

Annual Report 2025



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About WONCA

WONCA is an unusual, yet convenient acronym comprising the first five initials of the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians.

WONCA's short name is World Organization of Family Doctors.

The World Organization of Family Doctors is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1972 by member organizations from 18 countries.

Today, WONCA comprises 132 Member Organizations across 140 countries and territories, representing approximately 500,000 family doctors and reaching more than 90 per cent of the world's population. This total includes twelve organizations in collaborative relations with WONCA. In addition, WONCA counts 8 members in the Academic Membership category, which consists of academic departments of family medicine, as well as more than 1,218 individual general practitioners and family physicians who have joined WONCA in their own right.

WONCA represents and advocates for its constituent members at the international level, engaging with global bodies such as the World Health Organization (WHO), with which it holds official relations as a non-governmental organization. Through these relationships, WONCA is involved in a number of collaborative projects.

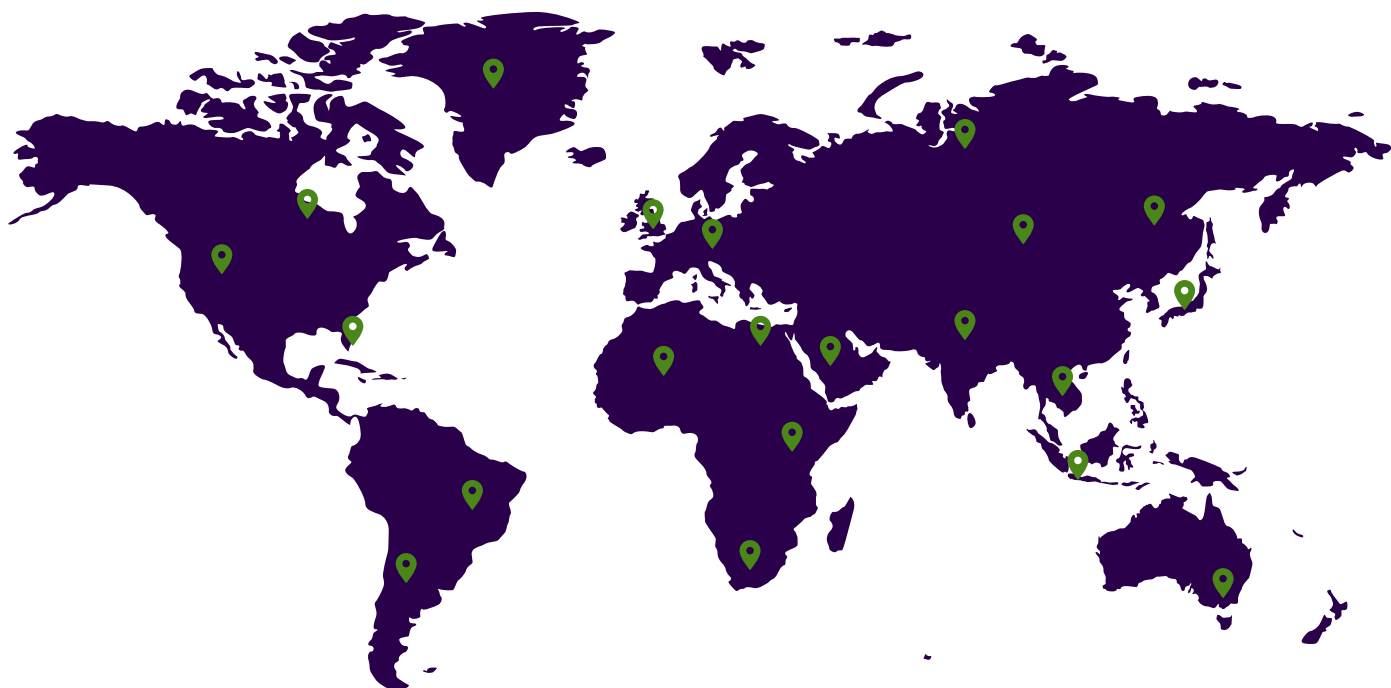
The WONCA World Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day administration and coordination of the organization's global work. It has been based in Brussels, Belgium, since November 2020.

WONCA Secretariat
Avenue des Arts 7-8
1210 Brussels, Belgium





2025 at a Glance



Member Organizations

Full Member Organizations	120
Associate Member Organizations	12
Academic Member Organizations	8
Organizations in Collaborative Relations	12

Direct Members

Direct Members	645
Life Direct Members	573

Social Media



14,647



5,898



5,557



2,245

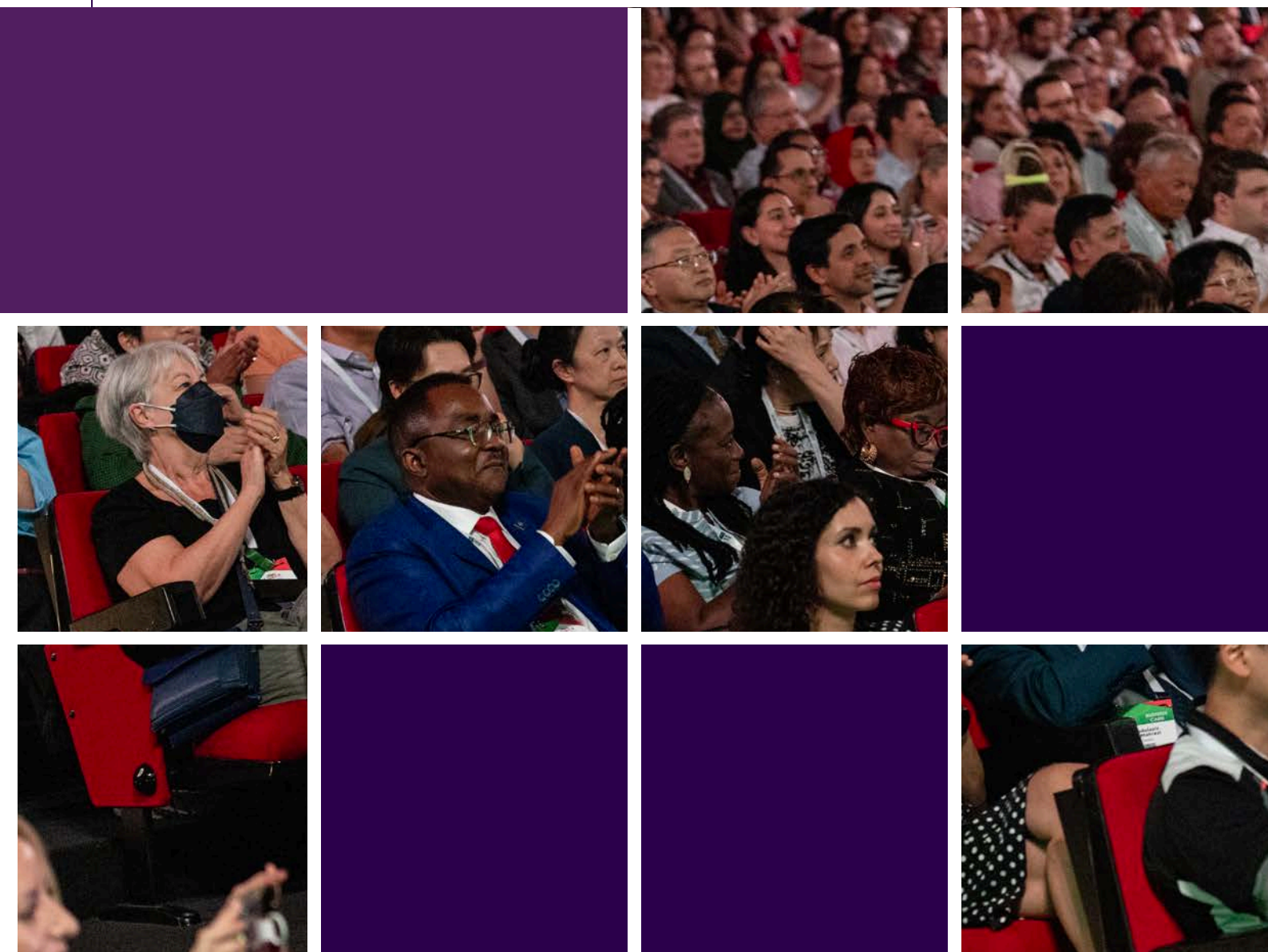
Key Dates 2025

WONCA World Conference - Lisbon, Portugal, 17-21 September

WONCA Asia Pacific Conference - South Korea, 24-27 April

WONCA East Mediterranean Conference - Morocco, 8-11 May

WONCA South Asia Conference - India, 4-6 April



Executive Committee 2023-2025

A/Prof Karen Flegg
A/Prof Viviana Martinez Bianchi
Prof Karen Price
Prof Maria Pilar Astier Pena
Dr Steve Mowle
Dr Jane Namatovu
Dr Brian Chang
Dr Abdulaziz Al Mahrezi
Prof Shlomo Vinker
Dr Dora Bernal
Dr Victor Ng
Dr K Sri Ranjan
Dr Cheryl Chan
Dr Harris Lygidakis

President
President-Elect
Member-at-Large
Member-at-Large
Member-at-Large
Africa Region President
Asia Pacific Region President
East Mediterranean Region President
Europe Region President
Iberoamericana Region President
North America Region President
South Asia Region President
Young Doctor Representative
CEO



Executive Committee 2025-2027

A/Prof Viviana Martinez Bianchi
A/Prof Karen Flegg
Prof Maria Pilar Astier Pena.
Dr Cheryl Chan.
Dr Kim Yu
Dr Steve Mowle
Prof Bob Mash.
Dr Brian Chang
Dr Faisal Al Naser.
Prof Thomas Frese
Dr Dora Bernal
Dr Tania Whitby-Best
Dr Pramendra Prasad Gupta
Dr Fabian Dupont
Dr Harris Lygidakis

President
Immediate Past President
President-Elect
Member-at-Large
Member-at-Large
Member-at-Large
Africa Region President
Asia Pacific Region President
East Mediterranean Region President
Europe Region President
Iberoamericana Region President
North America Region President
South Asia Region President
Young Doctor Representative
CEO



President Report

A/Prof Viviana Martinez-Bianchi

Installed as WONCA President in September, 2025, I have continued to advance global advocacy, strengthened partnerships, and promoted health equity in family medicine. Highlights include representing WONCA at WHA78 and the OECD PaRIS launch, signing a landmark PAHO–WONCA MOU, supporting conferences across WONCA’s regions , and leading initiatives on equity and workforce development. My clinical, educational, and community engagement work at Duke University complements this global leadership.



Serving as WONCA President-Elect from October 2023 to September 2025 was both a privilege and a remarkable journey. I met colleagues from every region of the world— hearing their stories, learning from their innovations, and witnessing the passion and resilience of family doctors who serve their communities in every setting. From busy urban centers to remote rural clinics, I have seen how family medicine is the heartbeat of equitable, people-centered health systems.

It was also an honor to support and learn from WONCA President Karen Flegg, whose leadership moved our mission forward with clarity and strength. I was inspired by the commitment of the WONCA Executive, who volunteer their time and expertise to guide our organization, and I am deeply grateful to our CEO, Harris Lygidakis, and the WONCA Secretariat, whose professional skills and daily work make our global efforts possible. This report shares some of my key activities, advocacy, and contributions from the period from January to September 2025. More importantly, it reflects the collective spirit of our global family.

Newly Installed as WONCA President, I used my [September 2025 message to the WONCA news](#) to reflect on the significance of my installation during the WONCA World Conference in Lisbon on 20 September 2025. This milestone marked the first time that a leader from Latin America — and the first woman from the Americas — was elected President of WONCA. I framed this moment not as a personal achievement alone, but as a collective step forward for equity, representation, and diversity within our global family of family doctors. I highlighted my professional journey — from my beginnings in Argentina to my career in the United States — and how both the Iberoamerican and North American regions shaped my leadership path. I emphasized that my early involvement with global family medicine, beginning at regional summits, instilled the values that continue to guide my advocacy for equity-centered primary care. In the column, I expressed deep gratitude for colleagues and mentors across regions who supported my development, and I reaffirmed WONCA’s commitment to fostering leadership pathways for younger doctors and those from historically underrepresented backgrounds. I underscored that their voices, experiences, and leadership are essential to shaping the future of our organization.

Overall, the message set the tone for my presidency: one centered on inclusion, global solidarity, and advancing strong, person-centered primary health care through the collective strength of the WONCA community.

In my November 2025 column, I reflected on the outcomes of the **UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health**, where Member States reaffirmed the need for people-centred approaches and emphasized the **central role of primary health care** in achieving universal health coverage. The declaration called for stronger political will, improved financing, and evidence-based policies—particularly to support low- and middle-income countries.

I emphasized the gap between political commitments and real-world implementation and highlighted the lived realities of patients facing chronic disease and mental-health challenges. Through the story of a long-standing patient, I underscored that achieving equity requires investment in continuity, trust, and addressing social determinants of health—work that family doctors carry out every day.

AAFP Congress of Delegates October 3-6, 2026 Anaheim CA

- As WONCA president, I was invited by the AAFP to attend and address their Congress of Delegates, the policy-making body of the academy: four days packed with a town hall to share and understand AAFP priorities and advocacy, reference committee hearings, listen to officer and candidates' speeches, hospitality night, receptions, elections, and networking. I addressed the Congress of Delegates on the 3rd day of the Congress sharing about WONCA.



- We also met with young doctors and student movement leaders in North America to brainstorm how we can work together in support for Polaris. We met with North America President-elect Esther Johnson who was also at the meeting, and Past WONCA President Rich Roberts.

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- Harris and I attended the California Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP) reception, invited by its President-elect, Dr. Kim Yu at Downtown Disney. Yes, we had fun! and we also attended the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians dinner, invited by NCAFP President Dr. Mark McNeill. The time in Anaheim provided us with opportunity to network as a WONCA team with many global leaders members of AAFP, and to work together with Kim Yu and

orient her to her role as WONCA-WHO Liaison together with Dr. Pilar Astier to ensure continuity and provide guidance.



AAFP Global Health Summit October 4-5 Anaheim CA

I spoke about WONCA at the AAFP Global Health Summit, where I had the opportunity to meet with some former WONCA leaders and giants in global health education, WHO-liaison work and the development of Family Medicine around the world, Cindy Haq, Dan Oostegaard, and Calvin Wilson. We met with many North America global health leaders, including Shailendra Prasad, Christy O'Dea, Esther Johnston.



I was inspired by the presentations given by Drs. Esther Johnston and Cindy Haq inviting us to transform crisis into opportunity and imagine a different way forward, and by Dr Shailendra Prasad's keynote on Decolonizing Global Health.



Global Partnerships and Advocacy

- **PAHO–WONCA Attendance to American Public Health Association (APHA) 2025 Meeting in DC:** I was invited to APHA 2025 by PAHO. I presented together with PAHO in a panel at the APHA 2025 Annual Meeting. My topic area was “Family Medicine and Community Medicine in the Americas: Core Values, Workforce Realities, and Training Trends”.
- I was invited by the **Scottsdale Institute** to speak at their SUMMIT | 2025 Population Health, Access and Primary Care Innovation <https://scottsdaleinstitute.org/event/summit-2025-population-health-access-and-primary-care-innovation/> where I had the opportunity to speak about health equity from the perspective of my different roles at Duke University, LATIN-19, FIEL-NC and WONCA.
- I was invited by the **Société Tunisienne de Médecine Générale et Médecine de Famille (STMGF)** to attend their 8th National Congress of General Practice and Family Medicine of Tunisia. Since I was unable to attend in person, I created a short video with greetings and encouragement to become members of WONCA> STMGF is very kin on strengthening family medicine in Tunisia and across Francophone Africa.

Strengthening Global Partnerships through Advocacy and Global Representation

- **World Health Assembly 78 (May, 2025)** As part of the WONCA delegation to WHA78 in Geneva, I emphasized the voice of family doctors in critical discussions on universal health coverage, noncommunicable diseases, human resources for health, family medicine education, and climate resilience in health systems with WHO officers and representatives of other global organizations. Our participation reinforced WONCA’s alignment with WHO’s global agenda for primary health care and people-centered systems. My vision for our work with WHO is to have a strong presence, not only through our official representatives, but also through amplifying the voice of family doctors and GPs through participation in side events, —as reflected in this year’s active engagement at WHA78.
- **OECD PaRIS (Feb, 2025)** I represented WONCA at the OECD Patient-Reported Indicator Surveys (PaRIS) launch meeting in Lisbon, Feb 20, 2025, joining a high-level panel on Improving Primary Care in Light of PaRIS Results. During my intervention at the event, I highlighted how PaRIS confirms what family doctors know well: when patients receive continuous, person-centered care, outcomes improve and trust in health systems grows. Yet the report also exposes persistent inequities—particularly for women, lower-income groups, and those with less education—and shows that providers face unsustainable pressures without fair pay and support. My message was clear: governments must urgently invest in primary care, not as a cost, but as an effective investment for the health of patients, providers, and societies everywhere. I am thankful to the many colleagues who participated in the PaRIS initiative from its inception.

Summary of Participation in the OECD PaRIS Working Party Meeting, as WONCA President, Nov 2025.

On 6 November, I participated in the OECD Working Party meeting on the Patient Reported Indicator Surveys (PaRIS) in my role as WONCA President and representative to the PaRIS Primary Care Professionals Network. The meeting focused on preparations for Cycle 2 (2025–2028), including country participation, instrument refinement, and implementation planning. More than 60 government and organizational representatives attended. I presented WONCA’s strategic priorities, emphasized the centrality of primary care professionals in shaping PaRIS tools, and highlighted opportunities to use PaRIS results to strengthen global primary health care, workforce development, and educational strategies. I underscored the need for expanding participation to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to address current gaps—particularly the absence of African countries in Cycle 2. The OECD reported that 15 countries have submitted formal expressions of interest and several others—including Italy, Brazil, and Korea—expressed interest during the meeting. U.S. participation for Cycle 2 remains undecided. The OECD Secretariat recognized WONCA’s strong contributions in Cycle 1, including mobilizing national networks, providing contact lists, issuing endorsements, co-organizing webinars, and ensuring active engagement of primary care professionals. Strategic opportunities for WONCA include expanding LMIC engagement, developing region-specific interpretation tools, leveraging PaRIS findings for global advocacy, and strengthening leadership participation in learning exchanges. Next steps include reaffirming WONCA’s leadership role, coordinating with Regional Presidents on participation expansion, and preparing a 2026 Communication and Engagement Plan.

PAHO–WONCA Memorandum of Understanding (2025) After nearly a decade of joint effort, in April 2025 we signed the “Framework Agreement Between the Pan American Health Organization, Regional Office of the World Health Organization, and the World Organization of Family Doctors for Improving Primary Health Care Through Strengthening Family and Community Medicine in Health Systems.” I was deeply honored to sign this landmark agreement on behalf of WONCA World, together with our Regional Presidents Dora Bernal (Iberoamerica) and Victor Ng (North America), our CEO Harris Lygidakis, and PAHO Director Dr. Jarbas Barbosa. This MOU represents a historic commitment to strengthening family medicine in the Americas—supporting workforce development, enhancing primary care, and advancing universal health coverage throughout the region. It establishes the foundation for ongoing collaboration in critical areas such as health equity, climate resilience, and capacity building. Thankful to James Fitzgerald (PAHO Director of Health Systems and Services), and Past-Presidents Jaqueline Ponzó (WONCA Iberoamericana), Jeff Markuns (WONCA North America) for having reinitiated the conversation in 2023. As part of this collaboration, we advanced research on the situation of Family Medicine professionals in the Americas in partnership with PAHO, WONCA North America, WONCA-CIMF, and the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center at the University of New Mexico. The research team published this work in an article titled “Family and community medicine workforce training and practice in the Americas” Citation: Puertas Donoso EB, Moreno Dias B, Clithero-Eridon AR, Ponzó J, Bouquin EJ, Phillips RL, Martínez-Bianchi V, Díaz de Valle Y. Family and community medicine workforce training and practice in the Americas. Rev Panam Salud Publica. 2025 Dec 30;49:e125. doi: 10.26633/RPSP.2025.125. PMID: 41476867; PMCID: PMC12752389.

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As part of the work of developing Family Medicine in the Americas, I together with other colleagues, have been working in collaboration with the **Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS)**, the **Guatemalan Social Security Institute (IGSS)**, and the **Universidad de San Carlos of Guatemala** to establish a Family Medicine residency program has advanced, with momentum strengthened with meetings during the North America WONCA Regional Meeting (October 2023) and the CIMF Regional Meeting in Panama (October 2024). These efforts build on the foundation laid by CIMF leaders at the Cumbre de Guatemala in 2022.

Starfield Summit IV, Toronto, Canada, May 2025. I participated in the Starfield Summit 2025, hosted by the Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto, with global partners. The Summit brought together family physicians, nurses, policymakers, educators, researchers, patient partners, and PHC champions from 23 countries and all six WHO and seven WONCA regions to reaffirm commitment to equitable, people-centered, and resilient health systems. Inspired by Dr. Barbara Starfield's legacy and the approaching 50th anniversary of Alma-Ata, the Outcome Statement highlighted family medicine as a vital enabler of primary health care, calling for bold action to address fragmented services, underinvestment, and health inequities. Participants pledged to strengthen workforce development, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community engagement to build resilient, equitable health systems and advance universal health coverage.

Global Commission for 21st Century Healthcare

We also joined the inaugural meeting of the Global Commission for 21st Century Healthcare, convened as part of the WSIS+20 United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting. Representing family doctors worldwide, I emphasized a core WONCA principle: digital transformation must strengthen—not replace—the human relationships at the heart of primary care.

Regional Engagements

Asia Pacific

26th WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Busan, Korea (2025): This conference was inspiring and energizing. Family doctors and primary care leaders from across the region shared innovation, passion, and commitment to high-value, people-centered care. It was wonderful to see young doctors presenting their work and contributing to our shared vision. Many thanks to the Korean Academy of Family Medicine and the organizing committee for their warm hospitality.

Iberoamericana

WONCA Iberoamericana, Cumbre de Montevideo (2025): Together with WONCA CEO and WONCA -WHO Liaison we addressed colleagues gathered at this important high-level summit via zoom from the World Health Assembly.

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South Asia

WONCA South Asia Regional Conference, Bangalore, India (2025): Presented two keynotes: “Advancing Health for All through Equity, Excellence, and Innovation in Family Medicine” and “Lift as You Climb: Inspiring a New Generation of Family Doctors.” The latter was part of the YDM preconference and emphasized mentorship and collective progress. I attended the regional council meeting.

North America

WONCA North America Regional Virtual session (August 2025): I participated in the Uniting for Primary Care: A Regional Conversation, providing updates on the WONCA-PAHO Agreement / MOU and the Current Landscape of Family Medicine in the Americas.

Invitations from Organizations of Family Doctors

I was honored to receive multiple invitations from WONCA member organizations and partner societies throughout 2025.

- In Brazil, I participated in the 18^o Congresso Brasileiro de MFC in Manaus, where over 3,000 participants gathered in the Amazon region to discuss primary care and people-centered care.
- In the United States, I addressed the AAFP Congress of Delegates and engaged with leaders and young doctors at the Global Health Summit in Anaheim, California.
- In Tunisia, I delivered a video keynote for the STMGF National Congress, and in Turkey, I provided the virtual opening keynote for the Eastern Mediterranean Family Medicine Congress.
- In India, I was honored with the AFPI Honorary Fellowship and engaged with leaders advancing family medicine across the country.
- I also joined colleagues from the Argentine Federation of Family and General Medicine, speaking virtually to participants gathered in Buenos Aires.

Policy, Equity, and Leadership

A consistent focus of my contributions has been equity in health. Key actions included:

- Advocating for the creation of a WONCA Working Party on Health for All, consolidating efforts from multiple SIGs and catalyzing a unified voice on health justice. (ongoing)
- I initiated workshops to encourage the creation of Organizational Equity Committees (OECs) in each region, fostering greater representation and inclusion. Promoting OECs in WONCA regions to ensure equity is embedded at governance and operational levels, and leading workshops for regional presidents.
- Leading equity-focused workshops across regions, including sessions on leadership, gender equity, and structural inequities in health.
- Supporting our WONCA-WHO Liaison in the creation of global statements and WHO work

Publication Highlight: **Caring for the Caregivers: A Global Imperative for Family Doctors’ Wellbeing**

In August 2025, I co-authored [“Caring for the caregivers: a global imperative for family doctors’ wellbeing”](#) together with Karen Flegg, in The Lancet Primary Care. The commentary highlights a growing global crisis:

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family doctors are experiencing severe workforce shortages, burnout, and unsustainable workloads driven by systemic dysfunction rather than individual resilience. Despite strong evidence that primary care improves health outcomes and equity at lower cost, investment in this sector remains disproportionately low, placing increasing strain on clinicians and reducing access to care.

We argue that addressing burnout requires structural change- reducing administrative burden, improving staffing, fostering supportive and psychologically safe workplaces, and valuing the role of family doctors as essential to health system functioning. Personal self-care alone cannot resolve the systemic pressures that drive moral distress and workforce attrition. Protecting the wellbeing of family doctors is a global health imperative and foundational to resilient, person-centered primary care systems.

Collaboration with Working Parties and SIGs

I convened quarterly meetings with WONCA's Working Parties (WPs) and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to ensure alignment across regions and foster collaboration. Key discussions addressed advancing partnerships with WHO, developing a global ethics curriculum, exploring ethical applications of AI in primary care, and preparing for WONCA's role in the 50th Anniversary of Alma Ata in 2028.

I contributed through presentations and participation in multiple events they hosted, including:

- [How do patients experience primary care—and how can their voices drive better health systems?](#) the second webinar of the series organized by the WONCA Working Party on Quality and Safety.

In addition, I co-chaired the search for new chair of the Interest Group on NCDs and chaired the Executive's ad-hoc committee on international classification.

Working closely with our CEO and Communications Officer, I helped design the WONCA Collaboration Hub, a half-day session during the WONCA meeting in Lisbon, September 16, 2025. This Hub brought together WONCA's WPs and SIGs, regional colleagues, and the Young Doctors Movement to strengthen and align initiatives through collaboration. Our goal is to bring diverse projects together to identify and prioritize concrete activities that no single group could achieve alone.

When I am not volunteering for WONCA World:

At Duke University's [Department of Family Medicine and Community Health](#) in Durham, North Carolina, one of the oldest Family Medicine departments in the US. I see patients at the [Duke Family Medicine Center](#) in Durham, North Carolina and provide care in our Family Medicine center's women's health procedures clinic. In addition, I participate in newborn nursery rounds at Duke Regional Hospital, where our team operates a Family Medicine inpatient service, the newborn nursery, and a family medicine obstetrical service. In all these settings, we teach medical students, physician assistant students, and Family Medicine residents.

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The other half of my time is dedicated to health equity and community engagement. I serve as co-principal investigator on the Fostering Insurance Enrollment Among Latinos in North Carolina project, a research, education, and policy initiative that involves community health workers across the state. In addition, I chair the Board of Directors of LATIN-19, a coalition advancing health equity for the Latino community. I am thankful to my department for lending my time and effort to WONCA world.

Conclusion

WONCA experienced a period of strength, advocacy, and collaboration—efforts I am proud to have contributed to. From signing the PAHO MOU and engaging at WHA78, to mentoring young doctors in South Asia and standing alongside colleagues in Kibera and Colombo, my aim has been to lift as I climb- ensuring that the progress we achieve together opens doors for others. These experiences have deepened my conviction that family doctors are essential not only to resilient health systems but also to advancing equity, social justice, and the health of our communities.

From September 2025 until December 2025, we continue the great work with a new executive team who has been working hard during a difficult and turbulent time in the world.

In today's world, the strength and unity of family doctors' organizations are more important than ever. In my role as WONCA President, I am committed to advancing health equity, supporting workforce development, and amplifying the voices of family doctors everywhere. The road ahead will be traveled with our Member Organizations, Council, and Executive team- fostering global partnerships, supporting regional and local innovations, and championing people-centered care that respects the diversity and unique needs of every community.

I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to WONCA President Karen Flegg, the 2023–2025 Executive team, and past presidents for their leadership, wisdom, mentorship, and dedication. With the guidance of our members, the energy of young doctors, and the spirit of collaboration that defines WONCA, I look forward to leading with vision, compassion, and determination- working together to inspire meaningful change, empower the next generation, and build stronger, healthier communities around the world.

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Immediate Past President Report

A/Prof Karen Flegg



When I took office in October 2023 in Sydney, three words summed up what I wanted like to focus on as WONCA President - Governance Greening Growth. I begin this final report on my term of office with a fourth ‘G’, that of Gratitude.

Gratitude

Firstly, thank you to our Executive Committee for their support to me, and dedication to duty from October 2023 to September 2025. The WONCA Executive is a board of governance, and these colleagues have been elected by Council, Regions or the Young Doctors Movement to represent family doctors from around the world. These colleagues have been great ambassadors for WONCA and have proven they are worthy of your confidence in having elected them. They have all been strong contributors. I acknowledge and thank them.

I thank our CEO, Harris Lygidakis, and his team at the secretariat: Andrea Zard, Diarmuid Hayes, Jöelle Mukena, Juan Diego Pedraza, Ólafur Björn Ásgeirsson, Fadia Challita, and for some of the year Roberto Muñoz Sierra. Our Secretariat team are doing the work that enables WONCA to operate – work that enables strong processes, excellent communication both within WONCA with members, committees, Working Parties and Special Interest Groups and with those outside WONCA, and maintains WONCA’s work and representation throughout the world. A huge thank you to the Secretariat team for what they do for all of us and the discipline of family medicine.



In this annual report you will read about the many activities of our colleagues who participate in our **Working Parties and Special Interest Groups (WPs / SIGs)** and **Young Doctors’ Movements (YDM)**. Dear colleagues, your work for WONCA is much valued and appreciated and I thank the chairs of these groups for taking on these roles which can involve significant work.

Thank you also to our **Member Organizations** – you are WONCA, you are our voting members and the work we do for Family Medicine. we do for you. Thank you for belonging to WONCA.

Governance

WONCA's work is guided by its Strategic plan. There are three overarching goals: advancing Family Medicine; speaking with one unified voice; transforming WONCA particularly involving good governance.

WONCA's Executive Committee considered progress against the Strategic Plan at each of our regular Executive Committee meetings on zoom, and face to face in Busan, South Korea, in April, and Lisbon, Portugal, in September. Over the year a large variety of issues were considered. Decisions of most import included:

- Articles of Association - progressing our possibility to have circular resolutions, if needed, to do World Council business (motion to come in 2026).
- Organisational Equity was strengthened worldwide though creating Regional Organisational Equity committees - approved May 2024 and to support this an Organisation Policies change made in April 2025.
- A Policy of Declarations (conflict) of Interest and a Code of Conduct were developed by Bylaws & Governance Committee for WONCA officers.
- Follow through on a resolution of the previous Executive to change the manner in which we oversee World conferences including to identify a Professional Conference Organizer (PCO) for the World conferences of 2029 2031 and 2033). Executive appointed a committee to review the official Request for Proposal and conduct a comprehensive search process (committee members: Karen Price, Shlomo Vinker, Steve Mowle, and Harris Lygidakis). Thank you to this small group who worked from November 2023 through 2024 into 2025, and resulted in a recommendation to retain Kenes as the PCO.
- Reintegration of the functions of the WONCA-ICPC Foundation into WONCA was agreed in January 2025 and has progressed throughout the year.

Statutory Committees

The Executive Committee members who were selected to chair our Statutory Committees for October 2023 to September 2025 were:

- Dr Steve Mowle (UK) Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee
- Adj Prof Karen Price (Australia) chair of the Bylaws and Governance Committee
- Dr Victor Ng (Canada) chair of the Membership Committee
- Dr Jane Namatovou (Uganda) chair of the Organizational Equity Committee
- Assoc Prof Viviana Martinez- Bianchi (USA/Argentina), chair the Nominations and Awards committee.

Thank you to these chairs and their committee members for the work that they have done to ensure strong governance on behalf of everyone in WONCA.



DR STEVE MOWLE
(UK)



ADJ PROF KAREN
PRICE
(AUSTRALIA)



DR VICTOR NG
(CANADA)



DR JANE
NAMATOVOU
(UGANDA)



ASSOC PROF VIVIANA
MARTINEZ- BIANCHI
(USA/ARGENTINA)

Some of the most important achievements of our Executive Committee who finished office in Lisbon, in September. include:

Taskforce on Membership and Voting 2023-2025

An important agenda item for the 2025 World Council meeting in Lisbon was to consider the final report of this taskforce. At the 2023 World Council, the Terms of Reference were established.

This Taskforce was required to examine the current criteria for Membership, consider the broad issues of multiple Member Organisations from one country, and review the current voting tiers for countries.

The current voting system had existed for many years without review, so it was much-needed work.

This has been a major Governance initiative and as one would expect from a taskforce that was to consider voting rights of our Member Organizations, there was great interest in the process. The taskforce has worked extremely hard with wide consultation, under the leadership of Dr Francine Lemire, (Canada). Other members have been Samantha Murton (New Zealand), Katharina Schmalstieg-Bahr (Germany), Henry Lawson (Ghana), and Tan Tze Lee (Singapore). I extend my thanks to them for their comprehensive work, and to Francine in particular.

Key recommendations included: adopting a “one Member Organisation, one vote” structure, with additional votes based on size; lifting the embargo on new full memberships for Organisations in countries where a Full Member Organisation already exists; reviewing the new structure 7–10 years after implementation.

Elections policy

In January 2025, we moved to consider strong Governance relating to the election of officers. This appropriately involved the Bylaws and Governance committee. It proposed the development of an Elections Conduct Policy (version 1) and the establishment of an Elections Committee to oversee the lead up to the 2025 elections and deal with issues arising. The committee comprised three past presidents, Prof Richard Roberts (USA, chair), Prof Amanda Howe (UK) and Dr Donald Li (Hong Kong SAR). I thank them for agreeing to take on a new role. The experience of this committee was presented at Council in Lisbon and further refining of this process will continue for future elections.

Executive Committee Work

The Executive Committee has worked on governance improvements for its own operation including:

- Executive meetings and work functions have been streamlined and improved, including using a “decision” agenda putting decision and discussion items first, having shorter meetings at 1.5 hours and shorter papers with page limits (as for Council) and revision of the form and function of minutes.
- Upskilling financial literacy and reporting standards with Treasurer’s (Dr Steve Mowle) assistance.
- Discussions and clarity in making statements on specific issues versus universality. WONCA has made numerous statements in 2025, including at the various fora provided by the WHO – for these refer to the [Policy Statements on WONCA’s website](#).

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- Our Bylaws and Governance committee chair, Dr Karen Price has been utilised as a point of reference on governance and process issues.
- Regular collaboration between the President, CEO, Treasurer and President elect ensuring governance procedures agreed by senior leaders.
- The executive sets CEO Key Performance Indicators and as required by his contract CEO performance appraisals have been completed annually.
- We have developed a Job Description for our Executive member who serves as WONCA WHO Liaison person.

Statements on Safety of Health Personnel

The year was one which saw continuation of conflicts in several parts of the world. The safety of health personnel, our patients and health facilities in conflict zones was particularly affected.

Attacks on health personnel, facilities, and patients are blatant violations of international humanitarian law and the principles of medical neutrality. Such actions not only threaten the lives of those directly involved, but also undermine access to essential care for entire communities, exacerbating human suffering.

Statements on the safety of health professionals including in areas of conflict had been developed and approved by WONCA Executive in June 24, August 24 and revised December 24. In August 2025, WONCA Executive made another statement on health worker and patient safety - "[Statement on Protecting Health Workers and Patients in All Conflict Zones, Including Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan](#)".

Greening

I have been able to speak about Planetary Health in 2025 at the WONCA World conference in Lisbon, at the Royal New Zealand College of GPs and importantly the WONCA South Asia Region Conference in Bengaluru, India. In Bengaluru, WONCA South Asia Region (SAR) launched a SAR regional Working Party on Planetary Health, led by Dr Jyotika Gupta (India). This conference was the first SAR conference to align with WONCA's [Equitable and Sustainable Events Policy](#) developed by our WONCA Working Party on Planetary Health (WPPH) to ensure a greener event.

Greening with WHO

CLEAN AIR: This year has seen a lot of action with the WHO on Planetary health. We signed the WHO Clean Air Call to Action (2025) and attended WHO Clean Air Conference in March 2025, in Cartagena, Colombia, where Dr Alan Abelsohn spoke on family medicine's role in tackling air pollution. WHO launched the [Air Pollution & Health Training Toolkit for Health Workers](#), which WONCA helped to develop. [More here](#)

At World Health Assembly in 2025 one of the Statements delivered by WONCA was our own statement on [Climate change and Health](#).

WONCA has also endorsed and had input to the Break the Fossil Influence – Fossil-Free Health Communications Global Climate and Health Alliance [campaign](#) in March 2025.

Carbon footprint of the President

Consideration has been given to the carbon footprint of travel by the President. This means at times the President has been unable to attend your local meeting given travel footprint, but more climate-friendly options have been used such as video keynotes and alternative expert presenters.

The President has served on The Lancet Commission on Sustainable Health Care Executive committee in 2024 and 2025.

A message I repeat often: Our future in family medicine can include consideration of our carbon footprint. We need to be greener in our clinics and in our prescribing. Simple things matter: we can stop prescribing unnecessary medications/ inappropriate polypharmacy, and include lifestyle prescriptions. We can be discerning about investigations and referrals. Lets all stop prescribing metered aerosol inhalers in favour of dry powder inhalers if we can, and we save 10% of the carbon footprint of Primary care!

Growth - Highlights

The best place to read about growth activities is in the following pages of this annual report. Our Strategic Plan 2023-2027 continues to guide our work and progress was reported to the WONCA Council held in Lisbon this year.

WHO /PAHO

A key objective of our strategic plan is to maintain and strengthen the World Health Organization (WHO) relationship and our PAHO relationship. With WHO we have official relations as a non-governmental organization and we are engaged in a number of collaborative projects.

WONCA has actively reinforced its collaboration with the WHO 2025. We now have a new collaborative plan for interaction 2025-2027 as well as, a new Memorandum of Understanding with Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) having been officially accepted in their Framework for the Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA).

We also regularly deliver our own statements at the WHO meetings and joint work on key projects such as the PHC Services Package under UHC project.



Our liaison person to WHO in 2025, was Maria Pilar Astier Peña (now WONCA President-elect). She was at WHO Executive Board meeting in February 2025 and World Health Assembly in May 2025.

At the WHO Executive board meeting in February 2025, WONCA's Key Advocacy Points on which we made statements were:

- Health Workforce where WONCA called for greater recognition of family doctors as essential members of primary healthcare teams.
- Universal Health Coverage (UHC) where we urged governments to invest in family medicine to strengthen primary care, to improve patient outcomes, and reduce health system burdens.
- Health Emergency Preparedness when in this statement WONCA highlighted the critical role of family doctors in crisis response and called for our inclusion in national and global health emergency planning.
- Climate Change and Health where we the need for climate-conscious healthcare strategies and stronger primary care to address environmental health risks.

Please read the report of the WHO liaison person, Maria Pilar Astier Peña, and WONCA Iberoamericana region President report for more details.

WONCA Accreditation

Under our CEO's leadership WONCA has strengthened our accreditation program. We now have accreditation programs for postgraduate training, continuing professional development, clinics accreditation, and digital systems. We can also provide support through our new Development and Enhancement Program (DEP), with tailored solutions that ensure global recognition and continuous improvement.

The MDD Minds project

Completed over two years in March 2025 and led by WONCA's Working Party on Mental Health has empowered primary care professionals across Africa, Asia, and Latin America to better manage major depressive disorders (MDD). Key statistics were 2,892 clinicians enrolled in the online course, 581 completed it, and more than 1,600 additional colleagues were trained through local replication. Seven pilot sites in Brazil, Japan and Nigeria introduced screening for depression among patients with diabetes, with over 1,000 patients screened. The project lives on through modules developed and [available online](#). Read the report included for details.

It was thus fitting that the theme for World Family Doctor Day on May 19, 2025 was a mental health one- "Building Mental Resilience in a Changing World". Another successful World Family Doctor Day ensued- please see the separate report.

WONCA Books

WONCA and CRC Press continue to expand the Family Medicine Book Series with three new titles to be launched during the Lisbon conference.

- Digital Health for Primary Care edited by Ana Luisa Neves and Lilliana Laranjo.
- Challenges in Primary Mental Health Care: Models for Interdisciplinary Collaboration edited by Christos Lionis and Christopher Dowrick.
- Core Values in Family Medicine: Inspiring Global Change edited by Anna Stavdal, Johann A. Sigurdsson and Felicity Goodyear-Smith. The editors have led the 'Core Values Project' launched in March 2023, and findings from all regions are documented in the book. The project invites family doctors from around the world to reflect on their professional values, namely the values that mean most to them as a healthcare professional – both personally, within their specific context, and globally, within our shared profession.

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Work has started on two more global books: an e-book on Planetary Health in Family Practice; a new research book Future Perspectives in Primary Care Research. Also begun is - Transforming Primary Care: The WONCA Asia Pacific Region's Journey in Family Medicine.

President Activity

I have been honoured to attend numerous WONCA conferences as President. Honoured because it is a highlight to catch up with old friends and make new friends at these events. Honoured because at the SAR conference, the Academy of Family Physicians of India (AFPI) conferred on me the first ever Honorary Fellowship of the AFPI.

This year I attended:

- WONCA South Asia Region Conf and Global Rural Health Summit in: Bengaluru, India, in April 2025 with the outcome statement: [Bengaluru declaration](#)
- WONCA Asia Pacific Region Conference in Busan, Korea in April 2025, with the outcome statement: [Strengthening Primary Care and Supporting the Medical Community in Korea](#)
- WONCA East Mediterranean region Conference in Tangier, Morocco in May 2025
- WONCA World conference in Lisbon in September 2025.

Our President-elect (now president) Viviana Martinez-Bianchi represented me at the following conferences: WONCA Iberoamericana - CIMF Conference and “Cumbre Iberoamericana” in Montevideo, Uruguay, in May 2025 with the outcome statement: Carta de Montevideo; and WONCA North America Meeting online in August 2025.

Growth – WONCA Groups - WPs and SIGs and YDM

The many activities of our Working Parties and Special Interest Groups are well documented in this Annual report and as “news” on the WONCA website. There are so many activities, it is awe inspiring. For example, you might think that without COVID, our WONCA webinars would have tailed off, but they appear to have become even more prolific, as activities of our WONCA Working Parties (WPs), Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Young Doctors’ Movement (YDM).

Please do read the reports of our WONCA ‘Groups’ and consider joining a group of interest to you by clicking this [link](#) to our website.

I also encourage you to read the YDM report but just to give you a taste of their innovation my two favourite YDM projects are: CyberXFM webinars, in collaboration with INTERPOL, the WP on Ethics and Professionalism and the WONCA WP on eHealth, addressing cybersecurity and ethical issues in telemedicine; and the YDM Mentorship Project which was initiated in response to recognising the importance of mentorship within WONCA.

The future of Family Medicine is in safe hands!

A Final Thought

My impressions over 2024 and 2025 have also been documented in my [President columns](#) in WONCA News.

It has been a privilege, and one that I have very much enjoyed, to work for the family doctors of the world, promoting our discipline as an essential component of Primary Health Care for the past two years. We must all work to ensure strong Family Medicine in our countries and WONCA supports all of us to do that.

It was a pleasure to hand over the role of WONCA President to Viviana Martinez-Bianchi who I am sure will be a great president – we are similar but different as shown in this photo taken in 2024 in Sri Lanka.

Finally, it is appropriate to reflect on the words of our first WONCA President, another Australian, Dr Monty Kent-Hughes, who, when speaking to the first WONCA meeting in 1972 said:

“the future of our professional discipline will depend on our ability to work together in the service of humanity.”

A strong message to lead our work through WONCA into the future.

Associate Professor Karen Flegg
WONCA President, October 2023 - September 2025
karen.flegg@wonca.com



STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

MISSION:

To improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world

GOAL 1: ADVANCING FAMILY MEDICINE

Advance Family Medicine through strengthening systems within the profession and enabling education, research and clinical development for all Family Doctors.

GOAL 2: ONE UNIFIED VOICE

Be the clear, unified voice of family medicine and family doctors worldwide.

GOAL 3: TRANSFORMING WONCA

Create a viable, digitally enabled and sustainable organization with strong governance and finances.



GOAL 1: ADVANCING FAMILY MEDICINE

Advance Family Medicine through strengthening systems within the profession and enabling education, research and clinical development for all Family Doctors.

Objective 1.A
Stimulate research, innovation, and the generation of new knowledge in and about family medicine.

Key Action 1: Strengthen conference and smaller event activity using technology to make these part of a broader education portfolio.

Key Action 2: Explore new possibilities for events as part of an integrated networking and educational portfolio

Key Action 3: Establish an activities platform to allow members to match developers and seekers of research or educational projects, practice exchanges or mentorships, for example.

Key Action 4: Establish a pilot mentorship program for Young Family Doctors.

Objective 1.B Enable communication and work within and between WONCA groups [1] and regions through enhanced use of digital technology

Key Action 1: Complete on-boarding of interested WONCA Groups on Membership Portal and encouragement to other groups to use the Portal.

Key Action 2: Introduce communication tools to facilitate access to organizational information for WONCA Groups.

[1] WONCA Groups for purposes of this plan = WONCA Working Parties (WPs) and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Young Doctors' Movements (YDMs)

Objective 1.C
Support and facilitate the development of high quality general practice/family medicine throughout the world

Key Action 1: Define the role and function of WONCA's various accreditation programs and related consultancy services, and undertake a feasibility study in order to develop a business plan.

Key Action 2: Maintain and update WONCA's education and practice standards.

Objective 1.D Qualify and quantify our specialty

Key Action 1: Develop protocol for a project to define family doctor competencies/ values/ roles and to count family doctors, and identify key partners and financing for the project.

GOAL 2: ONE UNIFIED VOICE

Be the clear, unified voice of family medicine and family doctors worldwide.

Objective 2.A
Promote WONCA and its messages, as well as Family Medicine and the unique contributions that family doctors make to the health of all people.

Key Action 1: Continue to develop a robust marketing and communication strategy, including strategy for engagement and development of relationships, and plan for impact measurement.

Key action 2: Ensure WONCA endorsed messages to external stakeholders represent the policies and clinical, educational, and research activities of family doctors to other world organizations and forums.

Objective 2.B
Maintain and strengthen the WHO relationship

Key Action 1: Establish Standard Operating Procedures on activities with WHO considering World and regional variations, and train contributors from regions and WONCA groups.

Key Action 2: Establish a central registry of WHO activities / partnerships.

Key Action 3: Regular meetings with key WHO personnel outside the main events of WHO.

Objective 2.C
Strengthen development of relationships with other PHC organizations and other stakeholders

Key Action 1: Establish a central registry of partnerships.

Key Action 2: Introduce collaborative plans for all Organizations in Collaborative Relations and assign points of contact within WONCA.

Objective 2.D
WONCA is a leader as a green organization

Key Action 1: Develop internal organizational policies to lessen WONCA's carbon footprint in a measurable way, including for travel, conferences and our office.

Key Action 2: Take professional leadership in activities and partnerships for sustainable primary care.

Key Action 3: Move to ensure WONCA branded events are conscious of minimising environmental impact and report on strategies.

GOAL 3: TRANSFORMING WONCA

Create a viable, digitally enabled and sustainable organization with strong governance and finances.

Objective 3.A
Promote inclusivity within WONCA, enabling all views to be heard.

Key Action 1: Conduct needs assessment of Member Organizations and Academic Members to strengthen the value of membership.

Key Action 2: Map translation needs, potential solutions and necessary resources to expand language inclusivity.

Objective 3.B
Professionalise the internal governance and management of WONCA through training, leadership programs and improved procedures.

Key Action 1: Expand existing good governance practices of Executive induction and regular governance discussions, Executive Handbook review every second year, and introduce Executive performance appraisal.

Key Action 2: Expand good governance practices in relation to WONCA Groups including orientation for new chairs, WP/SIG chair handbook review (every second year), and reporting requirements.

Key Action 3: Develop protocol for enhanced reporting requirements for WONCA representatives from regions, WONCA groups and individuals at external meetings.

Objective 3.C
Improve financial stability of WONCA

Key Action 1: Explore alternate sources of funding including a pilot of individual donations, a strategy for big donors and seeking grants providing unrestricted funding.

Key Action 2: Grow internal capacity for grant scouting and for the coordination and support of projects to be undertaken alone or as part of consortia, including mapping the interest of WONCA Groups and identifying likely consortia.

Objective 3.D
Ensure the organization meets its statutory obligations and is insured adequately against risks associated with the organization's activities

Key Action 1: Complete WONCA restructuring and transition of Secretariat including liquidation of WONCA International Inc., and transfer of assets and contracts to WONCA Association.

Objective 3.E
Strategic Plan

Key Action 1: Establish process for the annual reporting against strategic plan objectives.

Key Action 2: Align budget to Strategic plan implementation and activities.

Key Action 3: WONCA Groups and WONCA regions develop action plans and report on activities addressing WONCA goals and objectives.

CEO Report

Dr Harris Lygidakis



If 2025 proved anything, it is that WONCA's strength lies in the people who carry our mission forward: the Regions, the Working Parties and Special Interest Groups, the Young Doctors, the leaders and the members.

The WONCA World Conference in Lisbon was a landmark for our Organization. Bringing together more than 4,200 participants from around the world, it showed the reach, relevance, and energy of family medicine at a time when primary care is under pressure. The meeting was a statement of confidence in our discipline and in the communities we serve. It reflected the efforts of local hosts, Scientific and Organizing Committees, and group leaders. Our congratulations go to the Portuguese Association of General Practice and Family Medicine and WONCA Europe for co-hosting, and to every colleague who contributed to making this conference a success.

But Lisbon was far from the only gathering that brought our community together. The Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Busan, the South Asia Regional Conference in Bengaluru, the East Mediterranean Region Conference in Morocco, the second North America Region Convening Meeting in Anaheim, and the Iberoamericana Summit in Uruguay each demonstrated the vitality of our regional networks and the strength of our global community. These conferences are where the work of family medicine is shared, debated, and renewed, and the organisers who make them happen deserve our recognition.

At the same time, 2025 was a year of substantial program delivery. The Social Prescribing and Civic Engagement (SPACE) project launched in 2025, producing a state-of-the-art report and working on a practical social prescribing model and training resources. Through WONCA's Project Labs, we have also begun to create a structured pathway to turn ideas from our Working Parties and Special Interest Groups into fundable, outcome-driven initiatives. I would like to express gratitude to the American Board of Family Medicine for its financial support of this initiative.

Our largest project to date, MDD Minds for Primary Care, concluded with an event last March bringing together the Master Faculty in Brussels. The project produced seven training modules and engaged 2,892 participants across nine countries. Scholars trained through the program cascaded learning locally through 143 sessions reaching 1,697 providers, strengthening confidence and capacity in depression care in primary care settings.

The project left a durable legacy through its online hub and helped shape World Family Doctor Day 2025 around the theme "Building Mental Resilience in a Changing World." World Family Doctor Day 2025 deserves a special mention. The campaign, led by our Mental Health Working Party, developed a powerful series of webinars and activities together with other Working Parties and Special Interest Groups, the Young Doctors' Movements, and IFMSA.

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Across every region, family doctors and their communities marked the day with local events, social media engagement, and conversations about a subject that touches us all: the well-being of those who care for others. The campaign reinforced a message we believe deeply: when doctors thrive, the communities they serve thrive too.

WONCA's voice also grew stronger internationally. In 2025, the Memorandum of Understanding with PAHO was finalized, strengthening WONCA's standing in the Americas and opening new avenues for regional engagement. Work with WHO remained strong, including support for engagement at the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly, and ensuring that family medicine remained visible in global policy conversations on primary care, workforce, non-communicable diseases, patient safety, climate change, and health systems.

In 2025, we also advanced the transition planning for ICPC, culminating in the decision to shift ICPC-3 to open access, positioning it as a public good, removing barriers to adoption, and enabling broader training and research uses. The technically and legally complex process of the new licensing framework will be concluded in 2026. The International Classification Committee, under the leadership of Gustavo Gusso, deserves recognition for sustaining this complex, technically demanding work.

In accreditation and consultancy, we completed assessments of practices in Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and Shanghai, which were awarded WONCA accreditation, and advanced the Ping An CPD program into its second year under the Development and Enhancement Program. Awards and scholarships also saw record demand, with 192 applications for the Montegut Scholarship and 75 for the inaugural Donald Li Scholarship. WONCA also concluded the strategic selection of a Core Professional Conference Organizer for future World Conferences, an important step toward continuity, quality, and long-term sustainability.

I want to close by acknowledging the people who make WONCA what it is. President Viviana Martinez-Bianchi, Immediate Past President Karen Flegg, and the Executive provided strategic leadership and unwavering support throughout the year. The Secretariat team in Brussels — Diarmuid, Andrea, Joelle, Fadia, Juan Diego, and Ólafur — sustained the daily operations of a global organisation with professionalism and care that far exceeds our small size. Our Working Parties and Special Interest Groups are the intellectual engine of WONCA; their commitment in 2025 was exceptional, and the Chairs who lead them deserve our deepest thanks. And to our Young Doctor leaders across every region: your energy, your ambition, and your willingness to challenge us are what keep this organisation honest and forward-looking. WONCA belongs to all of you. The future we are building together is strong and full of possibility.

P.S.: If you are not yet receiving the WONCA Newsletter, I encourage you to subscribe. It is the best way to stay connected with what is happening across our organisation. You can also follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube, where we are increasingly sharing the stories, research, and voices of family doctors worldwide.

World Family Doctor Day 2025: A Global Celebration of Family Medicine

On 19 May 2025, family doctors around the world came together once again to celebrate World Family Doctor Day, this year under the theme “Building Mental Resilience in a Changing World.” The campaign brought forward the unique role family doctors play in responding to mental health challenges—supporting both patients and communities through continuity of care, early intervention, and compassion.

We asked our Member Organizations to submit their activities to WONCA, in order to get a sense of the diverse and meaningful ways the day was celebrated, and to inspire each other going forward. In Jordan, physicians gathered for a symposium on mental health in primary care. In Bangladesh, a rally and public meeting drew attention to the importance of family doctors. In Botswana, family doctors and community members climbed Kgale Hill together in a powerful symbol of resilience. In Hong Kong, a high-level symposium featured speakers from the WHO and academic leaders. From press conferences in Slovenia and a remarkable series of events across the Caribbean, family doctors used the day to educate, advocate, and connect with their communities.

We thank all Member Organizations who submitted their reports. Your creativity and commitment continue to energize and inspire our global family. We also received valuable feedback and thoughtful suggestions for future themes, which will help shape our plans for 2026. We look forward to announcing next year’s theme well in advance of next year’s celebration.



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WONCA also marked the day with a wide-ranging campaign that included new multimedia content and a global conversation on mental health. Professors Christos Lionis and Christopher Dowrick published a [feature article](#) on the critical role of primary care in promoting mental wellness. We launched a [collaborative video message](#) featuring voices from every region, and released a joyful international performance of “[Three Little Birds](#)” as part of our Music and Mental Health Project. WONCA President A/Prof Karen Flegg also offered a personal [video message](#).

As part of the WONCA World Family Doctor Day Webinar Series, we hosted five sessions that explored key issues in mental health and primary care. These included webinars on [self-care for family doctors](#), [collaborative care with patients](#), [core concepts of mental resilience](#), [cultural approaches to mental health](#), and [depression management in primary health care](#).

In addition, WONCA’s [MDD Minds](#) initiative continues to offer free, self-paced training on the diagnosis and management of major depressive disorder in primary care. The course is available in four languages - English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Japanese - and includes modules on clinical strategies, shared decision-making, and self-care for clinicians. We now invite you to take a tour around the world of family medicine, and to be inspired by the activities and celebrations of our global community.

Additional information on the events that took place for World Family Doctor Day and related photographs can be found [here](#).



MDD MINDS

FOR PRIMARY CARE

MDD Minds - A partnership for mental health care

The MDD MINDS initiative has successfully enhanced the quality of care for patients with major depressive disorder (MDD) across nine countries in three global regions.

This multi phase project, implemented by the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) and Mosaica Solutions, supported by an independent grant from Pfizer Global Medical Relations, has strengthened the capability of family doctors and primary care teams to diagnose, treat, and manage depression within their communities.

The Impact

The MDD MINDS initiative exceeded its targets, engaging more than 2,500 clinicians and practice teams through a comprehensive educational approach:

- Phase 2: MDD MINDS 101 – 2,892 learners enrolled, with 581 completers (20% completion rate), surpassing typical online course completion rates of 12.6%. The curriculum significantly increased clinician confidence in managing depression, with average confidence scores rising from 3.0 to 4.11 on a 5-point scale (p-value 1.7631E 118).
- Phase 3: Train-the-Trainer – 226 Scholars, in nine countries, enrolled in our advanced program with at least 126 (> 50% completion rate) completing the program. These Scholars demonstrated remarkable commitment by delivering 142 educational sessions to 1,697 additional healthcare professionals in their communities.
- Phase 4: Performance in Practice – Nine practices across Brazil, Japan, Kenya and Nigeria implemented systematic depression screening for patients with diabetes. Through this quality improvement initiative, 1,592 diabetic patients were evaluated, with 26.6% identified as having depression.

“My experience in the MDD MINDS-WONCA Project was extremely enriching. The course provided a collaborative environment where I was able to learn from the leadership of a psychiatry specialist and family health colleagues. The discussions about mental health practices and the focus on the person-centered approach with MDD broadened my view of comprehensive care.

Furthermore, the practical activities and exchange of experiences contributed to my professional development as a trainer for other colleagues, allowing me to apply new knowledge directly into my daily practice. I believe that this experience made me a more prepared professional and sensitive to the needs of my patients and my co-workers.” – MDD MINDS learner



Key Achievements

The initiative met all objectives set out in our proposal, addressing critical gaps in depression care. Participating clinicians reported substantial improvements in their ability to:

- Diagnose MDD in culturally diverse contexts
- Educate patients on health promotion and lifestyle changes
- Apply shared decision-making principles
- Select appropriate pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments
- Manage co-morbidities
- Develop team approaches to care
- Communicate effectively with specialists
- Implement activities to drive practice change
- Follow up with patients to reevaluate care

Importantly, the project also highlighted the critical need for healthcare provider self-care. This valuable outcome has strengthened resilience among participating clinicians, enabling them to better serve their patients while maintaining their own wellbeing.

Lessons Learned

The initiative yielded valuable insights for future programming:

- Language and cultural adaptation significantly enhance engagement and outcomes.
- Multiple in-country champions are essential for successful implementation.
- Alignment with existing working groups amplifies impact and reach.
- Faculty leadership by content experts ensures clinical relevance.
- Local organizational partnerships facilitate recruitment and sustainability.
- Self-care content is as valuable to clinicians as clinical education.

Future Opportunities

The MDD MINDS model provides a framework for sustainable impact in mental health care and beyond:

1. **Expanded Content in Mental Health:** This project, Performance in Practice (PiP) in particular, focused on screening. New curricula could be developed to address treatment and management of MDD.
2. **Expanded Access:** The MDD MINDS 101 curriculum can be translated into additional languages, for example, Chinese, Hindi, Urdu and offered globally.
3. **Research Initiatives:** The impact on patient outcomes offers rich opportunities for further study.
4. **Publication:** Findings will be presented at the WONCA conference in Lisbon (September 2025), other regional conferences and prepared for publication.
5. **Broader Application:** The three-phase model can be adapted for other clinical priorities and public health challenges.
6. **Working Party Synergy:** Collaboration with WONCA working parties and other professional bodies within the primary care and medical specialties can promote synergy and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Conclusion

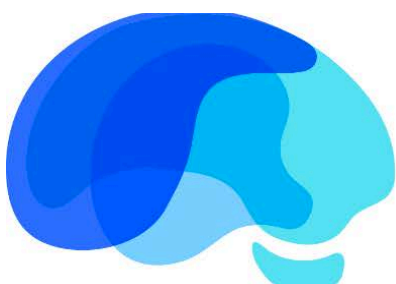
The MDD MINDS initiative demonstrates WONCA's capacity to deliver high-quality educational programming at scale, work in partnership with other international organizations, while meeting defined objectives and producing meaningful outcomes. The project has equipped family doctors with essential knowledge and skills to address depression, a leading cause of global disability.

Most importantly, the patients of participating doctors have benefited from improved recognition, understanding, and treatment of their condition, with positive impacts on their mental health and well-being. As depression continues to affect hundreds of millions globally, the MDD MINDS initiative offers a replicable, sustainable approach to enhancing mental healthcare in diverse primary care settings.

"The opportunity to collaborate with healthcare professionals worldwide broadened my understanding of mental health care beyond my local setting." – MDD MINDS learner

"The self-care and wellness module was vital. It not only improved my professional skills but also helped me maintain my own mental health." – MDD 101 learner

"I was able to understand how to provide non-pharmacological interventions for mental health patients encountered in primary care. The sessions were practical and rich, so I was able to immediately apply them to my daily clinical practice. I would like to continue brushing up on my own skills and sharing them with the staff." – TtT Scholar



MDD MINDS

FOR PRIMARY CARE

WONCA Project Labs

Advancing Two Global WONCA Initiatives

This year, WONCA continued to work closely with the American Board of Family Medicine Foundation (ABFM-F) through the Project Labs initiative, which provided support for two major proposals currently under development: Promoting Rational Medicine Prescribing in Primary Care and Strengthening Clinical Ethics in Primary Care.

PROSPER – Promoting Rational Medicine Prescribing in Primary Care

The PROSPER project brings together colleagues from across regions to address one of the most pressing challenges in primary care globally: ensuring rational, safe, and context-appropriate prescribing. Building on the WHO 6-Step Guide, the project aims to create a global model for education, curriculum integration, and capacity building.

Over the past months, the working group – drawn from multiple WPs, SIGs, and regional networks – has met regularly to refine the project structure, define its methodology, and map its initial pilots. The Secretariat has supported the group with guidance on proposal development, coordination, stakeholder engagement and donor mapping.

Strengthening Clinical Ethics in Primary Care

The second project supported under the ABFM Project Labs focuses on clinical ethics – an area increasingly recognized as essential for safe, equitable, and person-centered care. The project aims to understand how family doctors currently navigate ethical dilemmas, identify gaps in training and support systems, and develop practical tools for clinical reflection and decision-making.

Working in collaboration with multiple WPs and SIGs, the group has begun shaping a multi-phase program that includes mapping existing ethics resources, developing training modules, and piloting a “hub-and-spoke” model for ethics reflection groups in primary care settings.

Moving Forward

Both proposals have made strong progress this year. With active participation from diverse parts of the WONCA community and technical support from the Secretariat, the groups are now moving towards full proposal drafts that will be ready for donor engagement. The Project Labs initiative has not only strengthened these two proposals but has also helped build more structured processes and shared tools for proposal development across WONCA.



**PROJECT
LABS**



SPACE Project

Developing a Green Social Prescribing Model for Cancer Rehabilitation

This year marked major progress for the SPACE project, a three-year EU-funded initiative bringing together partners across Europe to explore how nature-based activities can support cancer recovery. The consortium began 2025 by completing a comprehensive State of the Art Report, mapping existing practices, evidence, and gaps across Europe. This report has served as the foundation for all subsequent work. WONCA leads the development of the project's core output – a Green Social Prescribing Model tailored for cancer rehabilitation – working closely with partners to ensure it is practical, evidence-informed, and adaptable across health systems.

Throughout 2025, the consortium worked intensively to finalize the model, which outlines the principles, pathways, and quality standards needed to integrate green social prescribing into primary care and community settings. In parallel, Volunteer Ireland has been leading the development of the training package that will support practitioners and community organizations in implementing the model, while CEV has been shaping the quality benchmarks and the process for awarding the project's final quality label. IDIAP has continued to oversee the evaluation framework, ensuring that pilot sites will generate meaningful and comparable outcomes.

With the model now developed and the training materials underway, the project is preparing for its next major phase: piloting the Green Social Prescribing Model in five countries, where people recovering from cancer will be supported to volunteer in community gardens. These pilots will test the model's feasibility in different contexts and generate real-world insights to guide future refinement and scale-up.

The SPACE project reflects WONCA's commitment to innovation, person-centered care, and cross-sector collaboration. Its progress this year places the consortium in a strong position for the implementation phase ahead.



Collaboration Hub

The 2025 Collaboration Hub: Bringing People Together to Shape WONCA's Future

At the WONCA World Conference in September 2025, we held our first Collaboration Hub – a new space created to bring colleagues from different Working Parties and Special Interest Groups together around shared ideas. For three hours in Lisbon, 15 project proposers, 15 table captains, and more than a hundred participants sat together, shared experiences, and co-created practical next steps for some of the most important themes in family medicine today.

Each table worked on one pre-submitted project idea. These ranged from mental health in primary care and research capacity building, to planetary health, ageing, emergency care, and gender equity. Through lively discussions, each group refined its project, identified priority activities, and sketched out the first actions needed to take their ideas forward. The result was a collection of 15 strengthened project concepts – all shaped collaboratively by colleagues from across regions, disciplines, and backgrounds.

To keep the momentum going beyond the conference, the Secretariat created an online workspace where each group can access their table notes, pitch recordings, and original concept notes. A follow-up session was also held with proposers and WP/SIG Chairs to provide guidance on forming working groups, structuring proposal development, and beginning donor scouting. Participants were given a standard proposal template and a donor-mapping tool to help them translate their ideas into fully developed projects.

What stood out most about the Collaboration Hub was not only the ideas themselves, but the spirit behind them: colleagues listening to each other, making space for new voices, and genuinely wanting to build something together. In the coming months, working groups will form under the leadership of their respective WPs/SIGs, with ongoing support from the Secretariat. Our aim is to help these projects grow into strong proposals that can create real impact in family medicine around the world.

The Hub was a first step – but an important one. It showed what is possible when we bring people together with openness, curiosity, and a shared purpose.



Honorary Treasurer Report

Dr Steve Mowle



It is my pleasure to present my third annual report as Treasurer of WONCA.

My sincere thanks to the members of the finance committee which met regularly throughout 2025 with excellent attendance and engagement.

WONCA's main sources of income are its membership subscriptions (\$693,000) and conference levies (\$261,000).

The opening balance was \$908,000 and the closing balance was \$1,009,000, with a surplus of approximately \$100,000 — of which roughly 70% relates to the Association's general reserves and 30% to designated funds — driven largely by favourable exchange rate movements.

Congratulations to WONCA Europe and the APMGF for organising a highly successful conference in Lisbon, which brought a very healthy \$245,000 into WONCA.

We continue to build on the success of MDD Minds, the first major project undertaken within WONCA World, with a Multi-regional NCD fellowship planned for 2026. Diversifying income streams to increase the impact of our objectives and extend our reach around the world is a shared ambition of mine with the CEO.

A core PCO was appointed in 2025 and we look forward to working with Kenes International, to plan the 2029 conference in Kyoto, where we hope that the standard of the conference offer as well as the potential financial outcome will improve.

We remain ambitious for the future of WONCA and to gradually increase the size of our excellent secretariat.

I look forward to continuing to work with the finance committee whose vital work in ensuring that our modest income is used wisely.

Best wishes

Steve

Dr Steve Mowle MBE FRCGP
Member at Large
WONCA Treasurer

WHO Liaison Report

Prof María Pilar Astier Peña



WONCA as Non State Actor to WHO:

Since 1979, WONCA has maintained continuous collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) as a Non-State Actor (NSA) in official relations. The first Memorandum of Understanding covered 1998–2001, and cooperation is now structured through three-year collaboration plans aligned with WHO's General Programme of Work and governed by the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA). WONCA reports annually, with results published in the WHO register. WHO appoints a focal person to facilitate engagement; currently this role is held by Dr John Fogarty, Lead of Primary Care Services, Integrated Health Services Department at WHO headquarters in Geneva.

Since 1998, WONCA has appointed several WHO Liaison Persons: Dr Michael Boland (1998–2001), Dr Ilse Hellemann (2001–2005), Dr Michael Kidd (2005–2010), Dr Iona Heath (2010–2013), Dr Luisa Pettigrew (2013–2016), Dr Viviana Martinez-Bianchi (2016–2021), and Prof Val Wass (2021–2023). This report covers the period when Dr Anna Stavdal lead liaison person 2023-2024 and Dr María Pilar Astier-Peña lead from October 2024 – current.

The WHO Liaison Person, supported by a small WONCA WHO Working Group (President, President-elect, WHO Liaison Person, and CEO), ensures alignment with WONCA's Strategic Plan and follows up on the strategic goals set in the previous term, thereby guaranteeing continuity and consistency in WONCA's advocacy across each three-year WHO collaboration plan. The Liaison also coordinates the contributions of Working Parties (WPs) and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and represents WONCA at the World Health Assembly (WHA) and WHO Executive Board (EB) meetings.

Collaboration Plan between WHO and WONCA for the period 2025-2027

The 2025–2027 WONCA–WHO Collaboration Plan, aligned with Universal Health Coverage goals, focuses on five priority areas. It supports the development and implementation of the Primary Care Service Package within WHO's Service Delivery Platform, including review of rehabilitation interventions. It contributes to the Global Patient Safety Action Plan with emphasis on primary care, led by WONCA's Working Party on Quality & Safety. In workforce development, it advances decision-support training through the IMPACT initiative and collaboration on acute care algorithms. It also seeks to strengthen the capacity and quality of postgraduate family and community medicine education, with input from the Working Party on Education and the WONCA accreditation program. The plan is ongoing, relies on in-kind technical contributions, and aims to improve access, quality, and outcomes in health systems through a primary care perspective.



**World Health
Organization**

WHO Liaison Report



World Health Assembly and Executive Board Meeting

The WHO main gathering events are the World Health Assembly (WHA) celebrated every year mid May and the WHO EB Meeting. During this term WONCA members attended 2 WHA and 1 WHO EB Meeting.

Dr Astier attended the 156th session of the WHO Executive Board in february 2025. She met 4 different WHO departments: mental health, quality and patient safety, non-communicable diseases and rehabilitation, health and ageing, and WONCA Focal Point, Dr Fogarty to follow up the ongoing projects. A total of 4 individuals statements were delivered during the WHO EB meeting.

During 78 th World Health Assembly, May 2025, WONCA was represented by Dr Martínez Bianchi, Dr Lygidakis, and Dr Astier. With Prof José M. (Chema) Valderas, Dr. Anna Luisa Neves, and Dr. Shrikant Atreya.

Dr Martínez-Bianchi participated as WONCA President-elect in discussion pannel and speaker in two side events.

Dr Ana Luisa Neves, participated as chair of the WP on E Health in an event titled “Empowering Primary Health Care with Digital Intelligence for UHC”

Dr Shrikant Atreya, represented WONCA at the "Accelerating Progress on Universal Access to Palliative Care" as chair of the Palitive in Family Medicine Working Party.

4 Individual Statements were delivered during the meeting. Wonca is grateful with IFMSA whose representers read them in the Assembly on behalf of WONCA members.

They also visited several WHO Headquarters departaments and set up collaborations with some NSA for future projects.

Conclusions:

WONCA has strengthened its role as a long-standing WHO partner, with collaboration now structured under FENSA and guided by joint three-year collaboration plans.

The 2025–2027 plan builds on the achievements of the 2022-2024 plan , placing family medicine at the core of WHO’s Universal Health Coverage agenda. Through work on PHC service packages, quality and patient safety, workforce development, and postgraduate education, WONCA is increasingly recognized as an essential contributor to global health systems.

WONCA’s visibility in WHO governance has grown significantly, with active participation in the WHA and WHO EB meeting, joint statements, and side events. The WHO–WONCA relationship is now stronger, more strategic, and more visible, ensuring family medicine is firmly established as a cornerstone of universal health coverage and resilient health systems worldwide.

Full Member Organizations

Country	Full Member Organization
Afghanistan	Afghanistan Family Medicine Association (AFMA)
Argentina	Argentine Federation of Family and General Medicine
Armenia	Armenian Association of Family Physicians
Australia	The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Austria	Austrian Society of General Practice and Family Medicine
Bahrain	Bahrain Family Physicians Association
Bangladesh	Bangladesh College of General Practitioners
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Academy of Family Physicians
Belgium	Belgian Society for General Practitioners
Bolivia	Bolivian Society of Family Medicine Sociedad Boliviana de Medicina Familiar
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Association of Family Physicians of Republic of Srpska
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Association of Family Physicians of the Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina
Botswana	Botswana Association of Family Physicians
Brazil	Brazilian Society of Family and Community Medicine Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina de Família e Co
Bulgaria	Bulgarian General Practice Society for Research and Education
Cameroon	Medcamer Family Medicine
Canada	The College of Family Physicians of Canada
Chile	Scientific Society of Family and General Medicine of Chile Sociedad Chilena de Medicina Familiar
China	Chinese Medical Doctor Association General Practitioners Sub-association
China	General Practice Branch of Cross-Strait Medicine Exchange Association
China	Chinese Society of General Practice
Colombia	Colombian Society of Family Medicine Sociedad Colombiana de Medicina Familiar SOCMEF
Costa Rica	Costa Rican Association of Specialists in Family and Community Medicine Asociación de Medicina Famil
Croatia	Croatian Family Physicians Coordination
Croatia	Croatian Association of Family Medicine
Cuba	Sociedad Cubana de Medicina Familiar
Czech Republic	Czech Society of General Practice CLS JEP
Denmark	Danish College of General Practitioners Dansk Selskab for Almen Medicin DSAM
Dominican Republic	Dominican Society of Family and Community Medicine
Ecuador	Ecuador Society of Family Medicine Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Medicina Familiar
Egypt	Egyptian Family Medicine Association
Estonia	Estonian Family Doctors Society
Fiji	Fiji College Of General Practitioners
Finland	Finnish Association for General Practice Suomen Yleislaaketieteen Yhdistys
France	Collège de la Médecine Générale CMG French College of General Practice
Georgia	Georgia Family Medicine Association
Germany	German College of General Practitioners and Family Physicians Deutsche Gesellschaft für Allgemeinme
Ghana	Society of Family Physicians of Ghana
Greece	Greek Association of General Practitioners
Greece	Greek College Of General Practitioners
Greece	Hippocrates, Association Of GpFm Of Greece
Hong Kong (China)	The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians
Hungary	CSAládvos Kutatók Országos SZervezete Hungarian Research Organization of Family Physicians
Iceland	Icelandic College of Family Physicians
India	Indian Medical Association College of General Practitioners
India	Academy of Family Physicians of India
Indonesia	Indonesian Society of Teachers in Family Medicine
Indonesia	The Indonesian Association of Family Physicians
Iran	Iranian Society of General Practitioner
Iraq	Iraqi Family Physicians Society
Ireland	Irish College of General Practitioners
Israel	Israel Association of Family Physicians
Italy	Accademia Italiana Cure Primarie
Jamaica	The Caribbean College of Family Physicians
Japan	Japan Primary Care Association

Full Member Organizations

Jordan	Jordan Society of Family Medicine
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians
Kenya	Kenya Association of Family Physicians
Korea, South	The Korean Academy Of Family Medicine
Kosovo	Association Of Family Physicians Of Kosovo
Kuwait	Kuwait Association of Family Physician and General Practitioners
Lebanon	Lebanese Society Of Family Medicine
Liberia	Society of Family Physicians of Liberia
Libya	Libyan General Practice Society
Lithuania	Lithuanian College Of Family Physicians
Luxembourg	Société scientifique luxembourgeoise de médecine générale
Macao	Associação dos Médicos de Clínica Geral de Macau
Malaysia	Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia Akademi Kedokteran Keluarga Malaysia
Malaysia	The Malaysian Family Medicine Specialists' Association
Malta	Malta College Of Family Doctors
Mexico	Federación Mexicana de Especialistas y Residentes en Medicina Familiar
Mongolia	Mongolian Association Of Family Medicine Specialists
Morocco	Collectif National des Médecins Généralistes du Maroc
Myanmar	Myanmar Medical Association, General Practitioners' Society
Nepal	General Practice and Emergency Medicine Association of Nepal
Netherlands	Dutch College of General Practitioners Nederlands Huisartsen Genootschap
New Zealand	The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners
Nicaragua	Asociacion Nicaraguense de Medicina Familiar
Nigeria	Association of Nigerian Private Medical Practitioners
Nigeria	Faculty of Family Medicine, National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria
North Macedonia	Association of General Practitioners of North Macedonia
Norway	Norwegian College of General Practice Norsk Forening for Allmenmedisin, NFA
Oman	Oman Family and Community Medicine Society
Pakistan	Pakistan Society of Family Physicians, Lahore
Pakistan	College Of Family Medicine Pakistan
Palestinian Territory	Palestinian association of family medicine
Panama	Asociacion Panameña de Medicina Familiar
Paraguay	Paraguayan Society of Family Medicine
Peru	Peruvian Society of Family and Community Medicine/Sociedad Peruana De Medicina Familiar Y Comunitari
Philippines	Philippine Academy of Family Physicians
Poland	The College of Family Physicians in Poland Kolegium Lekarzy Rodzinnych w Polsce
Portugal	Portuguese Association of General Practice and Family Medicine
Romania	Romanian National Society of Family Medicine
Russia	All Russian Fund - Association of General Practitioners of Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine
Serbia	Section of General Practice of Serbian Medical Society
Singapore	College of Family Physicians Singapore
Slovak Republic	Slovenská spoločnosť všeobecného praktického lekárstva
Slovenia	The Slovenian Medical Association Slovenian Association of Family Physicians
South Africa	South African Academy of Family Physicians
Spain	SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE MEDICINA DE FAMILIA Y COMUNITARIA
Sri Lanka	College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka
Sweden	Swedish College of General Practice Svensk forening for allmanmedicin
Switzerland	Swiss Society of General Internal Medicine
Syria	Syrian Association of Family Medicine
Taiwan	Chinese Taipei Association of Family Medicine
Tajikistan	Public Organization National Association of Family Medicine Workers of Tajikistan
Thailand	The General Practitioners/Family Physicians Association of Thailand
Turkey	Turkish Association of Family Physicians
Uganda	Association of Family Physicians of Uganda
Ukraine	Ukrainian Association Of Family Medicine

Full Member Organizations

United Arab Emirates	Emirates Family Medicine Society
United Kingdom	Royal College of General Practitioners
United States	Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
United States	American Academy of Family Physicians
Uruguay	Uruguayan Society of Family Medicine Sociedad Uruguaya de Medicina Familiar Comunitaria
Venezuela	Sociedad Venezolana de Medicina Familiar
Vietnam	Vietnam Association of Family Physicians
Zambia	Association of Family Physicians of Zambia
Zimbabwe	The College of Primary Care Physicians of Zimbabwe

Associate Member Organizations

Country	Associate Member Organization
Australia	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
Cambodia	Mercy Medical Center Cambodia
China	Cross-Straits Medicine Exchange Association Committee of International and Medicine
Latvia	Rural Family Doctors Association of Latvia
New Zealand	Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network
Nigeria	Society of Family Physicians of Nigeria
Philippines	Foundation for Family Medicine Educators, Inc
Poland	Polish Society of Family Medicine
Slovak Republic	Society of General Practitioners of Slovakia
Spain	Sociedad Española de Médicos de Atención Primaria
Spain	Sociedad Española de Médicos Generales y de Familia
Turkey	Turkish Family Medicine Foundation
United States	American Board of Family Medicine
United States	Association of Departments of Family Medicine

Organizations in Collaborative Relations

Country	Organization in Collaborative Relations
Switzerland	WHO
Belgium	The Network: TUFH
Denmark	International Federation of Medical Students' Associations
Italy	International Society of Doctors for the Environment
Kenya	Institute of Family Medicine of Kenya Trust
Netherlands	International Primary Care Cardiovascular Society
Switzerland	World Federation of Public Health Associations
Switzerland	International Hospital Federation
United Kingdom	EACH: International Association for Communication in Healthcare
United Kingdom	Dept. of General Practice and Primary Care - International Primary Care Respiratory Group
United States	World Federation for Mental Health
United States	North American Primary Care Research Group

WONCA Regional Presidents 2023-2025



DR JANE NAMATOVU - UGANDA
WONCA AFRICA PRESIDENT

DR BRIAN CHANG - TAIWAN
WONCA ASIA PACIFIC PRESIDENT



DR ABDULAZIZ AL-MAHREZI - OMAN
WONCA EAST MEDITERRANEAN PRESIDENT



PROF SHLOMO VINKER - ISRAEL
WONCA EUROPE PRESIDENT



DR DORA BERNAL - COLOMBIA
WONCA IBEROAMERICANA-CIMF PRESIDENT



DR VICTOR NG - CANADA
WONCA NORTH AMERICA PRESIDENT



DR K SRIRANJAN - SRI LANKA
WONCA SOUTH ASIA PRESIDENT



WONCA Regional Presidents 2025-2027



PROF BOB MASH - SOUTH AFRICA
WONCA AFRICA PRESIDENT

DR BRIAN CHANG - TAIWAN
WONCA ASIA PACIFIC PRESIDENT



PROF DR FAISAL AL NASER - BAHRAIN
WONCA EAST MEDITERRANEAN PRESIDENT

PROF DR THOMAS FRESE - GERMANY
WONCA EUROPE PRESIDENT



DR DORA BERNAL - COLOMBIA
WONCA IBEROAMERICANA-CIMF PRESIDENT

DR TANIA WHITBY-BEST - BARBADOS
WONCA NORTH AMERICA PRESIDENT



ASSOC PROF PRAMENDRA PRASAD - NEPAL
WONCA SOUTH ASIA PRESIDENT

Africa Region

Executive Board

President-Elect, Prof. Bob Mash

Immediate Past-President, Dr. Dan Abubakar

General Secretary, Dr. Oluwaseun Olusola

Afriwon Representative, Dr. Mercy Wanjala

Members at Large, Dr. Nana Kwame Ayisi-Boateng & Prof. Abraham

Gyuse Honorary Treasurer, Dr. Innocent Besigye

Activities 2025

- Participated in several WHO engagement meetings, in June (Quality Improvement in Emergency, Critical, and Operative care), in June (stakeholder meeting on clinical trial research) and in August the 74th WHO AFRO Regional Committee session.
- Celebrations of World Family Doctor Day on May 19th, 2024 in each Member Organization with the theme 'Healthy planet, healthy people'. -Organizing the WONCA Africa Regional Conference that took place in June 2024 in Nairobi-Kenya.
- AFRO PHC has held monthly online CPD workshops for healthcare providers in primary care settings of the WONCA Africa Region.
- An annual two-day physical Primafamed meeting with key stakeholders was held in June 2024 in Nairobi Kenya to strengthen Family Medicine education and research in the region.
- Quarterly online meetings were held with the leaders of the various WONCA member organizations and WONCA academic institutions in the region.
- Executive meetings were held every second Tuesday of the month in 2024.
- Monthly online Primafamed workshops are conducted to improve Family Medicine education and research capacity in the region.
- Family Medicine and Primary Care project of setting up WHO collaborating centers on education and research at Stellenbosch University, Family Medicine at Makerere, and CERRUD, Benin. -Published an editorial in the Primary Health Care & Family Medicine journal (the official journal for WONCA Africa) titled 'The road to defining African family medicine core values' following an initiative by WONCA World.
- Formation of a new college (College of Family Physicians of East Central and Southern Africa (ECSA CFP), an initiative supported by primafamed to increase training in Family Medicine in the region.

Collaborations with WPs/SIGs

- Working Party on Women & Family Medicine at the June WONCA Africa Regional Conference, in preconference activities and conference workshops.
- Working Party on Mental Health at the June WONCA Africa Regional Conference, in conference workshops.



Africa Region

Collaborations with Young Doctor Movements

- In June at the 8th WONCA Africa Regional Conference, the Young Doctor Movement, AFRIWON had preconference activities (a one-day workshop and visits to primary care facilities serving the communities in Nairobi-Kenya).
- Research mentorship through the Afriwon Research Collaboration (ARC) was conducted and an evaluation was conducted, details are in a publication in the Primary Health Care & Family Medicine journal titled 'Evaluating the implementation of online research training and mentorship among early-career family physicians in sub-Saharan Africa'.



Future Plans for 2026

- A PHC conference.
- Monthly Executive meetings.
- A primafamed stakeholders meeting in Zambia.
- The 75th WHO AFRO Regional Committee session.
- Writing a short report and grant on advocacy for Family Medicine in the African region.
- Holding annual Family Medicine meetings and activities before and on World Family Doctor Day (19th May).
- Attend a physical meeting in Ethiopia with members of the Family Physicians' Association.
- Formation and institutionalization of a Regional Organizational Equity Committee for Africa.
- Monthly online workshops with primafamed and online CPD sessions conducted by AFRO PHC.



Asia Pacific Region

Executive Board

- President: Dr. Brian CHANG
- Honorary Secretary: Dr. Aileen Espina
- Honorary Treasurer: Dr. Tesshu KUSABA
- Members at Large:
 - Dr. PingFoo WONG
 - Dr. Shinn Jang HWANG
 - Dr. Zhigang PAN
 - Dr. Leilanie Nicodemus
- Chair, The Rajakumar Movement (TRM): Dr. Michael Angelo Aeteza

Activities 2025

In 2025, the focus shifted from event-based participation to sustained influence on policy leadership, academic contribution, and regional advocacy.

Regional and World Conferences

- April 2025 (Busan, Korea): Presided over the APR Council Meeting. Endorsed the statement on “Strengthening Primary Care and Supporting the Medical Community in Korea”.
- September 2025 (Lisbon, Portugal): Formally inaugurated as APR Regional President for the second term (2025–2027) at the WONCA World Conference.

Key Initiatives

- Core Values Statement: Developed through a review of 19 MOs and a workshop with 37 physicians. Scheduled for endorsement in Iloilo, March 2026.
- APR Book Project: Led the flagship initiative titled:
 - Transforming Primary Care: The WONCA Asia Pacific Region’s Journey in Family Medicine.
 - Features contributions from over 10 Member Organizations.
 - Foreword by the WONCA World President.
 - Publication planned for 2026.

Regional Advocacy Highlights

- May 2025 (Shanghai): Keynote on AI and digital health in primary care at the Shanghai Medical Association.
- June 2025 (Sapporo, Japan): Plenary lecture on climate change at the JPCA Annual Conference, emphasizing the Declaration on Planetary Health.
- October 2025 (Mongolia): Keynote on APR achievements and policies at the 30th Anniversary of MAFMS.
- World Family Doctor Day: Promoted activities on May 19, reinforcing the message “Every Family a Family Doctor”.



Asia Pacific Region



Collaborations

Collaboration in 2025 prioritized international organizations and the next generation of doctors.

WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO)

- Representation: Dr. Aileen Espina and Dr. Leilanie Nicodemus attended the WPRO Regional meeting in October 2025.
- Advocacy: Presented statements on planetary health and mental health for health workers.
- Future Engagement: Invited WPRO Regional Director, Dr. Saia Ma'u Piukala, to keynote the 2026 APR Conference.

Medical Students (IFMSA)

- Geneva Meeting (May 2025): Met with IFMSA President Ms. Hana during the World Health Assembly.
- Initiative: Proposed providing 3–5 free registrations for medical students to attend Rajakumar Movement activities in Iloilo 2026.

World Medical Association (WMA)

- Porto Assembly (October 2025): Attended the WMA General Assembly.
- Partnership: Discussed collaboration with the WMA Junior Doctors Network (JDN) on climate change and humanitarian issues.



Asia Pacific Region

Future Plans for 2026

Priorities for the 2025–2027 term focus on policy leadership, equity, and the next generation.

Strategic Priorities

1. Academic & Policy Leadership:

- Complete and disseminate the APR Book Project.
- Focus policy on NCDs and mental health for health workers.

2. Global Partnerships:

- Deepen ties with WHO and WPRO to translate policy into action (healthcare resilience, climate change, NCDs).
- Engage with WMA to amplify the voice of family medicine.

3. Equity & Organizational Development:

- Implement the Organizational Equity Committee to address geographic and gender challenges.
- Expand representation to Pacific Islands, specifically Samoa, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, and Palau.

4. Supporting Young Doctors:

- Launch a mentorship program (joined by CTAFM, PAFP, and HKCFP).
- Continue free conference registrations for students via IFMSA.

Emerging Topics for 2026

APR will integrate the following themes into forums and conferences:

- Artificial Intelligence & Digital Health
- Planetary Health & Climate Change
- Palliative & End-of-Life Care
- Mental Health Support

"My goal is to ensure that the Asia Pacific Region remains a strong, inclusive, and forward-looking contributor to WONCA." — Dr. Brian CHANG

East Mediterranean Region

Executive Board

- Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Mahrezi - WONCA EMR President
- Prof. Faisal Alnaser – WONCA EMR President Elect
- Prof. Taghreed Farahat - Immediate Past Chair
- Prof. Nagwa Nashat - WONCA EMR Honorary Secretary
- Dr. Mona Osman - WONCA EMR Treasurer
- Dr. Suha Hamshari - Member at Large
- Dr. Muntadher Sad - Member at Large
- Dr. Ashraf Amir - Member at Large
- Dr. Adel Yasky - Young Doctor Movement Lead

Activities 2025

- The ninth WONCA EMR Congress, Tangier, Morocco (2025):
 - Held under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI.
 - Opening ceremony led by Dr. Fatima Zohra Mchich Alami with addresses by Dr. Karen Flegg (WONCA President) and Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Mahrezi (WONCA EMR President).
 - Theme: “Digital Horizons in Medical Education and Healthcare” – focusing on innovation, system strengthening, and regional collaboration.
- Progress on Regional Professional Diploma:
 - New cohort commenced training in March 2025.
 - Accreditation of new family medicine training centers initiated in countries previously without such programs.
 - A landmark step toward standardized, sustainable workforce development.
- Strengthening Regional Governance:
 - Establishment of core committees: Nominations, Finance, Bylaws, and Scientific.
 - Improved decentralization and transparency in decision-making.
- Media and Communication Engagement:
 - Three newsletters published by end of 2025.
 - Hundreds of social media posts across platforms, enhancing visibility and knowledge sharing.
 - Strengthened professional networking and member engagement.
- Membership Expansion:
 - Formal admission of the Libyan Society of Family Medicine.
 - Broadened representation and inclusivity within the region.



East Mediterranean Region



- Executive Meetings:
 - Monthly virtual meetings held throughout the two-year period.
 - Focused on regional collaborations, strategic initiatives, and advancing family medicine across the Eastern Mediterranean region.
- Support for National Conferences:
 - Active support provided to conferences in Lebanon, UAE, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco.
 - Continued scientific collaborations with regional academies strengthened academic exchange and knowledge sharing.
- Celebration of World Family Doctor Day (WFDD):
 - Executive board emphasized mental health as a regional priority.
 - Dissemination of the official WONCA toolkit to member organizations and encouraged widespread community-based participation and interventions.

Collaboration with WHO

- Strategic Partnership with WHO EMRO:
 - WONCA EMR has maintained strong collaboration with the WHO, particularly EMRO.
 - This partnership is reflected in the consistent inclusion of WHO-led sessions at regional congresses, ensuring alignment with global health priorities.
- WHO Engagement at WONCA EMR Congresses:
 - The ninth WONCA EMR Congress, Morocco (2025):
 - WHO EMRO session led by Dr. Saeed Soliman
 - Focus: History of WHO EMRO–WONCA EMR collaboration and ongoing joint initiatives.
- Regional Professional Diploma:
 - A new cohort commenced in March 2025, supported by WHO EMRO’s emphasis on standardized training across the region.
- Participation in WHO Regional Committee:
 - WONCA EMR President attended the 71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean in Doha, Qatar.
 - Theme: “Health Beyond Borders: Solidarity for Access and Equity in the EMR.”
 - Provided a platform for WONCA EMR to engage with regional health leaders, reinforcing family medicine’s role in health system strengthening.

East Mediterranean Region

Collaboration with Young Doctor Movements

- The YDM is fully embedded within regional governance.
- Dr. Adel Yasky, YDM representative, serves as a standing member of the Executive Board.
- Ensures the voices of early-career family doctors are consistently represented in decision-making.

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Europe Region

Executive Board

- Shlomo Vinker, President of WONCA Europe
- Thomas Frese, WONCA Europe President-Elect
- Zalika Klemenc Ketis, Hon. Treasurer of WONCA Europe
- Radost Assenova, EGPRN, member at large
- Jose-Miguel Bueno-Ortiz, EQUIP, member at large
- Aaron Poppleton, EYFDM, member at large
- Ferdinando Petrazzuoli, EURIPA, member at large
- Serdar Oztora, EUROPREV, member at large
- Eva Hummers, Hon. Secretary of WONCA Europe
- Adam Windak, EURACT, member at large

Activities 2025

- **Visibility** - We continued our membership in the European Medicines Agency (EMA) committees for primary care. We improved bilateral ties with UEMO and EFEC. We also began our involvement in the EU Parliament, promoting family medicine through our newly established Working Party on Policy Advocacy.
- **Scientific and professional engagement** – We are currently involved in 9 EU projects and submit about five new consortia grant applications each year. We also maintain bilateral collaborations with other scientific organizations across Europe, including those in Psychiatry, Nephrology, Metabolism, and Obesity, as well as the Midwives organization and the Pain Association, among others.
- **Financial strength and stability** - after the COVID pandemic, we created an effective containment plan to cut costs and diversify income sources. This includes partnering with leading CME companies for educational grants, pursuing European grants and projects, and strengthening existing financial agreements.
- **Operational** - We significantly increased our followers on social media and our mailing list to over 20,000 (more than doubling in two years). We successfully published a monthly newsletter and maintained a website with updated, comprehensive content. We hosted scientific and professional webinars.
- **After winning the bid to host the WONCA conference as the WE region**, we underwent intensive years of preparations, resulting in more than 4,000 submitted abstracts and approximately 4,000 expected participants in Lisbon.
- **European Journal of General Practice (EJGP)** - Our journal transitioned smoothly to a new editor-in-chief, and it is a Q1 journal in general medicine. The acceptance rate is 18%, meaning less than one in five submissions is accepted. The journal is financially supported by WE and is managed by T&F.
- **WONCA Europe has six networks (NWs), nine special interest groups (SIGs), and the WP on policy advocacy.** All had extensive and productive activities in the last two year: running Conferences, meetings, courses, and webinars. These activities include thousands of family physicians from both Europe and outside of Europe.
- **WONCA Europe held numerous webinars:**
 - **Enhancing Obesity Care: EASO & WONCA Europe Webinar for Family Doctors and Primary Care Physicians**
 - **Practical application of Lifestyle Medicine and Social Prescribing in daily clinical practice**
- **Project: Social Prescribing for Health: Exploring the role of social prescribing in improving patient outcomes.**

Europe Region

WONCA Europe ACTIVITIES 2024-2025



Europe Region

Collaboration with WHO

- WONCA Europe strengthened its connections with the WHO Europe region through several projects, such as joining the WHO/EU Evidence into Action Alcohol (EVID-ACTION) initiative and the Stakeholder Engagement for Strategy Developing on Ageing—Civil Societies and Non-State Actors.
- Action Alcohol (EVID-ACTION) initiative
 - [Link to the manual](#)
 - The project took several years to complete, and Prof. Ungan represented WE in the long journey from the concept to the final product.
 - The final version emphasizes the importance of brief interventions, which are effective measures endorsed by WHO to assist individuals in quitting tobacco, reducing alcohol intake, and promoting physical activity, healthy eating, and weight management.
 - Main ideas:
 - Prophylactic Programs
 - Risk Factors.
 - Primary Care.
 - Effectiveness.
 - Measurement.

Iberoamerica Region

Executive Board

- President 2023-2025: Dr. Dora Patricia Bernal Ocampo (Colombia)
- President-Elect 2025-2027: Dr. Dora Patricia Bernal Ocampo (Colombia)
- Immediate Past President: Dr. Jaqueline Ponzó (Uruguay)
- Vice President of Mesoamerica: Dr. Gad Gamed Zavala (Mexico)
- Vice President of the Andean Subregion: Dr. Edwin Rodríguez (Bolivia)
- Vice President of the Southern Cone: Dr. Andrea Didier (Chile)
- Vice President of Iberia: Dr. André Reis (Portugal)
- Waynakay: Dr. Alejandra Leon (Colombia)
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Dr. Thomas Meoño (Costa Rica)
- Honorary Treasurer: Dr. Marina Almenas (Puerto Rico)
- Communications Officer: Orlando José Mora Segura (Costa Rica)

Activities 2025

- Monitoring of the Strategic Plan with adjustments based on the observations of the CIMF presidents.
- Monthly meetings throughout the year.
- Introductory course for teachers of the master's degree in Medical Sciences, specializing in Family and Community Medicine at the University of San Carlos of Guatemala. An agreement between the Guatemalan Institute of Social Security (IGSS), the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), the University of San Carlos of Guatemala, and the Ibero-American Confederation of Family Medicine (CIMF) in February and March 2024.
- Support for the University of Guatemala to continue the master's degree program in Family and Community Medicine.
- Participation of Guatemalan officials in the Ibero-American Congress of Family Medicine in Panama.
- Dialogues in Ibero-America as a participatory strategy with participants from different societies by subregion.
- Mesoamerica: 'Family Medicine Education: Past, Present, and Future' - Andean Region: 'Identity and Role of the Family Physician in Latin America'
- Southern Cone: 'Health and Environment' - Waynakay: 'Sexual Diversity in Primary Care in Latin America'
- Reactivation of existing Working Groups (WPs), strengthening them with coordinators to energize processes. Significant activity and contributions to the region.
- Motivation to generate networks for the CIMF WPs with those of WONCA.
- Progress in strengthening the dynamics and networks of CIMF WGs and with WONCA. - Joint activities of CIMF WPs with WONCA: Education, Mental Health, Research, and Quaternary Prevention.
- Progress in strengthening and adding new WPs (Ethics and Professionalism) and Special Interest Groups (Home Care).



Iberoamerica Region



- Participation in a webinar with the president-elect Dr. Viviana Martinez on Advocacy.
- Celebration of World Family Doctor's Day with a series of webinars related to the different WGs. Family Medicine Week was declared.
- Ibero- American Congress of Family Medicine and Family and Community Medicine held in October 2024.
- Symbolic signing of the MOU with PAHO by the assistant presidents at the congress.
- Special recognition at the congress to Dr. Inez Padula (Brazilian Society), selected as a candidate for the WONCA 5-Star Doctor competition, and to Dr. Zeliete Zambon (Brazilian Society) for her success in increasing the number of associates during her term.
- Formation of three Groups of Presidents of member societies and associations to review CIMF Statutes (key issues: number of societies per country and the election of members for the Executive Committee), Regulations of WPs, and Event Regulations (analysis of the situation of national congresses and events related to the Ibero-American and World Cups).
- Support for educational activities, discussions, and symposiums by CIMF member societies, WPs, and Waynakay.
- Formation of the Communications Committee to modernize and update the website, providing more robust information and offering participation from CIMF member magazines.
- Annual congresses of societies in most countries.
- Issuance of two quarterly Information Bulletins for CIMF presidents, outlining decisions made in the executive committee and matters of interest.
- Support to the Peruvian Society of Family Medicine for the positioning and development of the specialty.
- Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Course by the Ecuadorian Society of Family Medicine, held from January to October 2024.
- Launch of the Argentine Federation of Family and General Medicine in association with other Argentine societies in the 'Choosing Wisely Argentina' campaign. The first steps in deimplementing low-value practices: 'The first thing is to do no harm.'
- Extensive participation in the World WONCA Council.
- Request to the Organizing Committee of the Lisbon World Congress to allocate one day for Ibero-American Roundtables. - Organization of the IX Ibero-American Summit of Family Medicine, with the theme: 'Family and Community Medicine: More Necessary Than Ever.'

Iberoamerica Region

Collaborations with WPs/SIGs

- Support for the reorganization, validation, and development of activities for the Working Parties (WPs) and formation of new ones.
- Validation of data collection instruments and information systematization (Certification and IBIMEFA).
- Advice to countries requesting support from specific WPs (e.g., Certification).
- Participation of WPs in CIMF Family Doctor Week:
- Support to countries in the Certification and Recertification processes and integration of Artificial Intelligence in the Certification and Recertification processes. -
- Ongoing systematization of evaluation processes.
- Projects for 2025 include monthly meetings and proposing an educational module on Spirituality and Health at the postgraduate Family Medicine level in our countries, which can be taught by group members.



- Creation of a video in collaboration with WP on Mental Health and CIMF for Mental Health Day (October 10), which was disseminated on social media.
- Collaboration with International Networks: establishment of an active relationship with INTREPID to advance research on mental health in PHC and discussion of joint events with the Mexican network of researchers.
- Strategic Projects: A study on the state of Family Medicine in the region, documenting the development of Family and Community Medicine in Latin America through data collection and standardization of instruments.

Collaboration with Young Doctor Movements

- Advocacy for the participation of WAYNAKAY members in National Boards of Directors. Presidents recognize the importance of having members on their boards: Brazil commits to joining the board of directors, and Bolivia also intends to participate, though there are challenges due to statutes.
- Meetings with the Board of Directors of Waynakay Latin America and CIMF.
- Identification of young leaders in countries where the movement was not active for reactivation: Uruguay, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico.
- Participation in joint sessions with CIMF. - Visibility of the group with WONCA's elected president, Dr. Viviana Martínez, on issues of linguistic equity. Support with translation of webinars from youth groups in other regions.
- Reactivation of the movement in Venezuela and the Southern Cone.

Iberoamerica Region

- Sponsorship in progress, with the incorporation of members from several countries into the WG.
- Development of the Mentoring Program in conjunction with the global YDM from WAYNAKAY Latin America with subregional leaders.
- Participation in a webinar on Family Doctor Day. -
- Podcast to learn about the realities of family medicine from young doctors in Latin America.
- FM360 Exchanges in Latin America certified by CIMF.
- Participation in YDM's ASPIRE program, conducting research to identify burnout among family doctors worldwide.

Collaboration with External Groups

- Participation in the PAHO Diabetes Mellitus Expert Advisory Group: Work on formulating guidelines to create a comprehensive approach to diabetes in the Americas.
- Collaboration with the International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRCG) on the Asthma Right Care and COPD Right Care projects in Latin America.
- Agreement with the Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension (SLANH) for continuing education for CIMF members.

Collaboration with WHO

- Development of a Research Protocol to assess the situation of Family Medicine specialty in the Americas.
- Launch of the PAHO-WONCA Survey to a representative sample of CIMF societies, which will serve as the basis for research on the situation of Family Medicine/Family and Community Medicine professionals in the Region.
- Invitation to CIMF as an Observer at the 61st Directing Council of PAHO and the 76th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Americas, held from September 30 to October 4 in Washington.

Future Plans for 2026

- IX Ibero-American Summit of Family Medicine in Montevideo, and the IX Subregional Congress of the Southern Cone and XII Uruguayan Congress, scheduled for March 2025.
- Annual congresses of each country and other GT activities in 2025.
- Monitoring of the Strategic Plan, incorporating improvements based on lessons learned and contributions from the previous Board of Directors meeting.
- Strategic Plan:
 - Promotion of Family Medicine;
 - Generation of Value for Societies;
 - Achieve Financial Stability.



North America Region

Activities 2025

During this past year, we had a very successful regional convening meeting. My thanks to the American Academy of Family Physicians for hosting the meeting in conjunction with their annual FMX conference in Phoenix, Arizona. This was a half day event which was a first for the WONCA North America region. All the full member organizations of the region (AAFP, STFM, CCFP and CFPC) collaborated to plan and deliver the contents of the event. The conference included a keynote session from Dr. Carlos Gonzales whose session “Addressing Challenges: Primary Care, Rural Health, Native American Health, The Border” laid the foundations for the event. The convening meeting included a workshop discussing the core values project from WONCA and also 3 breakout session workshops including:

1. Medical Education in North America
2. Impact of Climate Change on Clinical Care in North America
3. Community Medicine: Family Doctors as Connectors and Advocates for Health

The WONCA North American Convening meeting also included a business meeting including all full and associate members of WONCA North America where a new North America regional operational guideline document was drafted and approved by the members. This has subsequently been approved by WONCA World executive committee.

Collaboration with WPs/SIGs

Members of the region are quite active in the WONCA WPs/SIGs. The WONCA NA president is currently also the chair of the WONCA Working Party on Education. Additionally, Dr. Paula Henry from the Caribbean region leads the WONCA Working Party on Women in Family Medicine North American regional activities. Dr. Muna Chowdhury from Canada is chair of the WONCA special interest group on adolescent health. There are a number of WONCA NA members who are active in WONCA WPs/SIGs.

Collaboration with Young Doctor Movements

The WONCA NA region has a YDM known as WONCA Polaris. They have developed a mentorship program connecting young doctors and trainees with experienced family doctors. Additionally they have developed a webinar series which has included presenters from the North American Region. WONCA Polaris was also a member of the planning committee for the inaugural WONCA NA convening meeting and had an opportunity to present posters and a large group session highlighting their activities.

Collaboration with WHO

We are continuing to work with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to sign a memorandum of understanding. We were also invited to the PAHO council and a representative from both WONCA North America and Ibero-Americana were invited to attend.

Future Plans for 2026

We will be hosting another convening meeting which is being planned to be hosted in conjunction with the AAFP FMX conference in Anaheim, USA. A business in person meeting will be planned in conjunction with the WONCA World meeting in Lisbon later this year.

South Asia Region

Executive Board

- President: Dr Pramendra Prasad Gupta, Nepal
- Past President: Dr K Sri Ranjan, Sri Lanka
- President Elect: Dr Firoz Ahmed, Bangladesh
- Honorary Secretary: Dr Sankha Randenikumara, Sri Lanka
- Honorary Treasurer; Dr Bikash Gauchan, Nepal
- Education Secretary: Dr Tabinda Ashfaq, Pakistan
- Members at Large: Dr Shyamallee Samaranayaka, Sri Lanka - Dr Jyotika Gupta Doshi, India - Dr. AR Gobith, Sri Lanka
- Young Doctor Representative: Dr Vishnu BS, India

Activities 2025

- A business in person meeting will be planned in South Asia Regional Conference in Bengaluru, India on 4th to 6th April 2025.
- Global Rural Health Summit 2025 in Bengaluru India on 3rd April 2025
- More than 15 WONCA SAR Executive Committee meeting Online with in person meeting during WONCA SAR Conference in Bengaluru, India and In Lisbon during WONCA WORLD Conference.
- President Elect Dr Pramendra Prasad Gupta Participated in a DIGITAL HEALTH SANS BORDER, a global collaborative movement launched in Geneva at WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY SIDE EVENT on 19th May 2025
- Organized Core value workshop/Panel discussion during the WONCA SAR Regional Conference 2025.

Collaboration with WPs/SIGs

We initiated 3 new WPs/SIGs on regional Level and planned to initiated more aligned with the WONCA WPs/SIGs. The different Regional WPs/SIGs done more than 30 Webinars in different subject matter interested by family Physicians.

Collaboration with Young Doctor Movements

The Spice Route, Young Doctor Movements of South Asia Region organized the pre-conference during the WONCA SAR Regional Conference on 3rd April in Bengaluru, India. The Young Doctors Movements also organized few webinars . The Spice Route had an election and formed new committee led by DR. VS Vishnu from India who take lead during the WONCA WORLD CONFERENCE in LISBON.



South Asia Region

Collaborations with WHO

- Some member organization of the member countries are closely working with WHO in their respective country.

Future Plans for 2026

To Strengthen the collaborative research and exchange program throughout the region. To establish common educational program/ fellowship in the region To emphasize the leadership training and advocacy in the region WONCA South Asia Regional Conference in 2026. To collaborate with the WHO other external Collaborator in advocacy for Primary care, Rural Health, NCDs and Digital Innovations. To establish few WPs/SIGs regional Committee



Working Parties and Special Interest Groups

WP on Education

WP on eHealth

WP on Ethics and Professionalism

WP on International Classification (WICC)

WP on Mental Health

WP on Research

WP on Rural Practice

WP on Women and Family Medicine

SIG on Adolescent & Young Adult Care

SIG on Ageing & Health

SIG on Cancer & Palliative Care

SIG on Complexities in Health

SIG on Emergency Medicine

SIG on Emerging Practice Models for Family Medicine

SIG on Family Violence

SIG on Integrative Medicine

SIG on Migrant Care, Int Health & Travel Medicine

SIG on Point of Care Testing

SIG on Policy Advocacy

SIG on Quaternary Prevention & Overmedicalization



WP on Education

Chair - Dr Victor Ng

Report submitted by Dr Victor Ng and Dr Nagwa Nashat Hegazy



Executive Board

- Nagwa Nashat Hegazy (Chair Elect, Egypt)
- Brunee Dorsett (YDM, Bahamas)
- Bola Fatusin (YDM, Ghana)
- Krishna Suvarnabhumi (Thailand)
- Marie Andrades (Treasurer, Pakistan)
- Laura Goldman (USA)
- Carmen Cabezas (Ecuador)
- Fabian Dupont (Germany)
- Akye Essuman (Ghana)

Description of the WP

The WONCA Working Party on Education will support high quality education, training, assessment and continuing professional development in general practice / family medicine for medical students, doctors in training, and established general practitioners and family doctors.

Activities 2025

- A major milestone in 2025 was the release of the updated WONCA Global Standards for Postgraduate Medical Education in September. This revision, initiated in 2021, was led by Prof. Victor Ng (Canada), Prof. Nagwa Nashat (Egypt), and Prof. Marie Andrades (Pakistan). Through a comprehensive literature review and extensive consultations with global stakeholders—including focus groups and the WWPE executive—the new framework builds on the 2013 standards to reflect the evolving needs of family medicine training. Organized into nine key areas (e.g., Mission and Outcomes, Training Process, Assessment), the standards are structured at two levels—basic and quality development—to accommodate diverse programmatic contexts worldwide. They serve as a guide for new program development, self-assessment, and formal accreditation. The updated standards document can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/Groups/Education/WONCA%20Global%20Standards%20for%20Postgraduate%20Medical%20Education%202025.07.20.pdf>

WWPE Activities in Lisbon

- WWPE Pre-Conference Meeting & Networking : Ahead of the main WONCA World Conference in Lisbon, the WWPE convened a dedicated pre-conference meeting focused on connection and strategic planning. The gathering brought together members and executive leaders to strengthen professional bonds, reflect on organizational milestones, and discuss the future direction of the Working Party. A key moment during the gathering was the formal handover of leadership from outgoing Chair Prof. Victor Ng to incoming Chair Prof. Nagwa Nashat Hegazy, marking a smooth transition and continuity for the Working Party's future work. The session also provided a valuable opportunity for networking and collaboration among family medicine educators from across the globe.

WP on Education

- Educational Workshops at the Conference: During the main conference, the WWPE delivered two impactful workshops advancing the conversation on family medicine education. The first, "Competency-Based Education: Transforming Undergraduate and Postgraduate Medical Training" (ID 2946), took place on 18 September 2025. Led by Nagwa Hegazy (Egypt), Laura Goldman (USA), and Victor Ng (Canada), the session explored the shift toward competency-based curricula to ensure measurable learner outcomes. The second workshop, "Empowering future family physicians: 21st century skills for success" (ID 619), held on 21 September 2025, focused on equipping trainees with essential non-clinical competencies such as adaptability, digital literacy, and systems-based practice. It was facilitated by Eva Irene Maglonzo (Philippines), Victor Ng (Canada), and Krishna Suvarnabhumi (Thailand). Together, these sessions underscored the importance of transforming medical education to foster both clinical excellence and professional resilience.

Collaboration with Young Doctor Movements

We have two young doctor movement members on our executive committee. We have also worked with the YDMs to consider creating new initiatives including webinars and mentoring programs.

Future Plans for 2026

We will continue to identify possible projects to collaborate with other Working Parties and Special Interest Groups. In particular, we are in discussions with the adolescent health special interest group to collaborate on educational modules. We will continue to work with the WHO to identify projects related to education as they become available.



WP on eHealth



Chair: Assoc Prof Ana Luisa Neves / Deputy Chair: Dr Edmond Li

Executive Board

- Dr Hüsna Sarıca Çevik
- Dr Joana Teixeira
- Dr Raluca Zoitanu
- Dr Steven van de Vijver
- Dr Vinicius Anjos de Almeida

Description of the WP

The vision of the WONCA Working Party on Digital Health is that digital health becomes a core component of general practice / family medicine / primary health care training, scholarship, and clinical practice in all nations.

Our mission is to promote thought leadership, knowledge exchange, and international collaboration to advance the science and implementation of digital health in primary care, with a focus on digital literacy, medical education, capacity building, accelerating the quintuple aim, addressing the digital divide, and supporting vulnerable populations.

Activities 2025

- Over the past year, we kept growing our WP, thanks to focused effort on enhancing visibility through our activities and targeted campaigns in social media channels. As of now, our membership portal total, launched January 2025, totals 113 members (+20% increase in membership from last year).
- Elections were held this year, resulting in the appointment of a new Executive Board in October 2025. The current Board includes continuing members from the previous term (Ana Luísa Neves and Steven van de Vijver), alongside newly elected members Edmond Li, Joana Teixeira, Vinicius Almeida, and Raluca Zoitanu.
- To support delivery of our strategic priorities, we restructured the Executive Board with clearly defined workstreams and dedicated leadership roles. This governance model strengthens accountability, coordination, and impact across core areas of activity.
 - Dr Hüsna Sarıca Çevik – Workstream Lead, Training and Capacity Building
 - Dr Joana Teixeira – Workstream Lead, Community and Engagement
 - Dr Vinicius Anjos de Almeida – Workstream Lead, Research
- We launched the book *Digital Health in Primary Care*, edited by Associate Professors Ana Luísa Neves and Luísa Laranjo. The volume brings together contributions from more than 50 members of our global network and reflects diverse regional perspectives on digital transformation in primary care.



WP on eHealth

- We continued to develop our flagship research project, “Digital Health Training Needs”, a sequential mixed-methods research programme. This includes a scoping review, an international survey, focus groups, and a consensus exercise aimed at developing evidence-based recommendations on how to embed digital health training within undergraduate and postgraduate health curricula. To date, we have completed a global survey mapping digital health curricula across more than 60 countries in all WONCA regions and concluded focus groups to identify emerging and unmet training needs.
- We published an academic piece at the Canadian Journal of General Practice (Keith Thompson, Ana Luísa Neves, Azar Varahra Vigeh, Steven van de Vijver, Karen Kinder, Liliana Laranjo and Tom Freeman), in which we revisited Ian McWhinney’s principles in the digital health age. As an ecosystem, it is pressing to reflect on which strategies can be implemented so the principles are protected, and whether they need to be revisited in light of the emerging challenges of new service delivery models of care. We develop recommendations that directly link to McWhinney’s principles: family physicians understand patient digital literacy and adapt consultations to enhance doctor-patient relationships; family physicians leverage digital knowledge democratization to partner with patients, improving health literacy and preventive care; family physicians advocate for equitable digital health access, ensuring technologic advances promote inclusive care; and family physicians prioritize compassionate relationships over technologic demands in digitized health care systems. The [full paper](#) is available online.
- The WP had a strong presence in WONCA World 2025 in Lisbon, including our WP eHealth Preconference Meeting, participation in WONCA’s Collaboration Hub, the Official Launch of the book ‘Digital Health for Primary Care’, a workshop on Digital Health Equity (led by Dr Steven van de Vijver), and a presentation on the ‘Evolving Training Needs in General Practice/Family Medicine’ led by Joana Teixeira.
- Collaboration with Other WPs/SIGs
- Our ongoing Flagship Research Project “Digital Training Needs in Primary Care” is a collaboration with the WP Research and SIG Policy Advocacy. As outlined below, we were involved in workshops with WHO/OECD.

Collaboration with Young Doctor Movements

We have collaborated with the WONCA's Working Party on Ethics and Professionalism, contributing with feedback to a position statement on the ethical use of artificial intelligence in primary care, currently under development. We are also preparing a joint webinar between the WONCA WP on Digital Health & EYFDM Digital Health & AI SIG webinar on AI and Health Equity (in Primary Care), to take place June 2026.



WP on eHealth

Collaboration with WHO

- Assoc Prof Ana Luisa Neves joined the WONCA delegation (Viviana Martinez-Bianchi M.D. (President-Elect), Dr. Harris Lygidakis (CEO), Prof María Pilar Astier Pena (WHO Liaison Officer), and Prof José M. (Chema) Valderas (WP on Quality and Safety). She acted as panelist at the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly (WHA78), Geneva (May 2025), for the session “Empowering Primary Health Care with Digital Intelligence for Universal Health Coverage”.
- WONCA World Delegation at the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly (WHA78), Geneva (May 2025)
- Assoc Prof Ana Luisa Neves was also invited as panelist to the WHO/OECD joint webinar (May 2025), “Strengthening Telemedicine: Sustainable Practices and Policy Pathways for Health Systems.”

Future Plans for 2026

We will continue to co-design our vision and mission in close collaboration with our wider membership, including the organisation of an Annual Strategy Development Meeting open to all members. We are committed to actively engaging members across our workstreams and ensuring meaningful participation in the Working Party’s activities.

We will further advance our flagship research programme, which aims to develop evidence-based recommendations to support the integration of digital health training into undergraduate and postgraduate curricula. Under this umbrella, the Working Party on Digital Health is undertaking three research projects during the 2025–2026 period, focused on how digital health is currently taught in medical education and how future primary care training can better respond to evolving digital health needs. These include: (1) a scoping review of postgraduate digital health training; (2) focus groups with primary care physicians to identify key training gaps and opportunities to modernise curricula; and (3) an international review of undergraduate and postgraduate curricula from over 60 countries to identify optimal content, structure, and delivery approaches. Findings will be published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at major academic conferences (e.g. WONCA Europe Paris 2026, RCGP 2026).

In parallel, from April 2026, the Working Party will host a Digital Health Webinar Series featuring topic experts and practice-relevant content for primary care physicians globally, developed in collaboration with WONCA communications teams.

We will also strengthen partnerships with EYFDM, IFMSA, Royal Colleges, and academic institutions, explore sponsorship opportunities to enhance accessibility, and support the long-term sustainability of the Working Party.



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL HEALTH TRAINING

Online Focus Groups
Digital Health training needs in Primary Care

Thursday, 31st July or 5th August
5:00 PM (BST/ UTC+1) – London
12:00 PM (EDT) – NY, Toronto
6:00 PM (CEST) – Central Europe

SIGN UP NOW

Any questions? Contact us!
j.henra@imperial.ac.uk
edmond.l19@imperial.ac.uk
ana.luisa.neves14@imperial.ac.uk

WP on Ethics & Professionalism



Chair - Dr Tania Moerenhout

Executive Board

- Andrew Papanikitas (Deputy Chair)
- Tracy Jacovides
- Walter Jaoko
- Avni Patel (YDM representative)
- Amal Al Ali
- Issam Shaarani
- Ignaas Devisch
- Mariano Granero
- Carmen Nadal Agost
- Ross Upshur
- Tariq Aziz
- K. Sri Ranjan

Description of the WP

The Working Party on Ethics and Professionalism seeks to support primary care professionals with ethical dilemmas and tensions that arise in the daily clinical encounter, through education and policy.

Activities 2025

- The Working Party has spent a significant amount of time on the preparation of a position statement regarding the ethical use of AI in primary care. It has been challenging to capture an overview and recommendations on AI integration into primary care and its ethical aspects into a succinct document that is relevant to our everyday practice across the globe. The Working Party is now preparing a final draft that will be presented to other Working Parties and Special Interest Groups in 2025 before publishing this document.
- Andrew Papanikitas, our Deputy Chair, led a workshop together with other Board members presenting the work-in-progress on our AI ethics position statement at the WONCA Europe conference at the end of September. The workshop was well-attended, and this was an excellent opportunity to get feedback on our ideas and early draft. - We organised a webinar on cybersecurity and ethics for telemedicine in primary care early November, in collaboration with the Young Doctors Movement and Interpol. The webinar was also recorded and the recording is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xG0Arb9fPxU>
- Tania Moerenhout, our Chair, attended two conferences in Australasia that were relevant to the Working Party's activities. The first one was the inaugural clinical ethics colloquium of CESA, the Clinical Ethics Society of Australasia, and the second was AABHL, the Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law's annual conference. It was clear from both conferences that there is currently a gap in the provision of clinical ethics support in primary care, and the Working Party is examining whether it could make contributions to the development of such ethics support services in primary care as part of our goals in the next two years.

WP on Ethics & Professionalism

Collaboration with Young Doctor Movements

We collaborated with the Young Doctors movement to organise a webinar on cybersecurity and ethics for telemedicine in primary care. This was also a collaboration with Interpol. We have also been in touch with the WP on eHealth about the preparation of our position statement regarding the ethical use of AI in primary care, and they will provide feedback on our final draft once this is available.

Future Plans for 2026

We plan to complete a final draft of the AI ethics in primary care position statement, and to gather feedback on this document within WONCA through other relevant Working Parties and Special Interest Groups and ultimately the WONCA Board. We also plan to revise our goals for the next 2-4 years with a new Chair coming in at the time of the WONCA World Conference. One of the themes we are keen to explore is that of clinical ethics support for primary care.



WP on International Classification



Chair: Dr Gustavo Gusso

Executive Board

- Øystein Hetlevik
- Julie Gordon
- Elena Cardillo
- Preben Larsen

Description of the WP

The WONCA International Classification Committee (WICC) is WONCA's longest serving committee. It is a large group whose mission is to develop and maintain classifications that accommodate the complete domain of family medicine/general practice. The WICC has an impressive collection of publications including the International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC) which classifies patient data and clinical activity in the domains of general practice/family practice and primary care, taking into account the frequency distribution of problems seen in these domains. It allows classification of the patient's reason for encounter, the problems/diagnosis managed, interventions, and the ordering of these data in an episode of care structure.

Activities 2025

- Meeting to celebrate 50+ years of WICC
- Monthly executive meetings Annual meeting in Newcastle
- Workshop at WONCA Europe
- Support for the transition of the Foundation's actions
- Strategic meetings with WONCA leadership Invitation letter for new members to the major family medicine scientific associations
- I attended the WHO FIC annual meeting

Collaborations with Other WPs/SIGs

I took part in e-health activities such as a workshop during the EGPRN meeting



WP on Mental Health



Chair: Prof Christos Lionis

Executive Board

- Dr Marilena Anastasakis – Public Health Interface, Member at large (Europe)
- Dr Joseph Adekunle Ariba – Regional Vice-Chair (Africa)
- Dr Darien Cipta – Regional Vice-Chair (Asia Pacific)
- Dr Flavio Dias – Secondary care Interface, Member at large (Iberoamerica)
- Prof Christopher Dowrick – Past Chair (Europe)
- Dr. Emma C. Gilchrist (USA)
- Dr Pramendra Prasad Gupt – Regional Vice-Chair (South Asia)
- Dr James Jackson – Secondary care Interface, Member at large (North America)
- Dr Abdullah al Khatami – Regional Vice-Chair (EMR)
- Dr Phoebe Holdenson Kimara – Regional Vice-Chair, YDM Representative (Asia Pacific)
- Dr Juan Mendive – Secretary (Europe)
- Dr Alfredo Oliveira Neto – Regional Vice-Chair (Iberoamerica)
- Dr Daniel Ostergarde – Regional Vice-Chair (North America)
- Dr Ferdinando Petrazzuoli – Regional Vice-Chair (Europe)
- Dr Heather Rogers – Psychology Interface, Treasurer (Europe)
- Dr Ana Bertha Perez Villalva – Young Doctor Representative (Iberoamerica)

Description of the WP

We are in a particularly challenging time with a pandemic, conflicts, violence, wars, and an energy and ecological crisis. Healthcare systems are now struggling to attempt to tackle the resulting toll on mental health. It is time for primary health care (PHC) to take on greater leadership. Healthcare systems often have failed to meet the needs and expectations of people globally, and a key barrier has been the inability to implement a whole-person approach to care, especially in addressing the accelerated presentation of mental health conditions during this period of increased life-stressors and trauma. This pandemic has created an increased urgency to strengthen mental health systems in most countries. WWPMH's mission is to empower GPs, family doctors, and PHC practitioners and their care teams to improve the quality of care regarding the mental health status of their patients and, in parallel, their patients' access to behavioural health services.



WP on Mental Health



Activities 2025

Throughout 2025, a diverse range of activities were conducted. These included:

- Participation in global conferences and workshops at events such as the WONCA Conferences, including the World Conference in Lisbon, as well as the WONCA Regional Conference, including the WP on Rural Health, where we were involved in the approved and published declaration.
- We also continued collaborative projects, including the Advocacy Project with one international publication, the MDD Minds for Primary Care Project (with an evaluation meeting in Brussels and two international publications, the Five Steps (AlKhathami) Integration model with several national meetings, including one in Morocco and Tunisia, as well as the MHT project that supported doctors in settings affected by conflicts and disasters.
- Several proposals for training and research proposals have been made and submitted with the support of the WONCA Secretariat and the WONCA CEO.
- A new book titled 'Challenges in Primary Mental Health Care: Models for Interdisciplinary Collaboration' is being edited and presented at the WONCA Lisbon. Collaborations with WPs/SIGs: Collaborations with other WP/SIGs were established through meetings arranged by WONCA Global. A letter of interest was crafted for select institutions and networks with activities relevant to primary care and GP/FM. Collaboration with WHO: Collaborative efforts to advance joint activities under WHO's support are ongoing, mainly focusing on integrating mental health into primary care, and a mini-Conference for February 25 and 26, 2026, has been prepared.

Collaboration with Other WPs/SIGs

In particular with WP on Research, WP on Rural Practice and WP on Planetary Health.

Collaboration with Young Doctor Movements

We have established various collaborative pathways and members if this Movement are participating in the WP on Mental Health Steering Committee.

Collaboration with External Groups

WHO, World Psychiatric Association (WPA), European Psychiatric Association (EPA), World Federation of Mental Health, several Universities across the world, and national governmental and non-profit organisations.

WP on Mental Health



Collaboration with WHO

WHO-WONCA Mini Conference

<https://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/News/WHOWONCAMentalHealthPrimaryCare.aspx>

Future Plans for 2026

To continue the major collaborative projects, including MDD Minds, MHT, Five-steps, and several collaborative actions with national stakeholders, non-profit organisations, as well as to strengthen integrative activities with various WONCA WPs and SIGs.



WP on Research

Chair: Dr Mehmet Akman



Executive Board

- Felicity Goodyear-Smith
- Jose Maria Valderas Martinez
- Sairat Noknoy
- Nagwa Nashat
- Taghreed Farahat
- Bob Phillips
- Christos Lionis
- Lidia Caballero
- Bob Mash
- Mehmet Ugan
- Chris van Weel

Description of the WP

The WONCA Working Party on Research seeks to expand research in general practice (GP) /family medicine (FM) and welcomes interested family doctors to join. We aimed with our group to promote all university departments of FM/GP/primary health care (PHC) globally in supporting and engaging in research to provide essential evidence for informed clinical and health policy/decision-making and to support countries and regions in the promotion of FM/GP/PHC research in their respective nations.

Activities 2025

- We have chosen 2 liason person from YDMs. YDM opened vacation and selected appropriate candidates. Our executive voted to choose 2 of them. Finally we have two brilliant young doctors Antony Sunjaya and Stephen Engmann.
- We started a new book project which will be also published under WONCA series. The title is future perspectives of primary care research. We had already three positive official feedback and waiting for final official approval. The editors are Mehmet Akman, Bob Mash, Felicity Goodyear-Smith. We believe the book will have an significant impact and already authors has been reached out for various chapters.
- We launched a mentorship program for primary care research in collaboration with YDM. The coordinators are Mehmet Akman, Duygu Ayhan Başer, Antony Sunjaya and Stephen Engmann. YDM announced the call for mentees and more than 60 applications were received. From WWPR end we have allocated 21 mentors for approx 57 mentees. The mentorship will last 6 months. It started with a kick of meeting where Chris van Weel and Nunes Gill Conde were the keynote speakers. We will follow up the process and close the program with presentations of the mentees and good works among them will be endorsed for WONCA conferences.
- We started the process of updating our membership and planning the ever first online chair and ExBo elections using WONCA online election tool.

WONCA Working Party in Research Webinar Series

**Research Networks in Family Medicine:
international experiences in 3 countries**

23 April 2025 11 AM UTC

A/Prof. Tijani Oseni, Nigeria
Prof. Bob Mash, South Africa
Prof. Joyce Kenkre, United Kingdom

 Nigeria (UTC-5): 12:00 PM 23 April
South Africa (UTC+8): 1:00 PM 23 April
United Kingdom (UTC+13): 12:00 PM 23 April

**ZOOM Meeting
ID: 869 2930 2305
Password: 453346**

WONCA Working Party in Research Webinar Series

**Patient and Public Involvement in Family Medicine:
international experiences in 3 countries**

26 March 2025 12 AM UTC

Prof. Felicity Goodyear-Smith, University of Auckland, New Zealand
Dra. Sofia Cuba, Centro de Investigación en Atención Primary de Salud, Peru
Prof. Jose M Valderas, Department of Family Medicine, National University Health System, Singapore

 Peru (UTC-5): 7:00 PM 26 March
Singapore (UTC+8): 8:00 AM 26 March
New Zealand (UTC+13): 1:00 PM 26 March

WP on Research

Collaboration with Other WPs/SIGs

- YDM as mentioned in the activities
- New book project, for ex planetary health chapter is being prepared by planetary health WP.
- Collaborative fund project was another collaboration.

Collaboration with Young Doctor Movements

- Mentorship program
- Webinar in March about how to publish.

Collaboration with External groups

- With EFPC, WHO and universities.
- We have invited authors from these organizations for the new book.
- Also WWPR chair Mehmet Akman represented WONCA during the meeting about adult vaccination organized by WFPHA in November 24. This meeting yielded an action for call on adult vaccination and Mehmet Akman is following this up At this stage final call is presented for approval to WONCA ExBo.

Future Plans for 2026

New elections, publication of the book and completion of mentorship program. Also we plan to run WS in Lisbon and other regional conferences. General assembly will be held in Lisbon conference too.

Online Meeting Agenda for WWPR & YDM Mentorship Program

Welcome: Mehmet Akman (Chair of WWPR)

Research Process Overview: Duygu Ayhan Baser, Anthony Sunjaya, Stephen Engmann (Research Mentorship Programme Coordinators)

Keynotes

Mentor-Mentee Free Interaction Session

Keynote Speakers


Chris Van Weel
What is importance of primary care research?


Maria Margarida Esteves Nunes Gil Conde
What are challenges and enables for being a primary care researcher?

Date: December 10
Time: 2 PM CET
The registration link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwlf--vczQpG9wc6dC0rLS48Wwwz00mclNK>

WP on Rural Practice



Chair: Prof Bruce Chater

Executive Board

- Bruce Chater, Chair
- Pratyush Kumar, Chair elect
- Canan Tuz, Secretary
- Jo Scott-Jones, Treasurer
- Jamil Khalfan, Rural Seeds
- Alexandra Ferrara, Rural Seeds
- Tariq Jagnarine, Planetary health

Description of the WP

Rural WONCA (The WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice) was formed by a group of enthusiastic rural doctors at the WONCA conference in 1992 and ratified as a Working Party by WONCA Council in 1995. Its first international conference was in 1996 and there have been a total of 20 conferences since with 27 Declarations. The Working party has published 11 Policies which have been instrumental in shaping and advancing rural health. It has also published two versions of the Rural Medical Education Guidebook. (These resources available at www.RuralWonca.org)

It has a keen focus on rural Family Medicine/General Practice while recognising the need for a broad based Rural Generalist multidisciplinary team. It is governed by a Council of 60 (nominations called annually) and an Executive of 7. Our Mission is Rural doctors reaching towards rural health in partnership with like-minded groups through Repositioning and relationship Education Activism Conferencing and communication Our Vision is Health for All Rural People Rural Seeds is our young doctors' group. The best way to get involved is to attend the World Rural Health Conferences attend Rural WONCA events at WONCA conference You can join the group [here](#).

Activities 2025

- Global Rural Health Summit - WONCA SAR, Bengaluru India 2025 with a focus on:
 - Health Workforce Dynamics: A Lifecycle Approach
 - Health Resources & Access - Diagnostics / Infrastructure
 - Global Health & Rural Perspective
 - Climate Change, Urbanization & Future of Rural Health
 - Rural India with a focus on
 - Urban-Rural Maldistribution
 - Misplaced priorities of the medical education system
- Rural WONCA also participated in WONCA Lisbon 2025.

Collaborations with Young Doctor Movements

Our young doctors group, Rural Seeds, is an active participant in Young Doctor Movement of WONCA.



WONCA
WORLD ORGANIZATION OF NURSES AND MIDWIVES

Global Rural Health Summit
04 April 2025

HYBRID MODE
*limited seats

Summit goes
HYBRID
CONNECT FROM ANYWHERE

04th April 2025
9AM - 5:30PM
Sheraton Grand,
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Join this hybrid summit to drive change in rural healthcare, with the option to attend either in person or online.

Registration: \$100 USD (International)

REGISTER NOW → For More Information www.woncasar2025.com

Rural Wonca
WONCA
AFPI RURAL

WP on Rural Practice

Collaboration with External Groups

We have an active partnership with Network: Toward Unity for Health including as lead of their Rural Community of Practice.

Collaboration with WHO

As well as participating in the WONCA work with the PHC area, we are:

- Collaborating with WHO Rural Equity including partnering WHO and OECD on development their technical product regarding Rural Proofing
- Collaborating with WHO Workforce including membership on the Rural Health Workforce Pathway Program Implementation Guidance Project
- Contributing a rural voice to National programmes for age-friendly cities and communities: a guide

Future Plans for 2026

21st WONCA World Rural Health Conference 2026

Whānau Ora: Integrating Mātauranga Māori, indigenous knowledge with rural health for a thriving future

APPLY NOW!

OPEN: 10TH MARCH UNTIL 23RD APRIL 2025



Become a Rural Ambassador

7 POSITIONS AVAILABLE! – Regions include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• North America & Caribbean• Ibero America• Pacific	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• South Asia• Eastern Mediterranean• Europe
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ROLE OF AMBASSADORS:

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Promote Rural Health and its continuing development2. Help to inform and guide members of Rural Seeds3. Represent Rural Seeds at events and congresses4. Construct together with members	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Advocate for the health of rural communities and for rural healthcare workers6. Encourage engagement and collaboration across different sectors7. Work closely with Project Leads to develop and promote projects/activities
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APPLY HERE:

[CLICK HERE](#)



[CLICK HERE](#)

For more details, go to:
ruralseeds.net



For any queries:
ruralseeds@gmail.com

WP on Women & Family Medicine



Chair: Dr Elizabeth Reji

Executive Board

- Dr Hina Jawaid
- Dr Hambolu Eloho
- Dr Nina Monteiro
- Dr Mercy Wanjala
- Dr Paula Henry
- Dr Suha Hamshari
- Dr Amaranto Nieto

Description of the WP

It encourages women to be a leader, work on women's health and present their work in international and National conferences. There is mentoring throughout and developing friends world wide.

Activities 2025

- Participate in conferences, Had workshops during each regional conference, had a fireplace chat in Africa.
- Conduct webinars throughout many regions, had educational activities.
- Celebrated the International women's day and World Family Doctor's day
- Collaborate with SIG FV and Young doctor's movement
- Newsletters

Collaboration with Other WPs/SIGs

Had a workshop in Singapore conference with the SIG FV.

Collaboration with Young Doctor Movements

Young Doctors' movement in all the regions. Conducted a webinar with the EYDM. Had a workshop in Singapore conference with the SIG FV.

Future Plans for 2026

- Have webinars in all the regions
- Write newsletters

WP on Women & Family Medicine



SIG on Adolescent & Young Adult Care



Chair: Dr Muna Chowdhury

Description of the WP

The AYA SIG is an online community of family physicians who share a passion for adolescent and young adult health. The SIG allows members to have the opportunity to engage with fellow members, share insights, ask questions, and collaborate on innovative strategies to enhance the care we provide to adolescents and young adults. The portal has a repository of evidence-based resources which is continually being updated. We look forward to connecting with you and advancing the health of our young patients together!

Activities 2025

- With Andrea Zard's assistance and support, we have a Group on the Membership Portal.
- We are currently creating a textbook to support primary care providers who work with adolescents and young adults.

Collaboration with WHO

Members of our SIG were involved in the creation of the Pocket Book of Primary Health Care for Children and Adolescents.

Future Plans for 2026

We hope to engage with the International Association of Adolescent Health to co-creating workshops for primary care providers in their upcoming 2025 Congress. We also hope to engage with the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine to create policy papers dedicated to adolescent and young adult health. We hope to finalize and publish a book on adolescent and young adult health to support primary care providers who are managing the care of this population.



SIG on Ageing & Health



Chair: Dr Leon Geffen

Description of the WP

Providing care to older persons can be one of the most exciting, challenging and rewarding aspects of medical practice. The SIG aims to improve older person care in primary care in all countries by: developing new primary care models for older persons; advocating the implementation of undergraduate and postgraduate family physician training in older person care; promoting research in elderly care in family practice; integrating care of older persons in primary health care services. Its specific objectives are: To stimulate and promote standards of excellence in primary care to empower high standard evidence based older person care. To promote the concept of trans-generational well-being and active ageing. To promote and develop research on older person care in primary care. To organize scientific meetings, during WONCA and relevant conferences To promote the discipline of older person care in primary care world-wide through working within WONCA, international organisations and agencies, NGO's, government organisations, patient groups & other medical colleges.

Activities 2025

- Collaboration with International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics e-TRIGGER training program for Africa, Middle East & Europe. This 12 month program is accredited for 60 hours of CPD activity.
- Collaboration with Towards Unity For Health (TUFH) to assist them with establishing a community of practice for older person care and review their guidelines.
- The SIG organised a workshop at the WONCA South Asia Conference on 4 April 2025.
- During the WONCA Southeast Asia Conference held from April 24-27 in Busan, Republic of Korea, the SIG under the leadership of Dimity Pond, Cheridine Oro Josef & Eve Irene Maglonzo conducted a seminar titled "Harnessing the Power of the Community to Improve Care of Older Persons." Dimity Pond, Kim Yu, Cheridine Oro Josef, Maria-Pilar Astier-Pena, Eve Irene Maglonzo and Kheng Hock Lee provided expert input to the over 70 attendees.

Collaboration with External Groups

The SIG established two partnerships during this period. The collaboration with the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics resulted in the IAGG eTRIGGER (e Training in Geriatrics & Gerontology) Program implementation in two regions viz. African Middle East and Europe, and the Asia Pacific region. The program provides WONCA members with discounted access to 36 hours of geriatrics training delivered by experts over 12 months.



SIG on Ageing & Health



Future Plans for 2026

The SIG has identified goals for the next two years. Membership growth from the current base of just under 100 members is planned, along with leadership development to increase the number of family medicine leaders with geriatrics expertise. Training programs will continue through established partnerships, with plans to expand activities in the Iberoamerica region. The SIG will maintain its practice of organising meetings at WONCA regional conferences.

Population demographics show the largest growth occurring in people aged 60 and above. This demographic shift requires strengthened geriatrics training in postgraduate and undergraduate medical education globally. Family physicians and general practitioners serve key roles in healthcare systems and require preparation for this demographic transition. The SIG addresses this need by providing training opportunities and encouraging participation from young doctors, trainees, early-career physicians, and established family physicians and general practitioners to develop geriatrics knowledge and skills.

SIG on Cancer & Palliative Care



Chair: Dr Shrikant Atreya

Executive Board

- Dr. Shrikant Atreya
- Dr. Scott Murray
- Dr. Daniel Munday
- Dr. Chamath Fernando
- Dr. Tania Pastrana
- Dr. Raman Kumar

Description of the WP

This SIG works towards disseminating Primary Palliative Care education, service and research globally.

Activities 2025

- Propagating primary palliative care concept to general practitioners across various workshops and conferences
- Developed international collaboration on various service and research projects
- Established network with various international bodies such as Asia Pacific Hospice Network, European Association of Palliative Care and Indian Association of Palliative Care to disseminate primary palliative care
- Publishing reports and research findings in international peer reviewed high impact journals to propagate the collaborative efforts towards developing primary palliative care. An example: Acted as an advisory to EAPC for developing primary palliative care module for community health workers, this will soon be sent to the president, WONCA for it to be endorsed and put to use in the community.

Collaboration with Other WPs/SIGs

The SIG has collaborated with SIF on Education to organise workshop in Indonesia.

Collaboration with WHO

- Had the opportunity to present the work done in primary palliative care by the SIG at WHO meeting in Geneva in May 2025
- Worked with WHO to develop mobile message service for patients and caregivers in the community
- Acted as advisory to develop palliative care for Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh
- 4Actively engaged with WHO for planning monthly webinars to invite global experts in palliative care meetings for sessions on the impact they have created in their regions, challenges in palliative care dissemination and solutions at regional level



SIG on Complexities in Health



Chair: Prof Joachim Sturmberg

Description of the WP

The SIG promotes ecosystemic thinking about health, health services, health system design and health policy. Everything we engage with as health professionals is interconnected and interdependent with other things, be it physiology, social issues, or the physical and political environment. Considering problems requires the simultaneous exploration across all these dimensions to allow the best adapted solution to emerge.

Activities 2025

- WONCA workshops on complexity themes Individual member presentations Collaboration with NAPCRG CASFAM group
- Publication of multiple papers by members

Collaboration with Other WPs/SIGs

We provided input at the research WP.

Collaboration with External Groups

- NAPCRG

Future Plans for 2026

- Engaging with the Young Doctors group
- On boarding to WONCA communication platform



SIG on Emergency Medicine



Chair: Dr Elena Klusova

Executive Board

- Chair-elect: Nisanth Menon
- Secretary: Miriam Rey Seoane
- Community officer: Raisa Álvarez Paniagua
- Project officer: Rocío García-Gutiérrez Gómez
- Regional representatives:
 - Australia and New Zealand: John Adie
 - Europe: Dina Salkovic
 - Africa: Mercy Wanjala
 - USA: Tony Gerard
- YDM representatives: Mirian L. Villca and M. Roshan Parajuli

Description of the WP

Dear adrenaline addicts, doctors in love with the immediacy of the reaction and the speed of the decision based on the deep understanding of the mysteries of the human body, this is the group for you.

Activities 2025

- Creation of the group's executive committee Contact with YDMs and initial test of collaboration with its representation in the executive Gathering representatives from Europe, Southeast Asia, Africa, North America, Australia/New Zealand.
- Recruitment of new members worldwide Creation of the international WhatsApp group with 221 active members.
- Conducting a statistical study on the main topics of scientific interest for the group members, resulting in the formation of 30 special interest subgroups focused on geographical areas and similarities in health systems.
- Creation of an Instagram account
- Development of media content Hosting the pre-conference for the Young Doctors Movement at the 8th WONCA Africa Region Conference Afriwon 2024
- Hosting the 2nd International WONCA Emergency Medicine SIG Seminar WEMSEM 2024.
- Initiating contact with WONCA/EUSEM for potential collaboration (two meetings with WONCA CEO Dr. Harris Lygidakis, EM-SIG Chair Dr. Klusova, EUSEM CEO Davi Kaur, and Vice President Dr. Christoph Dodt to discuss the possibility of an MOU and the initiation of collaboration)
- Initiating contact with WONCA/WHO for collaboration Beginning the creation of the Post Graduate Certificate in Urgent Care in Australia and New Zealand in collaboration with the EM SIG
- Creating the EM SIG page on the Membership Portal Conducting the EM SIG workshop on the management of Difficult vs. Aggressive Patients at WONCA EU Dublin 2024 Conducting the EYFDM Dublin Preconference workshop 2024
- Preparing proposals for the Forum Grand Region 2025 and WONCA World Lisbon 2025.

SIG on Emergency Medicine



SIG on Emergency Medicine

Collaboration with Other WPs/SIGs

This year we have worked shoulder to shoulder with the WONCA Women's Working Party, conducting activities in parallel for the Afriwon pre-conference. We hope this contact will lead to scientific collaboration in 2025. We plan to resume joint activities with our colleagues from the Rural Medicine WP.

Collaboration with Young Doctor Movements

The EMSIG is the 'forever young' ally of the EYFDM. The group is made up of young doctors as well as more experienced physicians. We have a joint WhatsApp working group called the 'EM-lovers' where we actively work on proposals for activities for WONCA and EYFDM events, which we NEVER miss. In 2024, as always, we presented the workshop at the pre-conference and are preparing our proposals for the Grand Region EYFDM Forum 2025.

Collaboration with External Groups

This year we can proudly highlight: Initiating contact with WONCA/EUSEM for potential collaboration. Initiating contact with WONCA/WHO for collaboration. We are in the process of preparing proposals to WHO to identify common points of interest and possible lines of joint work. Beginning the creation of the Post Graduate Certificate in Urgent Care in Australia and New Zealand in collaboration with the EM SIG (The Post Graduate Certificate in Urgent Care (PGCertUC) has been approved by the UniSC | University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia leadership. It is being developed and co-designed by UCC representatives from RACGP - Home, ACRRM - Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, ACEM - Home, The Australasian College of Paramedicine, Australian College of Nurse Practitioners, EM-SIG Lead for the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) Dr. Klusova, and the 2014 - 2020 disaster management lead from WHO.

Collaboration with WHO

After some previous attempts at contact with WHO that were not very well directed, we have decided to prepare proposals to WHO to identify common points of interest and possible lines of joint work. We hope this change in strategy will be more successful.

Future Plans for 2026

- One of the main objectives is to keep the group active and engaged by being inclusive and attracting colleagues from regions that we still do not have represented.
- Expanding the reach of our educational information through media is another important objective for us. Improving the agility and functionality of our Instagram and Facebook accounts, among others.
- We have some significant training projects with numerous organizations and universities.
- This year, we will change leadership in the team. My term is coming to an end, and Nisanth Menon will take the reins of the group's work. We are fully committed to staying united, working as a team, preserving the values learned, and ensuring the transfer of generational legacy.
- Enhancing collaboration with young family doctors, developing joint work projects with EUSEM, WHO, and the special interest groups and working parties of WONCA that align with our passions will be our action plan.

SIG on Emerging Practice Models for Family Medicine

Chair: Dr Jingwen Gu

Description of the WP

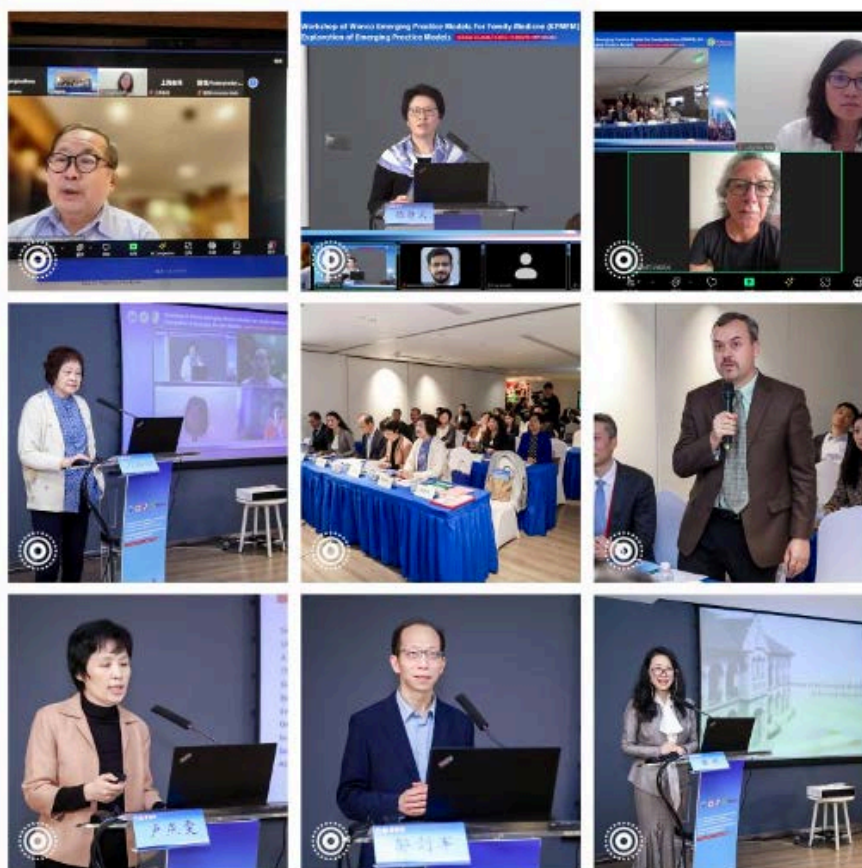
The emerging practice model is an innovation of the traditional family medicine model. Due to the cultural and development differences between countries and regions, the model can take various forms, but its common goal is to build an international high-quality health service system from multiple aspects such as medical technology, management quality and mode, service facilities, payment methods and so on. The ultimate goal of EPMFM is to provide patients with the best medical experience and health protection.

Activities 2025

- On October 26th, 2024 in the afternoon, Huashan Worldwide Medical Center (HWMC) successfully hosted the workshop for WONCA Emerging Practice Model for Family Medicine Special Interest Group (EPMFM SIG) in Shanghai, China. The theme of this workshop was 'Exploration of Emerging Practice Models'.

Future Plans for 2026

Continue to expand the influence of WONCA EPMFM SIG Host at least one workshop in 2025, Establish more collaborations with other WPs/SIGs, Introduce more young doctors to participate in the young doctor Movements.



SIG on Family Violence



Chairs: Dr Jennifer Neil and Dr Fadzilah Hanum Mohd Mydin

Executive Board

Steering committee members: Jennifer Neil Fadzilah Hanum Mohd Mydin Raquel Gomez Bravo Elena Klusova Jinan Usta Carmen Fernandez Alonso Nina Monteiro Sajaratulnisah Othman Lodewijk Pas Hagit Dascal-Weichhendler Joyce Kenkre Omneya Ezzat Nena Kopcavar Gucek

Description of the WP

Our interest group strives to enhance the safety, health and quality of life of survivors/victims of family, gender-based and sexual abuse and violence as well as the primary health care professionals who provide care for them. We aim to ensure that all health systems and primary health settings are safe, compassionate, culturally sensitive and evidence-based spaces that deliver comprehensive high-quality care for survivors of family, gender-based and sexual violence. Our mission is to contribute to reducing the prevalence and consequences of family, gender-based and sexual violence through prevention, comprehensive and quality care and recovery of survivors//victims. We aim to ensure that all survivors/victims of family, gender-based and sexual abuse and violence are appropriately supported in primary healthcare settings worldwide. Provision through interdisciplinary work, while also promoting the health and resilience of the professionals who care for them.

Activities 2025

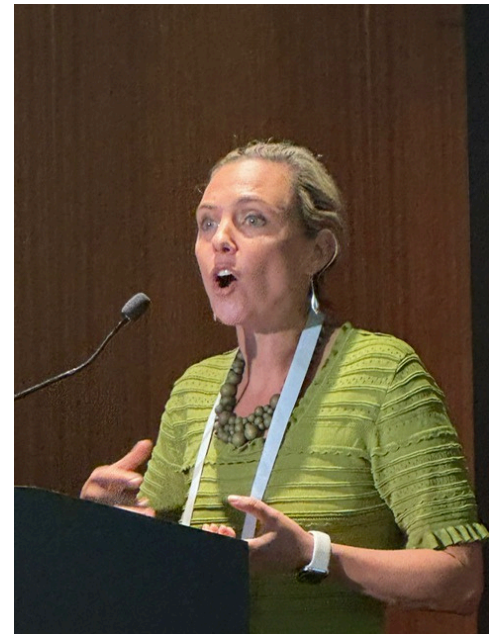
The Family violence SIG continued their webinar series in 2025 with 3 successful webinars being held on the topics of abuse of the elderly person, Chemical Submission and Drug-Mediated Sexual Abuse in the 21st Century, Abuse of the elderly person and xxs (Raquel, what was the name of the webinar you were involved in?). Recordings of these webinars are available on the WONCA platform and will be a useful resource to primary care health practitioners who would like to upskill in domestic, family and sexual violence. The WONCA World conference in Lisbon, Portugal was an exciting opportunity for members of the SIG to congregate together. A pre-conference meeting was held where co-chair Raquel Gomez Bravo updated us on the achievements of the SIG for 2025. We then held a brainstorming session to set goals for 2026. Our workshop on trauma and violence informed care, a collaboration with the Women's Working Party, attracted 125 participants from all corners of the globe and generated much discussion and interaction between participants. Other members of the SIG presented posters or oral presentations during the conference. We held an open meeting for our members in December 2025 during the 16 days of activism against violence towards women and engaged with our members through a survey.



SIG on Family Violence

Collaboration with Other WPs/SIGs

The workshop held at the 2025 WONCA World conference was a collaboration with the women's working party. Also, the collaboration hub at the conference was attended by several members of the family violence SIG. Our SIG brought a potential project to the table around supports for family doctors who are family violence survivors. In the New Year (2026), this project will commence with the formation of a working party from both the Family Violence SIG and other WPs/SIGs. Members of the steering committee also collaborated on a clinical ethics project with other SIGs and WPs.



Future Plans for 2026

We plan to: - Continue the webinar series - Present a workshop at WONCA Europe 2026 - Engage with our membership and add as many new members as possible - Renew our web page - Continue to update our membership portal - Work on the collaborative hub collaboration and have a clear plan in place for the project including commencing grant applications - Hold an annual open meeting in the 16 days of activism against violence towards women - Seek out grants and projects that with align with our vision, mission and objectives

SIG on Integrative Medicine



Chair: Dr Sonia Tsukagoshi

Executive Board

- Patrick Reichel
- Uma Senthikumar
- Dimitri Alepidis,
- Sankha Randenikumara

Description of the WP

This SIG seeks to integrate traditional medicine with conventional medicine for safe evidence-based practice.

Activities 2025

New newsletter, webinar in collaboration with the spice route (10k views on YouTube).

Collaborations with Young Doctor Movements

Spice route (YDM) for webinar (10k views on YouTube).

Future Plans for 2026

Webinars covering meditation acupuncture, quarterly newsletter



SIG on Migrant Care, Int Health & Travel Medicine



Chair: Dr Rebecca Farrington

Description of the WP

We are a group of international family doctors with clinical and academic experience in migrant health, particularly with people who have been forcibly displaced such as refugees and people seeking asylum. We meet intermittently online and communicate through the WONCA platform and a WhatsApp group to share resources, discuss experiences and support each other. We plan and deliver a workshop annually at WONCA Europe or WONCA World.

Activities 2025

- We have uploaded our SIG details to the WONCA digital platform and have been encouraging members to move to using this for communication. This has had variable success, and we have kept our old WhatsApp group going in parallel as it has better engagement and generally has better accessibility.
- We canvassed the membership for a successor to chair, and they opted not to have an election but to sanction the appointment of Dr Charlotte Morris, UK, (who has been defacto deputy) and Dr Marwa Ahmed, Qatar, as co-chairs for the next 2years from November 2025
- Sharing resources and ideas has been active through the year, including an online presentation about the impact of migration on older people's health by Dr Louise Tomkow, UK.
- Providing peer support for members through open discussion on an ad hoc and informal basis.

Collaborations with Young Doctor Movements

We have several members who are part of the YDM and follow their work closely

Collaboration with WHO

Follow up from WHO Global Research Agenda on Health, Migration and Displacement international technical consultations, workshops, and adapted Delphi survey, as a non-state actor for Health and Migration Program (PHM) which started in 2023



SIG on Point of Care Testing



Chair: Dr Jan Verbakel

Description of the WP

The WONCA Special Interest Group on Point-of-Care Testing (SIG POCT) is dedicated to advancing the role of rapid diagnostic tools in primary care to improve clinical decision-making and patient outcomes. POCT allows family physicians to deliver timely, evidence-based care by providing diagnostic results during the patient consultation.

The SIG POCT focuses on:

- **Education and Advocacy:** Promoting awareness of POCT's benefits and providing training to ensure its effective use.
- **Research and Innovation:** Encouraging studies on the clinical and economic impact of POCT in diverse healthcare settings.
- **Policy and Implementation:** Supporting the development of guidelines and policies to enable sustainable integration of POCT in primary care globally.
- **Global Collaboration:** Fostering partnerships to share best practices and address barriers to accessibility and implementation.

The SIG POCT welcomes family physicians, researchers, policymakers, and healthcare professionals interested in enhancing the quality of care through point-of-care testing. Together, we strive to empower primary care providers with innovative tools for better patient-centered care.

Activities 2025

With the start of the new chair, Jan Verbakel, the WONCA Special Interest Group has launched a new international survey to assess the use of point-of-care tests (POCT) in general practice. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of POCT by primary care physicians has become increasingly relevant. This survey aims to provide valuable insights into current practices and the needs of GPs regarding these tests. The SIG POCT is planning a dedicated session on implementing POCT in Primary Care at the next WONCA World Conference in Lisbon.

Collaborations with External Groups

With Noklus in Norway.

Future Plans for 2026

The WONCA SIG on Point-of-Care Testing will focus on advancing the integration of POCT in primary care through a range of activities:

- **Educational Initiatives:** Organizing workshops and practical training sessions to equip family physicians with the skills to use POCT effectively.
- **Advocacy and Awareness:** Launching campaigns and resources to highlight the benefits of POCT.
- **Research and Dissemination:** Supporting collaborative studies on the clinical and economic impact of POCT, and publishing regional case studies showcasing successful implementations.
- **Policy Development:** Publishing a white paper with evidence based recommendations for integrating POCT into primary healthcare systems and addressing adoption barriers.
- **Networking and Collaboration:** fostering regional partnerships, and engaging with industry stakeholders to promote innovation.

SIG on Policy Advocacy

Chairs: Prof Amanda Howe & Dr Sankha Randenikumara



Description of the WP

Our SIG aims to help family doctors learn or extend their advocacy skills - by sharing expertise, regional experience, background theoretical material, and developing learning through webinars, conference presentations, and online resources. We have regional leads and collaborate with different parts of WONCA to maximise our contribution.

Activities 2025

4 global webinars; establishment of regional leads network, some of whom who are hosting their own webinars; networking with lead experts (such as Lauren Hughes at the Farley Center) and regional groups (such as the WONCA Europe WP on Advocacy); and beginning to develop materials into an online toolkit that members can use as theychoose.

Collaborations with Other WPs/SIGs

WONCAEurope WP; Digital Health (for their book proposal); advice when requested about key advocacy messages.

Collaboration with Young Doctor Movements

We invite YDMs, and are planning our next webinar with this group as panellists.

Future Plans for 2026

This has to be formed with colleagues input over the next 6 months but we plan to:

- continue our quarterly webinars - continue to submit activities for conferences
- continue to try to secure active leads for all WONCA regions and with the YDM groups
- develop the WONCA Advocacy Toolkit, and feed this in with work with TUFH as appropriate

SIG on Quaternary Prevention & Overmedicalization



Chair: Dr Karin Kopitowski

Description of the WP

The WONCA Special Interest Group on Quaternary Prevention promotes the responsible use of healthcare resources by avoiding overmedicalization and reducing harm from unnecessary interventions. We aim to raise awareness, provide education, and support evidence-based practices to protect patients from low-value or harmful medical activities. Our group brings together professionals committed to fostering a more ethical, patient-centred approach to healthcare globally.

Activities 2025

- Collaboration with CIMF Quaternary Prevention Group: Strengthened ties with the CIMF Quaternary Prevention Group to promote ethical care and reduce overmedicalization across the Iberoamerican region.
- Contributed to an international research network on desimplimentation, fostering collaboration and sharing expertise globally.
- Promoting Choosing Wisely in Latin America and the Caribbean: Partnered with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to support the development of Choosing Wisely campaigns tailored to regional healthcare needs.
- Conducted workshops and webinars to raise awareness of quaternary prevention principles among healthcare professionals and decision-makers.
- Resource Development and Research: Developed practical tools, guidelines, and educational materials to facilitate the implementation of quaternary prevention in daily clinical practice.
- Engaged in research projects addressing overmedicalization and exploring innovative approaches to ethical healthcare delivery.
- Contributed to an international research network on desimplimentation, fostering collaboration and sharing expertise globally.
- Promoting Choosing Wisely in Latin America and the Caribbean: Partnered with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to support the development of Choosing Wisely campaigns tailored to regional healthcare needs.

Collaborations with External Groups

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO): Worked in partnership with PAHO to reduce overuse in medical care across the Americas, supporting the development and dissemination of Choosing Wisely initiatives in the region.

SIG on Quaternary Prevention & Overmedicalization

Future Plans for 2026

- Finalize and implement the 2025-2026 logical framework for coordinated action in the desimplimentation and reducing low-value care.
- Educational and Advocacy Efforts: Develop a virtual, self-guided course on desimplimentation for the PAHO Virtual Campus for Public Health. Host webinars and practical sessions featuring experts in the desimplimentation and rational use of healthcare resources.
- Advocate for integrating desimplimentation principles in medical, nursing, and allied health education programs. R
- egional Campaigns and Public Engagement: Launch a multilingual (Spanish, Portuguese, English) campaign to educate healthcare professionals and empower patients through social media, videos, and infographics. Disseminate simple and accessible resources on the appropriate use of medications for both professionals and the general public.
- Strengthening the Choosing Wisely Network: Support countries not yet part of Choosing Wisely to join the initiative, leveraging collaborations with regional medical societies. Facilitate dialogue with national health authorities to include desimplimentation in policy agendas.
- Research and Evidence Generation: Collaborate on studies related to desimplimentation, aiming for robust methodologies, including randomized controlled trials, to generate high-quality evidence.
- Development of Key Resources: Translate and culturally adapt Choosing Wisely Canada resources for regional use. Expand the online presence of Choosing Wisely Latin America to serve as a hub for knowledge sharing and advocacy.
- These activities will position the group as a leader in fostering sustainable, ethical, and patient-centred healthcare across diverse regions while strengthening its global impact.

Young Doctor Movements

Young Doctor Representative on Executive

AfriWON

Al Razi

EYFDM (European Young Family Doctors Movement)

Polaris

Rajakumar

Spice Route

Waynakay



Young Doctor Representative



Dr Cheryl Chan

The WONCA YDMs provide a platform for young doctors who defined in the WONCA Bylaws “as those in family YDMs Annual Report 2025medicine training or in the first five years of family medicine practice” to connect , collaborate and learn from each other via various activities and platforms. We have regular webinars , leadership program 'ASPIRE' , global exchange program 'FM360', mentorship program, to empower our young doctors for networking, knowledge exchange and leadership development.

Activities 2025

- Collaborative Webinars: We conducted a series of seven collaborative webinars with various WPs and SIGs. A standout event was the webinar with the SIG on Integrative Medicine and the Spice Route, which attracted an impressive 10,000 views on YouTube. This engagement not only demonstrated the interest in integrative approaches but also fostered a sense of community among family doctors from diverse backgrounds. These webinars served as a platform for knowledge sharing, allowing practitioners to learn from each other's experiences and expertise. It also gives our young doctors a platform to present their work.
- Donald Li YDM Global Scholarship: In a groundbreaking move, we launched the Prof Donald Li YDM Global Scholarship, the first-ever scholarship aimed at supporting young doctors from Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). This initiative is designed to empower emerging early career doctors by enhancing their accessibility to the WONCA World Conference in Lisbon.
- WFDD Celebrations: The World Family Doctor Day (WFDD) celebrations were another highlight, showcasing the contributions of family doctors globally. The events not only raised awareness about the vital role of family doctors but also encouraged collaboration and networking among professionals. The celebrations included various activities that emphasized the importance of family medicine in improving health outcomes, supporting the main theme each year.
- YDM Preconferences Before Regional Conferences: The YDM successfully organized preconferences before several regional conferences, creating dedicated spaces for young doctors to connect, share experiences, and discuss contemporary issues in family medicine. These preconferences provided a platform for mentorship and networking, enabling participants to engage with established professionals and peers. By emphasizing the unique challenges faced by young doctors, these sessions aimed to empower the next generation of family medicine leaders.



Young Doctor Representative



Collaboration with WPs/SIGs

The Young Doctors' Movement (YDM) collaborated closely with various working parties and special interest groups to enhance professional development. We hosted five webinars covering diverse themes such as planetary health, integrative medicine, and emerging family medicine practice models, with the integrative medicine webinar achieving over 10,000 views on YouTube. Additionally, the YDM partnered with the working party on research to launch a mentorship project aimed at pairing young doctors interested in research and academic medicine with experienced mentors, fostering growth and knowledge in the field. These initiatives underscore our commitment to collaborative learning and support for young doctors.

Collaboration with WHO

The YDM proudly appointed two representatives to the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) under the WHO. Dr. Alejandra Leon from Colombia, who serves as the YDM Chair for the Latin America region, and Dr. Eloho Hambolu from Nigeria, the Young Doctor Liaison at the WWPWFM, will advocate for the interests and voices of young doctors in global health discussions. Their involvement in PMNCH underscores the commitment of YDM to influence policy and practice in maternal and child health on a global scale. Dr Cheryl Chan also represents WONCA YDM on the UNODC Young Doctors Network on “Access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing diversion and non-medical use”.

Future Plans for 2026

The Young Doctors' Movement (YDM) plans to continue its collaborative efforts by hosting a series of webinars in partnership with various working parties and special interest groups (WP/SIG). These webinars will cover a wide range of relevant topics, fostering knowledge sharing and professional development among young doctors.



AfriWON

Dr. Mercy Wanjala

Meet AfriWon RENAISSANCE – the vibrant African network for young and future general practitioners and family physicians! We’re part of the WONCA Africa region, and we’ve been inspiring change since our launch at the WONCA World Conference in Prague back in 2013. Whether you’re an undergraduate curious about general practice and family medicine, a postgraduate diving deeper, or a young doctor in your first five years after specializing in GP/FM, we’ve got a space for you. Join us and be part of a movement shaping the future of healthcare across Africa!

Activities 2025

- YDM Liaison Dr. Stephen Engmann was successfully nominated as the YDM Liaison for the WONCA Working Party for Research.
- Montegut Scholar Award Celebrated a member’s recognition with the Montegut Scholar Award, enabling them to attend the WONCA Africa Conference in Nairobi.
- Country Engagement Highlights Increased participation from DRC, Liberia, and Kenya in CPD sessions.
- Continued leadership from Nigeria and Ghana in competitions and webinars.

Future Plans for 2026

Here’s a snapshot of what’s ahead:

- Executive Committee Elections A pivotal moment for AfriWon as we prepare to elect a new Executive Committee. The elections will provide an opportunity for fresh leadership to guide AfriWon’s vision and continue fostering growth and collaboration across the region. AfriWon Research Group Activities Regular Meetings: The Research Group will convene regularly to discuss ongoing projects, identify new research opportunities, and support members in their academic pursuits. Research Sessions: Focused sessions will be held to train members in research methodologies, data analysis, and effective dissemination of findings. Writing and Publications:
- The group aims to publish research articles in reputable journals, showcasing the work of young African family doctors and contributing to global knowledge in primary care. ARC Program The highly anticipated ARC program will continue to support young doctors with professional development opportunities.
- World Family Doctor Day Campaign AfriWon will lead a regional campaign to celebrate World Family Doctor Day in May. Activities will include awareness drives, social media campaigns, and events.



Al Razi

Dr. Adel Yasky

Young Doctors Movement representing and empowering young Family Medicine and General practitioners in the region. This movement aims to facilitate the networking, exchange experience and facilitate their reach toward worldwide opportunities.

Activities 2025

- Gathering and including the highest number of countries representations since establishment of the movement
- Collaborating with several regional and international groups
- Recreating and presenting new branding for the movement

Collaboration with External Groups

We collaborated with the local societies in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain and Jordan. In Saudi Arabia we collaborated with the Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine where we were presenting in their annual Family Medicine day and several other webinars. In Egypt our participant was in activating the natural breastfeeding awareness week collaborating with the local Family Medicine community. In Bahrain we had a successful collaboration with local activities lead by the local Family Medicine Society and Finally in Jordan our collaboration was to initiate an awareness campaign about role of Family Physicians in community.

Future Plans for 2026

We will be having an Al Razi Led webinar series, Participate in upcoming WONCA EMR conferences.

EYFDM



Dr. Daria Gheorghe (starting 19/1/25)

EYFDM is the young doctors' movement of the WONCA Europe. We comprise residents and recently qualified family doctors from across the European region. We meet as a movement twice each year: once at a young doctors' pre-conference before each annual WONCA Europe conference, and once at our own standalone Forum organised by members from a different country each year. Between meetings, we run bilateral exchanges across the region, we have a podcast where inspiring family doctors are interviewed, and members host exchange opportunities linked to their own national family medicine conferences.

Activities 2025

- 9th EYFDM Forum in Grande Région, April 2025: April 2025 marked a first of its kind event for EYFDM as we proudly hosted the first three country forum: a collaboration between Germany, Luxembourg and France in the Grande Région. The event welcomed more than 200 participants all around Europe and was sold-out! Participants had the opportunity to attend various workshops and key-notes on three different sites: the universities of Saarland, Luxembourg and Strasbourg were home to panels ranging from breaking the gender bias in medical research to integrating AI in our daily practice but also topics focused on physician's wellbeing and the different career paths and journeys a Family Doctor might experience. The final keynote focused on our impact on the environment and on how we can do our best to tackle climate change from our position as young doctors.
- The Bridge Project: The Bridge Project was an initiative pioneered during the pandemic to link EYFDM members working in different countries so they could work together on areas of common interest. We are currently on our fourth edition, keeping up the momentum of the third where we had ninety-five participants in fifteen groups.

Collaboration with Other YDMs

One EYFDM member has done an FM 360 exchange to Sri Lanka. Otherwise our chair participated in the YDM Leads committee. The Bridge Project was open to young doctors from around the world and indeed we did recruit participants from beyond the European region.

Future Plans for 2026

More of the Same!





Polaris

Dr. Brunee Dorsett

Polaris is the WONCA YDM North Americas chapter.

Activities 2025

- empowerED – started WONCA Polaris’ first podcast show
- PolaRISE – started our first 6month mentorship program
- PolarUS – started our monthly general membership meetings and coffee break
- Polaris has partnered with Besrou Center in Canada, for the past several WONCA terms.
- WP/YDM Collaborative webinar March 2025 – Taught young doctors how to publish their research

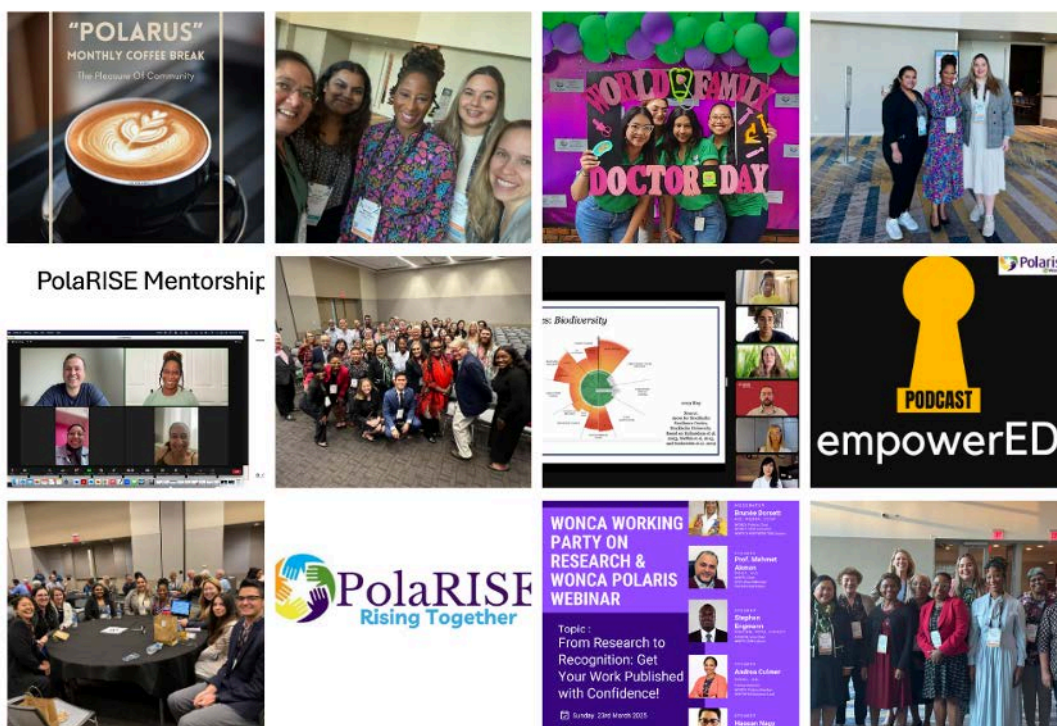
Collaboration with External Groups

Polaris is also in collaboration with The Besrou Centre.

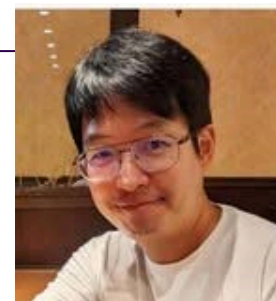
Future Plans for 2026

Continue monthly podcast episodes, quarterly newsletters, WP/SIG collaboration webinars.

Polaris 2023-2025



PolaRISE Mentorship



Rajakumar

Dr Ping-Hsun Chang

The official name of the WONCA Young Doctor Movement in the Asia Pacific Region is The Rajakumar Movement (TRM). Let us form collaborative bilateral links for a pooling of experience and expertise that will have a beneficial multiplier effect on both partners. Experience in vastly different cultures and environments will make us better doctors and better human beings.

Activities 2025

- Asia-Pacific Webinars
- World Family Doctor Day Celebration

Collaboration with WPs/SIGs

Jan 19, 2025: TYDM and SIG Emerging Practice Models for Family Medicine

Future Plans for 2026

Monthly Webinar Hosted by different Countries/Regions: Jan: Collaborative Webinars with SIG Emerging Practice Models for Family Medicine Feb: Webinar hosted by Japan Mar: Webinar hosted by Korea Apr: WONCA APR Conference, Young Doctors' Preconference in Busan, Korea May to Dec: Monthly Webinars, host countries/regions to be determined Bi-monthly TRM Executive Meeting Keep Recruiting Young Doctors in Asia-Pacific Regions Election for the next term TRM Executives.



Chinese Taipei Association of Family Medicine

WEBINAR
YOUNG FAMILY DOCTORS IN TAIWAN

29 SUN SUNDAY 11:00 UTC

SPEAKER

PING HSUN CHANG
Chair, The Rajakumar Movement, WONCA

KUANG YU LIAO
Director, Pingxi District Health Center, New Taipei City

HOST

YA AN LIU
Taiwan TRM represent.

IN ENGLISH

WONCA APRC 2025
The Korean Academy of Family Medicine

Family Medicine Residency Training in South Korea

Korean Doctors on Strike, What is Going On?

Korean Healthcare and Insurance System

Introducing Family Medicine & the Healthcare System in Korea

Plan: WONCA APR 2025 Promotion 1

14th March 2025 Sunday 12:00 PM

Live on Teams

The Rajakumar Young Doctors' Movement and the WONCA SIG Emerging Practice Models for Family Medicine present

A Collaborative Webinar on Emerging Practice Models for Family Medicine

Jan 19, 2025 (Sun) | 13:00-14:30 UTC
Chinese and Spanish translations will be available

Dr. Pu Zhou (China)
Topic: International Medicine in Huoshan

Dr. Wong Ping Foo (Malaysia)
Topic: Transforming Primary Care: New Horizons in Family Medicine

Dr. Ana Bertha Perez Villalva (Mexico)
Topic: Comprehensive and systemic perspective of individual management through work with families in Mexico

Dr. Ping Hsun Chang (Chinese Taipei) Session Moderation
Chairperson, The Rajakumar Movement

Register now by scanning the QR code



Spice Route

Dr Kinley Bhuti

Spice Route South Asia has six member countries Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Srilanka . Since its formation in 2017, the YDM has actively promoted in encouraging many young FM doctors through various medical webinars and conferences.

Activities 2025

- India, April 2025: Organized a second pre-conference, emphasizing the contribution of young doctors in strengthening primary healthcare systems and addressing emerging healthcare challenges. Young doctors from across the region gathered again at the Bengaluru Conference April 2025.
- A series of webinars were conducted over the past two years to provide regular academic engagement for young doctors. These online forums facilitated cross-country learning and interaction, ensuring that GPs remained informed of recent developments in the discipline.
- YDM Spice Route has continued to provide a platform for peer-to-peer learning, networking, and the exchange of ideas. Through these efforts, the movement has enhanced both clinical competencies and leadership skills of early-career doctors in South Asia.

Future Plans for 2026

Looking ahead, YDM Spice Route will build on these achievements by:

- Expanding opportunities for structured mentorship and leadership training.
- Promoting collaborative research and knowledge-sharing across the region.
- Strengthening partnerships with WONCA and other stakeholders to further the role of young doctors in advancing universal primary care.

The Spice Route South Asia YDM reaffirms its commitment to nurturing the next generation of family doctors and contributing to the global vision of equitable, accessible, and person-centered healthcare.



Waynakay

Dr Brando Cantú, Dr Alejandra León, Dr Julieta Bitler

Waynakay Movement began activities in 2010 during an International Family Medicine Symposium in Mexico. The movement is formed by 18 different countries, each with a national representative, subdivided into 3 regional movements (Mesoamerica, Southern Cone and Andean Subregion), and 4 internal workgroups (Exchange, Communications, Research and Academic work group).

Activities 2025

- Waynakay Movement was present in the activities prior to the Iberoamerican Family Medicine Summit Uruguay 2025, leading and composing some of the workgroups regarding the subjects: competencies for Family Physicians, Community Emergencies, Technology in Family Medicine, Sanitations emergencies among others. Six internships were accomplished by the efforts of the FM360 workgroup for this event.
- For the first time since its creation in 2010, Ameyali Waynakay Mexico was considered to participate in the board meeting for the Federación Mexicana de Especialistas y Residentes en Medicina Familiar A.C. where the national representative presented the proposal for the National Award for Family Medicine Residents “Dr. Georgina Farfán Salazar,” which was approved by a majority vote.
- Waynakay Movement was successful in the organization and development of the WONCA YDM WP on Mental Health Collaborative Webinar Series in 2025. In this event, we had the participation of Dr. Ana Pérez as a speaker (as a member of both Waynakay Movement and the WP on Mental Health), Dr. Nina Zarela as a speaker, Dr. Mary Ugarte (Spanish to English translation) and Dr. Nilka Arosemena (English to Spanish translation).

Collaboration with WHO

During the activities for the Iberoamerican Family Medicine Summit Uruguay 2025

Future Plans for 2026

The participation for YDM webinars will continue due to the success, in the planning process, speakers and translators. We are trying to reach farther into non english YDM's from our movement. Waynakay movement will continue with the inner webinars for the different countries that make up the movement (2 countries per webinar, bi monthly). Waynakay different workgroups will continue with the digital workshops on research and academic continuous medical education, seeking the exchanges for our YDMs who wish to experience the family medicine practice in other countries, and our communications workgroup will continue managing our websites and digital media platforms to get the attention of YDM across our continent.



WONCA Awards

Global Five Star Award 2024-2025

- Maria Inez Padula Anderson (Iberoamerica).

Regional Five Star Awards 2025

- Louis Jenkins (Africa)
- Ming-Nan Lin (Asia Pacific)
- Fatemeh Najafipour (East Mediterranean)
- Jana Bendova (Europe)
- Peter Torzsa (Europe)
- Kim Yu (North America)
- Preethi Wijegoonewardene (South Asia)

WONCA Fellowships

- Bruce Chater
- Dan Abubakar
- Evelyn Van Weel
- Faisal Al Naser
- Adam Windak
- Anna Stavdal
- Victor Ng
- Shlomo Vinker
- Jane Namatovu
- Marina Almenas

WONCA Honorary Life Direct Individual Members

- Kay Mohanna
- Roshni Jhan Ganguly
- Muna Mostafa
- Samantha Murton
- Mihai Iacob
- Klaus Von Pressentin
- Tabinda Ashfaq
- Karen Flegg
- Abdulaziz Al-Mahrezi
- Karen Price

Montegut Global Scholar Award

- Tania Gahama Ineza (Africa)
- Jake Bryan Cortez (Asia Pacific)
- Samar Al Mouazen (East Mediterranean)
- Sidika Ece Yokus (Europe)
- Liliana Villegas Valdomero (Iberoamerica)
- Sasha Farrier (North America)
- Sankha Randenikumara (South Asia)

Taiwanese Family Medicine Research Award

- Ioannis Saxionis
- Lytzalaura Chavez Quezada
- Nur Aliah Binti Zulkeflee
- Ozan Emre Eliacik

Donald Li YDM Global Scholarship

- Beesan Marāqa
- Michael Angelo J. Arteza
- Stephen Engmann

Atai Omorutu Scholarship Award

- Lydia Wangui Ngigi
- Adedotun Oluwaseun Ajelabi



Want to see the main highlights for 2025? Check out our Snapshot!

Gratitude is extended to the WONCA Executive, Chairs of WONCA Working Parties, Special Interest Groups, and Young Doctor Movements for their invaluable support in finalizing this report.

Your contributions were indispensable, and this accomplishment wouldn't have been possible without your assistance!

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