper focuses on the demographics and working arrangements of the College's GP membership. Subsequent papers in the series highlight other significant issues affecting the GP workforce, working conditions and remuneration, future intentions and rural general practice.

The survey, sent to all members of the College, had a response rate of 60 percent (2057 members), with a margin of error of 1.35 percent at the 95 percent confidence interval. The survey reveals a stressed and diminishing general practice workforce ageing faster than it is being replenished; GPs perceive themselves as increasingly bogged down by bureaucracy and compliance requirements.

New Zealand is already heavily reliant on Overseas Trained Doctors, at 34 percent, well ahead of the next comparable country, the United Kingdom at 28 percent. "New Zealand has to compete in a global market for our medical workforce," Dr Fox said, "yet there are still funding barriers against training our own graduates." In the last two years the College has received more than double the number of applications for the 54 funded places on its high-quality training programme. Scholarships aimed at incentivising Maori and Pacific Island doctors into general practice were stopped by Government this year for 2006. "Maori and Pacific Island populations suffer an increasing health risk, yet these populations are proportionately under-represented in the GP workforce.

Despite increasing numbers of young GPs accepting only locum or salaried positions, 56 percent of College members remain self-employed. "Older self-employed GPs also work the longest hours," Dr Fox said. On average male GPs work 54.8 hours per week (1.4 Fulltime equivalents), with female GPs working 38.9 (.97 FTEs). GPs in the 46-65 cohort spent more time each week in general practice, with increasing administration and compliance time.

The Health Workforce Advisory Committee has already recognised the significant implications of a predominance of women in the whole medical workforce. GP figures also follow this trend, with more females working as locums or part-time salaried GPs.

The population of New Zealand is growing, ageing and becoming more ethnically diverse. Based on current assessment of health needs these changes will impact directly on primary care and the work of general practitioners. Over 65s are heavy users of primary care and evidence suggests they present with complex issues that will involve longer consultations. “ We must stop the numbers drain now,” Jonathan Fox said, “or in 10 years the problem may be insoluble.”

Dr Jonathan Fox
President, RNZCGP
communications@rnzcgp.org.nz

(Editor’s note: The full RNZCGP report may be downloaded at http://www.rnzcgp.org.nz/news/docs/RNZCGP_2005_survey.pdf)

MEMBER AND ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

Tamar Gabunia: Wonca Global Family Doctor for December 2005

Dr. Tamar Gabunia has been actively involved in the development of Health Care Reform in the Republic of Georgia. She, herself, went through the health system reform process where she started out as an ordinary district physician at a polyclinic, re-trained as a family physician for the new primary care system, to now being an independent senior health expert dealing with complex reform issues at the Ministerial level.



She is currently the Chief Family Physician and Director of the National Family Medicine Training Center in Tbilisi. She is also a Consultant at the National Institute of Health and Social Affairs with overall managerial and technical responsibility for all family physicians retraining programs carried out in the country under the supervision of National Institute of Health. She is responsible for the development and revision of professional training programs in family medicine, designing and implementing CME programs for family physicians and family physician trainers.

Dr Gabunia is one of the founders of the Georgia Family Medicine Association and a founder and Chair of the Georgia Family Physician’s Trainers Association. This Association greatly contributed to the development of academic foundations for Family Medicine in Georgia. Under her guidance and leadership, training manuals for the re-training of PHC physicians and assessment methodology for the state licensing exam in Family Medicine were developed.

Dr Gabunia is an author of the first Georgian textbook “Family Medicine”, which is highly valued by training and academic bodies and is considered as an important achievement and milestone in the development of the Family Medicine training institution.

Outside the Republic of Georgia, Dr Gabunia is an Honorary Overseas GP tutor at the London University of Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education. She has also held various consultancy posts, with the TACIS Georgia PHC Development Project and with the USAID/AIHA/ Mtskheta Regional Department for Health and Social Affairs.

Sugito Wonodirekso: Wonca Global Family Doctor of the Month for January 2006



Dr Sugito Wonodirekso is an active general practitioner and an active member of the Association of

Indonesian Family Physicians since 1986. He is currently holds a number of positions. These include Head of the Department of Histology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Indonesia; Secretary for the Postgraduate Program on Reproductive Medicine; Secretary for the Human Reproduction Study Group; Undergraduate Student Counselor; Chief Editor for the Indonesian Journal of Family Medicine; Member of the Editorial board of Asia Pacific Journal of Family Medicine; Member for the Indonesian Society of Menopause; Chief of the Educational Division of the Indonesian College of Family Physicians.

Dr Wonodirekso has made significant contributions to the development of Family Medicine in Indonesia. He has used every kind of opportunity, such as symposia, seminars, workshops and conferences to promote the Family Medicine Healthcare System (FMHS) in Indonesia. More specifically, he has helped the implementation of FMHS in closed communities such as Pertamedika (the health care division of the Main Indonesia Petroleum Company). Pertamedika applies FMHS and has published guidance books and leaflets on Standard Operating Procedures in patient management.

Dr Wonodirekso has been prominently involved in the implementation on Family Medicine for undergraduate medical education. Indonesia now has a new curriculum which is competency based in nature and the education outcome is “primary care doctors who are capable of applying FMHS in their daily practice”. He was also instrumental in the development of the Indonesian Study Group on Family Medicine, which then evolved into the Indonesian College of Family Medicine, and now the Indonesian Association of Family Physicians, which has become a profession organization in the country.

Dr Wonodirekso has contributed as an author and editor of Primer of Family Medicine Practice (published in 2004), and this publication has become one of main clinical references for undergraduate medical education. Dr Wonodirekso has also conducted research to evaluate the implementation of FMHS in two major health insurance companies in Indonesia (JAMSOSTEK - social security insurance of labor) and ASKES (a health insurance company for public servants). He conducted training on the implementation of FMHS for primary care providers of both insurance companies and Pertamedika. He conducted training for primary care doctors in hospitals in Jakarta and other institutions in the major cities in Java, Sumatera, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and Maluku.

Dr Wonodirekso continues to participate in various international conferences on Family Medicine to share and broaden his knowledge in the implementation of FMHS with other Wonca members. He has written widely on Family Medicine and concepts of good medical practice and on the implementation

of FMHS in Indonesia. He is the main driving force on the implementation of FMHS in Indonesia.

(Editor’s Note; The “Global Family Doctor of the Month” Award is an award to encourage philanthropy among primary care practitioners and to honour doctors giving their time and expertise to their global colleagues and their patients. The award is given to doctors who are recognised by their colleagues as having contributed significantly to the community in which they work by way of their practice, community involvement, charity work or other humanitarian acts.

Each Award winner is given a letter of congratulations from the Wonca CEO, an award certificate and a complete office diagnostic set from Welch Allyn worth approximately \$400.

Submission Requirements include:

1. Title and Full Name of nominee.
2. Photo of nominee. The winner and his/her photo would be featured on Wonca’s website www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com
3. Postal address of nominee.
4. Reasons for nomination for the Award.
5. Brief resume or CV of the nominee
6. Any other relevant information that would assist Wonca in the selection process.

Please submit nominations for this monthly Award to Dr Alfred Loh, CEO of Wonca at the Wonca Secretariat via email to admin@wonca.com.sg

Celebrating the life of Jack Marshall

John Robinson Marshall, known to his friends and colleagues as “Jack”, was a remarkable man recognised nationally and internationally for his contribution to medical education. He died on December 8, 2005 at the age of 76.

Jack graduated in medicine in 1955 at Queens University Medical School, Belfast in 1955. He came to Adelaide in 1958 and joined the general practice of Keith Basheer. At the same time he was immediately appointed a Clinical Assistant in the Department of Cardiology at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. He has retained his association with the Hospital until a few weeks before his death.

My contact with Jack goes back a long way. His general practice was directly across the road from mine in the North Eastern suburbs of Adelaide. However, it was through the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and Wonca that our paths really crossed. Our relationship in Wonca really started at its inception in 1972 in Melbourne. My involvement as the initial Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, then President and then Editor of Wonca News was mainly concerned with governance and administration but Jack’s great and influential contribution was in the areas of education and assessment.

Right from its inception Wonca developed a system of committees covering all the aspects of practice. In 1979 they were consolidated into four and Jack was appointed the Chairman of the Education Committee. In 1976, Wonca’s Evaluation and Examination Committee under the chairmanship of Wes Fabb published the “Wonca Handbook on Examination and

Evaluation” and Jack was one of the four contributors. Wes and Jack then published “The Assessment of Clinical Competence in General Family Practice” with all the royalties going to Wonca.

It was at the National level that Jack made his greatest contribution to the Australian College and from this, an impressive contribution to medical education and assessment nationally and international. For this he was awarded Membership of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day’s Honours in 2002 and Life Fellowship of the College in 2004.

In 1973 the College’s vocational training wing, the Family Medicine Programme-FMP – was established. He with Wes Fabb and Michael Heffernan were the ones who established and developed the educational and assessment reputation of the Programme. Michael and Jack were the first National Medical Educators. Jack in 1997 was made Assistant Director of Education with a commission to develop resource material for the Programme and from 1982 to 1994 he was National Director of the Resource Department and had oversight of FMP’s TV studio where he produced many world class education videos.

In 1977 he became the Director of the College’s new educational and assessment publication - CHECK -Continuous Home Evaluation of Clinical Knowledge. This publication is internationally recognised. It is used by some other international colleges under arrangements and it forms the basis world wide for continuing education in its various forms. The prestigious Royal Society of Medicine, UK, has incorporated CHECK into its own publishing programme.

Jack’s expertise in medical education spread beyond the

College and beyond the bounds of Australia. From 1972 to 1994 he was a member of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Medical Education-ANZME. He was on the Executive from 1982 to 1988 and President from 1986 to 1988. In 1991 he was awarded the ANZEME Award for Achievement in Medical Education.

Through consultations, often on behalf of the World Health Organization, Jack supported family medicine development throughout the world, including in Canada, the United States, Korea, Japan, Myanmar, China, Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

Jack’s great love in his life when not producing educational material was his children, Peter, David, Helen, Trish and Fiona, and grandchildren.

David A Game AO
dgame@healthon-net.com

In Memoriam: Dr H Shigemoto

A dear friend, a great man for international family practice has died. Sadly, Dr. Hirosada Shigemoto was hit by a car and killed on November 16, 2005 when bicycling home from his clinic. He was 73 years old.

Many of us have a vision on what family practice should be, and we all do our best to help develop our profession in that direction. In this context, some of us are lucky enough to be at the right place at the right time, which happened to Dr. Shigemoto over 20 years ago, at the meeting of the Wonca International Classification Committee (WICC) in Tietlingen, Germany, where he impressed us by his kindness, knowledge and inquisitive mind. He understood

how essential taxonomy is for organizing the knowledge base of a profession, and was, moreover, prepared to do all the painstaking ‘nitty-gritty’ work that is required to reach a higher level of understanding.

Japanese family practice would never have become what it is now without his continuous efforts. Not only did he translate (or led the translation process of) ICHPPC-2-Defined, IC-Process-PC, and ICPC into Japanese, but he has, whenever he could, and wherever he came, stressed, with truly unique perseverance, the importance of having a Japanese family practice classification available. As a consequence, he has guided many young FPs into understanding this, including Takashi Yamada, the present Japanese representative in WICC, who has done the first morbidity study with ICPC in Japan.

It was quite clear at the Kyoto Wonca Conference in May 2005, how sincerely proud he was of his Japanese colleagues, who have been doing such a great job using ICPC and developing true family practice care in Japan. I was so happy when Dr. Shigemoto, after my plenary on the international use of ICPC, came up to me and expressed how thrilled he was about the prominent inclusion of Japanese data in the international comparison.

I loved him dearly because he was a sweet man and a wise man, a true bridge between East and West, and I send my sincere condolences to his wife, Mitsuyo, to his colleagues, especially those in the Japanese Classification Committee, and to Dr. Takashi Yamada.

Inge, my wife, and I will never forget the way in which Dr. Shigemoto honoured us in 1995 by conducting a tea ceremony in Okayama, and the meticulous and

elegant way in which he handled the attributes, especially the flowers that play such an important role in it.

In his honour, I selected three haiku on flowers from famous Japanese poets, in the hope that their beauty will help remember the wonderful person Dr. Shigemoto was.

Simply trust:

Do not also the petals flutter down,
Just like that?
Issa

To pluck is a pity,
To leave is a pity,
Ah, this violet.
Naojo

Roses;
The flowers are easy to paint,
The leaves difficult.
Shiki

Henk Lamberts
Amsterdam
henk.lamberts@planet.nl

RESOURCES FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR

WHO REPORT CALLS FOR GREATER GLOBAL FOCUS ON CHRONIC DISEASES

Chronic diseases kill about 17 million people worldwide each year, most of them in developing countries, according to a recent World Health Organization report, "Preventing Chronic Disease: A Vital Investment". Chronic disease will claim more than 350 million lives in the next 10 years, and cause millions more to suffer. Yet, the global community is not responding to the need for urgent action.

The WHO Report projected grave economic consequences unless the international community places greater emphasis on chronic disease prevention and control. For example, China, India and the Russian Federation could forgo billions of dollars in national

income in the next 10 years as a result of heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes. The estimated accumulated losses are \$558 billion to China, \$236 billion to India and \$303 billion to the Russian Federation.

"This is a very serious situation, both for public health and for the societies and economies affected," said WHO Director-General Jong Wook Lee, MD, MPH. "The cost of inaction is clear and unacceptable. It is vital that countries review and implement the health actions we know will reduce premature death from chronic disease". The WHO report proposed reducing the projected trend of chronic disease death rates by 2 percent each year through 2015.

The majority of chronic disease cases are caused by a small number of "know and preventable risk factors", according to the WHO report, including unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and tobacco use. Globally, such risk factors are rising as more people consume diets high in fats and sugars while their work and living conditions are becoming more sedentary.

The WHO Report proposes a number of solutions. These include using patient information systems to coordinate long term care, training primary health care workers in chronic disease management and supporting patient self-management of chronic diseases.

The WHO report is available at www.who.int/chp/chronic_disease_report/en

Online Educational Resources on Tobacco

The following links to informative tobacco websites have been provided by the Wonca Special Interest Group on Health Behaviour Change:

Code of Practice on Tobacco Control for Health Professional Organizations
http://www.who.int/tobacco/events/30jan_2004/en/

Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
<http://www.fctcnow.org>

WHO Tobacco
<http://www.who.int/tobacco/en/>

GlobaLink
<http://www.globalink.org/>

Database & Educational Base for Treatment of Tobacco Dependence (in 11 languages)
<http://www.treatobacco.net/home/home.cfm>

This comprehensive site, run by the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco, features a regular question (Ask the Experts) and an evidence-based answer, which provides important information to family doctors. It also has many links.

Office of the Surgeon General - Tobacco Cessation Guideline
<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco>

Cochane Tobacco Addiction Reviews
<http://www.update-software.com/Abstracts/TOBACCOAbstractIndex.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/health/tobacco.htm>

Global Health and Environment Monitor
<http://www.ceche.org/mol>

Society of Research on Nicotine and Tobacco
<http://www.srnt.org>

National Clearinghouse on Tobacco and Health Program (Canadian)
<http://www.ncth.ca/NCTHweb.nsf>

National Cancer Institute - Tobacco Control Research Branch (US)
<http://dccps.nci.nih.gov/tcrb>

Tobacco Control Resource Centre USA
<http://www.tobacco-control.org>

WHO Tobacco Free Initiative
<http://www.who.int/tobacco/en/>
<http://www.paho.org/Project.asp?SEL=TP&LNG=ENG&ID=517>

Pan American Health Organization
<http://www.afro.who.int/tfi/index.html> Africa
<http://www.emro.who.int/tfi/tfi.htm> Eastern Mediterranean
<http://www.euro.who.int/tobaccofree> Europe
<http://w3.whosea.org/EN/Section1174/section1462/default.asp> South-East Asia
<http://www.wpro.who.int/sites/tfi/overview.htm> Western Pacific Region

Action on Smoking and Health
<http://www.ash.org> (USA)
<http://www.ash.org.uk> (UK)
<http://www.ashaust.org.au> (Australia)
<http://www.ash.org.nz> (NewZealand)

Tobacco Free Kids
<https://secure.tobaccofreekids.org/>

Doctors and Tobacco-Tobacco Resource Control Center
<http://www.tobacco-control.org/>

Professor Rick Botelho

Convenor, SIG on Health Behavior Change
Rick_Botelho@URMC.Rochester.edu

WONCA CONFERENCES 2006 – 2011 AT A GLANCE

 Information correct as of January 2006.
 May be subject to change.

 See Wonca Website www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com for updates

2006	Region	Venue	Theme
27 – 30 Aug	European Regional Conference	Florence ITALY	Towards Medical Renaissance: Bridging the Gap Between Biology and the Humanities
8 – 15 Sept	7th Rural Health Conference	Seattle Washington USA	Transforming Rural Practice Through Education
11 – 14 Oct	Iberoamericana - CIMF Regional Conference	Buenos Aires ARGENTINA	Pursuing Equity and Efficiency in Healthcare: the Role of the Family Doctor
5 – 9 Nov	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Bangkok THAILAND	Happy and Healthy Family
2007			
24 – 27 July	18th WONCA World Conference	SINGAPORE	Genomics and Family Medicine
17 – 21 Oct	European Regional Conference	Paris FRANCE	Re-Thinking Primary Care in the European Context: A New Challenge for General Practice
2008			
1 – 5 Oct	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Melbourne AUSTRALIA	Theme to be confirmed
2009			
5 – 8 June	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Hong Kong	Building Bridges
2010			
26 – 30 May	19 th WONCA World Conference	Cancun MEXICO	Millennium Development Goals: The Contribution of Family Medicine
2011			
February 2011	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Cebu PHILIPPINES	Paradigms of Family Medicine: Bridging Old Traditions with New Concepts

GLOBAL MEETINGS FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR**WONCA WORLD AND REGIONAL
CONFERENCE CALENDAR****Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Florence 2006**

Host: CSERMEG
Theme: Towards Medical Renaissance
Date: 27-30 August, 2006
Venue: Florence, Italy
Contact: OICsrl
Viale Matteotti 7
50121 Florence, Italy
Tel: +39 0555 0351
Fax: +39 0555 001912
Email: wonca2006@oic.it
Web: <http://www.woncaeurope2006.org>

**Wonca 7th Rural Health Conference, Seattle-Anchorage
2006**

Host: Wonca Rural Health Working Party
Theme: Transforming Rural Practice Through Education
Date: 8-15 September, 2006
Venue: 8 -10 September – Wonca Rural Conference
University of Washington campus
11-13 September, 34th Annual Advances in
Family Practice
University of Washington campus
13-15 September, Post Conference
Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge
Anchorage, Alaska
Contact: Tom E Norris, MD
Chair, Host Organizing Committee
Department of Family Medicine
University of Washington School of Medicine
Box 356390
Seattle, WA 98195-6390, USA
Fax: 206-543-3101
Email: tnorris@u.washington.edu
Web: <http://www.ruralwonca2006.org/>

Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF Region, Buenos Aires, 2006

Host: Federacion Argentina De Medicina Familiar y
General
Theme: Pursing Equity and Efficiency in Healthcare:
The Role of the Family Doctor
Date: 11-15 October, 2006
Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Buenos Aires
Contact: Federacion Argentina De Medicina Familiar y
General
Tel: 54 11 4958 5079
Email: famfyg@aamf.org.ar
Web: www.famfyg.org.ar

**15th Wonca Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Bangkok
2006**

Host: General Practitioners/Family Physicians
Association of Thailand
College of Family Physicians of Thailand
Theme: Happy and Healthy Family
Date: 5-9 November, 2006
Venue: The Royal Golden Jubilee Building
Contact: Dr Kachit Choopanya, Chairman, Host
Organizing Committee
11th Floor, Royal Golden Jubilee Building
2 Soi Soonvijai, New Petchaburi Road
Bangkok, Thailand 10320
Tel: 66(0) 2716 6651
Fax: 66(0) 2716 6653
Web: www.wonca2006.org

18th Wonca World Conference, Singapore 2007

Host: College of Family Physicians, Singapore
Theme: Genomics and Family Medicine
Date: 24-27 July, 2007
Venue: Singapore International Convention and
Exhibition Centre
Contact: Dr Tan See Leng, Chairman,
Host Organizing Committee
College of Family Physicians, Singapore
College of Medicine Building
16 College Road #01-02
Singapore 169854
Tel: 65 6223 0606
Fax: 65 6222 0204
Email: contact@cfps.org.sg
Web: www.wonca2007.com

Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Paris, 2007

Host: French National College of Teachers in General Practice
 Theme: Rethinking Primary Care in the European Context
 Date: 17-21 October, 2007
 Venue: Palais des Congres
 Paris, France
 Contact: French National College of Teachers in General Practice
 6 rue des Deux Communes
 94300 Vincennes, France
 Tel: 33-153 669 180
 Email: cnge@cnge.fr
 Web: www.cnge.fr

19th Wonca World Conference, Cancun 2010

Host: Mexican College of Family Medicine
 Theme: Millennium Develop Goals:
 The Contribution of Family Medicine
 Date: 26-30 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: javier.dominguez@unfpa.org.mx

MEMBER ORGANIZATION AND RELATED MEETINGS

8° Congresso de Medicina de Família e Comunidade (8th Brazilian Meeting of Family and Community Medicine), Sao Paulo 2006

Theme: Comprehensive Health Care in Brazil: The Contribution of Family and Community Medicine - Making Medical Practice More Relevant to People's Needs
 Host: Brazilian Society of Family and Community Medicine
 Date: 15-18 June 2006
 Venue: São Paulo, Brazil
 Host: Brazilian Society of Family and Community Medicine
 Contact: Rua Marquês de Itu, 408 Cj 34/35
 Vila Buarque
 São Paulo - SP
 Brazil - Cep: 01223-000
 Phone: 55 11 83636868
 Fax: 55 11 33613089
 Email: sbmfc@sbmfc.org.br
 Web: www.sbmfc.org.br/congresso2006

13th World Conference on Smoking or Health, Washington, DC 2006

Theme: Building Capacity for a Tobacco-Free World
 Date: 12-15 July, 2006
 Venue: Renaissance DC Hotel
 Washington, D.C., USA
 Contact: John Seffrin, PhD
 Chief Executive Officer
 American Cancer Society
 Email: secretariat2006@cancer.org
 Web: <http://www.2006conferences.org/>

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Annual Scientific Assembly, Washington, DC 2006

Date: 27 Sept - 1 October, 2006
 Venue: Washington DC Convention Center
 Contact: AAFP
 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway
 Leawood, Kansas 66211-2672, USA
 Tel: 1 913 906 6000
 Fax: 1 913 906 6075
 Email: international@aafp.org
 Web: <http://www.aafp.org>

**The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
48th Annual Scientific Conference, Brisbane 2006**

Date: 5-8 Oct, 2006
Theme: Be the Future
Venue: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
Contact: Michaela Fox
Email: michaela.fox@racgp.org.au
Web: <http://www.racgp.org.au/asc2006/>

**International Society for Quality in Health Care
23rd International Conference, London 2006**

Date: 22-25 October, 2006
Venue: London, United Kingdom
Contact: ISQua Secretariat
212 Clarendon Street
East Melbourne 3002 AUSTRALIA
Phone: +61 3 9417 6971 ..
Fax: +61 3 9417 6851
Email: isqua@isqua.org
Web: <http://www.isqua.org>

**College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)
Family Medicine Forum, Manitoba 2006**

Date: November 2 - 4, 2006
Venue: Quebec City Convention Centre
Quebec City, Quebec
Contact: Joanne Langevin; Meetings Manager
Cheryl Selig, Registration Coordinator
2630 Skymark Avenue
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4W 5A4
Tel: (905) 629-0900 / 1-800-387-6197
Fax: (905) 629-0893
Email: info@cfpc.ca
Web: www.cfpc.ca

15TH WONCA ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Happy and Healthy Family

5-9 November 2006

**Venue: The Royal Golden Jubilee Building
Bangkok, Thailand**

Email admin@wonca2006.org

Website www.wonca2006.org

Tel: 662 716 6651 -3 Fax: 662 716 6653



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**Iberoamerican Regional Congress
WONCA - IBEROAMERICAN - CIMF**

**V Congress of Argentine Federation
of Family and General Medicine**

**XIV Congress of the Argentine Association
of Family Medicine**

*Building a Primary care-based Health System:
The role of the family Physician*

Buenos Aires , Argentina
October 11-14 October 2006

Buenos Aires Sheraton Hotel
www.woncacimfcongreso2006.com