



# Wonca

World family doctors. Caring for people.

# SNAPSHOT 2025

## A Year in Global Family Medicine

World Organization  
of Family Doctors

Highlights from WONCA's Annual Report





# World Organization of Family Doctors

**132**

Member Organisations

**140**

Countries or Territories

**28**

Working Parties and  
Special Interest Groups

**120** Full Member Organizations

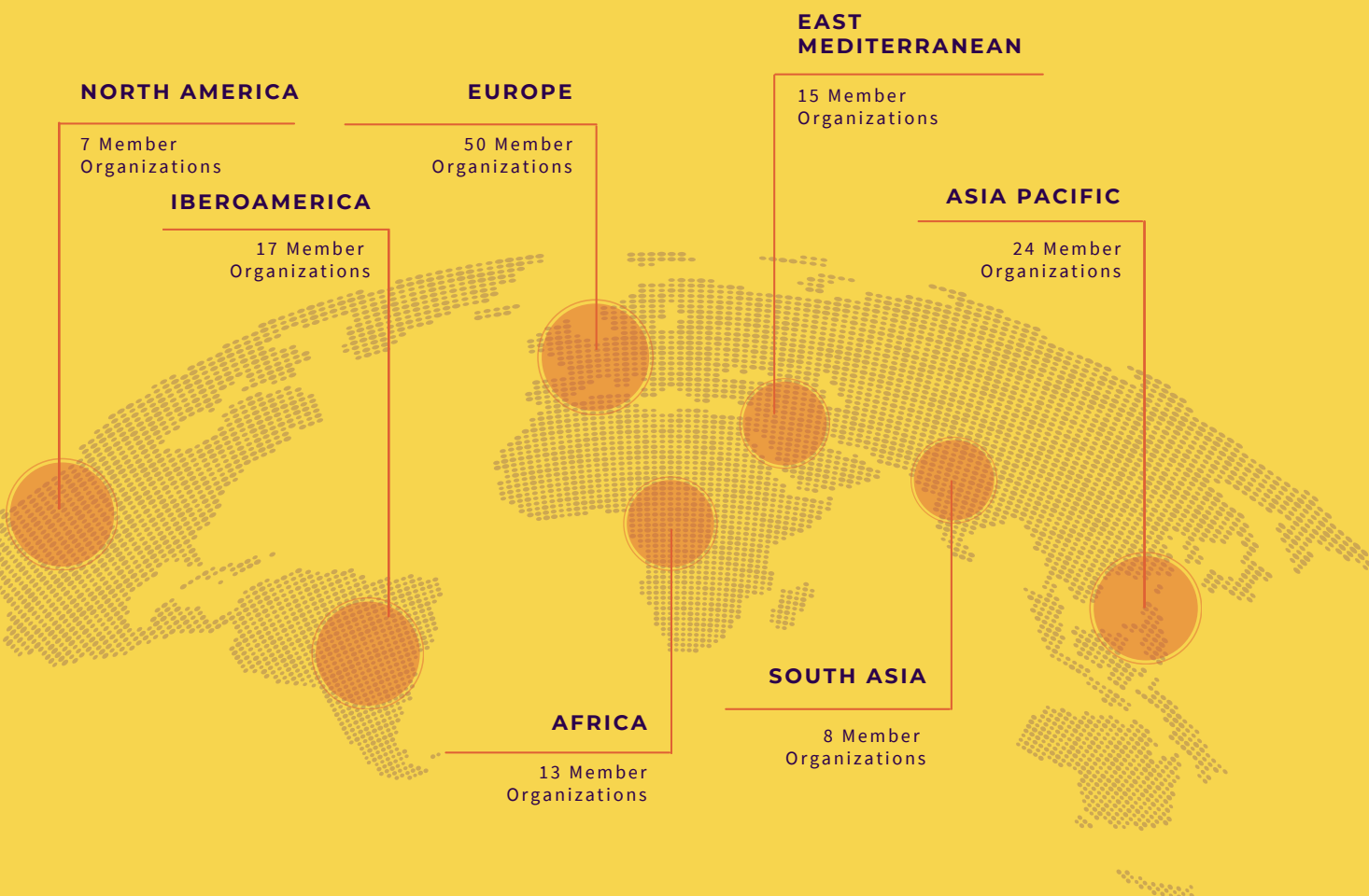
**12** Associate Member Organizations

**8** Academic Member Organizations

**12** Organizations in Collaborative  
Relations

**1,218** Individual Direct Members

REPRESENTING APPROX. **500,000** FAMILY DOCTORS  
WHO SERVE MORE THAN 90% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION  
ACROSS SEVEN REGIONS.



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

**“The voices and leadership of younger and underrepresented colleagues are essential to our future.”**

In 2025, WONCA entered a new chapter in its leadership and global work. As I took on the role of President, my focus has been on strengthening partnerships, advancing health equity, and ensuring that family medicine continues to respond to the needs of communities worldwide.

Over the past two years, I have had the privilege of meeting family doctors across every region. From busy urban centres to remote rural clinics, I have seen first-hand the commitment, resilience, and innovation that define our discipline. These experiences reaffirm a simple truth: family medicine is at the heart of equitable, people-centred health systems.

My presidency also reflects an important step forward for our global community. As the first WONCA President from Latin America, I see this not as a personal milestone, but as a shared achievement for greater inclusion and representation. It is essential that we continue to open pathways for young doctors and colleagues from underrepresented backgrounds, whose voices will shape the future of our profession.

Looking ahead, I am committed to working with our Member Organisations, regions, and partners to strengthen primary care, support the health workforce, and promote care that is grounded in the realities of the communities we serve. Together, we can build a more connected, inclusive, and resilient future for family medicine.



**PROF VIVIANA MARTINEZ-BIANCHI**  
WONCA PRESIDENT 2025 - 2027



 **WONCA World Conference 2025 - Lisbon Highlights**  
World Organization of Family Doctors – WONCA



Held every two years, the WONCA World Conference is the organisation's global gathering, bringing together family doctors, teachers, researchers and leaders from across the world. In 2025, Lisbon welcomed 4,300 attendees from 117 countries for a week of learning, exchange and connection. The conference combined a strong scientific programme with leadership meetings, networking and the election of a new Executive Committee, reflecting both the scale and the shared purpose of the global family medicine community.



  
**WONCA 2025**  
25<sup>th</sup> WONCA WORLD CONFERENCE  
**17 - 21 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
LISBOA CONGRESS CENTRE - CCL

**WORLD CONFERENCE**



# GOVERNANCE

In 2025, WONCA continued to strengthen how we are governed and how we work together. This included clearer rules for elections, stronger safeguards for transparency, and practical improvements in how the Executive Committee makes decisions and manages its work.

## WHAT CHANGED IN 2025

The Taskforce on Membership and Voting presented key recommendations to the Council.

WONCA established an Elections Conduct Policy and Elections Committee to oversee the lead-up to elections and handle issues arising.

Organisational equity was strengthened through the creation of regional Organisational Equity committees.

Policy of Declarations (conflict) of Interest and a Code of Conduct were developed for WONCA officers

Council and Executive meetings were streamlined.



## WONCA COUNCIL

In the days preceding the World Conference in Lisbon, WONCA Council brought Member Organisations together to consider key reports and major governance decisions, including voting of a new Executive Committee and elections.

# PROJECTS

WONCA supports practical projects that help family doctors learn, lead, and deliver change by bringing people together across regions. We share expertise and test ideas, so plans are clear, relevant, and achievable. The goal is better primary care worldwide.

## PROJECT LABS

With support from the American Board of Family Medicine Foundation (ABFM-F), WONCA provided support for two major proposals currently under development: **Promoting Rational Medicine Prescribing in Primary Care** and **Strengthening Clinical Ethics in Primary Care**, towards full drafts for donor engagement.



## COLLABORATION HUB

In Lisbon, colleagues came together around global issues and shared goals in family medicine. **150 participants** discussed project concepts, compared experiences across regions, learn from each other, and agreed next steps on challenges that affect primary care worldwide. The session closed with short, informal elevator pitches, which kept the atmosphere open and upbeat.

## SPACE PROJECT

WONCA continues to work with partners on the SPACE project, a three-year EU-funded initiative developing a green **social prescribing** model for cancer rehabilitation. Together, the consortium is shaping a practical approach that helps primary care teams link people recovering from cancer with safe, supportive nature-based activities in their communities.

# MDD MINDS FOR PRIMARY CARE

MDD Minds for Primary Care was led by WONCA's **Working Party on Mental Health** and developed in partnership with Mosaica Solutions to help family doctors improve the diagnosis and management of major depressive disorder in primary care.

Working across nine countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America, it followed a three-step model - **MDD Minds 101** online learning, **Train-the-Trainer** local faculty development, and **Performance in Practice** quality improvement in clinics. The programme strengthened confidence, supported more structured mental health care in everyday practice, and highlighted clinician self-care as an important part of quality care. It also created a practical model that WONCA can build on in future programmes.

## IMPACT IN NUMBERS

- 2,892 enrolled in MDD Minds 101
- 581 completed the course
- 226 joined Train-the-Trainer
- 142 local sessions delivered
- 1,697 additional health workers reached
- 1,011 diabetes patients evaluated in the practice phase

*This project was funded by an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer.*



**READ THE REPORT**  
[www.mddminds.org](http://www.mddminds.org)

## EMPOWERING FAMILY DOCTORS TO TREAT DEPRESSION



The Closing Event in Brussels brought together clinicians, partners and policymakers to share results, regional experiences and next steps. It marked the transition from project delivery to scaling and sustaining mental health training in primary care worldwide.

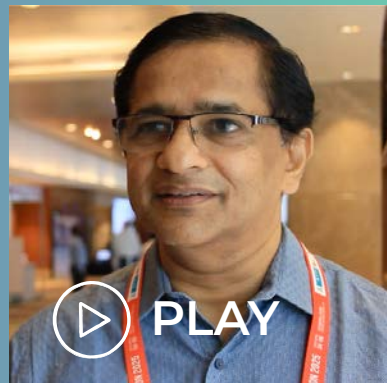


# WORLD FAMILY DOCTOR DAY.

World Family Doctor Day 2025 brought family doctors worldwide together under the theme “Building Mental Resilience in a Changing World”, highlighting the role of family medicine in continuity of care, early support, and compassion for people facing mental health challenges.

WONCA marked the day with a wider campaign including new multimedia content, a collaborative video with voices from every region, an international “Three Little Birds” performance linked to the Music and Mental Health Project, and a five-session webinar series on mental health in primary care.

WONCA invited Member Organisations to submit reports so colleagues could learn from each other and see the many ways the day was celebrated, from symposia and rallies to public-facing community events.



## FOCUS ON: ZAMBIA

The Association of Family Physicians of Zambia led a community march to raise awareness of mental health and the growing role of family medicine, with speeches from Zambia’s Minister of Science and Technology and Dr Mpundu Makasa, the country’s first family medicine graduate.

# ADVOCACY



## OECD PARIS REPORT

The OECD PaRIS project shows clearly that strong primary care improves patient outcomes and trust in health systems. WONCA helped shape the survey and share its results globally, using this evidence as a powerful advocacy tool to demonstrate the value of investment in primary care.

Through our official relations with the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and our wider partnerships, we brought frontline experience into global discussions.

WONCA's visibility in WHO governance grew through participation in side events, joint statements and bilateral engagement with WHO departments to advance shared work.

We also issued a [statement calling for the protection of health workers and patients](#) in all conflict zones, including Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan.



**READ OUR STATEMENTS**

## Partnership with **WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

Progressed a new 2025-2027 WHO-WONCA collaboration plan to strengthen primary health care and support family doctors.

[Delivered formal WONCA statements](#) at WHO meetings, bringing evidence and frontline experience from primary care.

Emphasised investment in primary care and family medicine to improve access, continuity and outcomes.

Highlighted the role of primary care in responding to climate-related health risks, and signed a [fossil-free communication commitment](#) alongside 40 other health organisations.

[Advanced collaboration with PAHO](#) through a memorandum accepted under FENSA, strengthening joint work for primary health care.

# WORKING PARTIES

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THREE OF WONCA'S TEN ACTIVE WORKING PARTIES

## WOMEN AND FAMILY MEDICINE

One of WONCA's largest and most active groups, supporting women family doctors through mentoring, leadership development and global peer networks. In 2025, activity expanded across all regions, with particularly strong growth in Iberoamericana, where the **Mujeres Médicas Familiares** community reached over 168,000 followers. The group delivered webinars and workshops at regional and world conferences, collaborated with the Young Doctors' Movement and the SIG on Family Violence, and marked key global days. Support for women in family medicine was also reflected in awards such as the **Atai Omorutu Scholarship**.



## RURAL WONCA

The Working Party on Rural Practice led the **Global Rural Health Summit** at WONCA SAR 2025 in Bengaluru, India focusing on workforce, access and climate challenges in rural care. Its **Rural Seeds** network continued to engage young doctors. Rural WONCA was also recognised a global award for the lasting impact of its 2022 Conference in Limerick, Ireland.



## DIGITAL HEALTH

The Working Party on Digital Health grew by 20% in 2025, strengthened its structure with a new executive board and dedicated workstreams. It launched the book **Digital Health in Primary Care**, with contributions from more than 50 members worldwide, and advanced its flagship training-needs project, including a global survey of curricula in 60+ countries.



# SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



## DERMATOLOGY

WONCA's newest SIG, approved in March 2025, Dermatology has quickly built momentum. In 2025, it delivered workshops at conferences in Korea and Europe, alongside online webinars. Open to all with an interest in skin conditions, the group aims to strengthen clinical skills and develop research in primary care dermatology.

## EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Growing fast and full of energy, the Emergency Medicine SIG has become known for its **lively, practical workshops**. In 2025, it drew strong interest at conferences, including WONCA World in Lisbon, where it ran "Up in the Air: Handling Emergencies Mid-Flight", giving participants a hands-on look at in-flight emergencies and acute care skills relevant to family doctors.



## AGEING & HEALTH

The Ageing & Health SIG brings together family doctors, educators and researchers working to support healthy ageing in primary care. In 2025, members supported the **IAGG eTRIGGER** programme across multiple regions, providing 36 hours of geriatrics training, and contributed to work with the World Health Organization (WHO). The group also ran sessions in Bengaluru and Busan on community-based care for older people.



## ADOLESCENT & YOUNG ADULT

The Adolescent & Young Adult Care SIG connects family doctors focused on improving care for young people. In 2025, it developed an online community and resource platform, and began work on a **new textbook** to support primary care providers. Members also contributed to the **WHO Pocket Book of Primary Health Care for Children and Adolescents**.



# REGIONAL MEETINGS

## ASIA PACIFIC

**BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA, 24 - 27 APRIL 2025**

Hosted by the The Korean Academy of Family Medicine, WONCA APR 2025 was built around the theme “Primary Care Transformation: Implementing High-value, High-quality Care!” and drew 1,200+ family medicine colleagues from 41 countries. What stood out was the mix of system change and real-world practice, with strong attention to AI and digital therapeutics, equity, and building stronger family doctor systems.



## EAST MEDITERRANEAN

**TANGIERS, MOROCCO, 8 - 11 MAY 2025**

Hosted by MG Maroc, WONCA EMR 2025 brought family doctors together to strengthen general practice across the region. Standout sessions included modern obesity care and pregnancy supplementation, alongside strong messages from WONCA and WHO EMRO on collaboration and better patient outcomes.



## IBEROAMERICA

**MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, 23 - 24 MAY 2025**

Bringing colleagues from 14 Ibero-American countries together under the theme “Family and Community Medicine: more necessary than ever.” The atmosphere was described as a marathon of ideas, perspectives,

and proposals, with strong discussion on gender, mental health, critical care, adolescence, and body diversity. A major milestone was the signing of the Montevideo Charter, a shared statement of values and commitments for the region.



## SOUTH ASIA

**BENGALURU, INDIA, 4 - 6 APRIL 2025**

The Academy of Family Physicians of India welcomed colleagues from 23 countries in a vibrant, hybrid format. Built around the theme “Rooted in Tradition, Growing with Innovation. Family Medicine for South Asian Well-being,” it reflected the rapid growth and rising confidence of family medicine in India. The meeting was preceded by a Global Rural Summit focused on practical solutions for access, workforce challenges, and climate pressures in rural care.

**THE NEXT GENERATION  
OF FAMILY DOCTORS  
CONNECTED  
SUPPORTED  
AND READY  
TO LEAD**

# YOUNG DOCTORS' MOVEMENTS



In 2025, WONCA's Young Doctors' Movements gave early-career family doctors practical opportunities to take part in global family medicine - presenting research, leading sessions, joining webinars and building international networks. Across the year, young doctors were visible at conferences and online, contributing to debates on the future of primary care and bringing new energy to WONCA's work.

Preconference activities at regional and world meetings gave young doctors a platform to present research, share ideas and build international networks. These sessions are often a first step into global family medicine and remain an important way to support new voices within WONCA.

Throughout the year, YDM groups also organised webinars and collaborative projects on digital health, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, planetary health and climate change. Scholarships, mentoring and peer support helped more young doctors take part, develop professionally and stay connected across regions. Together, these activities are helping build a confident new generation of family doctors ready to lead in a changing world.



# EDUCATION & TRAINING

WONCA continues to strengthen family medicine through education, training and professional development. Last year, this included new global standards, expanded learning opportunities, and support for research and leadership.

A major milestone was the update of the **WONCA Global Standards for Postgraduate Medical Education**, providing a practical framework for training programmes worldwide and supporting both development and quality improvement.

WONCA's **accreditation** work expanded across postgraduate training, continuing professional development, clinics and digital systems. In 2025, practices in Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Shanghai were awarded WONCA accreditation, while the Ping An CPD programme in China moved into its second year under the **Development and Enhancement Program**

WONCA's **awards and scholarships** supported participation, leadership and research with record demand in 2025. Scholarships were generously funded by the American Board of Family Medicine Foundation, Past President Dr Donald Li, and Chinese Taipei Association of Family Medicine which supports emerging researchers in family medicine.



# PUBLICATIONS

New learning resources were also developed, including publications on mental health, core values in family medicine, and digital health. Alongside webinars, courses and conferences, these resources support family doctors to build skills, share knowledge and improve care in diverse settings.





## FIVE STAR DOCTOR AWARDS 2025

Prof Louis Jenkins (South Africa)   Prof Péter Torzsa (Hungary)  
 Dr Ming-Nan Lin (Taiwan)   Dr Kim Yu (United States)  
 Dr Fatemeh Najafipour (Iran)   Dr Preethi Wijegoonewardene (Sri Lanka)  
 Dr Jana Bendová (Slovakia)



Professor **Maria Inez Padula Anderson** (Brazil) is a widely admired and deserving winner of the 2024-2025 **Global Five Star Doctor Award**. Over four decades, she has helped shape family medicine in Brazil as a clinician, teacher, mentor and leader, while also advancing public health and primary care policy. Her work in underserved communities, medical education and professional leadership has been marked by compassion, integrity and a clear commitment to equity. A popular choice in her native Brazil, she has inspired generations of family doctors through both her example and her lasting influence.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2025 - 2027



*BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT*

**MEMBER AT LARGE**

DR CHAN YUEN CHING CHERYL (HONG KONG SAR, CHINA)

**REGIONAL PRESIDENT, EAST MEDITERRANEAN**

PROF DR FAISAL A. ALNASER (BAHRAIN)

**YOUNG DOCTORS' MOVEMENT REPRESENTATIVE**

PROF FABIAN DUPONT (GERMANY)

**REGIONAL PRESIDENT, EUROPE**

PROF DR THOMAS FRESE (GERMANY)

**REGIONAL PRESIDENT, AFRICA**

PROF BOB MASH (SOUTH AFRICA)

**MEMBER AT LARGE & HONORARY TREASURER**

DR STEVE MOWLE (UK)

**REGIONAL PRESIDENT, SOUTH ASIA**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PRAMENDRA PRASAD (NEPAL)

**REGIONAL PRESIDENT, ASIA PACIFIC**

DR BRIAN CHANG (TAIWAN)

**REGIONAL PRESIDENT, IBEROAMERICANA-CIMF**

DR DORA PATRICIA BERNAL OCAMPO (COLOMBIA)

*FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT*

**REGIONAL PRESIDENT, NORTH AMERICA**

DR TANIA WHITBY-BEST (BARBADOS)

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

PROF MARÍA PILAR ASTIER PEÑA (SPAIN)

**PRESIDENT**

PROF VIVIANA MARTINEZ-BIANCHI (USA)

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KAREN FLEGG (AUSTRALIA)

**MEMBER AT LARGE & WHO LIAISON**

DR KIM YU (USA)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

DR HARRIS LYGIDAKIS (GREECE)

# WHAT WE DID IN 2025

## A Year in Global Family Medicine

### JANUARY

- Launched WONCA Project Labs to shape fundable proposals.
- Expanded accreditation programme.
- Launched Donald Li YDM Global Scholarship.

### FEBRUARY

- Joined SPACE social prescribing project, co-funded by the EU.
- Shared OECD PaRIS Survey Results as advocacy tool.
- WHO Executive Board.

### MARCH

- Held the MDD Minds Closing Event and shared outcomes.
- Signed fossil free communication commitment

### APRIL

- South Asia Region Conference & Global Rural Health Summit Bengaluru, India.
- Asia Pacific Conference Busan, South Korea.

### MAY

- World Family Doctor Day focus on mental health.
- East Mediterranean Conference, Morocco.
- Ibero-American Congress, Montevideo, Uruguay.
- World Health Assembly.

### JUNE

- Announced winners of Montegut Global Scholars Programme 2026.
- Proposed Amendment to WONCA Bylaws.

### JULY

- Recognised excellence through regional Five Star Doctor awards.
- Signed a landmark MOU with PAHO.

### AUGUST

- Launched three new titles in the WONCA Family Medicine Series.
- Issued a statement to protect care in conflict zones.

### SEPTEMBER

- World Conference held in Lisbon, Portugal.
- WONCA Collaboration Hub
- New Executive Committee elected.

### OCTOBER

- Rural WONCA wins Incredible Impact Awards.
- Launched fundraising campaigns for Oxfam and MSF work in Gaza.

### NOVEMBER

- Responded to the UN Political Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health.
- Facilitated new chairs of WPs and SIGs 2025 - 2027.

### DECEMBER

- Premiere of Music and Mental Health short film.
- Joined Global Commission for 21st Century Healthcare.
- Published workforce study with PAHO.