

WONCA News

Vol 43 Number 11 :December 2017



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www.globalfamilydoctor.com

From the President: December 2017



Photo: the Young Doctors' Meeting in Thailand

As the Western calendar year draws to a close, I hope this finds you well and that family medicine is thriving in your country. On behalf of all of us in the WONCA World Executive and Secretariat, I want to wish you and your families a peaceful and successful year ahead for 2018. I know that your efforts to develop and sustain general practice / family medicine (FM) are much needed and appreciated by your patients, so, very well done to you and your colleagues on all that you do and also for your advocacy for family doctors, which is vital.

Key successes this year include: our membership continues to grow; and we have also seen increased engagement by members through our Young Doctors' Movements, conferences and Working Parties and Special Interest Groups. We have had increasing numbers of invitations and contribution to consultations from the World Health Organization, and have had formal representation at five out of seven regional meetings – thus ensuring that the voice of family medicine is able to be heard, as countries debate how to meet the health needs of their populations. We have also been actively bidding for additional opportunities to fund new projects that would allow more evidence and 'outputs' from WONCA.

We are grateful to our academic members and their organisations for the great work they contribute - the Robert Graham Center in the USA, which is a policy unit linked to our member the American Academy of Family

Physicians, has facilitated a series of 'Starfield Summits' to build new evidence about how to measure and develop primary health care. Our Working Party on Research is also very active in coordinating and publishing case studies of family medicine at a country level, and we have several new WONCA books due out in 2018. Other impressive work includes the activities of our Working Party on Mental

Health who have published several new guidelines for clinical practice – please take time to read these, they are written for you.

[> Depression an evidence based first consultation](#)

[>Guidance on caring for the physical health of patients with Severe Mental Illness \(SMI\)](#)

Recruiting and retaining the GP/FM workforce remains a key priority, and we have discussed a possible campaign on this, including the need to target medical schools. I urge you to engage with medical schools in your country to ensure our discipline is promoted as a career choice and an important source of care for the people. We need 50% of young doctors to choose family medicine! And to achieve this we all need to help with their early learning, so they can meet family doctors and their teams, and be inspired by what we do. Please feel free to send us examples of where you feel you are succeeding in this so we can share your expertise with others- and contact us if we can help.

We also had strong representation at the WHO Global Human Resources for Health meeting in Dublin, and a separate article will follow on this meeting.

I have just completed three regional visits – to our WONCA Asia Pacific Region conference in Thailand; Canada for both their College and the North America Primary Care Research Group meeting; and then to WONCA South Asia Region conference, in Nepal. I was privileged to give a number of talks and meet

many colleagues who are achieving great work, both in clinical and academic domains.



Photo: President's visit to the Queens University Department of Family Medicine Clinic in Kingston, Canada, where Ruth Wilson our North America region president does her clinical work. Pictured with Diane Cross their Practice Manager.

Thinking ahead to 2018, we have World Family Doctor Day on May 19, and shall be inviting material for that early in the year; we have our WONCA World conference in Seoul, in October - get your poster and abstract submissions in soon!; three more WONCA region conferences – East Mediterranean in Kuwait and IberoAmericana in Columbia, both in March, and Europe, in Poland in June. Then there are the WHO celebrations of the Alma Ata Declaration 40th anniversary in November, where WONCA is already having input to the preparations, and which will bring a key focus back onto "primary health care".

A few members have contacted us about whether the political issues in the Asia Pacific region will impact on our Seoul world conference - our position is one of 'pragmatic optimism'. Our colleagues in the region are putting great plans in place, and we are seeing new abstracts submitted and registration starting well. The CEO has visited in November and all is going fine. In the event of cancellation on government advice, all

registration costs will be refunded, so there is no financial risk. And there are many beautiful places in and around South Korea to visit. So let's stand with our colleagues, and plan our CPD and holidays around Seoul in 17-21 October 2018!



Photo: with the new President of the Canadian College of Family Physicians, Dr Guillaume Charbonneau

I have personally been privileged to be to all our regions during 2017, and seen very contrasting but wonderful work – as well as the many challenges that family medicine still meets worldwide.

As President, and with your Executive, we want to support you as best we can - so please do contact us amanda.howe@wonca.net if you have any views and suggestions. We wish you, your families, your colleagues and friends, a happy and peaceful New Year. And as citizens and doctors, let us work for good in this period.

Professor Amanda Howe,
President of WONCA.

www.wonca2018.com

22nd **WONCA** WORLD CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 17-21, 2018 SEOUL, KOREA

Primary Care in the Future: Professional Excellence

De la Presidenta - diciembre 2017



Foto: Encuentro de Jóvenes Médicos de Familia en Tailandia.

Mientras las fechas especiales del calendario occidental se acercan, espero que estas lleguen a vosotros y a vosotras en un buen momento y que la Medicina de Familia se encuentre en una situación próspera en vuestros países. En nombre de todos nosotros y del Ejecutivo y Secretariado de WONCA, quiero desearos a todos y todas a vuestras familias un exitoso y pacífico nuevo año 2018. Sé que vuestros esfuerzos para desarrollar y mantener la Medicina de Familia y Comunitaria son muy necesarios y apreciados por vuestros pacientes, así que os envío muchos ánimos, a ti y a tus colegas para que seguís haciendo todo lo que hacéis y también para que seguís defendiendo a los médicos y las médicas de familia: Vuestra defensa es vital.

Los éxitos clave de este año son los siguientes: la cantidad de nuevos miembros que se nos unen continúa aumentando; y también hemos constatado el aumento de su compromiso en los Movimientos de Jóvenes Médicos de Familia, en el número de los congresos, en los Grupos de Trabajo y los Grupos de Interés especial. Hemos incrementado la cantidad de invitaciones y la contribución que hacemos a las recomendaciones de la Organización Mundial de la Salud, y hemos logrado tener una representación formal en hasta cinco de los siete encuentros regionales – por consiguiente, estamos garantizando que la voz de la Medicina de Familia pueda ser escuchada, mientras los países debaten sobre cómo dar respuesta a las necesidades en salud de sus sociedades. También hemos sido activamente decisivos ante las

oportunidades adicionales a la hora de financiar nuevos proyectos que nos permitirán conseguir una mayor evidencia científica y más “beneficios” de WONCA.

Estamos agradecidos a nuestros miembros académicos y sus organizaciones por el gran trabajo en el que están contribuyendo – el Robert Graham Center en los Estados Unidos, que es una unidad política estrechamente relacionada con nuestra

organización miembro, la Academia Americana de Médicos de Familia, ha facilitado la organización de una serie de “Starfield Summits” para construir nuevas evidencias sobre cómo medir y desarrollar los datos de la Atención Primaria. Nuestro Grupo de Trabajo en Investigación también está muy activo a la hora de coordinar y hacer públicos estudios de casos de Medicina de Familia a nivel estatal, y también tenemos diversos nuevos libros de WONCA que se van a publicar este 2018. Otro de los trabajos que mejores sensaciones han generado son las actividades de nuestro Grupo de Trabajo en Salud Mental que han publicado nuevas guías para la práctica clínica – por favor, tómate un poco de tiempo para leerlas, las hemos escrito para ti. [Ver mas](#)



Foto: Con el nuevo Presidente del Colegio de Médicos de Familia de Canadá, el Doctor Guillaume Charbonneau.

Contratar y mantener el personal en Medicina

de Familia y Atención Primaria sigue siendo una prioridad clave, y hemos discutido la posibilidad de realizar una campaña para perseguir este objetivo, incluyendo la necesidad de identificar las escuelas y centros de formación médicos. Os insto a comprometeros con las escuelas de Medicina de vuestros países para garantizar que nuestra especialidad se promueve como una carrera académica a elegir y una fuente importante de asistencia en salud para las personas. ¡Necesitamos que un 50% de jóvenes médicos y médicas elijan la Medicina de Familia! Y para conseguir eso, todos y todas necesitamos ayudarles en sus primeros pasos del aprendizaje, de modo que puedan conocer a médicos de familia y a sus equipos, y sentirse inspirados por lo que hacemos. Por favor, siéntete libre para mandarnos ejemplos respecto a aquellos puntos en que sientas que estás teniendo éxito y así podremos compartir tu profesionalidad con otros colegas. También nos puedes contactar, si quieres, por si podemos ayudarte.
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De igual forma, tuvimos una representación muy potente en el encuentro Global sobre Recursos Humanos de la Organización Mundial de la Salud que tuvo lugar en Dublín, a propósito del cual escribiré un artículo próximamente.

Acabo de realizar tres visitas regionales. Fui a nuestro Congreso de la Región de WONCA Asia Pacífico en Tailandia. En Canadá participé tanto en el encuentro de su Academia como en el del Grupo de Investigación en Atención Primaria de Norte América, y después estuve en el Congreso de la Región de WONCA de Asia del Sur, en Nepal. Tuve el privilegio de ofrecer una serie de charlas y de conocer muchos colegas que están consiguiendo grandes resultados en su trabajo, tanto en el ámbito clínico como en el académico.

Pensando ya en el 2018, tenemos el próximo Día del Médico de Familia que será el 19 de mayo, y vamos a invitaros a distribuir materiales para promocionarlo a principios de este nuevo año. También tenemos nuestro Congreso Mundial de WONCA en Seúl, el mes de Octubre – mandad vuestras comunicaciones y pósteres pronto! – y tres congresos WONCA más, el EMR en Kuwait, el Iberoamericano en Colombia - ambos en mayo - y el Congreso de WONCA Europa en Polonia el próximo mes de Junio. Después

tendremos las celebraciones de la Organización Mundial de la Salud a propósito de la Declaración Alma Alta en el 40 aniversario que tendrá lugar en noviembre, en que WONCA ya está recibiendo propuestas para los preparativos, y que van a poner el foco en la “asistencia en Atención Primaria”.

Algunos miembros nos han contactado a propósito del posible impacto que podrían tener las actuales cuestiones políticas en el Congreso Mundial de Seúl – nuestra posición es la de “optimismo pragmático”. Nuestros colegas en la región de Asia Pacífico están poniendo sobre la mesa grandes planes, y hemos constatado que el envío de comunicaciones y el ritmo de inscripciones ha empezado bien. La persona encargada del Congreso visitó Corea del Sur en noviembre y todo está yendo muy bien. En el caso poco probable de que tuviéramos que cancelarlo por una advertencia del Gobierno coreano, el coste de todas las inscripciones sería devuelto, así que no existe ningún riesgo económico. ¡Y hay tantos sitios bonitos en Corea del Sur para visitar! Así que, ¡apoyemos a nuestros colegas y planifiquemos nuestro desarrollo profesional y nuestras vacaciones entorno a Seúl los próximos 17 y 21 de octubre!

Este año 2017 he tenido el privilegio de poder estar en todas nuestras regiones WONCA y he podido ver los contrastes que existen en nuestro mundo así como las maravillas de nuestro trabajo y los muchos retos a los que la Medicina de Familia todavía se enfrenta en todo el planeta.

Como Presidenta, y codo con codo con los colegas de tu Ejecutivo, queremos apoyarte tanto como podamos, así que no dudes en contactarnos en caso de tener cualquier duda o proyecto. amanda.howe@wonca.net Te deseamos, a ti y a tu familia, a tus colegas y a tus amigos, un feliz y pacífico Año Nuevo. Y como ciudadanos, ciudadanas y médicos y médicas, trabajemos con determinación durante el próximo periodo.

Profesora Amanda Howe
Presidenta de WONCA

Traducción: Pere Vilanova, Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine (semFYC) - Periodismo y comunicación

De la Présidente - décembre 2017



Photo: Réunion des Jeunes Médecins en Thaïlande

Alors que le calendrier occidental touche à sa fin, j'espère que cette lettre vous trouvera en bonne forme et que le monde de la médecine se porte bien dans votre pays. Au nom de nous tous au comité de direction et au secrétariat de WONCA, je vous souhaite, à vous et vos familles, une excellente nouvelle année dans la paix pour 2018. Je sais que vos efforts de développement et de soutien de la médecine générale et de la médecine familiale sont essentiels et bien appréciés de vos patients, donc je vous félicite, vous et vos collègues, pour tout ce que vous faites et pour votre soutien aux médecins de famille, ce qui est tout à fait vital.

Les grands succès de cette année ont inclus: la croissance de nos adhésions et un engagement grandissant de nos membres grâce aux mouvements de jeunes médecins, aux conférences et aux groupes de travail et groupes d'intérêts spéciaux. Nous avons reçu un nombre accru d'invitations et de demandes de contribution de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé. Nous avons eu une présence formelle à cinq des sept réunions régionales - garantissant ainsi que la voix de la médecine familiale soit bien entendue lors des débats sur les moyens d'assurer les besoins sanitaires dans chaque pays. Nous avons aussi présenté des soumissions pour des possibilités supplémentaires de financement de nouveaux projets qui produiraient davantage de preuves et résultats de WONCA.

Nous remercions nos membres universitaires et leurs organisations pour leur fantastique travail -le Centre Robert Graham aux Etats-Unis, unité chargée de la politique liée à notre membre American Academy of Family Physicians, a facilité une série de « Starfield Summits » pour recueillir de nouvelles données quant à la mesure et au développement des services de santé primaire.

Notre groupe de travail sur la recherche est également très actif en ce qui concerne la coordination et la publication de cas pratiques en médecine familiale au niveau du pays. Plusieurs publications de WONCA sont prévues pour 2018. D'autres activités impressionnantes concernent les travaux de notre groupe de travail sur la santé mentale. Ce groupe a publié plusieurs nouvelles directives pour la pratique clinique –prenez le temps de les lire, elles ont été rédigées à votre intention.

[> Depression an evidence based first consultation](#)

[>Guidance on caring for the physical health of patients with Severe Mental Illness \(SMI\)](#)

Le recrutement et la rétention de personnel en médecine générale/médecine familiale demeure une grande priorité et nous avons parlé de la possibilité d'une campagne à ce sujet, y compris la nécessité de viser les écoles de médecine. Je vous encourage à collaborer avec les écoles de médecine de votre pays afin d'assurer la promotion de notre discipline comme choix de carrière et comme importante source de soins pour la population. Il faudrait que 50% des jeunes médecins choisissent la médecine familiale! Pour y parvenir, nous devons les aider au début de leur apprentissage afin qu'ils puissent rencontrer des médecins de famille et leurs équipes, et être inspirés par ces rôles. N'hésitez pas à nous envoyer des exemples de vos succès afin de partager votre expertise avec les autres -et contactez-nous si vous avez besoin d'aide.

Nous avons également eu une importante représentation à la réunion de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé sur les ressources humaines pour la santé à Dublin. Un autre article à ce sujet suivra.

Je viens de terminer trois visites régionales - Conférence WONCA région Asie Pacifique en Thaïlande, réunions au Canada de leur Collège et du North America Primary Care Research Group, puis au Népal pour WONCA région Asie du Sud. J'ai eu le plaisir de présenter plusieurs allocutions et de rencontrer de nombreux collègues qui font un merveilleux travail à la fois dans le domaine clinique et dans le domaine académique.

Au programme de 2018, il y aura, le 19 mai, la Journée mondiale du médecin de famille pour laquelle nous ferons appel à contribution en début d'année. Il y aura la conférence mondiale de WONCA à Seoul en octobre - envoyez-nous vos posters et soumissions. Il y aura trois autres conférences régionales de WONCA -EMR au Koweït et IberoAmericana en Colombie en mars, puis ce sera l'Europe et la Pologne en juin. Puis il y aura les célébrations de l'OMS pour le 40e anniversaire de la déclaration d'Alma Ata en novembre à laquelle WONCA contribue et qui remettra l'accent sur les soins de santé primaires.

Quelques membres nous ont contactés au sujet de l'impact des questions politiques dans la région Asie-Pacifique sur la conférence mondiale de Seoul -nous adoptons une position « d'optimisme pragmatique ». Nos

collègues régionaux y travaillent déjà et la soumission de nouveaux extraits et les inscriptions commencent bien. Le PDG nous a rendu visite en novembre et tout va bien. Au cas où il y aurait une annulation répondant aux recommandations gouvernementales, tous les frais d'inscription seront remboursés. Il n'y a donc pas de risque financier. De plus, il y a beaucoup de beaux endroits à visiter en Corée du Sud. Alors, soutenons-nous les uns les autres et organisons nos programmes de formation continue et nos vacances à Seoul autour de la période du 17 au 21 octobre 2018!

J'ai eu le privilège de me rendre dans toutes nos régions en 2017 et j'ai pu voir un travail extraordinaire et varié -ainsi que les nombreux défis confrontant la médecine familiale au niveau mondial.

En tant que présidente et avec le comité directeur, nous voulons vous soutenir le mieux possible -donc, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter pour nous communiquer vos vues et suggestions. amanda.howe@wonca.net Nous vous souhaitons, ainsi qu'à vos familles, vos collègues et vos amis, une heureuse et sereine nouvelle année. En tant que citoyens et médecins, travaillons pour le bien en cette période.

Amanda Howe
Présidente de WONCA

*Traduit par Josette Liebeck
Traductrice professionnelle anglais-français
Accréditation NAATI No 75800*



FIFTH
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1-3 MARCH 2018
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From the CEO's desk: conferences recent & future, & season's greetings



CEO Garth Manning (standing) at the South Asia Region (SAR) conference in Nepal with (from l to r) Raman Kumar (WONCA SAR president-elect), Nongluck Suwisith (WONCA Manager), Pratap Prasad (immed past WONCA SAR president), Amanda Howe (WONCA President), Kanu Bala (WONCA SAR President)

As forecast in last month's column, November has been a month of conferences and conference activities.

WONCA Asia Pacific Region Conference - Pattaya, Thailand

Straight after the WONCA Executive meeting in Bangkok in late October the majority of Executive headed east, to the seaside resort of Pattaya, to take part in the WONCA Asia Pacific Region (APR) conference from 1st to 4th November. The event was hosted jointly by the Royal College of Family Physicians of Thailand and the GP Association of Thailand.

Prior to the conference itself, The Rajakumar Movement – the young doctor movement for WONCA APR – held a pre-conference event on 31st October. There was an incredible attendance, and Shin Yoshida and his committee deserve enormous praise for putting together such a successful and popular event.

On 31st October WONCA APR also held its Council meeting, and we were delighted to welcome a representative from Laos to the

meeting. Laos is not yet a member of WONCA, but we hope that these initial steps, in supporting our Lao colleagues, will result in their joining in due course. At the meeting, bids for the WONCA APR 2020 conference were made, and congratulations are due to the Royal New Zealand College of GPs who won the right to hold the conference in Auckland in March 2020.

On then to the main conference itself, which was held in a beautiful cliff top resort overlooking Pattaya bay. The programme itself was well constructed and stimulating, with a variety of sessions on a whole host of topics. Our Working Party on Education, led by Prof Val Wass, led several sessions on educational topics, and Val reported more fully in last month's [WONCA News](#).

There will be no APR conference in 2018, as the world conference will be held in Korea, (in the APR region) but we look forward very much to the next regional event in [Kyoto, Japan, in May 2019](#).

WONCA South Asia Region Conference - Kathmandu, Nepal

Whilst the start of the month had seen us in Thailand, the end of the month saw us in Kathmandu, at the WONCA South Asia Region (SAR) meeting hosted by GPAN – the GP Association of Nepal. I was fortunate to attend The Spice Route (WONCA SAR young doctor movement) preconference on 24th November, which had a number of very inspiring presentations from young Nepalese family doctors.

Nepal is a very rural country, with many isolated communities, and the Government of Nepal has very explicitly based its main health delivery in district hospitals on provision by well-trained family medicine graduates – those holding the MDGP qualification. As well as

more mainstream GP training, Nepalese doctors also undertake training in emergency obstetric care and emergency surgery, and so a well-trained specialist GP can do the work of perhaps four other specialists. A number of the presentations were of some of the really fantastic work that these specialist GPs are undertaking in their communities, offering enhanced care to populations previously very isolated and under-served.

The main conference took place on 25th and 26th November, with a total of 440 delegates registered. The HOC had put together a very interesting programme, with plenaries and two parallel streams of sessions, all of which were extremely well attended. Of course there was a very active social programme as well, and a really good time was had by all who were privileged to attend.

WONCA SAR Council also held a meeting on 26th November and were delighted to welcome to the meeting the Pakistan Society of Family Physicians, which had just had their upgrade to full membership endorsed by WONCA Executive, and the Department of General Practice of Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences Bhutan (KGUMSB) which had just been admitted to WONCA Academic Membership. There will be no WONCA SAR regional conference in 2018, as the WONCA Rural Health conference is planned for Delhi in April 2018, but the 2019 conference was awarded to the Pakistan Society of Family Physicians, to be held in Lahore, Pakistan, on dates to be confirmed.

WONCA World Conference 2018 – Seoul



To add to an extremely busy month for conferences, I also returned to Seoul for further meetings with the Host Organizing Committee (HOC) and Professional Conference Organizers (PCO) for the WONCA World event in October 2018. Plans for the conference are advancing well; dates of particular note include:

-Deadline for submissions for workshops and seminars is 31st December 2017.

-Deadline for abstract submission is 28th February 2018.

-Deadline for early Bird registration is 31st March 2018.

Lots more details can be found on the [conference website](#).

The venue for the WONCA Executive meeting, the meeting of WONCA Regional Councils and the WONCA World Council meeting has now been confirmed. Rather than holding these meetings in Seoul itself, they will all be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Incheon. Incheon is the region where the international airport is situated, and the hotel is only around 20 minutes by road from the airport. Facilities are excellent, and there are many hotels in the area to suit all pockets. More details will be provided nearer the time, but you can also go to the [hotel website](#).

A few members have contacted us about the political issues in the Asia Pacific region and whether this will impact on the Seoul conference. Our position is one of 'pragmatic optimism' and we remain confident that the conference will go ahead as planned. Even if the conference were to be cancelled, on government advice, all registration costs will be refunded, so there is no financial risk, and there are many beautiful places in and around South Korea to visit. We therefore hope very much that you will continue to support our Korean colleagues, and plan your CPD and holidays around Seoul in October 2018!

Of course, the winter Olympics are also scheduled to take place in Korea in February 2018, and this will demonstrate clearly that it is "business as usual" in the country.

Season's Greetings

Finally, this is the last WONCA News for 2017, with the next edition not due until the beginning of February 2018. The CEO and Secretariat wish all our members the compliments of the season, and a very happy, prosperous and successful 2018.

Garth Manning , CEO
Garth is this month's WONCA featured doctor (page 25)

Policy Bite: Fourth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health



Photo: John Wynn-Jones, Job Metsemakers, Anna Stavdal with WONCA's pledge

This WHO forum, held from November 13-17, 2017, in Dublin Ireland, was attended on behalf of WONCA by three members of our World Executive (Anna Stavdal, Job Metsemakers, and Ana Nunes Barata for our Young Doctors' Movement), and a number of the WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice leaders including John Wynn Jones, Bruce Chater, Jim Rourke, as well as Amber Wheatley and Veronika Rasic for the Rural Seeds group (young rural family doctors and students).

The Youth Forum

Dr Ana Nunes Barata our Young Doctors' Movement leader, led our input to the Youth Forum, in collaboration with the Rural Seeds group. She writes:

"Overall, the first Youth Forum was very successful. It had over 100 participants, from different professional backgrounds and from different countries. The activities included keynote speeches, round



tables (with one expert, one young expert and one moderator), scenarios (where participants had to find solutions for problems depending on the setting that they were given), a rural café (led by our WONCA Rural colleagues) to raise awareness about rural healthcare, and an 'innovation lab'."

The Youth Forum published a 'Youth Call to Action' that sets the momentum for the role of youth in healthcare. Our proposal to add the following phrase to this 'Youth Call to Action' was accepted, which was a great success: "Call for prioritising workforce developments for primary

care functions: this must include the development of the family medicine workforce to ensure a strong medical workforce at the first point of medical contact, and deliver a well trained and supported workforce for rural as well as urban settings."

The main meeting

Prof Job Metsemakers in a summary of a report made by himself, Anna Stavdal and Ana Nunes Barata, said that the main meeting had around 1000 delegates from across the globe, with representatives from many different organisations including policy makers, labour organisations, and NGOs.

Key points noted by Job, included:

- "Putting money into the health workforce is investment. The national product and wealth of the country will increase, and this should offset some of the costs of healthcare. There

will be a shortage of 18 million health workers in 2030 if we do not take action.

- There is a great problem of maldistribution of the health workforce. Health workers do not want to work in rural and remote areas.

- A great part of the health workforce is female. We have to pay attention to their safety, and strive for equal pay for equal work.

- Countries have stepped up the number of students in health professions, to find out after graduation that the government can only provide a job to half of them.

- The position of labour organizations is weak in many countries

- All countries are aware of possible brain drain and pledge to adhere to the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel. On the other hand health workforce members should be able to train also in other countries.

- The focus was on health workforce in general, not on specific professions. The rural, remote, underserved populations were mentioned clearly and repeatedly as a major problem.”

A rural perspective from A/Prof Bruce Chater

“The WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice was well represented at the Dublin forum with eight members of the Working Party Council attending including Chair, John Wynn-Jones, and the newly appointed Australian Rural Health Commissioner, Prof Paul Worley.

We held a ‘standing room only’ workshop on rural issues and solutions. With our Arctic colleagues we looked at the challenges of the retention of family physicians; with our nursing colleagues the shared challenges with nursing and other professions; and with our African colleagues the particular challenges they face. Prof Sarah Strasser led another session on the evidence for retention in rural and remote areas – an area that we will continue to work on with WHO.

The most important however was the contribution of our Rural Seeds group – Amber Wheatley and Veronika Rasic, who with Ana Nunes Barata, worked tirelessly at the Youth Forum and held a live international Rural Café with chair, Mayara Floss, joining by internet from her rural placement in Brazil (pictured). Although small steps, the Global Forum communiqués recognised the role of family practice and the special needs and challenges faced by rural and underserved communities.”



The outcome

Overall WONCA’s team meant the voice of family medicine was heard, including our rural doctors, our young doctors, and student communities. Our rural team had a 90 minute track, and our WONCA Executive leaders presented during a panel session on socially accountable medical education. We commented on the ‘Dublin declaration’, although the final signoff happened at country/government level. We will reflect on the impact of the meeting over time, but know that our contacts in WHO will have seen our excellent inputs, and hope this may lead to further change towards the primary care workforce including family medicine.

[Dublin Declaration on Human Resources for Health:](#)

[Building the Health Workforce of the Future Youth Call to Action: "Health workers re an investment not a cost"](#)

Thanks to all involved.

Amanda Howe.
WONCA President.

Fragmentos de política: Cuarto Foro Mundial de Recursos Humanos para la Salud



Fotografía: John Wynn-Jones, Job Metsemakers, Anna Stavdal junto con el compromiso de WONCA

En este último foro de la Organización Mundial de la Salud, que tuvo lugar en la capital de Irlanda, Dublín, entre los pasados días 13 y 17 de noviembre, asistieron como representantes de WONCA hasta tres miembros del Ejecutivo Mundial (Anna Stavdal, Job Metsemakers y Ana Nunes Barata, en representación de nuestro Movimiento de Jóvenes Médicos de Familia), así como un importante número de representantes de nuestro Grupo de Trabajo en Medicina Rural, incluyendo John Wynn Jones, Bruce Chater, Jim Rourke, al mismo tiempo que Amber Wheatley y Veronika Rasic también vinieron en nombre del Grupo de Rural Seeds (Semillas Rurales, grupo compuesto por los jóvenes médicos de familia del entorno rural, y estudiantes).

Foro de Juventud

La Doctora Ana Nunes Barata lideró nuestros preparativos a través nuestro Foro de Jóvenes Médicos, con la ayuda de nuestro grupo de Rural Seeds. Ella escribe:

“En general, el primer Foro de Jóvenes fue muy exitoso. Hubo más de 100 participantes de diferentes contextos profesionales y de diversos países. Las actividades incluyeron discursos clave, mesas redondas (con un experto, un joven experto y un moderador), escenarios (en los que los participantes tuvieron que encontrar solución a diversos

problemas en función del marco que se les presentó), un café rural (coordinado por nuestros colegas de WONCA Rural) para conseguir un aumento mayor sobre la asistencia sanitaria en el entorno rural, y un “innovation lab”.”

El Foro de Jóvenes hizo pública, también, una “Llamada a la acción de los jóvenes” que puso sobre la mesa la idoneidad del momento actual para el desarrollo del papel de los jóvenes en la asistencia sanitaria. Nuestra propuesta para que se añadiese la siguiente frase a este “Llamamiento a la acción de la

juventud” fue aceptada, y fue un gran éxito: “Llamada para priorizar los progresos en las funciones del personal sanitario: esto debe incluir el desarrollo del personal de la Medicina de Familia para garantizar que los profesionales sanitarios forman parte de un personal médico fuerte desde el primer momento de contacto médico, y que ofrecen un buen personal sanitario tanto en el contexto rural como en el urbano.”

El encuentro principal

El profesor Metsemakers apunta que en el encuentro principal asistieron cerca de 1.000 delegados de todo el mundo, con representantes de diversas organizaciones, incluyendo a políticos, responsables sindicales y organizaciones humanitarias. Los puntos clave que apuntó Job fueron:

- Dotar de recursos al personal sanitario es una inversión: La riqueza nacional y el bienestar del país crecerán, y esto debería compensar en parte los costes de la asistencia sanitaria. Si no hacemos algo, habrá una escasez de trabajadores sanitarios de 18 millones en 2030.
- Hay un gran problema de mala distribución del personal sanitario. Los profesionales de la salud no quieren trabajar ni en las zonas rurales ni en los entornos más remotos.
- Gran parte de los profesionales de salud está formado por mujeres. Debemos prestar atención a su bienestar, seguridad y luchar

por una remuneración equitativa.

- Los países han aumentado exponencialmente el número de estudiantes en las profesiones sanitarias, para constatar, después, que los gobiernos de estos solo pueden garantizar puestos de trabajo para la mitad de ellos.

- La situación de los sindicatos es débil en muchos países.

- Todos los países son conscientes de una posible fuga de cerebros y se comprometen con el Código Global de Buenas Prácticas de la Organización Mundial de la Salud sobre la contratación de Personal Sanitario. Por otro lado, los profesionales sanitarios también deben poder formarse y enseñar en otros países.

- El foco se ha puesto en el personal sanitario en general, no en especialidades concretas. Las situaciones de las personas que viven en el medio rural, remoto o en contextos en que no hay suficientes servicios, se han mencionado repetidamente y de forma clara como un problema mayor.”

Una perspectiva rural de A/Profesor Bruce Chater

“El Grupo de Trabajo de WONCA en Práctica Rural estuvo bien representado en el foro de Dublín con hasta ocho miembros del Consejo de los Grupos de Trabajo, incluyendo a su presidente, John Wynn-Jones, y al recientemente elegido Comisario en Salud Rural de Australia, el profesor Paul Worley.

Mantuvimos un taller acerca de los problemas del entorno rural y sus soluciones en una sala en la que no cabía ni una aguja. Con nuestros colegas del ártico dimos un vistazo a los retos contra los que se enfrenta la retención de médicos de familia, con nuestros colegas de enfermería y de otras especialidades; y también con los problemas ante los que se encuentran nuestros colegas africanos. La profesora Sarah Strasser lideró otra sesión acerca de la situación de la retención en el área rural y las áreas remotas – una zona que continuará trabajando codo con codo con la Organización Mundial de la Salud.

De todos modos, lo más importante fue la contribución de nuestro grupo de Rural Seeds

– Amber Wheatley y Veronika Rasic, quienes, conjuntamente con Ana Nunes Barata, trabajaron muy intensamente en el Foro de Jóvenes y mantuvo un Café Rural online e internacional con la presidenta, Mayara Floss, que se unió a nosotros vía internet desde su localidad rural en Brasil. A pesar de esos pequeños pasos, los comunicados del Foro Global han reconocido el rol de la práctica de la Medicina de Familia y sus necesidades especiales y los retos a los que se enfrentan las comunidades rurales y a las que faltan servicios.”

El resultado

En general el equipo de WONCA quiso lograr que la voz de la Medicina de Familia fuese escuchada, así como la de nuestros médicos rurales, jóvenes médicos y las comunidades de estudiantes. Nuestro equipo rural tuvo 90 minutos para expresarse, y los líderes de nuestro Ejecutivo de WONCA, presentaron durante un panel de sesión en la educación médica. Comentamos la “Declaración de Dublín” a pesar de que la firma final pasó a un nivel de país/gubernamental. Reflejaremos el impacto del encuentro durante el tiempo, pero tened consciencia que nuestros contactos en la Organización Mundial de la Salud habrán visto nuestras excelentes entradas, y espero que esto podría llevarnos a un cambio mayor hacia el personal de la Atención Primaria incluyendo a la Medicina de Familia.

[Declaración de Dublín de los Recursos Humanos por la Salud: Construyendo el Personal Sanitario del Futuro](#)

[Llamamiento a la acción juvenil – “Los profesionales sanitarios, una inversión, no un coste”](#).

¡Muchas gracias a todas las personas por vuestro compromiso!

Amanda Howe.
WONCA President.

Traducción: Pere Vilanova, Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine (semFYC) - Periodismo y comunicación

Feature Stories

Bhutan becomes WONCA Academic Member



Photo: Bhutan colleagues during visit of Michael Kidd.

Dr Chhabi Lal Adhikari, Professor and GP Course Coordinator, Department of General Practice at Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan writes on the journey that has led to Bhutan's first GP specialist training programme and then to that programme becoming a WONCA Academic Member Organization.



Bhutan has finally joined the other South East Asian countries to start a masters level training programme in General Practice from July 2017. It is a four year training course to be done after MBBS. The successful candidates will be awarded MD in General Practice by Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB).

The Ministry of Health, Royal Civil Service Commission and the Medical Council of Bhutan have all now recognized those who have completed the training programme as a specialist, at par with any other specialty.

This would not have been possible without the support and consistent encouragement from WONCA global and regional leaders. I was introduced to WONCA by my teacher and WONCA South Asia Region (SAR) immediate past president, Professor Pratap Prasad. I became the first WONCA Direct member from Bhutan, in February 2014. In the same year in August, I was able to attend the regional conference held in Chennai, India, with the support of Montegut scholarship.

It helped me to know the global and regional WONCA leaders and the talk given by Professor Michael Kidd was really touching for me. Since then, my focused and persistent effort to start an in-country training programme became a reality after three years.

In 2015 November, Dr Garth Manning, WONCA CEO and Professor Pratap, WONCA SAR President, were invited to Bhutan's first ever International Medical Conference to talk on health care systems and medical education. Their visit left a lasting impression on the minds of our medical colleagues and

policy makers on General Practice.

In 2016 March, I was successful to secure an Endeavour Executive Fellowship to write the curriculum for our GP programme under the mentorship of Professor Michael Kidd at Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia.

In August 2017, with the support and advice of Professor Kanu Bala, current WONCA SAR president and the WONCA Secretariat, our Department of General Practice applied for WONCA Academic Membership. Our membership was approved during the recent WONCA Executive Meeting held at Bangkok in November 2017.

It was an honour and privilege to receive the WONCA Academic Membership from a renowned global leader and immediate WONCA past president, Professor Michael Kidd during his recent Bhutan visit. He was invited by the medical university to give a talk on “Health Professions Education” during the 3rd International Medical Conference from November 3 – 5, 2017.

Prof Michael Kidd awarding the WONCA Academic certificate to the department of General Practice, KGUMSB during a simple ceremony over the dinner in presence of President of the University, Director General of the Ministry of Health and Head of the Departments of the National Referral Hospital.

Our academic programmes are at a budding stage and we are learning with every step we take. We need support from regional and international institutions to develop our faculty and strengthen the GP residency programme in Bhutan. We offer our sincere gratitude to WONCA especially Prof Michael Kidd, Prof Pratap N Prasad, Prof Kanu Bala, Dr Garth Manning and Nongluck Suwisith from WONCA Secretariat for your continuous support and guidance. We look forward to work more closely with WONCA as we aspire to bring positive changes in the health of our people.



Photo: Dr Chhabi Lal Adhikari and colleagues from Bhutan are presented with their Academic membership certificate by Amanda Howe (WONCA President) at the recent WONCA SAR conference in Nepal. (Chhabi is on Amanda's right)

WONCA-WHO Liaison

WHO Montevideo Roadmap 2018-2030 on NCDs as a Sustainable Development Priority

WHO has announced that Governments endorsed the *Montevideo Roadmap 2018-2030 on NCDs as a Sustainable Development Priority* at the opening of the three-day Global Conference on Noncommunicable Diseases in Montevideo, hosted by WHO and the Presidency of Uruguay.

[Montevideo Roadmap 2018-2030 on NCDs as a Sustainable Development Priority](#)

The pledge follows agreement by world leaders to reduce “premature” deaths from NCDs by one-third by 2030 as part of the United Nations’ Agenda for Sustainable Development. Today, NCDs kill 40 million annually, more than any other cause of death. Of these deaths, 15 million occur prematurely among people aged 30-70 years, and 7 million in low- and low-middle income countries.

The Montevideo Roadmap highlights the need for coordinated and coherent action from all sectors and the whole of society, as many of the main drivers of ill health lie outside the control of health ministries, systems and professionals. Non-State actors, including civil society and industry, have important roles to play.

It also points out that the bulk of NCD deaths could have been prevented by action against tobacco, air pollution, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, and harmful use of alcohol – as well

as by improved disease detection and treatment.

The Montevideo Roadmap identifies a range of challenges, including:

- uneven and insufficient progress to reduce premature deaths from NCDs;
- influence of the private sector on governments to prioritize trade over public health goals;
- lack of high-level political leadership to ensure that health promotion and NCD prevention and control are part of all areas of government policy.

Region news

Joint award to James & Leslie Rourke for North America region 5-Star Doctor



Drs Leslie and James Rourke are announced as co-WONCA 5-Star Doctors for the region of North America. As family physicians, Drs James and Leslie Rourke have made significant contributions to the discipline for over 35 years. A joint nomination for the WONCA North America 5-Star Doctor may be unconventional, however, in addition to being partners in marriage, James and Leslie Rourke have been practice partners throughout their careers, and have also taught alongside one another, first at the University of Western Ontario (UWO), then at Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN). Both James and Leslie Rourke exemplify the five pillars of the WONCA 5-Star Doctor, through their individual accomplishments and their collaborative work with one another, as outlined below.

A care provider:

Drs James and Leslie Rourke practiced in Goderich, Ontario, Canada for 25 years. As rural family physicians, their practice was comprehensive, including obstetrics and emergency care. While in Goderich, their practice was also a main UWO Rural Family Medicine teaching sites.

After a move to St. John's, Newfoundland in 2004, to take on the role of Dean of Medicine at MUN, Dr James Rourke continued to practice in rural communities in Newfoundland and Labrador, travelling extensively throughout the province and in New Brunswick to visit teaching sites and provide clinical care. He also delivered humanitarian care and aid in Haiti in his role as a board member with Team Broken Earth.

After leaving her Goderich practice for the east coast, Dr Leslie Rourke continues to see patients and practice family medicine in St. John's, Newfoundland. She remains a comprehensive care provider, serving a patient-community of all ages, from infants to the elderly, and has adapted to the medically unique patient population under her care, due to genetically-related syndromes that are less common in other parts of Canada.

A decision maker:

Developed in 1979 by Drs Leslie and James Rourke, the Rourke Baby Record revolutionized well-baby visits, creating a

record system that included nutrition, development, and family issues, among other factors. At a time when well-baby visits consisted of little more than a vaccination, the Rourke family recognized a gap and acted, creating the Rourke Baby Record. The Record is a tool that simplifies evidence-based well baby/child care from ages 0-5. The Rourke Baby Record continues to be used extensively by physicians for the past 35 years, and has seen numerous updates and revisions as new evidence has emerged.

It is endorsed by both the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) and the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS). In 2006, Dr Leslie Rourke was awarded the Dr Wallace J. Ingram Award for New Faculty at Memorial University, which was used to fund the development of the Rourke Baby Record website (www.rourkebabyrecord.ca), making the free resource even more accessible for physicians worldwide.

Communicator:

Dr James Rourke has had over 100 medical journal articles and book chapters published, and has delivered well over 100 lectures, workshops and presentations spanning from 1974 to present – including several WONCA conferences. His presentations have covered a variety of topics related to practicing rural family medicine, rural emergency services, medical education, and integrating social accountability in medical school curriculums. He has been a Professor of Family Medicine at MUN since 2004, and was also the Dean of Medicine until 2016. He previously served as the assistant dean of Rural Regional Medicine at the UWO, where he was also a Professor in the department of Family Medicine.

Likewise, Dr Leslie Rourke has published 40 journal articles and eight book chapters. She has lectured widely on evidenced-based preventative pediatric healthcare, relationships and boundary issues for physicians and their families, and issues facing rural physicians, with a focus on women's issues. She was an adjunct professor for the UWO's Department of Family Medicine and taught medical students and residents in her practice in Goderich beginning in 1984, and continuing to do so in her practice in St. John's. She was a full-time faculty member at MUN, and was named Professor Emerita of Family Medicine when she retired in 2016.

Community Leader:

Aside from developing the Rourke Baby Record, a tool that continues to serve many in the family medicine community, Drs Leslie and James Rourke have been community leaders within their practice areas, as well as within the community of rural practitioners. From 1997 to 2004, Dr James Rourke was the Founding Director of the Southwestern Ontario Rural Regional Medicine Education, Research, and Development Unit (SWORRM). The SWORRM Unit operated with the mission to improve rural health and healthcare through rural-oriented medical education at the UWO. It led to the development of regional community training sites for specialty resident rotations, and the Rural Undergraduate Medicine Program. It has become a strong, integrated undergraduate/postgraduate rural and regional medical education network.

While practicing family medicine in Goderich, Dr Leslie Rourke was also an adjunct professor with the Department of Family Medicine at the UWO, and was a member of the UWO's Community-Based Family Medicine Training Program which facilitated training for family medicine residents in communities outside of London. Additionally, she developed and facilitated a master's course for the UWO's Department of Family Medicine entitled "Rural Medicine and Health." While rural medicine has been an ongoing area of interest for Dr Leslie Rourke, she has also been involved and responsive to issues within her local community, developing a bicycle helmet safety program in her former community of Goderich, and receiving the Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) Mlacak Award for Volunteer of the Year in 2001.

Team Member:

As mentioned, Drs James and Leslie Rourke have worked collaboratively in their practice for over 35 years. Outside of the scope of practice, they have been integral members of the university faculties at the UWO and MUN, working to deliver and improve medical education for future physicians, and both have also co-authored numerous papers, book chapters, and journal articles alongside their peers.

The Rourke Baby Record has been updated jointly several times since its first iteration. In 1998, the tool was revised with Dr Jacqui Wakefield to include recommendations from the 1994 Canadian Task Force on Periodic Health Examination. Since 1999, the Rourkes

have continued to update the tool in collaboration with Dr Denis Leduc, past-President of the CPS, who is now a co-author of the Record.

Dr James Rourke is also a member of several important taskforces, working groups, and committees including the WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice, the ASPIRE Panel on Social Accountability through the Association for Medical Education in Europe, and the Canadian Collaborative Taskforce for Advancing Rural Family Medicine – a joint taskforce of the CFPC and the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC). Additionally, he played an instrumental role in the Medical Education Design Team for the Northern Ontario (Rural) Medical School

proposal, which led to the approval for the Northern Ontario Medical School.

Both Drs Leslie and James Rourke have received numerous awards of recognition throughout their extensive careers in family medicine. Among them are awards from the UWO, MUN, the CFPC, the SRPC, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, all recognizing excellence and leadership in their contributions to the discipline of family medicine. The Rourkes demonstrate a commitment to the roles and principles that characterize exemplary family physicians, and they, as family doctors and leaders in the discipline embody the five pillars of excellence in health care characteristic of Five Star Doctors.

Prof Tai-Yuan Chiu - WONCA Asia Pacific region 5-Star Doctor



The 2017 Five-Star Doctor Award in the WONCA Asia Pacific Region is awarded to Prof Tai-Yuan Chiu of Taiwan.

Congratulations to Prof Tai-Yuan Chiu for his great achievements in advancing family medicine and primary health care. Prof Chiu exemplifies the five attributes of a 5-star doctor as follows:

*** A community leader**

Prof Chiu is a pioneer in family and community medicine as well as a community organizer and visionary leader devoted to the betterment of primary health care. He has been a faculty member of Family Medicine Department of the National Taiwan University over 30 years. His students and residents hold him in high esteem. Currently, he is the President of the Taiwan Medical Association and a legislator of

our congress, thereby he plays a pivotal role in policy making and health care delivery. He is a Past President and an Executive Board Member of the Taiwan Association of Family Medicine (TAFM),

As a community leader, Prof Chiu strongly believes in the value of teamwork and is an excellent team builder in medical care services. He respects every medical professional, patient and family, and provides patient-centered care. Prof Chiu has been involved with many medical and related organizations including the TAFM, the Taiwan Academy of Hospice Palliative Medicine, Taiwan association of international health, department of Family Medicine and Department of Ambulatory Service, and the National Taiwan University Hospital.

He inspires everyone under his leadership to do their best.

***A care provider**

After the Jiji earthquake in September 21, 1999, Prof Chiu was dispatched to the disaster area to assist in the reconstruction of community health as a care provider. Between 1999 and 2002, he visited the disaster area more than a hundred times to coordinate community medical education efforts and experiment and promote a new model of community health care system.

After the SARS epidemic in 2003, he established the first integrated delivery system for family physician care, which is now a mainstay of community health care in Taiwan.

During his tenure (2008-2014) as the President of Taiwan Association of Family Medicine (TAFM), Prof Chiu created the training program of medical reconstruction in China with co-sponsorship by the Red Cross Society of Taiwan. Based on the experience of the post-disaster community health reconstruction of the Jiji earthquake and the introduction of family physician care, this project aimed to rebuild community healthcare in the Wenchuan disaster area. This was done with a training program of general and family medicine professionals at Mianxian County of Shaanxi Province in China. Experienced researchers and clinical practitioners from TAFM exchanged with healthcare professionals in major Chinese cities including Beijing and Shanghai, and visited Mianxian County. The Mianxian family care system TAFM helped build in now serves as a model for improving the quality of general medicine in other rural areas in China.

***A decision maker**

As the President of TAFM and a decision maker, Prof Chiu collaborated closely with governmental organizations in important programs for improving community health. During the past six years, TAFM has managed 15 major programs including the Smoking Cessation Therapists Training Program, the Adult Healthcare Services Training Program Co-ordination Program, the AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Outpatient Quality Improvement Program.

Under Prof Chiu's leadership, TAFM set its highest priority to enhance family physician care, adopt new technologies and healthcare delivery models with an open mind, and preserve the pride and dignity of the family physician profession.

***A policy maker and a communicator**

Prof Chiu has also served as a Legislator (congressional representative) since 2016. As a policy maker and a communicator, he advocates on prevention of violence against medical professionals; reasonable payment from national health insurance to medical care; criminal liability of medical malpractice should be explicit and reasonable; and on many other reformations about the medical

system and health insurance, especially promoting the family physician system. With his advocacy, the budget for the Family Physician Integrated Care Plan raised from 1.1 billion in 2010 to 1.5 billion this year.

In order to promote family medicine in the Taiwan healthcare system, Prof Chiu has organized a committee of experts, scholars and young professionals and he has published handbooks and educational publications. These publications help family physicians understand important policies, remind health administrative officials the importance of family medicine, and serve as important references for curriculum design and policy and business decisions.

***An ambassador of the medical profession in Taiwan**

Prof Chiu has attended WONCA conferences, both World and Asia Pacific region many times as an ambassador for Taiwan.

He successfully brought international visibility to the healthcare system in Taiwan and international rights and status of TAFM. Taiwan successfully hosted the WONCA Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in 2015 with him as overall chair. In addition, in 2013, Prof Chiu led team members to Prague to participate in the WONCA World Conference.

***A team member**

Prof Chiu has had a lifelong passion of being a patient-centered physician.

Through his postgraduate education in Tokyo University and subsequent residency training at Jinshan Group Medical Practice Center Service, he gained much insight into the hospice and palliative medicine ward and participating medical organizations, and has worked as a humble team member for past three decades.

During his tenure as the President of Taiwan Association of Family Medicine, he incessantly advocated for the spreading the core values of family medicine to the young generation of professionals and the public. Throughout his career as a family physician, the external task is to help the government to promote more policies related to the family physician system; and the internal tasks to continue to promote and educate regarding the importance and core values of family medicine.

Art meets science meets art at WONCA Europe 2017 in Prague



An aesthetic walk along the border between the worlds of art and science at the WONCA Europe Prague conference tried to find insight into the mystery of doctor patient encounters.

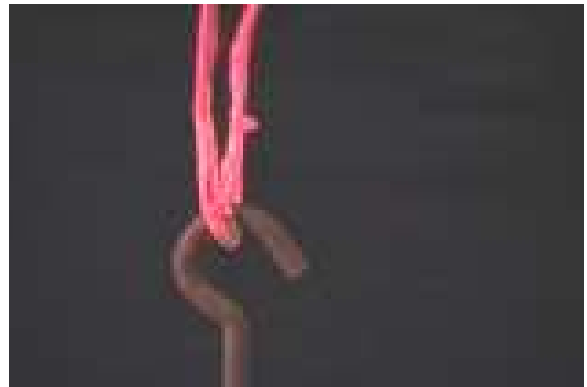
During the four conference days Bruno Kissling and Esther Quarroz, from Switzerland, created a growing and changing sculpture within the venue.

The following photos provide an impression of this art performance.

More information on pages 2 and 3 of the blog at <https://www.art-dialog.com/blog/page/1>.

Bruno Kissling, family doctor, artist
Esther Quarroz, art therapist, artist
Andreas Fahrni, photographer
www.art-dialog.com

Please see website for better photos
<http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/News/Artmeetscience.aspx>



Dr Innocent Besigye - Montegut Scholar report on WONCA Africa conference

The Montegut Global Scholars Program (MGSP) was established by the American Board of Family Medicine Foundation (ABFM-F) in 2010, to foster international education, research and collaboration, in the specialty of family medicine. Dr Innocent Besigye, General Secretary Association of Family Physicians of Uganda, was one of three recipients of a Montegut Scholarship to attend the recent WONCA Africa region conference. Scholarships for 2018 will enable attendance for one scholar from each WONCA region at the WONCA World conference in Seoul - applications close April 20, 2018 [More about the Montegut Global Scholars Program](#)

Attending the WONCA Africa region conference 2017 in Pretoria was memorable.

Report by Dr Innocent Besigye

Photo: Dr Innocent Besigye (on the right) with other Montegut Scholars, Joy Mugambi and Wechuli Geoffrey, both from Kenya.



Attending conferences in Africa is difficult in most cases due to lack of funding. This is even worse with international conferences due to exorbitant amounts of money for air travel another difficult issue in Africa. I was privileged to be offered the Montegut scholarship for the WONCA Africa region 2017. The scholarship enabled me to attend the WONCA Africa regional conference. It was a big learning experience!

I had the opportunity to participate in the Young Doctors' Movement (Afriwon) preconference activities. I was privileged to be one of the speakers on day one. My topic of discussion was Family Physicians Identity: Evolving roles in a Multi-Cultural society. It was enriching to share with fellow young doctors on the African continent where Family medicine is struggling to take root amidst a substantial number of challenges. This was a timely opportunity given that I had just finished analyzing the results of my study on the roles and challenges of Family Physicians in Uganda. Important to note was the presence of the WONCA World President, Prof Amanda Howe, in the audience!

We had a highly experiential and educative exchange activity focusing on Community-oriented Primary Care (COPC) on the second day. We were hosted by the department of Family Medicine at the University of Pretoria. At the end of the exchange, we had a highly educative



presentation by Tessa Marcus, the lead principal investigator of the COPC project at the University of Pretoria. She offered us a free copy of her book titled: A Practical Guide

to Implementation of Community-Oriented Primary Care. I have read this book from beginning to end and it is very insightful! I am now using this book to teach the residents at Makerere University the COPC course.

Photo: Innocent Besigye (in blue checked shirt at the centre of photo behind kneeling participant) in a photo with other participants and Community Health Workers during the COPC exchange

The main WONCA Africa conference began on the third day. I enjoyed the keynote speeches, oral and poster presentations. I met quite a number of friends both old and new during the conference. I had to opportunity to attend several meetings of various groups involved in the development of family medicine and primary care on the African continent and beyond.

The first day of the conference began with a very moving keynote speech on the social determinants of health by Prof Shan Naidoo from Wits School of Public Health. His talk focused on "The Health Gap: What does it do to treat sick people only to send them back to the conditions that made them sick". I enjoyed the talk given that I am always faced with recurrent sickness among my patients as a result of the social determinants of health. He clearly stated that many family physicians feel that they are unable to make effective changes to any of the social determinants of health for their patients and their communities which they serve, and are often frustrated by their inability to make a real difference to the health of the populations they serve. He concluded the talk by reminding us that we should strive to achieve universal health coverage without forgetting to look beyond the patient that presents to us and looking to the social determinants that make them sick. The only way is to think outside the box and develop innovative solutions to address these social determinants of health.

Then followed Prof Amanda Howe the WONCA president. She informed the participants that family doctors directly address social determinants of health in their daily work in three ways; through active engagement with preventive health measures in their practices, through working with others in addressing broader community and public health needs and through efforts to achieve

equitable health care especially for those who are most disadvantaged. She noted that family doctors need sufficient systems to support their efforts in promoting the social determinants of health.

Prof Jan de Maeseneer discussed twenty years of the Primafamed network, highlighting the major achievements. He concluded the presentation wondering how the sustainability of the network will be financed given that many countries are restricting funding for programs in Sub Saharan Africa.

I presented my own poster in the afternoon about the contribution of family medicine towards undergraduate medical training in Sub Saharan Africa, a publication we made on the reflections of the Primafamed network. I gained a lot of insight into what is happening on the African continent concerning the contribution of family medicine towards undergraduate medical training/curricula from the discussions and reflections of the participants who attended my poster presentation. Together with other colleagues, we hope to continue documenting the role/actual contribution of family medicine to undergraduate medical training as a way of scaling up family medicine in Africa.

I attended a couple of workshops more notably the one by the WONCA Working Party on Research and the other on research writing and publication. As a young researcher and upcoming academic, I learnt a lot from these two workshops. I learnt how to formulate a research question for primary care research and the steps one goes through from proposal writing to publishing a research paper.

I ended the conference by having a meeting with the WONCA Africa Region President Elect, Prof Shabir Moosa, where we agreed on a roadmap of hosting the WONCA Africa Region conference 2019 in Uganda, as I will be chairing the scientific committee for this conference.

I am very grateful to WONCA and the American Board of Family Medicine Foundation (ABFM-F) for offering me the opportunity to attend the WONCA Africa region conference. It was a memorable experience full of learning and networking opportunities.

Working Party news

WONCA in Bonn: Health & the climate negotiations

The authors are members of the WONCA Working Party on the Environment:

Alice McGushin is a junior doctor from Tasmania, Australia and is currently in the UK studying an MSc Public Health at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. (Alice pictured at right accepting the Fossil of the Day Award on behalf of Australia)

Courtney Howard is the President of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and a family-practice-trained Emergency Physician in the Canadian Subarctic.



The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 23rd Conference of Parties (COP23), took place in Bonn, Germany from the 6th to the 17th of November. We were among the observers attending COP23, Courtney on behalf of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) and Alice as a member of the World Medical Association

delegation.

Climate change is the biggest health threat of the 21st century--and tackling it is perhaps our best opportunity to better global health. How are current medical learners and health professionals interacting with international climate change negotiations?

Photo below: Members of the Global Climate and Health Alliance at a strategy meeting



In the week before COP23, the Lancet Countdown launched its [2017 Report](#), with three key findings which helped to frame the health discussion at COP:

1. The human symptoms of climate change are unequivocal and potentially irreversible
2. The delayed response to climate change over the past 25 years has jeopardised human life and livelihoods
3. The past 5 years have seen an accelerated

response, with momentum building across a number of sectors. The direction of travel is set, with clear and unprecedented opportunities for public health.

COP23 was presided over by Fiji. This put the spotlight on people from Pacific Islands and other small island developing states and low and middle income countries as those who are contributing the least to climate change, but are on the frontline of the impacts of climate change.

Health professionals, students and other interested individuals gathered for the fifth [Climate and Health Summit](#), organised by the Global Climate and Health Alliance, the World Health Organisation and its European Centre for the Environment and the Health and Environment Alliance. The plenary featured stories of action from many excellent speakers, including the newly appointed WHO Assistant Director-General for Climate Change and Other Determinants of Health, Dr Joy St. John, WHO Director of Public Health and

Environment, Dr Maria Neira, Cook Islands Minister for Health, Nandi Glassie and Lancet Countdown Director, Dr Nick Watts. Courtney was also among the presenters, discussing the achievements of CAPE and other health groups in Canada, including provincial and then national commitments to phase out coal and the Canadian Medical Association's commitment to divest from fossil fuels.

The Powering Past Coal Alliance, a pledge to phase out coal signed by 20 countries, led by the UK and Canada, was launched at COP23. With the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change and CAPE having both been active supporters of coal phase-out in their respective countries, a health representative was requested at the launch, which is an important signal that the health voice is increasingly being recognized as valuable within the climate community. Courtney spoke on behalf of the health community at this event.

Photo: Lancet Countdown Director Dr Nick Watts and WHO Director of Public Health,



Environment and Social Determinants Dr Maria Neira at the 2017 Climate and Health Summit

The World Health Organization also organised a Presidency Event, and WHO head Dr Tedros launched the WHO Climate Change and Health in Small Island Developing States Initiative, stating that climate change is not a political argument in Fiji and other island nations – it is an everyday reality. Dr Tedros also met with members of the Global Climate and Health Alliance to discuss collaboration on adaptation and mitigation work in the service of health.

Another feature of the COP events is the Fossil of the Day award, organised by the Climate Action Network, highlighting the country doing the most to delay progress in negotiations and action on climate change in an entertaining ceremony. Alice gamely accepted an award on behalf of Australia, for the government's support of the Adani Carmichael Coal Mine project in North Queensland.

Family doctors are specialists in communicating science in a way that is comprehensible and relevant to the person in front of them. We are also compelled to be advocates for the health of the communities we serve, be that at the local, regional or global level. Thus it is our duty to advocate for and lead action on climate change in order to protect the health of our current and future patients. We encourage all family doctors to engage with climate change policy at the local, regional and international level as well as take efforts to minimise the carbon footprint of our own health services and organisations.

Featured Doctors

Dr Garth MANNING - WONCA CEO

Dr Garth Manning has been WONCA CEO for more than five years now, and he's going to be around for a bit longer as Executive has extended his contract through to the end of 2020. Garth is a family doctor and has had an interesting and multifaceted career so it's high time he was a WONCA featured doctor so we can all find out more about him!



What have you done in your working life?

My first career - GP and the Military

It's quite difficult to know where to start, as I've been fortunate to have had a very varied and interesting medical career (proof that as family doctors we have many options open to us). I was a doctor in the UK's Royal Air Force (RAF), and actually intended to be an anaesthetist, but we had to do a compulsory period of general practice. I realised after about three weeks that this was what I really wanted to do, and so was accepted onto the RAF's GP Training Scheme. Having completed my GP training (and a few other things along the way), I then undertook a full time seven-month course in aviation medicine, so I also have an occupational medicine qualification (more of that later).

Straight after that, I completed my qualification as a GP trainer which enabled me to work as a GP trainer, at two different practices - one in UK and one in Cyprus!

On my return to the UK, I was very fortunate to be posted to take over the running of the military air ambulance system. We transported around 1,500 patients each year from all over the globe, and I had teams of nurses and paramedics to dispatch as needed. This was normally a two-year post, but I managed to stay for over three years in what was possibly the best job I ever had. At the end of this time I decided to leave the RAF, as career options

were becoming more limited due to defence cuts. I then went into international development – and that's when my second career started.

My second career- International Times

For my first inroads into international work, I reverted to my aeromedical evacuation career, and was employed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and sent to former Yugoslavia (both Croatia and Bosnia) to work with teams on the evacuation of civilian casualties from Bosnia. I spent various spells living and working in Sarajevo during the siege – a fascinating (if at times scary) experience. I also undertook a training needs analysis for IOM in Russia, and was then contracted to develop and deliver a training programme there.

I then returned to my first love of GP/family medicine. I was part of a team funded by the European Union (EU) to undertake some PHC development in Poland, and I lived in Warsaw, on and off, for around nine months. From there it was on to Hungary to lead an 18-month project on family medicine training and development. One of the consultants on the project was a certain Professor Chris van Weel, and we have remained firm friends ever since. Then back to Bosnia – this time after the Dayton Agreement - firstly as a PHC consultant on a health financing project and then as Team Leader on a PHC and Human Resource Development project, again funded by the EU.

A complete change of scene after Bosnia, as I then took over as team leader on a medical education project in Bangladesh, and I lived in Dhaka, on and off, for four years. This started my close association with South Asia, and even today I feel so at home in all the countries of the region.

At the same time as all of this was going on, the Royal College of GPs (UK) established a post of Medical Director for International Development Programmes. I was lucky enough to be appointed, and remained in post for almost 14 years, before becoming WONCA CEO.

I also undertook a variety of independent consultancy work, the most fun of which was as the aeromedical GP for a peacekeeping mission in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. I did a number of missions there, of anything between 6 and 12 weeks.

My job in theory was to evacuate ill or injured peacekeepers from distant outposts, but also being allowed to do compassionate evacuations of locals when the situation demanded. (pictured) Cases such as an elderly woman hit by a falling coconut palm, or a man attacked by an alligator in a swamp, were all part of life's rich patterns, and I had to keep reminding myself, as we flew over the islands in a helicopter, that I was actually being paid to do this work!



With such a long list of achievements what is most memorable?

During my time with RCGP, I worked and travelled in many countries of the world, promoting family medicine, and was also fortunate to be involved, along with my great friend Prof Val Wass, in establishing the MRCGP[INT] exam for South Asia. That is probably the thing that I'm most proud of in my medical career. Other memorable events have been as Margaret Thatcher's physician for the day and following her around when she visited our base in Germany. I fulfilled the same role many years later for Kevin Rudd, the then-Australian Prime Minister, when he visited Solomon Islands in 2008. Also very memorable was that I led the UK medical teams who retrieved some of the British hostages from the Middle East – both Jackie Mann and Terry Waite.

Now about WONCA?

My first involvement with WONCA – like Karen Flegg (our editor who suggested this profile!) – was the 1998 Dublin World Conference when we brought a group of Bosnian colleagues, from our health financing project, to take part. I missed Durban in 2001, but otherwise have been to every world conference – and almost all WONCA Europe meetings – ever since.

WONCA's a great organisation, and I am very privileged to be guiding it as CEO under the direction of a series of inspiring Executive members and Presidents. There are so many things we'd love to be able to do, if only we had more resources, but one of the things I've been pleased about is that the finances are in a much stronger situation than when I first

took over. Four consecutive years of surplus budgets have meant that the organisation is in a much stronger financial position for the future. I have made so many wonderful friends over the years, through WONCA contacts, and am especially inspired by our fantastic young doctors, who are proof that our profession is in good hands for the future

I'm delighted that my term as CEO has been extended through to the end of 2020, to support Donald Li in his Presidency, before I move into well-earned 'retirement'.

What might you do if you ever stop working for WONCA?

In pre-WONCA days I used to enjoy flying (I have a Private Pilot's License) but I am sadly very out of practice. Luckily I love travel, and would love to have more time to actually spend quality time in some of my favourite places.

I'd also like to go back to university, if only to keep my brain engaged and exercised. Nothing to do with medicine, but I'd love to consider a degree in history (which, perversely, I hated at school!). It will also be fun to live full time in our lovely new(ish) house which Monica has built and furnished in my absence.

So much to look forward to, but not for quite a few years yet!

Prof Adam WINDAK (Poland) – WONCA Europe Kraków scientific committee chair

Adam Windak is the Conference Scientific Committee chair for the WONCA Europe conference coming to Kraków in May 2018. More about the conference [here](#)

What work do you do now?

I am a full time professor and Head of the Department of Family Medicine at Jagiellonian University Medical College, in Kraków, Poland. Jagiellonian University is the oldest and most prestigious University in my country. So, the position of the first Professor in Family Medicine in its over 650 years long history is important, but on an everyday basis I don't feel this pressure.

I chair a team of dozen young and energetic academic teachers, who all are family doctors. We collaborate with over thirty practices in the city and the suburbs- and we do business as usual at the university. We teach students, provide courses for doctors specialising in family medicine and conduct research. Obviously we publish scientific papers and other academic publications, which is a basic requirement for any academic all over the world.

Apart of my university duties, my practice partner and I run a family practice in downtown Kraków. We serve over 3500 patients.

Other interesting things you have done?

Almost whole my professional life is connected with family medicine - a discipline which didn't exist in my country before the collapse of communism in 1989.

Immediately after that collapse, in 1990, after completion of my specialist training in internal medicine, I joined a group of enthusiasts at my university, who wanted to create the first School of Public Health in my country. We succeeded relatively quickly and started to



look around for ideas, inspirations and challenges, which might change a rotten and insufficient health care system. And so, I learnt of family medicine.

In that time, the Ministry of Health was looking for “experts” to organise the implementation of family medicine in Poland. Obviously I was not an expert, but I didn't know it. I was appointed head of Family Doctors Task Force. Together with four other colleagues we developed a document titled “Responsibilities of Polish Family Physicians” and later the first educational programmes in this field. At that time we were traveling around

the world quite intensively collecting good examples of family medicine models and inspirations for further work.

In 1992 we established the College of Family Physicians in Poland, which was as a full WONCA Member Organization in 1996. Since its creation, I have been a member of the Executive Board of the College, serving as president for two terms (2001 – 2009) and now as vice-president. In 1992, I joined EURACT and up until now I have represented Poland in this organization. During the last 25 years I have been involved in many of its fascinating initiatives, such as work on the new European Definition of General Practice/Family Medicine, EURACT Educational Agenda, Leonardo EURACT courses for teachers.

What is it like to be a family doctor in Poland?

Well... It is quite a difficult question with potentially many different answers. My personal perspective is quite optimistic.

For me the glass is always half full, but the other truth is that it is also half empty: only every second Polish citizen is under care of his/her personal family doctor. The rest are still served by mostly paediatricians and internists.

As well, many well trained, young doctors choose to work in other European (and other)

countries, instead of Poland. It is not easy to start a new practice especially in big cities. It is easier in villages and other remoted places which suffer a lack of doctors, but then a physician has to be prepared to work mostly in a solo practice with a significant burden of duties. New generations of doctors are not necessarily keen to do it.

Fortunately there are some signs of improvements. The current Minister of Health, who is a Family Doctor himself, appreciates importance of family medicine. Recently a new law on primary health care was established creating the basis for positive changes. In 2017, for the first time in many years, there were more candidates for training in family medicine than places available. Obviously these are good signs.

What are your interests outside work?

The answer for this question is much easier. I have many hobbies. I like and regularly engage in skiing, tennis and bridge. But my beloved activity is sailing which I've learnt it relatively late in life, (about fifteen years ago). We have a beautiful lake area in Northern Poland which I wanted to sail on my own and with my family and friends. Another Polish proverb says that "your appetite is increasing while eating" and it was my case. I wanted to sail more and further. So, finally on 28 November 2012 at 10.26 a.m. on board the sailing yacht Selma Expedition I made the traverse of the famous Cape Horn, which is a holy place for every sailor. Really unforgettable feeling! Nowadays I spend all my summer holidays sailing on board a yacht, in Poland or elsewhere in the world.

WONCA CONFERENCE DEADLINES 2018

World conference 2018 Seoul - welcome message



Date: October 17 - 21, 2018

Venue: Coex, Seoul, Korea

Theme: Primary Care in the Future: Professional Excellence

Workshop submission deadline: December 31, 2017

Abstract Submission deadline: February 28, 2018

Early bird registration deadline: March 31, 2018

Welcome Message

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is my great honour and pleasure to invite you to the 22nd WONCA World Conference of Family Doctors (WONCA 2018), which will be held in Seoul, Korea from October 17 to 21, 2018. The Korean Academy of Family Medicine will have the privilege of hosting WONCA 2018 in Korea, and plans to go to great lengths to ensure the conference surpasses all expectations.

The theme of the conference is "Primary Care in the Future: Professional Excellence," and will cover diverse disciplines of family medicine from the present to the future. For the vision of future family

medicine, we plan to offer a dynamic and stimulating array of scientific and practical hands-on programs as well as special events.

At WONCA 2018, academia and industry will gather in force to not only show their best, but to share valuable ideas and develop new friendships. WONCA 2018 will provide all participants a firm platform for a meaningful academic, industrial, social and cultural experience. With fascinating ancient traditions and ultramodern lifestyle, the city of Seoul will surely be the centre of many unforgettable moments for you.

We look forward to welcoming you in Seoul, Korea!

Sincerely yours,
Prof. Young Sik Kim
Chairman, Host Organizing Committee



Overview

Program

7 Keynote Sessions
16 Parallel Sessions: - 100 Workshops, 400 Oral Presentations in 70 Sessions, 1,200 Posters Public Lecture

Scale

- 5,000 Participants from over 130 Countries (Overseas 3,000 / Domestic 2,000), 1,700 Presentations, 100 Booths

WONCA 2018 Rural conference abstracts close soon

Dear Colleagues

We invite you to 15th WONCA World Rural Health Conference at New Delhi from 26-29 April 2018.

Registration and Abstract submission is open for all.

Last Date for Abstract Submission is 31st December.

We encourage young doctors and medical students to grab this opportunity. It's also open for Nurses, NGOs, other Health workers.

Our aim is to provide a platform and listen to every voice which matters to rural health care!

Please find link to view and [download our Brochure](#).

Finally, we hope and trust that you will find the conference and your visit to the very beautiful and exciting city of New Delhi, in April 2018 both valuable and enjoyable!

Regards,
Dr. Pratyush Kumar, Org. Secretary - WRHC2018
Chair - Wonca Rural South Asia



WONCA Europe Kraków - we hear from Adam Windak

Early bird registration closes December 31, abstracts close December 17. [register now](#)

Prof Adam Windak, Conference Scientific Committee chair for the coming WONCA Europe conference in Kraków, speaks to the WONCA editor about this conference and comparisons to the previous excellent WONCA conference he help organise in Warsaw in 2011.

In Poland, we have a proverb saying that “you can’t enter twice the same water in the river” and I believe this is true. In 2011 we wanted to organise the WONCA Europe Conference in Kraków, which is my home place and a beautiful medieval city. Unfortunately, at that time we didn’t have our proper conference centre, which could host over 3,000 delegates. To be honest in Warsaw, such a place also didn’t exist, but there was at least the exhibition centre, which, with effort could provide the facilities to meet our needs.

At the end of the day, the WONCA Europe Warsaw conference was a success, and we learnt a lot.

Now our situation is completely different. We have a beautiful, modern conference centre now built in Kraków, and it stands in the centre of the city, facing the Vistula River and Wawel King’s Castle. It is surrounded by three modern hotels and if we are lucky even fourth will be finished before the conference in Kraków. There are also hundreds of other hotels in a walking distance from the conference centre (Kraków is very popular tourist destination). So, this time, we don’t need to bother about the conference venue, the transportation, the accommodation and few other things which created quite serious logistic problems in Warsaw.

Our College hired the same PCO company, which organized the conference in Warsaw for us. So, we all have past experience which hopefully will make our job easier. Generally speaking we are optimists.

Two weeks before the deadline, the number of abstracts already submitted was almost the

same as in Warsaw seven years ago and more were expected.

We have confirmed excellent keynote speakers and contributions from many network organizations and special interest groups. The plans for a [social programme](#) are also looking promising.

So, we look forward to host family doctors from all over the world next spring in Kraków.

Adam Windak is this month's [WONCA featured doctor](#).

Keynote Speakers

- **Dr Mukesh Chawla** - Head of Knowledge Management in the Human Development at the World Bank, Washington, USA.

- **Prof. Michael Kidd AM** - Past President of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), Professor and Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto, Canada.

- **Dr Andrzej Rys** - Director of Directorate C, Public Health and Risk Assessment, DG Health and Consumers, European Commission.

- **Dr Sera Tort** - Clinical Editor, Cochrane Library, Cochrane Editorial Unit, Cochrane Central Executive.

More details can be found about speakers [here](#)

Overview and websites



Conference dates: May 24-27, 2018, with preconference for young doctors on May 23
Venue: ICE Congress Center, Kraków, Poland
Theme: Family Medicine: Quality, Efficiency, Equity
Organized by: The College of Family Physicians in Poland, WONCA Europe
 Follow us on [Facebook](#).

[Conference website](#)
[Vasco da Gama movement preconference](#)
 For all recent information [subscribe to DragonNews newsletter](#)
 Follow us on Twitter @WONCAkrakow



WONCA CONFERENCES 2018

January 27-28, 2018	Vasco da Gama forum	Porto, PORTUGAL	vdgm.woncaeurope.org/5vdgmf
March 1-3, 2018	WONCA East Mediterranean region congress	Kuwait	woncaemr2018.com
March 13-14, 2018	VII Cumbre Iberoamericana de Medicina Familiar	Cali COLOMBIA	Save the dates.
April 27-29, 2018	WONCA World Rural health conference	New Delhi, INDIA	www.wrhc2018.com
May 24-27, 2018	WONCA Europe region conference	Krakow, POLAND	www.woncaeurope2018.com
October 17-21, 2018	WONCA World conference	Seoul, SOUTH KOREA	www.wonca2018.com/

WONCA Direct Members enjoy *lower* conference registration fees.
 To join WONCA go to: <http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/AboutWONCA/Membership1.aspx>

WONCA CONFERENCES 2019

May 15-18, 2019	WONCA Asia Pacific region conference	Kyoto, JAPAN	www.c-linkage.co.jp/woncaaprc2019kyoto
June 26-29 2019	WONCA Europe region conference	Bratislava, SLOVAK REPUBLIC	www.woncaeurope2019.com

MEMBER ORGANIZATION EVENTS

For more information on Member Organization events go to

<http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/Conferences/MemberOrganizationEvents.aspx>

12 Jan **FAMILYCON**

- 14 Jan Lahore, Pakistan

2018

01 Mar **Philippine Academy of Family Physicians**

- 03 Mar **57th Anniversary and Annual Convention**

2018 Manila, Philippines

23 Mar **BJGP Research Conference**

- 23 Mar London, United Kingdom

2018

05 Apr **Congress of General Practice France**

- 07 Apr Paris, France

2018

13 Apr **15th International Primary Care Diabetes**

- 14 Apr **Europe Conference**

2018 Barcelona, Spain

16 Apr **PCI GP Update Global Programme 2018**

- 20 Apr London, United Kingdom

2018

10 May **EGPRN meeting**

- 13 May Lille, France

2018

26 Jul **RNZCGP Conference for General Practice**

- 29 Jul Auckland, New Zealand

2018

09 Oct **AAFP Family Medicine Experience**

- 13 Oct New Orleans, USA

2018

11 Oct **RACGP GP18**

- 13 Oct Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

2018

14 Nov **Family Medicine Forum / Forum en**

- 17 Nov **médecine familiale**

2018 Toronto, Canada

15 Nov **17th International Conference of Iraqi**

- 18 Nov **Family Physicians Society (IFPS)**

2018 Baghdad, Iraq



Young Doctors' Movements newsletter - December 2017

As a new initiative, WONCA's Young Doctors' representative on World Executive, [Ana Nunes Barata \(Portugal\)](#), is coordinating regular news from our seven region Young Doctors' Movements.

A word from Ana Nunes Barata - YDM representative on WONCA Executive

The Young Doctors' Movements (YDMs) are WONCA's active network that engages youth and promotes intercultural knowledge exchange that helps to create new ideas, projects and initiatives that contribute for the development of Primary Care at the global level. WONCA's young doctors are defined as in their first five years' of practice as a family doctor OR in training as a family doctor. Each WONCA region has its own YDM that strives to develop its network and engage with the young doctors from every country it represents. The YDM newsletter will be published periodically and it will have the latest news from each YDM. We hope that you enjoy this publication and that you share it in your networks! Together, we will be able to reach out to more young doctors and medical students worldwide!



You may find more information about the YDMs [here](#).
>[Join your region's Young Doctors' Movement](#)

This issue's feature picture - Waynakay Argentina



AfriWon (Africa region)

AfriWon is the WONCA Africa Region Working group for young and future general practitioners/family physicians (GPs/FPs). It was launched, June 2013 at the WONCA World conference in Prague. Since then, it has witnessed two successive Executive Committees. The first Executive Committee was led by Dr Kayode Alao (Nigeria) from 2013 – 2016.



Executive Committee members

The current Chair is Dr Joy Mugambi (Kenya), who took over leadership shortly after the 21st World WONCA Conference at Rio, November, 2016.

Other executive members are:

Dr Kayode Alao (Nigeria) – Ex-Officio.
Dr Aramide Olateju (Nigeria) – Vice Chair (West African Region)
Dr Owen Eales (South Africa) – Vice Chair (South African Region)
Dr Boateng-Ayisi Kwame (Ghana) – General Secretary
Dr Ore Makinde (Nigeria) – Assistant General Secretary
Dr Priscilla Vandyck (Ghana) – Financial Secretary
Dr Kenneth Yakubu (Nigeria) – Image and Education Theme Group Lead
Dr Miriam Miima (Kenya) – Research Theme Group Lead
Dr Honore Faton (Benin) – Beyond Africa Theme Group Lead
Dr Rene Kabera (Rwanda) – Exchange Theme Group Lead

AfriWon National Representatives:

These represent the interests and activities of AfriWon at the various young doctor movements of their countries. The aim is to offer AfriWon as a regional platform for collaborative efforts aimed at promoting family medicine in the region. The Representatives include the following:

Dr Abdulraheem Abdul Rasheed – Nigeria
Dr Nthusi-Nthula – Kenya
Dr Modai Mnenula – Malawi
Dr Emanuel Ati – Ghana
Dr Nancy Matillya – Tanzania
Dr Lillian Mukisa – Uganda
Dr Cherifa Sururu - Zimbabwe

Objectives

The main objective of AfriWon is to organise young and future GPs/FPs through:

- Providing a forum in support for trainees and young GPs/FPs in Africa.
- Developing family medicine (FM) and primary health care (PHC) in Africa in service, training and research amongst young doctors.
- Establishing a communication network between African FM trainees and young GPs/FPs and identifying their concerns, doubts and needs and helping to address them.
- Encouraging a global and youthful African perspective, with global exposure and leadership development.

Alongside our objectives, the following are 2016-2018 strategic themes that will guide our activities for the next two years:

1. Membership growth
2. Advocacy for young African family physicians
3. Communication and Publicity
4. Research capacity building
5. Exchange Collaboration
6. Resources Mobilisation/Financing

Activities:

Key AfriWon activities are as follows:

- A current membership drive is ongoing through this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/lp5x42Ygn0CNz98s2> The aim is to have a complete database for young FPs and FM trainees in Africa.
- While the above link is for young FPs and FM trainees in Africa, engagement with interested stakeholders (e.g. Medical officers, Medical students, Nurses, Pharmacists etc) will continue on our Telegram and Twitter accounts.
- Our Facebook account provides an avenue for interaction and collaboration among young FPs and FM trainees within Africa and beyond. It is also an avenue to engage with members of other YDMs as well as Senior FPs
- We are interested in developing country-based AfriWon membership, structures and activities across Africa. This will include building National structures aimed at promoting the activities of the Theme groups in the various African countries. Indeed, this will take our vision closer to the young African FPs and Trainees.
- We are also working at fostering a collaborative relationship between AfriWon and its parent body- WONCA Africa. This collaboration will also include WONCA Member Organisations in all African countries.
- We also have begun promoting Young Family Doctor Exchanges within Africa. This will include intra-country Exchanges as well as intra-regional and international exchanges.
- The first official AfriWon Exchange will hold on the 16th of August, 2017 while our second pre-conference (#AfriWon2017) will hold on the 17th of August, 2017 at Pretoria, South Africa. Details are available at the program website: <http://www.afriwon2017.org/>

Articles from AfriWon Research Theme Group:

Young Doctors' Movements: motives for membership among aspiring and young family physicians.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4408696/>

We can be contacted through our accounts as follows:

Telegram: https://t.me/joinchat/D_MXKT72jH_Jf09YkE7mYQ

Twitter: @theRealAfriWon.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/afriwon>

Email: afriwon@wonca.net ; afriwon@gmail.com.

Al Razi Movement (East Mediterranean region)



In late 2013, the WONCA East Mediterranean region (EMR) formed a group specifically for young and future general practitioners/ family physicians in their region. The movement is called Al Razi. It has been officially endorsed by the Wonca EMR council and officially launched at the region after the Wonca EMR executive board meeting. Razi was the preeminent pharmacist and physician of his time. Muhammad ibn Zakariyā Rāzī. Al Razi mission is contributing in the improvement of family medicine specialty in our region by promoting leadership, medical education, training & research among young physicians.

The main movement objectives are:

1. Providing a forum, support and information for trainees and new GPs through access to WONCA / EMR regional conferences.
2. Establishing a communication network among EMR trainees and new GPs and identifying their concerns, doubts and needs and helping to address them.
3. Establishing a communication network among EMR trainees, new GPs and senior GPs to share experience.
4. Promote research skills.
5. Raising Community awareness of the importance of the family doctor and the role of this discipline in the improvement of health care provided to people.
6. Collaborating with national colleges and associations in general practice, and actively participation in the seminars& conferences.



On October 1, 2017, Al Razi Movement – Lebanon organized an interactive round table discussion entitled “Young Family Physicians; Hidden Opportunities and Challenges Faced”. During the session, Family Physicians met and shared their experiences in starting their careers. This activity took place as part of the Annual Conference of the Lebanese Society of Family Medicine at the Hilton Metropolitan Hotel – Beirut.

After briefly introducing Al Razi movement mission and objectives to the audience, various opportunities and fields of practice for junior Family Physicians were presented and discussed. These included starting a private practice, working in academic institutions, in-patient based clinical practice, pursuing a higher education degree and doing a fellowship training.

Attendees agreed on the importance of maintaining a good communication network between residents, junior, and senior Family Physicians.

Nagwa Nashat
Chair, Al Razi Movement



Polaris (North America region)



Greetings from WONCA Polaris!

We recently held our annual executive meeting in Montreal, Canada on 09 November 2017 where we highlighted several activities and collaborations over the last year including

Conference Representation across the globe:

This included the American Academy of Family Physicians Family Medicine Experience, American Academy of Family Physicians Global Health Workshop, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Conference, American Medical Student Association Conference, and the American Academy of Family Physicians National Conference in the United States. The annual Family Medicine Forum conference in Canada as well as several other conferences around the world including those in Mexico, Kazakhstan, Thailand, and South Korea.



Social Media

Social Media engagement has continued to grow with Polaris now boasting over 2660 Facebook followers and over 1350 Twitter followers.

Six peer reviewed publications:

1. Pinho-Costa L, Yakubu K, Hoedebecke K, Laranjo L, Reichel C, Colon-Gonzalez M et al. Healthcare hashtag index development: Identifying global impact in social media. *Journal of Biomedical Informatics*. 2016;63:390-399.
2. Hoedebecke K, Beaman L, Mugambi J, Shah S, Mohasseb M, Vetter C et al. Health care and social media: What patients really understand. *F1000Research*. 2017;6:118.
3. Hoedebecke K, Scott-Jones J, Pinho-Costa L. New Zealand among global social media initiative leaders for primary care advocacy. *Journal of Primary Health Care*. 2016;8(2):94.
4. Yakubu K, Hoedebecke K, Pinho-Costa L, Popoola O, Okoye I. A qualitative study of young Nigerian family physicians' views of their specialty. *South African Family Practice*. 2017;59(3):98-102.
5. Onat T, Copurlar C, Geroglu B, Alanyali F, Hoedebecke K. An Interview with Young Family Doctors. *Turkish Journal of Family Medicine & Primary Care*. 2016;10(1):1.
6. Hoedebecke K, González L, Díaz N, Cárdenas L. Palabras convertidas en acción [Internet]. *Revmgi.sld.cu*. 2017 [cited 26 November 2017]. Available from: <http://www.revmgi.sld.cu/index.php/mgi/article/view/196>

Finally, elections were held and Dr. Cheyanne Vetter (Canada) and Dr. Amber Wheatley (British Virgin Islands) were selected as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

Dr Kyle Hoedebecke - Chair, WONCA Polaris

The Rajakumar Movement – (Asia Pacific region)



Young Doctors Movement at the WONCA Asia Pacific Region conference in Pattaya 2017

On October 31, 2017, The Rajakumar Movement - the Young Doctors Movement in WONCA Asia Pacific Region had our first big pre-conference in Pattaya, Thailand. Total Participants of young family doctors were 164, including 148 from Thailand, 18 international including Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Portugal and Spain.



In the opening remarks, WONCA Asia Pacific region (APR) and WONCA World executives, Amanda Howe, Donald Li and Meng Chi Lee gave us strong encouragement such as “we can become the future generation of the WONCA family”. In his keynote speech Prof Michael Kidd, the immediate past president of WONCA taught the young participants about the origin of the Rajakumar Movement in 2009; the worldwide role of family medicine supported by many global healthcare leaders; challenges for the young doctors he met through many visits in APR countries; and how can we make a difference in the impact of our career reflecting our everyday work as family doctors.

Shin Yoshida presented about the Rajakumar Movement, then Prof Amanda Howe, president of WONCA and Michael Kidd gave us young doctors a question and answer time. We enjoyed talking about several topics like work environment, resident education, international and executive work and our daily personal or family happiness as humans.

In the afternoon we had the ASPIRE leadership session and 18 participants were given certificates. We truly appreciate our high profile speakers from WONCA APR and WONCA World and the generous support of the Royal College of Family Physicians of Thailand, including Prof. Somjit Prueksaritanond and the Host Organizing Committee of the conference. Also our Rajakumar Movement representatives big effort for all arrangements and preparation for this pre-conference.

Thank you and see you again at the WONCA world conference and pre-conference, Seoul, in 2018.

Shin Yoshida,
Chair, Rajakumar
Movement



The Spice Route (South Asia region)



The latest news from that Spice Route Movement is the preconference that was held on November 24, in Kathmandu, prior to the WONCA South Asia regional conference from November 25 to 26. More than 100 foreign delegates and nearly 200 national delegates signed up for the main conference.

This was the first time Spice Route Movement has held a preconference – it was a full day program with the presence and participation of WONCA World president, Prof Amanda Howe.

Other important speakers were Mark Zimmerman, a strong advocate for the development of General Practice in countries like Nepal, particularly in rural Nepal. Then, a variety of presentations from the Nepali GPs followed covering topics such as teaching in rural areas, the difficulties of the daily life of a GP in practice, impact of policies and advocacy for General Practice. Another topic that was featured was the use of electronic health records in remote settings of Nepal.

The program also included a workshop on role of GPs in research, participation in exchange programs and how to increase collaboration. National representatives of the Spice Route Movement also shared their experiences which gave the opportunity for all to get familiar with South Asia Region's countries. and their experience this far.

The main conference included many presentations from national and international delegates. The inauguration was done by the president of Nepal, a woman (just like our WONCA president)!

The WONCA South Asia Region conference was being organized by the General Practitioners Association of Nepal after almost seven years and it has brought great excitement among GPs of Nepal.

Many have travelled from all over the world to attend this meeting!

Santosh K. Dhungana (Chair, Spice Route Movement)



Vasco da Gama Movement (Europe region)

The voyage continues

Like the many journeys of Vasco da Gama, the Vasco da Gama Movement (VdGM) has had an intrepid and eventful year. At the start of 2017 I was honoured to take over the helm of this vibrant movement of new and future family medicine doctors and general practitioners from across Europe.



What a year we have had! Our Executive met face to face in London in early February and set the pace for a year of reflection, development and growth. We went back to our roots and reviewed our core aims and objectives:

- 1) To provide opportunities for all European NFGPs/FPs to meet, learn from each other, and gain collegiate support.
- 2) To be the voice of European NFGPs/FPs.
- 3) To improve education and research opportunities for NFGPs/FPs in Europe.
- 4) To promote the discipline of general practice / family medicine (GP/FM) and to enhance the position of NFGPs/FPs in the medical world.



Our goal was to review where we are actively meeting our objectives, where we have gone off course and where we needed to increase our focus. This process led to the creation of new Executive roles to focus on Policy, Awards & Fundraising and Events coordination. In addition, we removed middle management filters between our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Liaisons, bringing them to report directly to our Council of members. All of this has been done in an effort to increase communication, collaboration and accessibility of activities. The Executive, Council, SIG Leads and Liaisons collaborated together to produce a [bright and colourful annual report](#) detailing all the hard work carried out across the network.

In April, our colleagues from the French St Exupery Network hosted us in Strasbourg for the 4th VdGM Forum and a successful preforum exchange program. It was a fantastic event, with 13 workshops delivered by our members and special guests, alongside over 15 oral presentations and 13 posters. Plenaries covered important topics such as vaccinations and physical activity, with a keynote From Prof Amanda Howe, WONCA World President, on “Doctors as Patients”. The team was rewarded for their efforts to include patients in the design and delivery of the program through achieving

accreditation as a “Patients Included” event.

Following just a few months later we held another fabulous event in Prague with the VdGM Preconference and Preconference exchange ahead of the annual WONCA Europe Conference. Keynotes were delivered by Dr Jo Buchanon or EURACT and myself as the new VdGM President. The theme matched the main conference theme of Growing together in Diversity. This was held in parallel with our Annual Council Meeting, where we made several important adjustments to our constitution to reflect our changing needs. During the Council Meeting we were delighted to hold one of the most energetic and well subscribed Executive elections in VdGM history with many positions hotly contested. All the candidates were of a very high standard and in the end we added 6 newly elected members to our Executive:

- Berk Geroglu, Turkey - Re-elected as Secretary
- Nicholas Mamo, UK/Malta - Treasurer
- Nina Monteiro, Portugal - Exchange Officer
- Vera Pires da Silva, Portugal - Awards & Fundraising Officer
- Elena Klusova, Spain - Events Officer
- Kristina Ziuteliene, Lithuania - Image Officer
-

July and August saw our new executive meet in London to begin the important process of handing over and planning for the coming year. Plans are in place to strategically review our awards and bursaries, strengthen the quality of our events and the support we offer our host organising committees and to begin exploring policy topics with our membership to feed into wider WONCA policy debates. Council has voted that this year’s policy topics will be Education and Training and Workforce Planning.

Whilst the year may now be winding down, VdGM continues to move at full speed ahead, preparing for our upcoming [Forum in Porto this January](#), where we have had over 250 subscriptions to date and over 100 abstracts submitted.

It has been a thrilling year and we invite you all to join us in 2018 for our Forum in Porto and our Preconference in Krakow.

Claire Marie Thomas
Chair, Vasco da Gama Movement



Waynakay movimiento – (Latin America region)



2017 was an important year for our movement, we elected our new representatives, held our Waynakay preconference in Lima, Peru and strengthened the activities of young family doctors in several countries.

Waynakay meeting, Lima, Peru



An open meeting for all Waynakay members was held during the 5th Ibero-American Congress of Family and Community Medicine in Lima, Peru, 2017. During this event, members shared experiences from different countries and collaborated in the working groups promoted by Waynakay.

In this event, Waynakay's representatives for 2017 - 2019 were elected and the selected candidates were:

- Virginia Cardozo, Family Doctor, Uruguay
- Catalina Coral, Family Doctor, Colombia
- Juliana Valverde: Family Doctor, Costa Rica



Chile's National preconference



In Chile, Waynakay's Preconference was held on October 18, prior to the National Congress. Approximately 70 people attended this event, including residents and young doctors, who participated in theme groups that ranged from: Education, Exchange, Investigation, Community work and Advocacy – there was a great focus on the community and the work of the family doctor “outside the box”.

The Waynakay Chile representatives were also elected on this occasion: National manager: Camila Vilches and Subrogation: Raúl Fuentealba. The representatives for each national working group were also elected and the guidelines for 2018 were approved.

Waynakay Brazil

During the 14th Brazilian Congress of Family and Community Medicine, it was also possible to strengthen Brazil's Waynakay network through the following initiatives:

- November 1, 2017: Pre-congress event organized and programmed by Waynakay Brazil with important participation from the Young Family Doctors and Medical Students;
- November 4, 2017: New coordinators for Waynakay Brazil were elected whose term will end in 2019

We are looking forward to spread the word about our community and expand our connections with Family Doctors around the world. So it's quite good having very enthusiastic new members to help achieve those goals.

Saudações from Brazil :)

Waynakay Argentina

The XVI Congress of the Federación Argentina de Medicina Familiar y General (FAMFyG) that was held in the city of Tucumán on October 18, 2017, the 16th edition of the National Conference of Residents of Family and General Medicine took place. They were organized by the National Commission of Residents (CNR) of the FAMFyG, where Waynakay Argentina, integrated in the CNR, had its time to gather, spread and call for new members, who are already following the WhatsApp's Federal group. The provinces of Jujuy, La Rioja and Santiago del Estero were added to the movement.



A new board of Waynakay Argentina was elected and compromised to follow the mission of the movement – achieve federal representation of family doctors, carrying on expanding the message of the movement, to collaborate and to work together tackling distances by making technology an ally. The 2016-2017 coordination, in charge of Rosario Caballé and Ariel Suárez, gave leadership to the new coordinators that were elected by unanimous vote: Gabriela Dicroce and Ana Diaz.

Waynakay Bolivia

In Bolivia, the XVIII National Congress of Family Medicine was held and a pre-congress for young family doctors was organized. Waynakay's small network in Bolivia managed to grow after giving a presentation of the topic of "History and Challenges of the Waynakay Movement".

