

2008 Kampala Commitment

The Primafamed Networkⁱ (www.primafamed.ugent.be) held a conference on “Improving the Quality of Family Medicine in Sub-Saharan Africa”, from 17th to 21st November 2008, at Cassia Lodge, Kampala, Uganda. More than one hundred participants from 20 countries deliberated on the future of Family Medicine in Africa, in the framework of a Primary Health Care (PHC) System. Family Medicine is the medical clinical discipline in primary health care operating within the PHC team. The development of family medicine in the framework of PHC will contribute to greater quality, equity, cost-effectiveness and sustainability of health systems.

The participants welcome the World Health Report, “Primary Health Care: Now More Than Ever”, that was published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in October 2008.

In response to the challenge to develop Family Medicine for the benefit of the people of Africa, the participants of the conference make the following commitment:

1. To support all efforts that improve universal coverage of and equitable access to affordable health care, sustainable health systems and a renewed comprehensive approach, towards improved health outcomes for individuals, families and communities of Africa;
2. To strengthen PHC teamwork, inculcate social accountability in all healthcare workers and provide efficient quality health care that puts people first;
3. To advocate reform of undergraduate curricula, with increased exposure of students to PHC;
4. To develop and scale up the training of sufficient numbers of family physicians, through the strengthening of Departments of Family Medicine and PHC in universities;
5. To contribute to the scientific development of family medicine and PHC through scholarly contributions to fora such as the newly-launched African Journal of Primary Health Care and Family Medicine (www.phcfm.org);
6. To request donor organisations to allocate 15% of their budgets spent on vertical disease-oriented programs (e.g. TB, HIV, malaria) to the strengthening of comprehensive PHC systems, by 2015 (www.15by2015.org);
7. To interact with governments to develop and strengthen PHC partnerships in the health system, and to create attractive and sustainable career paths in family medicine and PHC;
8. To engage with one another and all relevant stakeholders, exploring the issues and challenges towards a common understanding of the principles and concepts of Family Medicine, within the district health system, in the African context;
9. To ensure the widest participation of stakeholders in the World Organisation of Family Doctors (Wonca) Africa Congress, to be held from 25th to 28th October 2009 in Gauteng, South Africa, to further develop the principles and role of Family Medicine in Africa.

In order to improve quality in Family Medicine, the Primafamed-network will support exchange of best practices in person-centred and community-oriented primary care, socially accountable service delivery, education, research and health policy development.

Kampala, 21.11.2008

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