

WONCANews

An International Forum for Family Doctors



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World Organization of Family Doctors www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com

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FROM THE WONCA PRESIDENT :

GAINING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PRIMARY CARE'S EFFECTIVENESS

Health services delivered through a primary care organized structure of health care are more efficient, cost effective and safe. Effective primary care leadership in health systems is of utmost importance for the health of people, and primary care advocacy is, and will remain, in the core of Wonca's mission. This is the essence of the "15 by 2015" campaign, of which you find further updates elsewhere in this issue.

Primary care leadership acknowledges that family doctors can care for most people's common health problems most of the time. Effective support and guidance of family doctors, and other members of the primary care team for the most common health problems are at the centre of primary care development, research and education. Yet, the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of common primary care health problems has only fairly recently been included in Wonca's global activities. With the involvement of Wonca in chronic respiratory diseases, and the recent establishment of Wonca's mental health working party, we are making up for this omission. As reported in this issue, the upcoming WHO-Wonca actions to bring mental health in the mainstream of health care, as well as the continuing global adoption of Wonca's International Classification of Primary Care are important developments in this area.

SECURING PRIMARY CARE'S CENTRAL ROLE

The centrality of primary care mediated health care has become an accepted fact of life for health care policy makers around the world – at least for the foreseeable future. However, why primary care has this impact, and why family physician-led health care is correlated with better life expectancy, earlier diagnoses and other positive indicators of population health, is poorly understood. To secure primary care's continued relevance, it would be insufficient to accept its effectiveness as a 'black box'. Advocates cite many hypotheses based on the core values of primary care, including our generalist approach, integration of the physical, psychological and social aspects of health, continuity of care, person-centred care and care in the context of the family and social environment. But unless their importance and impact are better conceptualized, qualified and quantified in relation to the outcomes of prevention, diagnosis and treatment,

a tangible risk exists that the call for primary care may run its course for health policy makers.

METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

To better understand what is happening at the encounter between patient and family doctor requires a descriptive methodology. It requires health care informatics beyond diagnosis and intervention, the traditional core elements of health care data. With its' methodological structure, the International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC) has opened the way to bring this comprehensive information together. ICPC is finding its way to family practice informatics systems around the world. This development will potentially provide the highly needed data. It is essential, though, that ICPC is made compatible with at least two other international classifications – WHO's ICD and SNOMED. From this, it is essential that ICPC be further developed from a conceptual framework to a true comprehensive classification (ICPC-3), with well-defined categories in all its chapters and components. This is a Wonca priority, and the agenda of the Wonca International Classification Committee, as reported in this issue. In addition, ICPC-3 development is supported with a growing investment in research capacity building by the Working Party on Research.

Continued development of our primary care research infrastructure at the local, national and international arena is another key element to secure primary care's centrality and relevance. As reported in the June issue of Wonca News, this year saw major research conferences conducted in Wonca's Ibero-Americana and Asia-Pacific regions to promote the 2003 Kingston Conference recommendations for primary care research.

But research infrastructure and methodology are only enabling factors. It is essential that Wonca and its member organizations are concerning themselves in detail with the outcome of health problems under primary care conditions.

MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS, WONCA-WPA AND WONCA-WHO

Mental health problems have played an important role in the maturation of our discipline as this domain exemplifies the need to personalize care and integrate the physical/somatic and the psychological determinants of health and illness. As a model to explore the how and why of primary care, the activities of the Working

Party on Mental Health, under Dr Gabriel (Gabby) Ivbijaro's leadership, are particularly encouraging. The Working Party's close collaboration, on behalf of Wonca, with the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are worth special mention. The Wonca-WPA collaboration has resulted in a number of activities in the past 12 months culminating in a joint international conference on mental health problems in primary care, Granada, Spain this past June. The Work Party's partnership with the WHO has resulted a renewed focus on mental health and primary care in the WHO, including the publication of a new journal of that name. Both these important developments are reported in this issue of Wonca News.

Collaborative work with other specialties is crucial for the future position of family medicine. In this regard, the effective Wonca-WPA partnership on mental health and primary care is a worth recognizing. I would like to offer a special word of thanks to the WPA president, Professor Juan Mezzich, who promoted our partnership during his term of office that will end in September.

The mental health activities of the Working Party make it possible for Wonca in collaboration with WHO, to launch In October an action plan to integrate mental health in the main stream of medical care. This is a significant step in further promoting a health care system that is responsive to patients' and peoples' needs. It provides at the same time opportunities to gain more insight in how an integrated approach to health problems, based on a personal doctor-patient relation over time, positively impacts the outcome of care. Improving the health of people around the world remains Wonca's prime mission. However, we should add to that mission every effort to understand the mechanisms of the effectiveness of primary care. Only that knowledge will help us further improve our caring for people's health.

Professor Chris van Weel

President of Wonca

FROM THE CEO'S DESK:

JOIN WONCA IN THE "15 BY 2015 CAMPAIGN" AS A SIGNATORY

As early as the year 1953, the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) stated, "assistance in the health field should be designed primarily to strengthen the basic health service of the country and to meet the most urgent problems affecting large sections of the population."

In 1978, in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, in the former Soviet Union, representatives of 134 countries came together under WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund to initiate the program "Health for All by the Year 2000." Despite some improvements in health, the goals set in 1978 were not met through the first two decades of action, at least with regard to establishing primary care services in most countries, especially those considered economically developing. In 2006, the WHO's World Health Report stated that adequate treatment of chronic diseases required a shift towards community-based and patient-centred paradigms of care, which are key components of a broad-

based, primary care oriented health system.

In recent years, we have seen an unprecedented increase in financial aid to improve health care in developing countries. Such health care funding increased an estimated 26% between 1997 and 2002, from \$6.4 billion to \$8.1 billion. While the magnitude of such an investment is a positive development, the vast majority of aid has been allocated towards disease-specific projects (termed 'vertical programming') rather than towards more broad-based improvements in population health, such as preventive measures, primary care services, and health workforce development (termed 'horizontal programming').

Currently, under-funded primary healthcare providers in developing countries have scarce resources to build systems that respond to the needs of patients and communities. There is a need for integration of vertical programmes into local health facilities to achieve sustainable disease control. Integrating curative and preventive care in particular has merits, such as the potential to detect a patient with tuberculosis among those patients who present with respiratory symptoms, or offering vaccination to patients with whom the primary care practitioner has established a trusting relationship. Integration overcomes vertical programmes' narrow focus on only a fraction of the care needed by the person, family or population.

Today, a need exists for a new global strategy to achieve a synergy among person, community and disease-focused approaches. To achieve this, the World Organisation of Family Doctors (Wonca), in collaboration with Global Health through Education, Training and Service (GHETS), with The Network: Towards Unity for Health, (The Network: TUFH), and the European

Forum for Primary Care (EFPC), call upon the new International Health Partnership and other funding organisations, such as the Global Fund, the World Bank, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the World Health Organization, to assign primary health care a pivotal role in the provision of their activities and to support its development in a systematic way.

To this end, Wonca together with our partner organizations have proposed that by the year 2015, 15% of the budgets of vertical disease-oriented programmes be invested in horizontal programming that builds and strengthens well-coordinated, integrated, local primary healthcare systems and that this percentage would increase over time. Such an investment would improve the capacity of developing nations to address the majority of health problems through a generic, well structured, and comprehensive primary care system. This so-called "15 by 2015" campaign is a world-wide initiative calling for all major global health donors to allocate 15% of all their grants towards strengthening the primary health care system of the country in which they are working.

If you believe in the need for this new approach to improving global health, then join us by becoming a signatory to this "15 By 2015" Campaign. You can also help by disseminating this appeal to all the members in your organisation, as well as your friends and colleagues.

Please go to the Wonca Website (www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com) and click the link on the homepage entitled "15 By 2015 Campaign"

Dr Alfred Loh
Chief Executive Officer
World Organization of Family Doctors

FROM THE EDITOR:

PROMOTING QUALITY FAMILY MEDICINE PRACTICE, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Family Medicine and the family doctor play a central role in health systems by providing relevant, quality and affordable health care services to meet people's common health needs. Promoting excellence in practice, education and research is at the core of Wonca's mission. This issue of Wonca News highlights key examples in which Wonca seeks to enhance the role of the family doctor.

In his President's Column, Professor Chris van Weel describes the strategic importance of enhancing family medicine research and the important role of Wonca's clinically oriented working groups, such as the Working Party on Mental Health and Wonca's International Classification Committee. Feature stories provide an inspiring summary of our clinical working groups' important contributions to Wonca's mission, and cite those family doctors who have played a key leadership role.

In his CEO's Column, Dr Alfred Loh describes the critical "15 by 2015" global campaign to request donor organizations to allocate 15% of their disease-specific funding to strengthen primary health care services that can most effectively and efficiently deliver the comprehensive care needed to improve people's health. A companion feature story describes how readers can personally lend their support to this vital campaign.

This issue of Wonca News also describes some of the important partners that share Wonca's mission to care for all people, beginning

with our Wonca national member organizations, Regions and working groups. This issue also acknowledges some of our key global partners such as the Network Towards Unity for Health, the Global Health through Education Training and Service, the European Forum for Primary Care, the World Psychiatry Association, and the World Health Organization.

Wonca's Committee's, Working Parties, Special Interest Groups and Task Forces, as well as our 119 member organizations and more than 2000 direct members are most welcome to send me examples of how you promote practice, education and research and, thereby, enhance the role of the family doctor in health systems. Today we family doctors are blessed to find many relevant resources through Wonca and our GlobalFamilyDoctor.com website to enhance our value in health systems throughout the world. I hope that you recognize and take pride in Wonca's commitment to promote quality family medicine practice, education and research throughout the world, and encourage other family doctors to join and contribute to Wonca's mission.

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FEATURE STORIES

WONCA AND THE WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION HOST JOINT CONFERENCE IN SPAIN

The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) and Wonca held a joint primary care mental health conference in Granada, Spain from 19-21 June 2008. This thematic conference aimed to bring together primary and secondary care aspects of mental health and specifically focused on depression and other common primary care mental health disorders. More than 1000 participants attended, representing a variety of countries worldwide, the majority from primary care or primary care psychiatry. The Wonca Working Party on Mental Health, in conjunction with Wonca Europe, actively participated in and supported this project. Wonca and the WPA also held a number of joint presentations during the conference.

The Wonca Working Party on Mental Health is committed to supporting local general practitioners to attend and contribute to such conferences. On this occasion a member of our Working Party, Dr Juan Mendive, held in Spanish a workshop entitled 'Emotional Discomfort in Primary Care'. This workshop proved to be very popular and was attended by general practitioners, psychiatrists and clinical psychologists mostly from Spain. Feedback from the workshop was very positive. We hope that other members of the Wonca Working Party on Mental Health will volunteer their services during future conferences in order to further our objectives of improving skills in the recognition and management of mental health problems in the primary care setting.

During the WPA-Wonca Presidential Symposium on 'Co-morbidity and Person-Centred Care', WPA President Juan Mezzich and Wonca President Chris van Weel explored the impact of illness co-morbidity on mental health and the ways in which psychiatrists and family doctors could work together to improve patient outcomes. During this Symposium Professor George Christodoulou (WPA) reminded psychiatrists of the need for them to learn from family doctors when dealing with issues of co-morbidity.



Dr Gabriel Ivbijaro, Chair of the Wonca Working Party on Mental Health exchanging gifts with Professor Francisco Torres of the WPA, Chair of the Conference Organising Committee.

For a very long time, the WPA and Wonca, especially the Wonca Working Party on Mental Health, have been talking about developing a formal relationship. As a result of the opportunities for collaboration made possible by this conference, we are one step closer to achieving this objective.

Key leadership of Wonca and the WPA attended a joint workshop

hosted by the Wonca Working Party on Mental Health and the WPA. Four key themes and areas for development emerged from this workshop. Wonca and the WPA agreed to cooperate to provide space for one another's organisation during their conferences and in their respective journals. The two organisations, through their executives, will work towards developing core competencies for primary care mental health based on the Wonca Europe Template for General Practice and build a teaching curriculum in mental health based on these agreed core competencies. Wonca and the WPA also hope to collaborate to close the gap between the reality of the patient experience and evidence-based outcomes. In keeping with the theme of the Presidential Symposium, WPA and Wonca will collaborate to address the mind and body dichotomy and properly manage co-morbid conditions using the skills, knowledge and research of both organisations.

During the closing ceremony, the Chair of the Wonca Working Party on Mental Health talked about the joint work of the Wonca Working Party on Mental Health and the WHO to integrate mental health care across health care disciplines. He reminded participants that Wonca and the WHO would launch a joint document on World Mental Health Day in Geneva on the 10th October 2008. He particularly thanked the core members of the Wonca Working Party on Mental Health who has contributed their time, expertise and skills in supporting this project. He encouraged participants to continue to support the journal of Mental Health in Family Medicine as a way of disseminating new ideas and best practice in primary care mental health.

Finally, the joint conference was not all work. We also had time to socialise and made a night time

visit to the magnificent Alhambra in Granada.

Dr Gabriel Ivbijaro
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Transition in the Wonca International Classification Committee.

At the Wonca International Classification Committee meeting held in Dunedin, New Zealand in September 2007, Niels Bentzen of Denmark stepped down as Chair and Mike Klinkman of the United States was selected to serve as the new Chair.

This change represents an important milestone for the Committee and for Wonca. Over the years, WICC has had remarkable stability in membership, with the last of its founding members retiring from the Committee in 2007. WICC has had only five Chairs in its 36 years: Bob Westbury from Canada, Jack Froom from the United States, Charles Bridges-Webb from Australia, Niels, and now Mike.

WICC has a long and distinguished history. The Committee first met in 1972 in Melbourne at the time of the inauguration of Wonca, and its first members were experts in the area of morbidity classifications for general practice who banded together to give primary care a voice in setting national and international standards. WICC has operated over the years as a representative/expert committee of volunteers, ranging in size from 20 to over 40 members from 15 to 28 countries. This band of volunteers has been remarkably productive and highly influential. The Committee's first publication was the International Classification of Health Problems in Primary Care

(ICHPPC), released in 1975, revised in 1979 and again in 1983. Its second publication was the first known attempt to classify the "process" of primary care [observations, laboratory and ancillary investigations, referrals and consultations], the IC-Process-PC, in 1986.

The third publication related to WICC, the International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC), has been at the core of the committee's activities since the early 1980s. The work leading to ICPC grew out of a World Health Organization mandate to develop a classification of "reasons for encounter" (RFEs) in primary health care. The WHO Working Party, composed primarily of WICC members, developed not only the RFE classification, but integrated that classification into a comprehensive classification of the content and process of primary care that also enabled longitudinal data collection and analysis in the format of the episode of care -- ICPC.

ICPC has become a worldwide standard for primary care classification, accepted as a member of the WHO Family of International Classifications. It is the official primary care classification standard in several countries, in routine use in dozens of others, and has been translated into over 20 languages through a process created and supervised by WICC members. ICPC-2, published in 1998, was designed from the start to be incorporated into electronic health record (EHR) software, and this approach has been extensively tested in several countries, notably the Netherlands, Australia, Malta, and Belgium. ICPC-2-R, published in 2005, contained an electronic thesaurus that facilitated mapping between ICPC, ICD-9-CM, and ICD-10. The most recent version of ICPC (ICPC-2e v.4.0) is currently available in downloadable electronic format.

The Committee also found time to produce a Glossary and Dictionary of General Practice, the latter published in book form in 2005, and has been active in developing or assessing other classifications and terminologies in the areas of severity of illness, patient safety, and functional status.



Niels and Inge Bentzen at their home near Trondheim

Dr. Bentzen has served ably as WICC Chair for nine years, during a time in which the domain of health care classification has been transformed by the rise of health information technology and electronic health care record development. Under his leadership, WICC strengthened its ties with WHO through ongoing collaboration with the WHO Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) Network, and revised and extended its organizational structure to meet the needs of this new and more complex environment. Working groups were created within WICC to facilitate concentrated work on specific areas between full Committee meetings, and these efforts are now beginning to bear fruit. Niels' leadership skills, his ability to build interpersonal relationships, and his hands-on attention to detail were all essential to our successful transition to the "new WICC", and his active presence in the day-to-day work of the Committee will be greatly missed.

What is this “new WICC”?

Simply put, the objectives of WICC are:

- To develop, update and distribute tools that support clinical practice and enable international communication about the work with patients in general/family practice and primary care.
- To develop and promote appropriate classifications, definitions and other tools needed for general practice/family medicine and primary care and to advocate for the use of such classification tools and definitions.
- To represent the interests of general practitioners/family doctors in establishing and maintaining international classification standards in primary care.
- To maintain and/or harmonize relationships between classifications and terminologies used in general/family practice.

The primary task now before us is to complete work on ICPC-3, a major revision of the classification, with a target date for release of 2011. To ensure that ICPC-3 maintains its position as the primary care classification of choice worldwide, we are also focusing on developing close working ties with the WHO Classifications unit and the new International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization. We also remain committed to exploring other classification issues of importance to general practice/family medicine. These activities will require a significant commitment from WICC members and from Wonca, and we have had great support so far from both. The remarkable string of achievements described above is due to the hard work, dedication, and productivity of a remarkable group of individuals. We aim to continue this tradition of achievement.

We look forward to the challenges of the next few years, and welcome any questions or comments about the work of the Committee. Anyone interested in contributing to the work of the Committee is encouraged to contact Mike Klinkman or members of the WICC Executive or Nominations Committee listed below.

The next meeting of the new WICC will take place in Brasov, Romania, from 8-12 September 2008. Questions and comments can be directed to Mike Klinkman.

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The full WICC group pictured at the Dunedin meeting in September 2007

WONCA REGIONAL NEWS

WONCA ASIA PACIFIC CO-HOSTS TRAIN-THE-TRAINER PROGRAM

Through the inspiration and assistance of Professor Alain Montegut, President Wonca North American Region, A “Train the Trainer’s Workshop” organized by the Wonca Asia Pacific Region, the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and the Vietnam Association of Family Physicians (VAFP) was held at the HCMC University of Medicine and Pharmacy 7-8 June 2008.

More than 80 delegates attended from Singapore, Hong Kong, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, and the USA, as well as from different regions of Vietnam – Hanoi, Hue, Can Tho, Haipong, Thainguyen etc, including a representative from the Ministry of Health of Vietnam. The Rector of HCMC University of Medicine and Pharmacy conducted the opening ceremony for the workshop.

The meeting objective was to provide an opportunity for WONCA Asia Pacific member countries to share their experiences and challenges in training Family Doctors in their own countries. This objective was achieved through broad and positive interaction among the delegates. Successful team building occurred amongst member organizations around the region.



Group photo of participants from Vietnam, USA, Hong Kong, Singapore, Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia and Indonesia attending the Wonca Train the Trainer’s workshop held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam June 7-8th 2008

The focus was on Vietnam as a country actively developing Family Medicine. Discussion centered on how to train trainers to train general practitioners / doctors / family doctors to upgrade the standards of primary medical care through adopting the family medicine concept and model. Subjects to enhance more advanced Family Medicine programs such as e-learning, research in ambulatory settings, and teaching through video conferencing were also presented by experts around the region.

Topics included: Global Health and Family Medicine in Developing Countries; Relationship Centered Care: Why, How to Know, and How to Teach Our Residents; E-learning in Developing Country: Now or Soon;

Research in Ambulatory Settings: Experiences, Barriers and Solutions; Video Teaching Conferences in Developing Countries: Reasonable or a Luxury; and Family Medicine Assessment; Standards and Quality.

Each session was led by an expert around the region and followed by a speaker from each participating country who highlighted the differences and similarities in the respective country. There were very active interaction, exchanges and experience sharing.

Professor Goh Lee Gan managed to get all the participants engaged in research, moving forward the agenda of ReNAP (Research Network of Asia Pacific). Collaborative research projects and champions addressed topics such as The Family Life Cycle in Asia Pacific: Similarities and Differences Across Generations; Chronic Disease Management Strategies and Outcomes; and Teaching Related Research: What GPs Need to Know.

A lavish international buffet was arranged for the conference dinner and certificates of appreciation as well as souvenirs were exchanged. It was a great night of social interaction and networking. All participants returned home learning something from each other as well as having made new friends.

We look forward to more networking amongst academic departments in the region to facilitate research collaboration, with possible exchanges of faculty and students and sharing of resources. The possibility of international accreditation in the light of the forthcoming “Mutual Recognition Agreement” in the region will also be explored

This workshop was funded through the generous donation of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Hong Kong

College of Family Physicians, Professor Alain Montegut and the Wonca Asia Pacific Region.

Dr Donald Li
President, Wonca Asia Pacific Region
dr2318@hotmail.com

WONCA EUROPE REGION MEETS IN ISTANBUL SEPTEMBER 4-7

The Turkish Association of Family Physicians welcomes you to the Wonca Europe 2008 Conference that will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, on September 4-7, 2008. The theme of the conference is "Overcoming the distance" Family practice - bringing the art of medicine to the people. Working together with National Colleges, European Network Organizations and Special Interest Groups we aim to come together in largest collaboration possible also with a large number of Turkish colleagues. Even with attendance beyond Europe, we will have the opportunity to find out our similarities and differences in a comprehensive scientific program.

We are very excited for this opportunity to meet our colleagues from various countries in Istanbul, a magnificent metropolis with a rich history. We aim to bring together family physicians of different affiliations like universities, hospitals or community based settings to review basic principles of and latest evidence about family medicine, and exchange experiences in the framework of a rich, comprehensive scientific program. The conference will feature sessions on the primary health care/family medicine approach to various clinical issues, undergraduate and postgraduate training in family medicine, a comparative review of family practice in different countries with different health care systems, and basic principles of family medicine.

In Turkey, family medicine is a relatively young discipline and much has been accomplished in its rich history of 23 years. There is constant effort to further develop and strengthen family medicine as a clinical and academic discipline through our professional association TAHUD, our Board TAHYK, our peer reviewed journals, 38 academic departments of family medicine, and our broad community of family physicians, who work as clinicians in hospitals and community based settings. We believe that your participation in this conference will constitute an important contribution to our efforts to strengthen the discipline of family medicine and to improve quality of primary health care in Turkey and in Europe as well.

Istanbul, at the Southeast end of geographical Europe,

where Europe meets Asia, where cultures and civilizations meet, will be the ideal place to discuss "Overcoming the distance". Looking at the other continent, with all its beauty, just a few hundred meters away, within minutes to reach, will make us think again about how far really "the distance" is. We will be looking at various aspects of our discipline thoroughly, from many different viewpoints, but to learn from each other, in order to bring our distance as near as possible.

The challenge is ahead of us, to have a WONCA Europe Conference with more than 4500 colleagues and also making it a long remembered one, both with its Scientific and Social events.

Registration is available online at www.WoncaEurope2008.com.

We look forward to welcoming you to Istanbul.

With our kindest regards,
Assoc. Prof. Nezh Dagdeviren, MD
Erdem Birgül, MD
Co-Chairman, Host Organizing Committee
Prof. Füsün Ersoy, MD
Chair of the Scientific Committee

ASIA PACIFIC REGION MEETS IN MELBOURNE OCTOBER 1-5

Family doctors, general practitioners and all those interested in the practice of family medicine are invited to Melbourne, Australia for the WONCA 2008 Asia Pacific Regional Conference which is being combined with The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) 51st Annual Scientific Convention (ASC) on 1-5 October 2008.

Our conference theme, 'A celebration of diversity' explores the wide ranging, all encompassing nature of the way our profession provides primary care to our patients, and supports health care in our communities and nations.

The Scientific Program will feature several renowned national and international speakers and includes the world and regional presidents of Wonca. The presentations will comprise a mix of expert plenary lectures, workshops, paper and poster sessions, all of which will address the conference theme of "a celebration of diversity". Topics will include updates in clinical care, developments in medical education, health service delivery, primary care in challenging environments, general practice research,

and the social and cultural contexts of family medicine. Overseas visitors will have an opportunity to learn about family medicine in Australia, while Australians will learn from a diversity of international experiences.

At this year's WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference, there will be a photo competition encouraging you to share your insight into the diverse nature of general practice/family medicine. The theme of the competition is 'diversity' and entry to this competition is free! The only limit is your imagination and interpretation of our theme and categories. For further information and guidelines please visit www.wonca2008.com/photog.php

Come to the multicultural city of Melbourne and experience a high quality professional program in first class conference facilities, and the world-class attractions of this city. Cosmopolitan Melbourne offers a unique mix of international cultures, reflected in the diversity of food, cultures and lifestyles and promises an unforgettable conference experience.

Forever known as the "Garden City" owing to its picturesque botanic gardens and parks, Melbourne now claims the privilege of being the "the world's most livable city". Melbourne is renowned for its festivals and sporting events, staging an exciting variety of entertainment each year including the Formula One Australian Grand Prix, the Australian Open Tennis, the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, the Melbourne Film Festival, the Boxing Day Test Cricket, the AFL Grand Final, the Heineken Golf Classic, and the Spring Racing Carnival.

The RACGP and WONCA looks forward to welcoming you to Melbourne in 2008.

Professor Michael Kidd
Dr Vasantha Preetham
Co-Covenor
Associate Professor Peter Schattner
Chair, Scientific Program Committee

HEALTH AND HEALTH SYSTEM NEWS

"15 BY 2015" CAMPAIGN GAINING MOMENTUM

The "15by2015"-campaign launched by WONCA, the Network Towards Unity for Health, Global Health through Education Training and Service and the European Forum for Primary Care is gaining momentum.

The campaign, described in an editorial in the March 8th issue of the British Medical Journal (see BMJ 2008;336:518-19), has been presented at different conferences. At the Global Health Forum in Geneva on May 26th 2008, Jan De Maeseneer highlighted the campaign in the plenary session on "The Role of Clinicians in Primary Care" to the campaign. The presentation elicited a lot of positive responses by the participants. At the "Global Health Council" meeting in Washington, DC, David Egilman (GHETS) chaired four round table sessions on "15by2015". Fernando Mora (Mexico,GHETS) and Jan De Maeseneer (University of Ghent, Belgium) were also present. On Friday 30th at the plenary session on "Primary Health Care in the Fourth Decade" the campaign was mentioned by Jan De Maeseneer in his contribution and supported twice by interventions from the audience by David Egilman. Moreover, 500 documents were distributed to the participants. You can watch the session on: http://www.kaisernetwerk.org/health_cast/player.cfm?id=4060



Professor Jan De Maeseneer with Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General, at the Global Health Council meeting in Washington, DC on May 30, 2008

At the conference, Jan De Maeseneer exchanged ideas on primary health care and the "15 by 2015" campaign with Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of the World

Health Organization, who was quite well informed about the “15 by 2015” campaign, and who had met previously in Geneva with an Executive Delegation of Wonca. At the conference, the idea was launched to develop a “Health Systems Impact Assessment” in order to evaluate the impact of certain measures (e.g. by vertical donor-organisations) on the health system. The task force is now working on this document (for further information, contact: email: swancitos@gmail.com).

On the 2nd June, the “15 by 2015” campaign was mentioned by Jan De Maeseneer in his contribution on “Intersectoral Action for Health” at the conference of the Canadian Public Health Association in Halifax. On the 23th of July, a workshop of the European Forum for Primary Care in Budapest was also informed about the campaign.

At the fourth international conference on primary health care/ family health, organised by the Ministry of Health of Brazil, the campaign was brought under the attention of the participants in the contribution “Primary health care in a changing society”, by Jan De Maeseneer who mentioned also the fact that Brazil has bought the licence for the use of ICPC-2, another Wonca achievement.

In the meantime, Wonca President Professor Chris van Weel and CEO Dr. Alfred Loh, wrote a letter to stimulate local Wonca members, colleges, academies, academic institutions and others to inform the membership about the campaign, to motivate them to sign (see CEO Column in this issue). Also Wonca’s “Journal Alerts” (www.globalfamilydoctor.com) mention regularly the campaign.

This has not been without impact on the “15 by 2015” campaign signature list: on the 29th of July 2008, at the website www.15by2015.org exactly 832 signatures were counted. The top five contributing countries are Switzerland (206), United States of America (117), Italy (99), Belgium (34), Canada and the United Kingdom (28). The impact of the campaign is illustrated by the fact that electronic signatures already exist from 80 countries.

In the meantime, it will also be important that national and international stakeholders are informed about the campaign and the underlying ideas. For example, in Belgium, a letter was sent to the Minister of Developmental Cooperation, Mr. Charles Michel, who answered quite positively, “15by2015” is an ambitious, laudable and important initiative. Therefore, I asked my department to explore how the actions of the Belgian developmental cooperation in relation to health care, may find inspiration by this campaign, taking into account the existing commitments, budgetary constraints and global strategy. I wish you all the best with your further activities.” It is important that the campaign will be mentioned at the WHO, G-8 Summit, the European Union and other key international forums of key global organizations.

There are positive signals. For example, at a 29th - 30th May 2008 meeting at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, an expert consultation was organised on “Maximising Positive Synergies Between Health Systems and Global Health Initiatives”. It was recognised at this meeting that primary health care could act as a unifying framework and that exploiting positive synergies could be a catalyst for the renewal of primary health care.

The “15by2015” campaign is an opportunity of all Wonca members to demonstrate their commitment to equity and to the international development of primary health care and family medicine.

MEMBER AND ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

WONCA ASIA PACIFIC MEETS WITH VIETNAM'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Through the kind introduction of Prof. Alain Montegut connecting me with Prof. Nguyen Thi Kim Chuc of Hanoi Medical University, I led a delegation to pay a courtesy visit to meet the rector and Family Medicine trainers of Hanoi University as well as officials of the Hanoi Ministry of Health to discuss and share experience on Family Medicine education, training and primary healthcare in the Indochina peninsula.

The delegation consisted of myself, Prof. Alain Montegut, President of Wonca North American Region, Dr Daniel M Thuraiappah, Vice President of Wonca Asia Pacific Region, Dr Sheikh Amin (from Malaysia), Prof. Sugito Wonodirekso (President of Kolej Doktor Indonesia) and Prof. Dr. Nugroho Wiyadi (from Indonesia), and Dr. Gene Tsoi, (Chairman of Vocational Training and Standards of Hong Kong College of Family Physicians).



Dr Donald Li and Professor Goran Tomson, Professor of International Health Systems and Policy Research from Sweden, invited speakers to the 2nd ASEAN Symposium on Access to Healthcare in Hanoi 5-6th June 2008

On 5th June we held discussions at Hanoi Medical University and discussed Family Medicine (FM) curriculum in the medical school, improving capacity of FM lecturership, developing curriculum for a Master's program in FM, setting up FM clinics in Hanoi as well as gaining support from the Ministry of Health.

I had the opportunity to meet with the Honorary Vice Minister of Health Madam Professor Nguyen Thi Kim Tien, Member of Parliament the afternoon before our scheduled meeting at the Ministry on 6th June 2008 as we were both participants and speakers at the 2nd ASEAN Symposium on Access to Healthcare organized by Business Week and hosted by Phillips Healthcare International. Professor Tien gave a keynote address as well as discussed private-public co-operatives in healthcare systems. I spoke on Healthcare Reform: Affordability, Prevention and Healthy Behavior.



Wonca Delegation at Vietnam Ministry of Health to meet Professor Nguyen Thi Kim TIEN, Vice Minister of Health and Member of Parliament (from right to left): Dr Thuraiappah, Dr Li, Dr Montegut, Professor Pham Nhat An, Rector of Hanoi Medical University, Dr Wiyadi, Dr Wonodirekso, and Past President Wonca Asia Pacific Region, Professor Goh Lee Gan

We met the Honorary Vice Minister in a formal meeting at the Ministry on 6th June 2008 attended also by the Rector of Hanoi Medical, Vice President of the Vietnam Association of Family Physicians and Director of Research and Training of the ministry. The Vice Minister briefed us on the history of establishment

of Family Medicine in Vietnam and stated that there was recent enquiry by members of the parliament of Vietnam about the paucity of Family Doctor trainees.



On behalf of the Wonca Asia Pacific Region, Dr Donald Li presents a souvenir plaque in commemoration of the meeting to Professor Nguyen Thi Kim TIEN, Vietnam Vice Minister of Health and Member of Parliament

Our team elaborated on the history of Wonca and its commitment to elevating standards in Family Medicine as a specialty in medicine. Our team elaborated that Family Medicine as a specialty was enhanced by the development of various interest groups such as research, classification of diseases, medical informatics, practice management, e-learning, women in Family Medicine and quality in general practice.

One of the enquiries was about methods of encouraging doctors to take up Family Medicine. We solicited support for the development of the FM curriculum in the medical universities in Vietnam.

The Vice Minister promised support to the universities and elicited plans to build primary healthcare networks led by family doctors, establishment of a division of FM and suggested to hold more conference, workshops on a larger scale on primary care and family medicine. Registration of all medical practitioners was the ministry's present mission and she sought assistance and advice from those countries who already had a system in place.

I think our meeting was successful in helping the FM trainers and teacher gather support and recognition from government. We look forward to more FM related activities in Vietnam.

Dr Donald Li
President, Wonca Asia Pacific Region
dr2318@hotmail.com

RAHEEM DHANANI NAMED FAMILY MEDICINE CHAIR AT AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY – EAST AFRICA



Dr Raheem Dhanani

The senior faculty member of the Department of Family Medicine at the Karachi, Pakistan campus of Aga Khan University (AKU), Dr. Raheem H. Dhanani, has been named Family Medicine Department Chairman of the AKU - East Africa campus in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. He will lead

the upcoming department of Family Medicine at the Nairobi, Kenya campus of AKU as well.

Prior to being named FM Chairman at the AKU – East Africa campus, Dr Dhanani spent 13 rewarding years at the AKU – Karachi Campus, working alongside the leaders of Family Medicine in Pakistan, like Dr. Riaz Qureshi – Former Chairman and his mentor; Dr. Rukhsana Zuberi – Associate Dean for Education and his supervisor; Dr. Waris Qidwai – Current Chairman and his teacher; and Dr. Badar Sabir Alir, his educator.

An active member of Wonca, Dr Dhanani has been a leader in global family medicine education as examiner with the Royal College of General Practitioner's MRCGP International South Asia, and as coordinator and faculty in numerous international Family Medicine conferences and other related meetings, trainings and workshops. You can contact Dr Dhanani at raheem.dhanani@aku.edu and raheemdhanani68@gmail.com.

RESOURCES FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR

MENTAL HEALTH IN FAMILY MEDICINE

Family doctors and their teams play a central role in caring for those who suffer from the whole spectrum of acute and long-term medical conditions including mental illness. Wonca needs to be able to share best practices in the delivery of mental health in primary care worldwide so that race, ethnicity and geographical location will not be a barrier to our patients receiving the best quality mental healthcare from primary care or family physicians.

To deliver upon this goal, the Wonca Working Party on Mental Health has formally adopted the journal Mental Health in Family Medicine as its official journal. This journal will be the focus for sharing the work of those who have an interest in mental health within communities, families and primary care and this is reflected in the broad international editorial board membership. The new editorial team would like to thank Andre Tylee, Alan Cohen and Chirs Manning for their editorial leadership for the forerunner of this journal, Primary Care Mental Health.

Our vision for this journal is for it to become the voice of primary care mental health worldwide and for it to occupy a special place in the practice of mental health in family medicine. In line with this vision, the journal will be freely available on the web to practitioners in developing nations and, during the first 12 months, will be available to all direct members of Wonca. The journal wishes to take a collaborative approach with other organizations that have an interest in mental health. We welcome regular contributions from the WHO, World Psychiatric Association, other sister colleges and organizations. Our plans for the publication include: artwork on the cover from patients, family physicians, psychiatrists or other professionals with an interest in mental health; high quality review articles on areas of mental health; original mental health articles and audits; patient stories and accounts; reports on key meetings and workshops on mental health; special thematic editions; and a maximum of one peer reviewed article per edition in a language other than English.

The journal is already indexed in EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, Scopus, EMCare, CUNAH, British Nursing Index, DH-Data, Health & Social Care Abstracts, Zetoc, SwetsWise, EBSCOHost Electronic Journals Service, OCLC First Search Electronic Collections Online and Ulrich's Periodicals Directory. We aim to apply for Medline

indexation as soon as possible. All manuscripts will be peer reviewed with high standards for quality.

Please submit research papers, audits, and information from your Colleges and relevant images that could be used on future covers of Mental Health in Family Medicine to gabriel.ivbijaro@nhs.net.

Mental Health in Family Medicine is published quarterly. The journal's website is www.radcliffe-oxford.com/mhfm. The full text of the current Volume 5 Number 1 2008 issue is available at www.ingentaconnect.com/content/rmp/mhfm.

Access is free to Wonca members upon registration at: www.ingentaconnect.com.

Dr Gabriel Ivbijaro
Chair Wonca Working Party on Mental Health
gabriel.ivbijaro@nhs.net

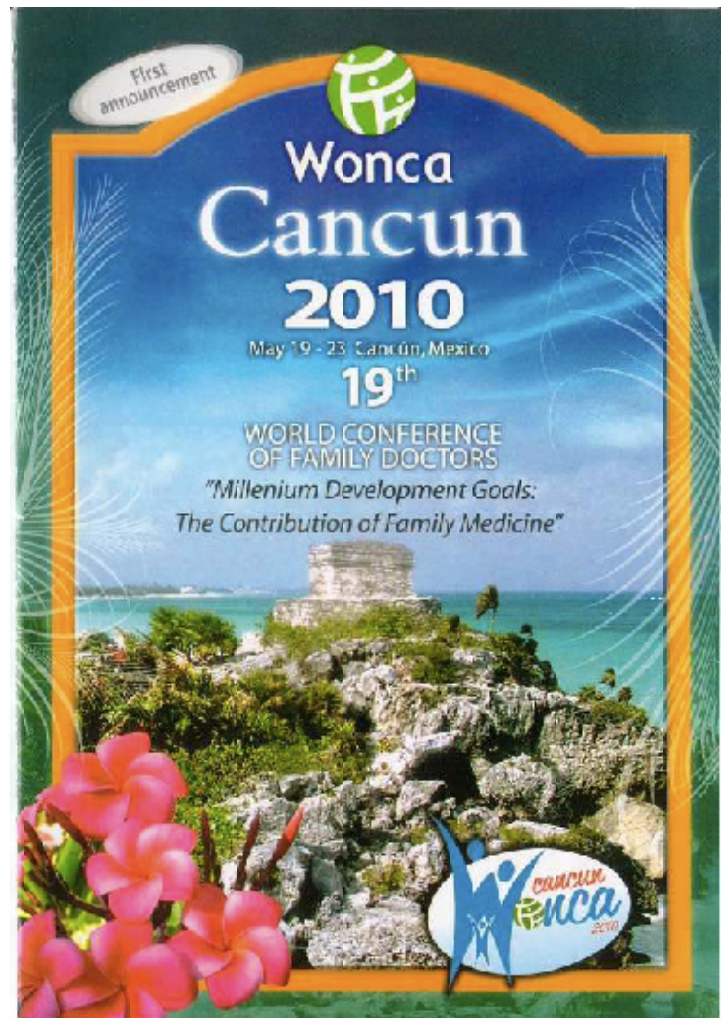
INTEGRATING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES INTO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Mental Health problems constitute a substantial part of the burden of illness of patients in the community and are a regular reason for contact with a family doctor. As a result, Wonca and the World Health Organization (WHO) are working to strengthen the provision of mental healthcare through primary care. A Wonca and WHO Statement on Integrating Mental Health Services into Primary Health Care has been released and is available on the Wonca website at www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com under the top right "Groups" tab under the Wonca Working Party on Mental Health or through the WHO website at www.who.int/mental_health/policy/services/3_MHintoPHC_Infosheet.pdf

WHO and Wonca are also developing a Report on Integrating Mental Health into Primary Health Care. The report will provides policy makers and planners with the rationale and knowledge for moving from an institutional model of mental healthcare to a more holistic, comprehensive integrated delivery system at the primary care level. In addition, through a series of best practice case studies of long-standing and successful services from around the world, the report provides specific information, direction and recommendations for undertaking effective integration in a number of different country resources settings. This joint document will also focus on training primary healthcare providers to include mental health as part of their daily world. Joint training and support activities are underway in a number of

regions of the world, with special efforts to assure that mental healthcare through primary care is accessible on an equitable basis to all people.

Wonca and the members of the Working Party on Mental Health have been working closely with the WHO through an effective partnership with Dr Michelle Funk, Coordinator, Mental Health Policy and Service Development, in the WHO's Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Further information and WHO mental health resources are available at: www.who.int/mental_health/policy



Hosted by:
Mexican College of Family Medicine
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Tel: +52 55 55755387
Web: www.woncacancun2010.com
Email: jdo14@hotmail.com

WONCA CONFERENCES 2008 – 2013 AT A GLANCE

Information correct as of February 2008.
May be subject to change.

**Wonca Direct Members enjoy lower conference registration fees

See Wonca Website www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com for updates & membership information

2008			
4 – 7 Sept	Europe Regional Conference	Istanbul TURKEY	Overcoming the distance, Family practice - bringing the art of medicine to the people
1 – 5 Oct	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Melbourne AUSTRALIA	A Celebration of Diversity
2009			
1-4 March	African Regional Conference	Johannesburg SOUTH AFRICA	Family Medicine in the African Context
23-26 April	Iberoamericana -CIMF Regional Conference	San Juan PUERTO RICO	Theme to be confirmed
5 – 8 June	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Hong Kong	Building Bridges
16 – 19 Sept	Europe Regional Conference	Basel SWITZERLAND	The Fascination of Complexity - Dealing with Individuals in a Field of Uncertainty
2010			
19 – 23 May	19 th Wonca World Conference	Cancun MEXICO	Millennium Development Goals: the Contribution of Family Medicine
6-9 October	Europe Regional Conference	Malaga SPAIN	Family Medicine into the Future Blending Health & Cultures
2011			
February	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Cebu PHILIPPINES	Paradigms of Family Medicine: Bridging Old Traditions with New Concepts
May	Europe Regional Conference	Warsaw POLAND	To be confirmed
2013			
June	20 th Wonca World Conference	Prague CZECH REPUBLIC	Proposed theme: Family Medicine: Care for Generations

GLOBAL MEETINGS FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR

WONCA WORLD AND REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Istanbul 2008

Host: Turkish Association of Family Physicians
 Theme: Overcoming the Distance – Family Practice: Bringing the Art of Medicine to the People
 Date: 4-7 September 2008
 Venue: Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Center Istanbul, Turkey
 Email: info@woncaeurope2008.org
 Web: www.woncaeurope2008.org

Wonca Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Melbourne 2008

Host: Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
 Theme: A Celebration of Diversity
 Date: 1-5 October 2008
 Venue: Melbourne, Australia
 Contact: The Meeting Planners
 91-97 Islington Street
 Collingwood Victoria 3066
 Australia
 Tel: 613 9417 0888
 Fax: 613 9417 0899
 Email: wonca2008@meetingplanners.com.au
 Web: www.wonca2008.com

Wonca North American Regional Meeting, Puerto Rico 2008

Host: Wonca North American Region (in conjunction with 36th North American Primary Research Group (NAPRG) meeting)
 Date: 15-19 November 2008
 Location: Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
 Venue: Wyndham Rio Del Mar Beach Resort & Spa
 Contact: Dr. Alain Montegut, Wonca North America Region President
 Angela Broderick, NAPCRG Executive Director

Tel: 800-274-2237, ext 5406 (NAPCRG)
 Email: Alain.Montegut@bmc.org (Wonca North America Region)
 abroderick@stfm.org (NAPCRG)
 Web: www.napcrg.org

Wonca Africa Regional Conference, Johannesburg 2009

Host: South African Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care
 Theme: A Celebration of Diversity
 Date: 1-4 March 2009
 Venue: Johannesburg, South Africa
 Contact: Professor Khaya Mfenyana – Convenor
 Wonca Africa Regional President
 Walter Sisulu University
 Private Bag X1
 Mthatha, South Africa
 Tel: 27 833 244 4259 or 27 47 502 2728
 Fax: 27 47 502 2235
 Email: kmfenyana@wsu.ac.za

Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF Regional Conference, Puerto Rico 2009

Host: Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF
 Date: 23-26 April 2009
 Location: Puerto Rico
 Contact: Professor Adolfo Rubinstein Iberoamericana-CIMF Regional President
 Email: adolfo.rubinstein@hospitalitaliano.org.ar
 Web: www.cimfweb.org

Wonca Asia-Pacific Regional Conference, Hong Kong 2009

Host: Hong Kong College of Family Physicians, HKCFP
 Theme: Building Bridges
 Date: 5 - 8 June 2009
 Venue: Hong Kong Conventional and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
 Contact: Dr. Andrew Ip
 Chairman, Host Organising Committee
 Hong Kong College of Family Physicians, HKCFP
 Rm 701 HKAM Jockey Club Bldg.
 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road
 Aberdeen, Hong Kong

Tel: +852 25286618
 Fax: +852 28660616
 Email: hkcfp@hkcfp.org.hk
 enquiry@wonca2009.org
 Web: www.wonca2009.org

Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Basel, Switzerland 2009

Host: Swiss Society of General Medicine SSMG/SGAM
 Theme: The Fascination of Complexity - Dealing with Individuals in a Field of Uncertainty
 Date: 16 - 19 September 2009
 Venue: Congress Center Basel, Switzerland
 Contact: Dr Bruno Kissling
 Chair Host Organizing Committee
 Swiss Society of General Medicine SSMG/SGAM
 Elfenaueg 6,
 CH-3006 Bern
 Switzerland
 Tel: 0041 352 48 50
 Fax: 0041 352 28 84
 Email: bruno.kissling@hin.ch
 Web: www.woncaeurope2009.org

19th Wonca World Conference, Cancun 2010

Host: Mexican College of Family Medicine
 Theme: Millennium Development Goals: The Contribution of Family Medicine
 Date: 19-23 May, 2010
 Venue: Cancun Conventions and Exhibition Center, Cancun Mexico
 Contact: Mexican College of Family Medicine
 Anahuac #60
 Colonia Roma Sur
 06760 Mexico, D.F.
 Tel: 52-55 5574
 Fax: 52-55 5387
 Email: jdo14@hotmail.com

Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Malaga, Spain 2010

Host: The Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine (SEMFYC)
 Theme: Family Medicine into the Future: Blending Health and Cultures.
 Date: 6-9 October 2010
 Venue: Málaga Conference Hall (Palacio de Ferias y Congresos de Málaga)
 Contact: Dr. Luis Gálvez-Alcaraz
 Chair Host Organizing Committee
 Spanish Society Family and Community Medicine
 Address: Portaferriassa, 8, pral. 08002 BARCELONA (España)
 Tel: 93 317 03 33
 Fax: 93 317 77 72
 Email: luisgalvez@semfyc.es

MEMBER ORGANIZATION AND RELATED MEETINGS

5th AAFP Family Medicine Global Health Workshop, Denver 2008

Host: American Academy of Family Physicians
 Theme: International Healthcare: Connecting Universal Family Medicine Concepts with Local Needs
 Date: September 4-6, 2008
 Location: Denver (Broomfield), Colorado
 Venue: Omni Interlocken Resort
 Planning Committee Co-Chairs:
 Edward J. Shahady, MD and Calvin L. Wilson, MD
 Contact: Rebecca Janssen
 Email: rjanssen@aafp.org
 Web: www.aafp.org/intl/workshopo8

The Network - Towards Unity for Health International Conference, Bogota, Columbia 2008

Host: Toward Unity for Health and Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de La Sabana, Chia-Bogota, Columbia

Theme: Adapting Health Services and Health Professions Education to Local Needs: Partnerships, Priorities and Passions
 Date: September 27 – October 2, 2008
 Location: Bogota, Columbia
 Contact: www.the-networktufh.org/conference/registrationform.asp
 Web: www.the-networktufh.org/conference

RCGP Annual Conference, United Kingdom 2008

Host: Royal College of General Practitioners
 Theme: Creating Solutions for the Future
 Date: 2-4 October, 2008
 Location: Bournemouth International Centre
 Contact: Profile Productions
 Tel: 020 8832 7311
 Email: rcgp@profileproductions.co.uk
 Web: www.rcgpannualconference.org.uk

International Society for Quality in Health Care, Copenhagen 2008

Host: International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQUA)
 Theme: Healthcare Quality and Safety: Meeting the Next Challenges
 Date: 19-22 October 2008
 Location: Belle Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark
 Contact: To register, send email or fax with your name, position and organization
 Email: isqua@isqua.org
 Fax: +61 3 9417 6851

36th NAPCRG Annual Meeting, Puerto Rico 2008

Host: North American Primary Research Group (NAPRG)
 Date: 15-19 November 2008
 Location: Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
 Venue: Wyndham Rio Del Mar Beach Resort & Spa
 Contact: Angela Broderick, NAPCRG Executive Director
 Tel: 800-274-2237, ext 5406
 Email: abroderick@stfm.org
 Web: www.napcrg.org

1st International Second Life Conference on Family Medicine, (XXVIII Conference of Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine), Spain 2008

Host: The Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine (SEMFYC)
 Theme: "Always with the patients"
 Date: November 19-23, 2008
 Venue: "Isla de la Salud" Semfyc Island
 Madrid, Spain
 Contact: Carmen Moliner Prada,
 Chair Host Organising Committee
 Semfyc Congresos
 C/ del Pi, 11 - 2ª Pl., Of. 13
 08002 Barcelona. Spain.
 Language: Spanish/ English
 Tel: 0034 93 317 71 29
 Fax: 0034 93 318 69 02
 Email: congresos@semfyc.es
 Web: congreso2008.semfyc.gatewaysc.com/index.cfm?nav_id=339

The College of Family Physicians of Canada Family Medicine Forum, Toronto 2008

Date: November 27-29, 2008
 Venue: Sheraton Centre
 Toronto, Ontario
 Contact: Michelle Gutkin
 Registration Coordinator
 The College of Family Physicians of Canada
 2630 Skymark, Mississauga (ON), L4W 5A4
 Tel: 1.800.387.6197 #800
 Email: mg@cfpc.ca
 Web: http://fmf.cfpc.ca

Welcome to Melbourne

Family doctors, general practitioners and all those interested in the practice of family medicine are invited to Melbourne, Australia for the WONCA 2008 Asia Pacific Regional Conference which is being combined with The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) 51st Annual Scientific Convention (ASC) on 1–5 October 2008.

Our conference theme, '*A celebration of diversity*' explores the wide ranging, all encompassing nature of the way our profession provides primary care to our patients, and supports health care in our communities and nations.

Come to the multicultural city of Melbourne and experience a high quality professional program in first class conference facilities, and the world class attractions of this city. Cosmopolitan Melbourne offers a unique mix of international cultures, reflected in the diversity of food, cultures and lifestyles and promises an unforgettable conference experience.

The RACGP and WONCA looks forward to welcoming you to Melbourne in 2008.



Professor Michael Kidd
Co-Convenor
WONCA/RACGP ASC 2008



Dr Vasantha Preetham
Co-Convenor
WONCA/RACGP ASC 2008



**Associate Professor
Peter Schattner**
Chair,
Scientific Program Committee

Invitation

On behalf of the Scientific Committee, I am pleased to invite you to attend the WONCA 2008 Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Melbourne. As this meeting will be a joint one between the RACGP and regional WONCA, that is, our neighbouring national colleges and academies in family medicine, the program will be unusually rewarding.

The program will feature several renowned national and international speakers and includes the world and regional presidents of WONCA. The presentations will comprise a mix of expert plenary lectures, workshops, and paper and poster sessions, all of which will address the conference theme of '*A celebration of diversity*'. Topics will include updates in clinical care, developments in medical education, health service delivery, primary care in challenging environments, general practice research, and the social and cultural contexts of family medicine. Overseas visitors will have an opportunity to learn about family medicine in Australia, while Australians will learn from a diversity of international experiences.

Much effort has gone into ensuring that the conference program is of a very high standard and that sessions are informative, interactive and useful for everyone who attends. Please join us for what will undoubtedly be an outstanding conference and an opportunity to meet with your colleagues from around the world in this unique and unpretentiously beautiful city of Melbourne.

Conference staff

Conference hosts

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
www.racgp.org.au

Conference organiser

The Meeting Planners
GPO Box 128
Sydney, NSW 2001
Tel 1300 799 691 (within Australia) +61 2 9265 0890 (international)
Fax +61 2 9265 0880
Email wonca2008@meetingplanners.com.au



Visit Global Family Doctor – Wonca Online

<http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com>

Check the regular features:

Journal Watch – synopses of research from the medical literature relevant to family doctors

Clinical Reviews – outstanding review articles for family doctors on a variety of topics

Journal Alerts – an emailed service about the latest in Journal Watch and Clinical Reviews

Journal Alerts en Espanol – a new batch is posted at the beginning of each month

Disease Alerts – the latest disease outbreaks from WHO and CDC

Travel Alerts – advice for you to give to your traveling patients

Online CME – interactive programs, some with CME credits

Clinical Nutrition Updates – a new topic is presented every three weeks

POEMs – Patient-Oriented Evidence that Matters – a new POEM is posted twice a week

POEMs em Portugues – a new one is posted twice a week

eMedicine – a weekly clinical case for you to solve, with a visual cue: photo, ECG, radiograph

EBMsources – an appraisal of two evidence based medicine websites is posted every month

Cutting Edge – an interesting series about the latest medical hypotheses, posted weekly

Educational Resource Centre – a repository of educational materials for family doctors

Research – the latest on Wonca's research activities, and opportunities for research

Conference updates – details of Wonca and other conferences

Publications – details of Wonca publications and Wonca News

Wonca Websites – addresses of Member Organization and other Wonca websites

Global Resource Directory – where you can record you international projects, and view others

Medical Mirth – humor with a medical angle to lighten your day

Quotable Quotes – quotes you can use, many with a medical slant

Latest News – of coming meetings, conferences and events

Patient education – resources you can use to inform your patients

About Wonca – details of the Wonca organization, office bearers and Direct Members

Wonca Groups – details of Wonca's committees and working groups

Information – Notice Board, Letters to the Editor, Doctor of the Month, list servers, mailing lists

Search facilities – you can search the 5,000 items in Journal Watch and Clinical Reviews, as well as web pages and documents on the Global Family Doctor website

Homepage promotions – conferences, symposia, website features, special offers

You can enjoy a FREE personalized updating service:

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We take days scanning the journals, so you need take only minutes.

Visit Global Family Doctor daily – and keep up to date

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Launching soon . . .

Wonca Academic Membership



Dear Colleague

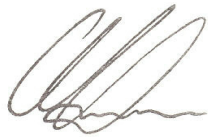
On behalf of the World Organization of Family Doctors, I cordially invite your department to join Wonca in the new membership category of 'Academic Membership'. This membership is for mutual benefit: it will help your staff members to engage in international primary care collaboration through participation in Wonca conferences, Working Parties, Special Interest Groups and other activities. It will enable Wonca to build upon your important work in research, teaching and training. Together, it will be possible to better advocate the important message of primary care leadership in health care systems around the world.

Wonca's mission is to care for people: 'every family a family doctor'. But this will only have an impact when there is an academic outreach to every family doctor – to study health problems, create new practice, teach and educate. This requires the ability to attract the best future doctors to primary care.

To achieve this, every medical student should be exposed to primary care as early as possible in their studies, and for as long as possible.

The work of your university department of family medicine, primary care, community care, your residency training program therefore matters very much to Wonca and this membership offers a splendid opportunity to strengthen our ties.

I am thrilled about your joining Wonca as an Academic Member, and I look forward very much to welcoming you and your staff members to Wonca activities.



Professor Chris van Weel
President of Wonca

Benefits of Membership

1. Three complimentary copies of the bi-monthly Wonca Newsletter to help you keep in touch with the world of Family Medicine.
2. Special discounts on all Wonca publications and products for sale.
3. Free Journal Alerts service 3 times a week.
4. Provide opportunities for networking with other Academic Members globally– this will be especially useful for new emerging departments in developing countries who may “twin” with other Academic Members from more developed countries as part of this Wonca initiative.
5. Academic Members can use the Wonca international network to market their activities and educational programs.
6. Wonca will provide Academic Members with an international and regional forum for faculty development and faculty exchange as they network with the other Academic Members within Wonca.

**WONCA ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP WILL BE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED AT
THE WONCA ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE,
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, 2 - 5 OCTOBER 2008**

For more information

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