

# WONCA News

An International Forum for Family Doctors



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### World Organization of Family Doctors www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com

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### WONCA GLOBAL SPONSORS



## FROM THE WONCA PRESIDENT :

### THE FAMILY PHYSICIAN AFRICAN STYLE

The African requirement for health care that is responsive to the needs of the majority of its populations, and affordable within the limited resources available to its countries, has been recognized for a long time. In theory, primary health care must have much to offer for the continent, but the practical implications – or the lack of it – have been a source of frustration for many inside and outside the continent. Governments have too often paid at best lip service to the principles of primary care. External organizations usually provide support that focuses on specific diseases, without much thought of a rational system that should integrate this into the overall care of people and populations – a vertical, rather than horizontal programming of health care – that is problematic for effective health services delivery systems.

This was the reason for Wonca, in collaboration with others, to launch the campaign of ‘15 by 2015’ (<http://www.15by2015.org/index.php/resources/>) and rally support for an integrative, primary care base for African health care. A wonderful success of this campaign has been the recognition of its principles in the Resolution on Primary Health Care, that was adopted during the World Health Assembly in Geneva, last May ([http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/A62/A62\\_R12-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/A62/A62_R12-en.pdf)). The adoption of this resolution presents a powerful opportunity for primary care development in Africa. There are most encouraging signs that at last there is a momentum building for primary health care – and with it for the role of family medicine – on the African continent.

Coming October, 25<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup>, the first truly African regional Wonca conference will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, at the Rustenburg Civic Centre (<http://saafp.org/conferences/index.php/WONCA/WONCA2009>). This conference is directed at primary health care capacity building for Africa and the shaping of the family physician African style, and attuned to the many health and health care challenges this vast continent presents.

The regional conference builds upon the most interesting work of the Primafamed project (<http://www.primafamed.ugent.be/>) – a two-year EDULINK-ACP-EU financed project coordinated by Ghent University, Belgium. Primafamed, actually, is one of Wonca’s partners in the ‘15 by 2015’ campaign. The project brings together nine African countries from the East and the West of the continent. This is major step forward, as the Wonca map of Africa does still look a lot like ‘Terra Incognita’. For a

successful development of primary health care and family medicine, it is important to have a robust organization on the ground. Primafamed is directed to this and gives central stage to teaching and training. University departments (of primary health care and family medicine) play a major role, but probably even more important is the emphasis on regional collaboration and networking. The key to success in the history of Wonca has often been the ability of regional collaboration – hence the emphasis on the regional structure. Countries with comparable social, cultural and economical background and analogous population health challenges, can usually lend each other the best support. With the upcoming regional African conference, an opportunity arises to build a strong collaborative African network of Academies and Colleges of primary care & family medicine.

One of the few Wonca member organizations in West Africa is the AGPMP of Nigeria (<http://www.agmpn.org/>). Their 2009 annual conference took place from 5–9 August and I had the privilege of attending and addressing this conference. The Primary Health Care resolution of the WHO took central stage in the program, and a senior representative of the minister of health and a number of state governors were present. This getting together of government and academic organization in one of the biggest African countries was another welcome sign that Africa is moving on primary care. Where resources are so limited, and infrastructure is so weak, collaboration between all involved in health care is of great importance. This is true in particular for government and professionals, the public – private partnership, that was presented at the conference by AGPMPN President Dr. Ade Tade. Evidence of a general interest came also from the involvement of the Nigerian universities and the eagerness of the media in getting the message of primary health care out to the public. I was most impressed with the relaxed content knowledge of a TV presenter who interviewed me for nearly an hour on one of the national networks.

Nigeria is strategically positioned to open more West African countries to the groundswell of primary health care. When it is possible to cash-in on this, there is ample opportunity to get primary health care under way in the continent that so desperate deserves it. The development of a ‘family physician African style’ including his/her training, will be a first priority. That ‘family physician African style’ will, when launched properly, in turn have a lot to offer to the rest of the world. The Wonca Regional Conference in Africa, in summary, could not come at a better time.

Professor Chris van Weel  
President of Wonca

**FROM THE CEO'S DESK:**

**HOW DOES WONCA FUNCTION IN THE EVENT OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC?**

Events relating to the recent outbreak and subsequent behavior and evolution of the H1N1 Influenza have taught the WHO and national governments very important lessons on how best to handle a global pandemic and what key measures should be in place to prevent massive outbreaks, panic reactions and high casualties.

As a global organization, Wonca will also suffer the consequences arising from such a pandemic where travel restrictions and compulsory quarantine may be instituted for those from affected regions and when possible serious illness and even death may result for those infected.

Wonca must at this time start thinking of measures it needs to take in the event of such a frightening scenario occurring to ensure that the organization continues to function as normally as possible.

**Background**

A pandemic occurs when a new H1N1 influenza or some other deadly virus to which people have no immunity emerges and starts spreading as easily as normal seasonal flu. No one knows when a pandemic will occur. Modeling suggests that once an outbreak occurs, it could spread to all major population centres in one to two weeks, with the peak incidence occurring within only 50 days

In widespread pandemics, it is possible that between a quarter and

a half of the world's population will be affected. If half get symptoms, over the course of the pandemic millions of people will be ill with flu. This might occur over a number of waves or could be in a single wave. National governments will impose drastic measures on their citizens. These measures will differ with each country but reducing inter-person contact will be the key. In high density outbreak areas, most people may be asked to stay at home and undertake self-care, (ie look after themselves at home). Depending on its severity, there may likely be travel restrictions within the country and international travels may be disrupted.

While it may be possible to maintain normal operations of the Wonca Secretariat in the early stages of a pandemic flu wave, it may not be possible to carry on as normal at the peak of the pandemic, nor for some time afterwards during the recovery phase.

Arrangements have to be in place to identify when non-essential services of the Organisation may have to be curtailed or dropped. When this point is reached will depend on the decision of the Wonca World President in consultation with the CEO and the Members of the Core Executive

A graded response to increasing threat, with specific 'trigger events', will be used so that all Wonca member organizations understand at what stages of the pandemic certain functions of the Wonca Secretariat will stop and/or start. The Wonca President in consultation with the CEO and Core Executive will make the decisions when these specific stages are reached.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is the principle global organization responsible for the

monitoring of global health threats and has currently in place a well accepted pandemic alert monitoring system. It is recommended that Wonca uses this same approach.

The WHO has defined phases in the evolution of a flu pandemic. These will allow us to plan so that we can respond in steps according to the level of threat. WHO identifies six phases, where Phase 1 is the lowest level of risk and Phase 6 indicates a pandemic period, with pandemic alert phases in between. Stage 4 is reached when human-to-human transmission is confirmed. Stages 5-6 reflect increasing degrees of evidence for widespread global human-to-human transmission.

**Wonca's Responses**

The following are measures Wonca may want to undertake in relation to possible threats of a global pandemic

**Inter-pandemic Period (WHO Phases 1 & 2)**

1. The Wonca Secretariat will function as per normal
2. All Wonca conferences and meetings will proceed as per normal
3. All planned travels by Wonca key officials will proceed as usual

**Pandemic Alert phase (WHO Phases 3-6)**

**WHO Alert Phase 3**

1. The Wonca Secretariat will function normally but will monitor changes to WHO's Pandemic Alert Phases twice a day as long as this phase is in force.
2. The Secretariat will keep tabs of all known travels of Wonca key personnel during this period and to inform these officers of any change in the alert levels via e-mail or short-message-subscription (sms)

3. This will require that the Wonca Secretariat be given the mobile phone numbers and up-dated e-mail addresses of key Wonca personnel before their travel.
4. All organizing committee chairs of planned Wonca conferences or meetings of Wonca agencies will be requested to consider postponing the events if possible.

**WHO Alert Phase 4.**

1. Wonca Secretariat will function normally and continue to monitor the WHO Pandemic Alert Phases three times a day.
2. Wonca Secretariat will keep any traveling Wonca key officials informed of the WHO Alert phases by SMS three times a day as these are monitored from the WHO website or the news on radio
3. Wonca officials will explore possible changes in the venue and date of the meeting if travels have not started and if these meetings are due within the next two month.
4. Wonca officials will make all attempts to cut short the duration of the meeting and travel home as soon as possible if meetings are already in progress.
5. Traveling officials will keep the Wonca Secretariat informed of their progress of travel home as often as possible by sms
6. The internet will be the main avenue of communication between all Members of Executive, the CEO and the Wonca Secretariat. Teleconference will be reserved only for matters needing urgent resolution.
7. Wonca conferences and meetings of Wonca agencies will be requested not to start or continue

**WHO Alert Phase 5**

1. Wonca Secretariat will function as per normal.
2. If any one or more staff is quarantined because of contact risk measures, the Secretariat will function on the remaining skeletal staff.
3. If the CEO is unavailable for reasons of quarantine or illness, all urgent documents and cheques requiring his signature will be hand-delivered to him. All non-urgent ones will be kept aside until he/she is able to be present to sign.
4. All key officials en-route to meetings or at the meetings will turn back and head for home immediately and the Secretariat should be informed accordingly.
5. The internet will be the main avenue of communication between all Members of Executive, the CEO and the Wonca Secretariat. Teleconference will be reserved only for matters needing urgent resolution.
6. Any information on ill health of any key official of

- Wonca should be made known to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will in turn make the news available to the Wonca World President, the CEO and all Members of Executive
7. All Wonca member organizations and agencies will be informed of the possible closure of the Wonca Secretariat if Phase 6 is reached. They will need to contact the CEO via e-mail for all urgent matters.
  8. Urgent matters of the Organization will be dealt by the Wonca World President, the CEO and Core Executive via internet and teleconference where necessary.
  9. In the event of the demise of the CEO, the Admin Manager will take over the day-to-day running of the Secretariat until the crisis period is over and arrangements are made for appointment of a new CEO. The Admin manager will work under and in close consultation with the Wonca World President and the Core Executive Committee.
  10. In the event of the demise of the Wonca World President, the President Elect will take charge of the Organization as provided for in the Wonca Bylaws and Regulations.

**WHO Alert Phase 6**

1. This phase confirms the presence of a global pandemic.
2. Depending on the local measures taken by the health authorities, the Wonca Secretariat may or may not remain open and functional.
3. All measures listed under Alert Phase 5 will continue to operate if local measures by the health authorities permit.
4. It is anticipated that all activities of the Organization will by then grind to a halt with only very urgent issues needing the attention of the President, the CEO and Core Executive. This is likely to be few and far between.
5. The internet and phone will remain the means of communication.

During the crisis it will be very important that all Members Organizations, Members of Executive and Wonca Council adhere to the principles of the 'five Cs' – command, control, communicate, coordinate and cooperate to ensure that Wonca remains viable during the crisis period and in a position to recover fully after the crisis is over.

**Dr Alfred Loh**  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 World Organization of Family Doctors

**FROM THE EDITOR:****FINALIZE YOUR WONCA TRAVEL PLANS**

Finalize your travel plans to attend our two remaining Wonca's Regional Conferences taking place in the fall and the 19<sup>th</sup> Wonca World Conference in Cancun, Mexico from May 23-26, 2010.

In the fall, you have the wonderful opportunity to travel to picturesque Basel, Switzerland, for the 15<sup>th</sup> Wonca Europe Regional Conference to be held from September 16-19, 2009. The Wonca Europe Region has a long tradition of bringing together some of the largest gatherings of family doctors from across Europe and around the world.

You also have unique opportunity to attend the 2nd Wonca Africa Regional Conference in Rustenberg, South Africa from October 25-28, 2009. Among its relevant themes, the conference will highlight the role of the family doctor in the African context of cultural diversity, values, traditional beliefs, and community-oriented primary care.

All of these enchanting venues provide incredible networking opportunities and access to state-of-the-art knowledge and tools for the family doctor. These meetings are featured in this June issue of Wonca News with links for additional information.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Wonca World Conference of Family Doctors, held for the first time in a Latin American country, will certainly be the highlight in 2010.

The 19th Wonca World Conference of Family Doctors in Cancun, Mexico, from May 19-23, 2010 will focus on the theme, "The Millennium Development

Goals: The Contribution of Family Medicine". The Host Organizing Committee – The Mexican College of Family Medicine – could not have selected a more globally relevant theme. The more than 5,000 of our international colleagues expected in Cancun for this once every three years global gathering will examine the implications of the historic 2008 World Health Report and the 2009 World Health Assembly Resolution on Strengthening Primary Health Care and Health Systems.

Visit the 19th Wonca World Conference website at <http://www.wonca2010cancun.com/> to learn more about the exciting scientific and social programs, the broad selection of quality and affordable hotels, and the beautiful sights of Cancun, Mexico. Now is the time to register, submit abstracts, reserve your favorite hotel, and take advantage of the bursary, research awards, member honor nominations, early registration discounts and other cost-saving opportunities described in this issue of Wonca News and on the Wonca 2010 website.

We'll see you in Cancun!

**Marc L. Rivo, M.D, M.P.H.**

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**FEATURE STORIES****WONCA PROMOTES OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY**

The Theme of this year's World Mental Health Day on October 10, 2009 is "Mental Health in Primary Care; Enhancing Treatment and Promoting Mental Health". The main source of literature supporting this theme is the joint Wonca / WHO publication "Integrating Mental Health into Primary Care: A Global Perspective".

World Mental Health Day 2009 provides an opportunity for Wonca, its stakeholders and allies to join forces with mental health advocates worldwide to campaign to raise awareness for the need to improve the care that those suffering from mental health problems receive, so that patient centred care can be the norm and not the exception.

This year's World Mental Health Day provides primary care with an opportunity to focus on the care that it provides for those with mental health problems and to focus on the quality of integration with other health and social care providers and with mental health service users themselves. To help achieve this aim we would like you and your organisation to mark the day in any way that you think appropriate.

We suggest that you read the promotional material about the October 10<sup>th</sup> World Mental Health Day 2009 on this link: <http://www.wfmh.org/ooWorldMentalHealthDay.htm> and circulate it widely, for instance to your Health Ministries, the members of your organisations and to your local service user organisations so that they too can make their own

contribution using their local networks and contacts to allow their voices to be heard. This promotional material is available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese and Russian at the above link.

The best way to reduce stigma and discrimination is to reach a large audience with powerful advocacy tools. Articles in local papers, marches through town, and public signings of the World Mental Health Day Proclamation can make your event one of great importance and lasting effect.

Section VI of the World Mental Health Day promotional pack (Page 36 onwards) includes some useful material for creating more publicity around your WMHD events including:

- World Mental Health Day Sample Proclamation
- Media Release for Signing of Proclamation
- General Media Release Sample Article
- Letter to Editor
- March for Mental Health

To reach as broad an audience as possible we also attach this year's World Mental Health Day promotional material produced by the World Federation of Mental Health in a variety of languages to enable us to achieve this aim. Please use it in your organisation and circulate it to relevant stakeholders.

There can be no health without mental health and equally, there can be no mental health without primary care. Let us join together across the world to make a difference to mental health sufferers, their families, and friends

Professor Chris van Weel, Wonca President  
 Dr Alfred Loh, Wonca CEO  
 Dr Gabriel Ivbijaro, Chair Wonca Working Party on Mental Health

## **19<sup>TH</sup> WONCA WORLD CONFERENCE IN CANCUN, MEXICO MAY 2010**

On behalf of the Host Organizing Committee of the 19th Wonca World Conference of Family Doctors (Wonca Cancun 2010), I have the great pleasure of inviting you to join more than 5,000 of our international colleagues in Cancun, Mexico, from May 19-23, 2010.

For the first time in the history of the World Organization of Family Doctors (Wonca), a Latin American country will be the venue for a World Conference of Family Doctors: In October 2004, the Mexican College

of Family Medicine was designated by the Wonca World Council as organizer of the 19th Wonca World Conference of Family Doctors, to be held in the city of Cancun, Mexico, from 19th to 23rd May 19-23, 2010.

This Conference will spread the latest scientific and technological breakthroughs in our discipline. It will draw the attention of the Family Doctors from different parts for the world and will lead to the reflection on the technical and social role that Family Medicine must have to achieve the international goals that were proposed in the 2000 Millennium Summit: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Through Wonca Cancun 2010 we will analyze issues related with the technical and social role of Family Doctors in the achievement of the main international goals proposed during the 2000 Millennium Summit, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We also will continue the Wonca tradition of distributing cutting edge technology, promoting global calls to action and announcing practical applications of the latest medical progress.

The Scientific Program for the Wonca Cancun 2010 will be structured around the MDGs most strongly linked to Family Medicine, and will respond also to Wonca Goals and scientific needs from the seven Wonca geographical regions.

The Plenary Sessions will include leaders of the United Nations health organizations as well as representatives of other international organizations. The Program will also include a variety of activities oriented to increase and strengthen the knowledge and skills of all the potential participants: free standing papers, workshops, symposiums, poster presentations, and academic activities with Wonca Working Parties, Task Forces and Special Interest Groups.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Wonca world conference, the first ever organized in a Latin American country, promises to be a very stimulating international event with delegates coming from all Wonca regions. Wonca Cancun 2010 will provide the opportunity to bring together experts in family medicine and primary care from all over the world to exchange ideas, information and the most up to date findings allowing us to enhance family health across diverse cultures.

And for the delegates and their families the possibilities for entertainment, adventure and contact with history and nature are endless. Cancun truly has it all.

For more information and to register, please visit us at: [www.wonca2010cancun.com/](http://www.wonca2010cancun.com/)

The Host Organizing Committee of Wonca Cancun 2010 invites you to join more than 5,000 international colleagues in Cancun, Mexico, to attend the May 19-23 2010 World Conference. Come to learn and contribute to the latest in family medicine, health care, and health, and enjoy our history, culture and hospitality!

Dr. Javier Dominguez del Olmo  
Honorary Chairman  
Host Organizing Committee  
Wonca Cancun 2010

## WONCA EUROPE BURSARIES FOR CANCUN WORLD CONFERENCE

WONCA Europe has established a fund of US\$30,000 to support bursaries for the WONCA World Conference in Cancun, Mexico in May 2010. These bursaries will support Conference Registration, Accommodation and Travel to a maximum of US\$1,000 per person. The Host Organising Committee has agreed to reduced Registration Fees for successful applicants and has arranged low cost accommodation. The Bursaries will be available worldwide in competition to any family doctor or resident in a family doctor programme who can make a case for such a bursary and who is supported by his/her own College or Association. Up to 30 bursaries will be granted.

In order to avoid problems where bursaries are granted to doctors who then do not come to the Conference, WONCA Europe Executive will expect Colleges and Associations supporting the applicants to make the necessary payments and these will be reimbursed direct to the College or Association after the Conference.

Applications will be received by the WONCA Europe Executive and its decisions will be final. Successful applicants will be required to submit a short report of their attendance at the Conference.

Application Forms may be downloaded from the WONCA Europe website [www.woncaeurope.org](http://www.woncaeurope.org) or requested from the:

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Institute for Development of Family Medicine,  
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Phone +386 1 438 6913,  
Fax +386 1 438 6910.  
E mail [polona.miselj@zrdm-idfm.si](mailto:polona.miselj@zrdm-idfm.si)

Please submit completed applications to the Wonca Europe Secretariat to Polona Miselj at [polona.miselj@zrdm-idfm.si](mailto:polona.miselj@zrdm-idfm.si)

The last date for receipt of completed applications will be 1 January 2010.

## TAIWAN FAMILY MEDICINE RESEARCH AWARDS FOR CANCUN WORLD CONFERENCE

Please consider applying for the Taiwan Family Medicine Research Award for new primary care researchers. Two Awards will be given to support two junior and emerging researchers to travel to Cancun, Mexico, to present his/her paper at the 19<sup>th</sup> Wonca World Conference on 19-23 May 2010.

The Award is valued at US\$1,500 per recipient. This Research Award has been made possible by a generous donation from the Chinese Taipei Association of Family Medicine to Wonca.

### Criteria

1. A junior researcher is defined as a person with no more than 5 peer-reviewed publications.
2. The researcher should be a clinical family physician.
3. The research topic should be on primary care.
4. The applicant needs to submit a full paper for the award. The paper may have been submitted for publication but not yet published.

Selection will be based on scientific merit and potential impact of the findings on patients.

### Application

Applications must be submitted by email to the Wonca World Secretariat at [admin@wonca.com.sg](mailto:admin@wonca.com.sg). The application must consist of the research paper and a covering letter demonstrating that the applicant meets the award criteria.

### Deadline for submission

Applications must be received at the Wonca World Secretariat in Singapore no later than December 1, 2009.

### Results of Applications

The results of the Research Award applications will be

made known by the end of January 2010.

Contact details  
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**NOMINATIONS SOLICITED FOR WONCA MEMBER HONORS**

The Wonca Nominating and Awards Committee has the responsibility of recommending to Wonca Council, Fellows of Wonca and Honorary Life Direct Membership, and to the Executive Committee, a recipient for the Wonca Foundation Award.

**Fellowship of Wonca**

The Fellowship of Wonca is Wonca’s most prestigious award. It is awarded to individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the Wonca Organization. It is awarded every three years at meetings of the Wonca Council, but only if a suitably qualified candidate is identified.

It is the expressed wish of Wonca that this should continue to be a prestigious, well earned honour.

To date, the Wonca Fellowship have been awarded to:

- Dr Prakash Chand Bhatla, (Deceased) India, 1976
- Donald I Rice CM MD, (Deceased) Canada, 1980
- Professor Bent Guttorm Bentsen, Norway, 1989
- Dr David A Game AO KSJ, Australia, 1989

- Professor Max R Polliack, (Deceased) Israel, 1989
- Dr Jack Froom, (Deceased) USA, 1992
- Dr Lotte Newman CBE United Kingdom, 1995
- Dr M K Rajakumar, (Deceased) Malaysia, 1995
- Giora Almagor MD, Israel, 1995
- Dr Douglas G Garvie OBE, United Kingdom, 1998
- A/Professor Goh Lee Gan, Singapore, 1998
- Donald W Rae OC MD (Deceased), Canada 1998
- Professor Wesley E Fabb, Australia, 2001
- Professor Vincent Hunt, USA, 2004
- Professor Roger Strasser, Australia/ Canada, 2004
- Professor Charles Bridges-Webb, Australia, 2004
- Professor Henk Lamberts (Deceased), Netherlands, 2004
- Professor Richard Grol, Netherlands, 2004
- Dr Giorgio Visentin, Italy, 2004

**Honorary Life Direct Membership**

Honorary Life Direct Membership is awarded in recognition of contributions to the work of the Wonca Organization and/or to general practice/family medicine on a world basis.

Honorary Life Direct Membership is a category available to recognise significant contributions to Wonca in those instances where the award of Fellow would not be appropriate, but is felt that some recognition should be given. Thus, if a nominee for Fellowship is not recommended by the Nominating and Awards Committee for Fellowship, it may make a recommendation for Honorary Life Direct Membership.

All Fellows and Past Presidents of Wonca receive the award of Honorary Life Direct Membership. Council has

resolved that Honorary Life Direct Membership be restricted to 25.

Nominations for the Fellowship or Honorary Life Direct Membership may be made by Member Organizations, Executive Committee or Council. Details of the merit of the candidate being proposed for the Award and a curriculum vitae should be submitted to the Chair of the Nominating and Awards Committee.

In making its recommendations, the Nominating and Awards Committee ensures that the prestigious nature of the Fellowship is at all times maintained, and that the total number of persons holding the Honorary Life Direct Membership is restricted to the number determined by Council.

The Awards are presented to the successful nominees at the ceremony at the World Conference. All nominations for the Fellowship of Wonca and Honorary Life Direct Membership must be accompanied by a detailed curriculum vitae detailing the nominee’s contribution to the advancement of Wonca, his/her own organization and the discipline of general practice/family medicine on an international scale.

**NOMINATIONS SOLICITED FOR WONCA FOUNDATION AWARD**

The Wonca Foundation Award has been made possible by an initial donation of ten thousand Pounds Sterling from the Royal College of General Practitioners. This Award is made once every three years at the Wonca Council Meeting. If the successful winner is in attendance, the Award is presented to him/her at the World Conference.

The Award is to be used to further the aim of “fostering and maintaining high standards of care in general practice/family medicine”



by enabling physicians to travel to appropriate countries to instruct in general practice/family medicine, and appropriate physicians from developing countries to spend time in areas where they may develop special skills and knowledge in general practice/family medicine.

The value of the Award is determined by the Executive Committee. The current amount of the Award is GB Pounds £1,500. A certificate is given with the Award.

**Application Procedure for the Wonca Foundation Award**

Applications should be submitted to the Chair of the Nominating and Awards Committee, with details of the project to which the Award would be applied, together with the candidate's credentials. A relevant curriculum vitae is required. There is no official application form.

The application should outline the specific purpose for which the Award will be used, the time frame, and how the objectives would be achieved. The recipient will be expected to furnish the Executive Committee with a detailed report of his/her activities at the conclusion of the task, and this report would be the property of Wonca. If the project should extend over more than one year, a progress report to the Executive Committee is required.

Nominations for the above 3 categories are to be sent to:

Professor Richard Roberts, MD, JD  
 Wonca President Elect and Chair,  
 Nominating and Awards Committee  
 by email  
 Richard.Roberts@FAMMED.WISC.EDU

and to the Wonca World Secretariat  
 by email  
 admin@wonca.com.sg

and the original signed copies by post to:

World Organization of Family Doctors (Wonca)  
 7500A Beach Road  
 #12-303 The Plaza  
 SINGAPORE 199591

**NOMINATIONS FOR WONCA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CARE: THE "5-STAR DOCTOR"**

Nominations are called for the Wonca Award of Excellence in Health Care, otherwise known as "The 5-Star Doctor" at the Wonca Regional level.

This is an award to be conferred on physicians, who in the opinion of the Council, have made a significant impact on the health of individual and communities, through personal contributions to health care and the profession. It is instituted in an attempt to increase the global development of Family Medicine, global networking and partnership. The award is preferably given to those who are still active in the field for which they are nominated. Nominations are not limited to Wonca members.

The award will be offered on a Regional basis and on a Global basis. The Regional Awards may be awarded on an annual basis and the Global Award be awarded every third year (ie in the year of the Wonca World Conference). The Global award will take the form of a crystal trophy and a certificate.

Suitably motivated and validated nominations for Regional Awards should be submitted to the Chairman of the Nominating and Awards Committee and to the appropriate Regional President for regional

consideration. The Global Award will be chosen from the recipients of Regional Awards for that triennium.

The criteria for the Wonca Regional Five Star Doctor Award are:

1. A nominee must have the attributes of the 5-Star Doctor (see below).
2. A nominee should be a serving physician in mid-career who in addition to providing regular service:
  - provides innovative services to a community or special group
  - developed services where they were previously not available
  - supports colleagues in another region, country or college and also performs academic work (teaching, research, quality assurance) of exceptional quality and relevance
3. A nominee can work outside his or her region, or create something that can be used outside his or her region or serve as a role model to other regions
4. The attributes of the 5-star doctor are:
  - \* a care provider who considers the patient as an integral part of a family and the community and provides a high standard of clinical care (excluding or diagnosing serious illness and injury, managing chronic disease and disability and provides personalised preventive care whilst building a trusting patient- doctor relationship
  - \* a decision maker, who chooses which technologies to apply ethically and cost-effectively while enhancing the care that he or she provides;
  - \* a communicator, who is able to promote healthy life-styles by emphatic explanation, thereby empowering individuals and

groups to enhance and protect their health;

- \* a community leader, who has won the trust of the people among whom he or she works, who can reconcile individual and community health requirements and initiate action on behalf of the community;
- \* a team member, who can work harmoniously with individuals and organisations, within and outside the health care system, to meet his or her patients and community's needs.

Contact details:

Professor Rich Roberts  
 Chair, Wonca Nominating and Awards Committee  
 Email admin@wonca.com.sg

Regional Presidents:

Wonca Africa, Prof Khaya Mfenyana;  
 kmfenyana@wsu.ac.za

Wonca Asia Pacific:

Dr Donald Li; dr2318@hotmail.com

Wonca Europe: Prof Igor Svab;

igor.svab@mf.uni-lj.si

Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF:

Prof Adolfo Rubinstein;  
 adolfo.rubinstein@hospitalitaliano.org.ar

Wonca North America:

Prof Alain Montegut;  
 Alain.Montegut@bmc.org

Wonca Middle East South Asia

(MESA): Preethi Wijegoonewardene;  
 drpreethiw@gmail.com

## WONCA REGIONAL NEWS

### ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL HELD IN HONG KONG

We are glad to announce that the WONCA 2009 Asia-Pacific Region Conference had been successfully held from 4-7 June 2009 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The conference was attended by over 800 delegates from 35 countries.

At the opening reception, we were honored to have the presence of Vice-Minister of Health, PRC, Mr. Liu Xian; Chief Executive, Mr. Donald Tsang; Secretary for Food and Health, Dr. York Chow; WONCA Asia-Pacific Region President, Dr. Donald Li; and WONCA President, Professor Chris van Weel.

At the Wes Fabb Oration, Professor Goh Lee Gan talked on 'Connecting care as the next conceptual leap of family medicine'. Dr. York Chow spoke in his keynote speech that primary care was the bridge for health for all. Professor Peter Whitehouse addressed another important issue of the health care system, aging, at his keynote. Professor David Ho, another keynote speaker, gave the audience a clear picture of HIV epidemic and the prospect of AIDS control.



Wonca World Executive with Chief Executive, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), Dr the Hon York Chow, Secretary for Food & Health Bureau, Hong Kong SAR and Mr Liu Qian, Vice-minister of Ministry of Health, People's Republic of China (PRC)



WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Executives with Chief Executive, Hong Kong SAR, Dr the Hon York Chow, Secretary for Food & Health Bureau, Hong Kong SAR and Mr Liu Qian, Vice-minister of Ministry of Health, PRC



The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians' Council Members and Executives with Chief Executive, Hong Kong SAR, Dr the Hon York Chow, Secretary for Food & Health Bureau, Hong Kong SAR and Mr Liu Qian, Vice-minister of Ministry of Health, PRC



Welcome speech during the Opening Ceremony by Professor Chris van Weel, Wonca World President



Welcome speech during the Opening Ceremony by Dr Donald Li, Wonca Asia Pacific Region President



Chair of the conference keynote speech, Dr Richard G Roberts, Wonca World President-elect



Band performance during the Conference Banquet by The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians



Wonca 2011 Asia Pacific Regional Conference Promotion Presentation by the Philippines Academy of Family Physicians during Closing Ceremony by Dr Zorayda (Dada) Leopando and Dr Soraya Abubakar



Group photo of Hong Hong's Host Organizing Committee members, Scientific subcommittee members, Council members and College Staff

The Conference came to an end with the Closing Ceremony. Professor Chris van Weel, Wonca World President, said the conference was timely in light of the regional and global developments in primary care. The theme of the conference

was 'Building Bridges'. The conference successfully established the framework for delegates from all over the world to 'build bridges' to exchange experience, for information sharing and research networking.

We wish to express our most sincere thanks to all those delegates who came to the conference and everyone in WONCA who gave us such tremendous support in making the conference a success. For our overseas visitors, we hope you enjoyed your stay in Hong Kong.

Dr John Chung and Dr Andrew Ip  
Co-Chairmen,  
Wonca Asia Pacific Region 2009  
Host Organizing Committee

**WONCA EUROPE TO GATHER IN BASEL SWITZERLAND 16-19 SEPTEMBER**

Less than a month is left for all family doctors in Europe and around the world to register! Wonca Europe and the Swiss Society of General Medicine (SSMG/SGAM) will be pleased to welcome you to the 15th Wonca Europe Conference 2009 which will be held together with the 32nd national SSMG/SGAM Congress in Basel, Switzerland from 16-19 September.

It is a great pleasure and honour for the SSMG/SGAM to organize this very important European conference in Switzerland for the first time in its history.

We promise you a very exciting conference to the theme of "The Fascination of Complexity – Dealing with Individuals in a Field of Uncertainty". A deep understanding of complexity and a virtuous handling of uncertainty are very important competencies in the daily practice of family doctors.

The conference will highlight topics related to teaching, research, and quality in family medicine and the daily practice of family doctors. A substantial number of presentations will match the main topic of complexity and uncertainty. We invite you all to present your research and teaching activities and to discuss specific items out of your daily practices and health systems. We are looking forward to your abstract submissions.

And do not forget Basel and its surrounding countryside, either! Switzerland with its rich culture, its famous mountains and its marvelous cities is well worth the visit! Additional information about the sites and attractions of this lovely part of Switzerland and the Wonca Europe conference can be found at [www.woncaeurope2009.org](http://www.woncaeurope2009.org)

The Swiss family doctors will be pleased to welcome you all to the Wonca Europe Conference 2009 in Basel, the very highly regarded annual reunion of family doctors of Europe and beyond.

The final programme of the Wonca Europe conference 2009 (16–19 September) in Basel is now available on the conference website [www.woncaeurope2009.org](http://www.woncaeurope2009.org)

Looking forward to meeting you all in Basel!

Bruno Kissling  
President of the Organizing Committee

Carlos-Fernando Munoz  
President of the SSMG/SGAM

Peter Tschudi  
President of the Scientific Committee

Hansueli Späth  
Past President of the Swiss Society of General Medicine

Lilli Herzig  
Co-President of the Scientific Committee

François Héritier  
President of the Swiss Society of General Medicine

Igor Svab  
President of Wonca Europe

Monika Reber Feissli  
President of the Swiss Association for Young and Future Family Doctors

**2nd AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 25-28 IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The 2nd Wonca Africa Conference will be held in Rustenburg Civic Centre in South Africa, from October 25-28, 2009. The conference will focus on the following major themes: 1) The African context: culture and diversity in health, values, traditional beliefs, family, generalists, connecting, and leadership; 2) Primary Health Care and Family Medicine – relationship, equity/advocacy, intersectoral work, and community-oriented primary care; 3) Training: the development of Training Complexes, and the context of training; 4) How to be “change agents” to improve quality of care; and 5) Teamwork and networking.

Prizes will be awarded at the end of the conference for the best paper and the best poster as judged by a panel to be appointed by the Scientific Programme Committee. In addition, in order to encourage presentations from important groups within family practice/ primary care, prizes will be presented in each of the following categories: best postgraduate student presentation; best undergraduate student presentation; best Primary Health Care nurse presentation.

Rustenburg is one of the fastest growing cities of South Africa. It lies 115km north of Johannesburg and situated at the foot of the Magaliesberg mountain range in the North West Province of South Africa. The area is rich in wildlife and many exotic scenic exhibitions. The city of Rustenburg is a short drive away from Johannesburg and Pretoria (Tshwane). The Rustenburg weather is mainly pleasant during the daytime but cold at night. Rustenburg boasts of beautiful and luxurious Rustenburg hotels, B&B (bed and breakfasts) and guest houses.

There are various inclusive destinations in Rustenburg which visitors must see. One such destination is Kgaswane Game Reserve, which offers a unique

experience in wilderness areas of North West Province. Sun City (50km away) and Rustenburg Natural Reserve are also popular Rustenburg destinations. Sun City is a world famous resort that is located near to Rustenburg, offering four top class hotels, two 18-hole golf courses, a man-made beach, an entertainment centre, casinos and much more.

One of the best ways to Rustenburg is through bus with Translux ([www.translux](http://www.translux)) and Greyhound ([www.greyhound.co.za](http://www.greyhound.co.za)) offering connections to major South African Cities. Also, all the major Rustenburg car hire companies are well represented in all major cities and at the OR Tambo Johannesburg airport. The conference will arrange airport shuttle with one local car hire company at extra cost to delegates interested in utilizing their service (details can be obtained from [saafp@netactive.co.za](mailto:saafp@netactive.co.za))

To obtain additional conference information, to register and to learn more about the abstract submission process, please visit [www.woncafrica2009.org](http://www.woncafrica2009.org).

Professor Khaya Mfenyana  
President, Wonca Africa Region

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**WONCA WORKING GROUP NEWS**

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**WONCA WORKING PARTY ON WOMEN AND FAMILY MEDICINE MEET IN THE UK**

UEA, GES, LEAD and the WWPWFM – many letters, more actions, and much to tell.

Three years on from Hamilton, which generated the Hamilton Equity Recommendations (HER) Statement and the ‘Ten Steps to Gender Equity’, the Wonca Women’s Working Party on Women and Family Medicine convened a further meeting at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, U.K. from 28 June – 3 July 2009. All Wonca regions, eighteen countries, and forty delegates came together with the aims to:

- Develop leadership potential in family medicine, especially among women doctors
- Build on strategic goals set by delegates through which they plan to impact on clinical, training and research priorities in women and children’s health
- Plan strategic goals which relate to working with higher education structures and family medicine organisations to improve capacity for family medicine

- Encourage people early in their careers to develop their academic and leadership potential for service and scholarship.

Most immediate of all, we worked on proposals for future regional meetings, including a full programme of symposia and workshops for the next Wonca World Triennial in May 2010 in Cancun. We were excited to hear from our Iberoamericana Region colleagues about the Cancun meeting, and will support it in every way. We considered the important next steps in the Bylaws and Regulations, where our group has been responsible for many of the changes currently to be voted on by Council in 2010. The proposals developed with the World Executive include the creation of a Wonca Equity Committee, which can monitor all Wonca activities to ensure that equity is practised as well as preached. The Executive will champion the changes they propose at Council, and we expect that their work and ours will be greeted positively.

We also addressed capacity building, regional links, and succession planning. With a new EMRO member, we have full regional representation on our Executive, and will have the same in the 'emerging leaders' co-ordinating group. We are immensely grateful to all those who supported this meeting, including the Wonca World Executive, who gave both their time and finance to support the meeting. Our President Chris van Weel sent a specially recorded message of greeting, and Iona Health and Michael Kidd, Wonca World Executive Committee Members at Large, attended for the last day and we held a debriefing meeting with the Executive. We hope that for those who could not attend it will be valuable to you in terms of its impacts in the wider community over time, and you may learn more by visiting our website at [www.womenandfamilymedicine.com](http://www.womenandfamilymedicine.com)

We are leading the way in family medicine, and gender equity for doctors and patients is a crucial strategic platform for success. Please contact us for more information.

Amanda Howe  
WPPWFM Chair 2008-9  
[Amanda.howe@uea.ac.uk](mailto:Amanda.howe@uea.ac.uk)

Amanda Barnard  
WPPWFM Chair 2009-10  
[Amanda.barnard@anu.edu.au](mailto:Amanda.barnard@anu.edu.au)

Cheryl Levitt  
WPPWFM Past Chair 2004-7  
[clevitt@mcmaster.ca](mailto:clevitt@mcmaster.ca)

## STRENGTHENING PRIMARY CARE RESEARCH NETWORKS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Having met twice with the current Wonca World President Professor Chris van Weel in the 2004 Wonca World Conference in Orlando, when I was supported by a travel bursary, and again during the 2009 Philippine Academy of Family Physicians Annual Convention, we were all inspired by Wonca and his commitment to primary care research. Wonca's international Federation of Primary Care Research Networks is seeking to enhance clinical research by establishing research networks in various fields. Professor van Weel urged that standardized ethical review processes for such networks be established to reduce barriers to more global and collaborative practice-based research among.



Dr Susan Go (right) and Wonca Administrative Manager Yvonne Chung (left) and Past Wonca World President Professor Bruce Sparks (2nd right)

Professor van Weel mentioned in a WONCA convention regarding research on otitis media that he remained optimistic that careful observational research in primary care networks will emerge as a valid and essential source of knowledge, especially about the effectiveness of interventions in primary care. It is conceivable that entire populations receiving care (not just a sample) can be incorporated into primary care network research. When one knows whether the population cared for was better or worse after intervention A, and the favorable experience is reduced or absent when intervention A is not done, and the favorable experience is replicated in another population exposed to intervention A, then what would we clinicians be prepared to conclude? Would we prefer to rely on and wait for a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) involving a few randomly chosen and selected patients to define evidence-based care for our patients? Is there something beyond the RCT that is needed to complete medical knowledge?

These and many more questions are part of the agenda on research for the next Wonca conference in the Philippines. The Research Committee of the Philippine

Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) Davao, comprised of its Chair Dr. Susan T. Go, Co-Chairs Dr. Alvin Concha, Past Regional Director Dr. Maria Elinore Alba-Concha and member Dr. Sheree Mae Yap- Amper embarked an innovative project to form the very first PAFP Davao Primary care Research networks with the objective of strengthening research networks for primary health care for the benefit of patients by:

- The mutual support of research networks,
- The exchange of ideas and methodologies,
- Advocacy for the quality of research in primary care, and
- Capacity building, policy and advocacy initiatives to help secure funding, support, and study grants for research.

To determine the needs of the members who are interested in research, we surveyed in June 2009 the 55 members of the PAFP Davao Primary Care Research Networks. The needs were in descending order: 1) research made easy, 2) computer informatics, and 3) biostatistics and epidemiology. Of the 55 respondents, 40 intend to attend the three research modules of the joint PAFP National, PAFP Davao and Multicare conferences coming up this year.

Let us advocate for more family physician researchers and strengthened primary care research networks enhance primary care and health for all.

Dr. Susan T. Go  
 Chair Research Committee  
 Philippine Academy of Family Physicians Davao City Chapter  
 Contributor author and member,  
 International Federation of Primary Care Research of WONCA  
 santgo3@yahoo.com

**WONCA MEMBER AND ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS**

**MICHAEL KIDD AWARDED MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

Professor Michael Kidd was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List announced in Australia on June 8, 2009. This award was in recognition of his service to medicine and education in the areas of general practice and primary health care and through a range of professional organisations, including Wonca.



Professor Michael Kidd

Michael was President of The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners from 2002-2006. He has been an elected member of the Wonca executive since 2004 and is currently the treasurer of Wonca, the Wonca liaison person to the World Health Organization, and the chair of the Wonca Working Party on Education. A past Professor of General Practice at The University of Sydney, he is now the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Flinders University in Adelaide where he has responsibility for the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing and Midwifery and a number of research and professional education centres across South Australia and the Northern Territory, including the Centre for Remote Health in Alice Springs and the new Flinders medical program in Darwin. He continues to work as a general practitioner with a special interest in the care of people with HIV.

Michael Kidd joins Wes Fabb and

John Murtagh as past Wonca recipients of this prestigious Australian award.

**REMEMBERING LYNN CARMICHAEL: FOUNDER OF STFM**

Lynn recently died at his home in Arizona at age 80. He was a friend, mentor, and teacher for many physicians throughout the country. Lynn’s vision and efforts created family medicine in Florida and the US. He established the country’s first family-medicine residency program at the University of Miami’s medical school in the 1960s and was widely considered “one of the fathers of family medicine” in the US. He established community clinics in some of Miami-Dade County’s neediest neighborhoods, serving migrant workers in Homestead and the urban poor and homeless in Liberty City and Coconut Grove. He also founded the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine and was the first editor of its academic journal. Many of his former residents and students are current leaders in the family medicine movement throughout the country.

Art Fournier, a long time colleague of Lynn’s lists the following Carmichael teachings that define his wisdom and pragmatic perspective.

- “If you hold your patients’ hands for 30 seconds while you take their pulse, you’ll never get sued.”
- “The specialist gets to a point where there’s nothing more he can do. As a generalist, there’s always something else you can do, even if it’s just cutting the patient’s toenails. He carried toenail clippers, and the old people would leave happy. He was very focused on service.”
- “If you can’t convince them, out live them”
- “Pediatrics is a tough discipline to master – all those congenital syndromes and all – but child care

is simple!”

- On labor and delivery – “We’ve taken a physiologic process and turned it into pathology!”
- Lynn railed against the concept of the primary care doctor in managed care systems as a “gatekeeper”, believing that “gate-keeping” established an adversarial relationship between doctors and their patients. “We’re not gatekeepers” he would perpetually remind us, “we’re tour guides!”

Dr. Fournier also noted that Lynn was consistently and continuously generous and loving to his patients and faculty. One of the best examples of this kindness was our annual holiday party – always hosted in Lynn’s home, he encouraged faculty and residents to bring their entire families. Lynn would greet us in holiday attire – a Santa Clause suit or a Christmas tie – one he even donned lederhosen with red and green suspenders! There was a small gift under the tree, not just for the faculty, but also for their children.



Lynn Carmichael

Dr. Michele Dodard a former resident and colleague offered the following memories of Dr. Carmichael. Lynn’s vision of family medicine transcended borders and today his name invariably comes up in discussions about global health, and workforce development in resources poor countries. He understood the true nature and the universality of the physician patient bond.

His devotion to parsimony, intimacy and his definition of the

family physician as one who is a healer wowing nature finds enhanced resonance in a country like Haiti.

Working with Lynn in Miami meant never to settle for a comfortable routine. He did not follow trends, but initiated them at a pace that was sometimes exhausting to follow. Recently, as I brought to our Social Medicine Pathway two lecturers on Afro-Caribbean religions, I was pretty satisfied with my “innovation”, only to be reminded by another old timer that Lynn had invited a Voodoo priest to join his rounds in Jackson Memorial Hospital, twenty years ago!

He was very much of an intellectual but not a lofty type. If anything, he was known by his patients for his devoted personal attention, his house calls and his hand written notes.

He had no qualms about giving out his cell phone number, claiming that it was never abused by his patients.

Dr. Lawrence Silverberg a former resident offered the following remembrances of Lynn.

With support, acceptance and bravery, he facilitated the start to my career by helping me to become the first osteopathic physician accepted into a residency program at the University of Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital. Throughout his revolutionary career, Dr. Carmichael was always philosophically light years ahead. He established ethical rounds in 1974, instituting support for injured medical students, introducing sex education, establishing a model family medicine office in Coconut Grove, promoting the importance of behavioral sciences when taking care of patients-he always did so with a code of care in a class of its own. He encouraged a family medicine charting system and created an oath to ethically deal with the pharmaceutical industry.

Dr. Bob Schwartz current chair of Family Medicine at the University of Miami offered the following remembrances of Lynn, “I arrived in late 1997 to Miami not really knowing what to expect. I had of course heard of Lynn Carmichael as most of the older Chairs in Family Medicine often spoke of the founding fathers at national meetings and their contributions to our inception as a specialty. I found Lynn at that time to be a gracious host, enthusiastic about showing me the department, explaining his own philosophy and how he began the department and the residency training program. He was not bashful about describing some of the difficult political issues that he had encountered during his tenure as the head of the new specialty of family medicine, trying to help his colleagues and the students understand that not every medical problem could be solved by a technological solution or fix. Patients needed to be treated as human beings first, part of a social and psychological milieu before labeling them as carriers’ of a diagnosis and a disease. His ideas about caring for patients resonated with my own belief system and I knew I had come to the right place. After spending several days with Lynn and evaluating Miami and its multi-cultural substrate, seeing what he had crafted over the prior 40 plus years, I knew that this is where I wanted to be.”

Dr. Carmichael has left an indelible imprint on our specialty and in my opinion deserves the title of founding father of family medicine. Not many people can walk in the footsteps of a true leader and visionary and I feel particularly grateful to have had the opportunity during the past eleven years to lead one of the first departments of family medicine in the country. It does carry its burden however and I am always aware that my colleagues, faculty, residents,

students, patients and the public are always looking over my shoulder, watching what we do and looking for leadership in an ever changing world. The healthcare market place and the changes that the public and the government are clamoring for all speak to the need for more well trained family physicians, physicians who are trained in the model of care first clearly enunciated by Lynn Carmichael almost 50 years ago.

Edward Shahady MD  
eshahady@att.net

*(Editor's note: Reprinted with permission from the Florida Family Physician)*

### **REMEMBERING CECIL HELMAN – SOUTH AFRICAN FAMILY PHYSICIAN LEADER**

Dr Cecil Helman was born in Cape Town, South Africa into a medical family, and qualified as a doctor at the University of Cape Town Medical School. He left South Africa because of the apartheid system, and then studied social anthropology at University College London.

Over the years he combined several different careers into a creative synthesis: family doctor, anthropologist, university lecturer, writer and poet. After a brief spell as a ship's doctor in the Mediterranean, he worked as a family doctor for 27 years for the National Health Service, in an around London, combining his clinical practice with a distinguished academic career.

Dr Helman was an international expert on medical anthropology – the cross-cultural study of health, illness, and medical care – and on the many different forms of healthcare and healing found worldwide. He researched everything from primary health care systems to traditional healers, in South Africa, Brazil, and elsewhere.

His textbook Culture, Health and Illness has been used in more than 40 countries since it was first published in 1984, including in over 120 universities, medical schools and nursing colleges in the USA and Canada. His recent memoir, 'Suburban Shaman: Tales from Medicine's Frontline', was described by Oliver Sacks (author of The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat) as 'a beautifully written, devastatingly honest, and often very funny, account of an audacious and adventurous life.' It received widespread critical acclaim, and was given the rare honour of being selected by the BBC as a 'Book of the Week', and then serialized on BBC Radio in March 2006

He was a Visiting Fellow in Social Medicine and Health Policy at Harvard Medical School; a Visiting Professor in the Multi-cultural Health Programme at University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; and Hooker Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department of Anthropology, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada.

Dr Helman lived in Britain, but re-visited South Africa frequently. He lectured to medical students, doctors, and nurses, taught courses on cross-cultural health care, and had run creative writing courses for doctors. He was particularly interested in the humanistic side of medicine - especially the role of stories and narratives in medical care, and what they reveal about the inner worlds of both doctor and patient. Among his other interests were the role of metaphors and symbols in our understanding of the human body, in both illness and health; and what the Western industrialized world could learn from the healing systems of more traditional societies, when dealing with different aspects of human suffering.

### **REMEMBERING DAVID MORLEY: UK PIONEER AND TEACHER FOR UNDERSERVED PRACTICE**

David Morley was Founder and President of Teaching-aids At Low Cost, a remarkable UK-based charity that has provided reference and learning materials for health workers and communities in developing countries since 1963. David was also Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Child Health, London. He has practised in Nigeria, East Africa, and India, and has also travelled in the Middle East, China and South America. Since retirement he has dedicated himself to a number of causes, most notably the challenge of meeting the information and learning needs of primary and district-level health workers. In recent years, David championed the production and distribution of e-TALC CD-ROMs containing high-quality content for health workers, and has distributed tens of thousands of these worldwide, especially to hospitals and health facilities in Africa with poor internet connectivity.

Bruce Sparks, Past Wonca President, remembered David as "a remarkable pioneer in training for underserved and underdeveloped areas. Many of you may have known of his work, such as the book, "Where there is no doctor" and other activities."

David has been a longstanding supporter and regular contributor to HIF-net, HIFA2015 and CHIL2015. Many of us have worked closely with him on health information issues in the past 20 years. Many more of us will remember him from his days in Africa and worldwide as a great clinician, teacher and innovator. David was an inventive man, whose intellect never diminished; he was always generous with his time and allowed others to flourish under his watchful eye. He will be greatly



missed. We send our sympathy to his widow Aileen, his children and grandchildren, who gave him great pleasure during his long life.

David Chandler and  
Neil Pakenham-Walsh  
neil.pakenham-walsh@ghi-net.org

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## RESOURCES FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR

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### GLOBAL NETWORKING FOR ACADEMIC GP/FM DEPARTMENTS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

Last fall, Wonca launched a new category of membership: The Academic Membership.

This category was created for Academic Departments and Training Programs of General Practice/Family Medicine which are actively involved in teaching and research and which support Wonca’s mission. The breakdown of 33 academic members are as follows: Argentina (1), Australia (6), Bangladesh (1), Brazil (1), Canada ( ), Nepal (1), Nigeria (1), Netherlands (4), New Zealand (2), Philippines (1), Singapore (1), United Kingdom (1) and the United States (11).

Wonca has long recognized that the many Departments of Family Medicine / General Practice /Primary Care in our member countries are an untapped potential source of expertise and human resource to assist Wonca in its global objectives and mission.

The benefits of Academic Membership include:

1. Networking with other Academic

Members – this will be especially useful for new and emerging departments in developing countries who may ‘twin’ with other Academic Members from more developed countries.

2. Academic Members may, in time, be able to use Wonca membership databases for research purposes with the necessary safeguards in place.
3. Academic Members’ initiated research may, in time, be accredited by Wonca and enjoy greater exposure and publicity. They may also be participants of larger Wonca initiated or internationally coordinated research projects.
4. Academic Members may gain access to wider research funding support through Wonca network and may also enjoy facilitation of cooperative ventures between the Academic Member and the local Wonca Member Organization.
5. Academic Members may use the Wonca international network to market their activities and educational programs.
6. Academic Members may enjoy discounts at Wonca international and regional conferences, workshops and on special Wonca publications and promotional items.
7. Wonca will provide Academic Members an international forum of high academic standing to present their research and activities and, in time, an International Network of Teachers of Family Medicine/ General Practice may be formed.
8. Wonca will provide Academic Members an international and regional forum for faculty development and faculty exchange as they network with the various other Academic Members within Wonca.
9. Academic Members may participate in possible international FM/ GP education programs or CME / CPD that Wonca hopes to start on its website [www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com](http://www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com)

10. Academic Members will receive complimentary copies of the bi-monthly Wonca News.

Please contact Yvonne Chung, Wonca Administrative Manager, by email: [admin@wonca.com.sg](mailto:admin@wonca.com.sg) for more information on how to join this unique global community resource for academic departments and training programs in general practice and family medicine.

## GLOBAL MEETINGS FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR

### WONCA WORLD AND REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALENDAR

#### 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  
 Elfenuweg 6,  
 CH-3006 Bern  
 Switzerland  
 Tel : 0041 352 48 50  
 Fax : 0041 352 28 84  
 Email : bruno.kissling@hin.ch  
 Web : www.woncaeurope2009.org

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Regional Conference, Rustenburg, South Africa 2009

Host : South Africa Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care Flemish Interuniversity Council  
 Theme : A Celebration of Diversity  
 Date : 25-28 October 2009  
 Venue : Rustenburg Civic Centre, South Africa  
 Contact : Professor Gboyega A Ogunbanjo  
 Chairperson -  
 Local Organizing Committee  
 Box 222  
 Medunsa 0204  
 South Africa  
 Tel : 27 82 417 7755  
 Fax : 27 86 610 2440  
 Email : gao@intekom.co.za  
 Web : www.woncafrica2009.org

#### 19<sup>th</sup> 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: Portaferrissa, 8, pral. 08002 BARCELONA (España)  
 Tel : 93 317 03 33  
 Fax : 93 317 77 72  
 Email : luisgalvez@semfyc.es

#### WONCA Europe 2012

Date : July 4-7, 2012  
 Venue : Austria Center Vienna (ACV)  
 Theme : The Art and Science of General Practice

Contact : Congress-Office:  
 Vienna Medical Academy  
 Alser Strasse 4, Unicampus  
 AAKH  
 1090 Vienna

President:  
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 erwin@rebhandl-arzt.at

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Tel : ++43 1 405 13 83-0  
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 Email : woncaeurope2012@medacad.org

Web : www.woncaeurope2012.org

Austria  
 peter.pichler@nanet.at

## MEMBER ORGANIZATION AND RELATED MEETINGS

### The 2009 Family Medicine Global Health Workshop , New Zealand 2009

Host : The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners  
 Date : September 9-12, 2009  
 Venue : Duxton Hotel, Wellington  
 Contact : Nerida Ramsay  
 Address : Conference Innovators  
 PO Box 13494  
 Christchurch, New Zealand  
 Tel : 03 379 0390  
 Fax : 03 379 0460  
 Email : nerida@confernece.co.nz  
 Web : www.rnzcgp.org.nz/  
 conference2009

### The 2009 Family Medicine Global Health Workshop , Colorado 2009

Host : American Academy of Family Physicians  
 Date : September 10-12, 2009  
 Venue : Omni Interlocken Resort,  
 Broomfield, Colorado  
 Contact : Rebecca Janssen  
 Address : AAFP  
 1400 Tomahawk Creek  
 Parkway  
 Leawood, KS 66211  
 Tel : 1-800-274-2237 ext. 4512  
 Fax : 1- 913- 906-6088  
 Email : rjanssen@aafp.org  
 Web : www.aafp.org/intl/workshop

### The 18<sup>th</sup> European Academy of Teachers of General Practice (EURACT) Workshop, Bled Slovenia 2009

Host : Slovene family medicine society under the patronage of European academy of teachers in GP/FP (EURACT)  
 Theme : Learning and teaching about the impact of medicalisation in general practice/family medicine  
 Date : September 29 – October 3, 2009  
 Location: Bled, Slovenia  
 Venue : Hotel Jelovica

Planning: Manfred Maier (Austria), Jaime Correia de Sousa (Portugal)  
 Yonah Yaphe (Israel), Justine Allen (Great Britain), Janko Kersnik (Slovenia), Marija Petek-Ster (Slovenia), Nena Kopeavar-Gucck (Slovenia)  
 Contact : Professor Janko Kersnik  
 Tel : +386-4-58-84-603  
 Fax : +386-4-58-84-610  
 Email : janko.kersnik@gmail.com  
 Web : http://www.drmed.org/novica.php?id=16146

### The 1st Conference of the Pan Arab Association of Family Doctors and The 8th International Conference of Jordan Society of Family Medicine (JSFM), Amman Jordan 2009

Date : October 7-9, 2009  
 Venue : Holiday Inn, Amman, Jordan  
 Contact : Dr Mazen Al Bashir  
 Conference President  
 Tel : +962 6 551 3640  
 mmb@go.com.jo  
 Dr Suleiman Abbadi  
 Conference Secretary  
 General and Scientific  
 Committee Chair  
 Tel : +962 79 555 8588  
 drabbadie@hotmail.com  
 Web : www.visitjordan.com

### American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)

#### Annual Congress of Delegates and Scientific Assembly, Boston 2009

Date : October 12-18, 2009  
 Venue : Westin Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center  
 Boston, Massachusetts  
 Contact : AAFP  
 11400 Tomahawk Creek  
 Parkway  
 Leawood, Kansas 66211-2672,  
 USA  
 Tel : 1 913 906 6000  
 Fax : 1 913 906 6075  
 Email : international@aafp.org  
 Web : http://www.aafp.org

### College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)

#### Annual Family Medicine Forum, Calgary 2009

Date : October 29-31, 2009  
 Venue : Telus Convention Centre  
 Calgary, Alberta  
 Web : www.cfpc.ca/FMF

### 4th Triennial PAN-Caribbean Family Medicine Conference, Barbados 2009

Host : The Caribbean College of Family Physicians  
 Theme : New Directions in Primary Care  
 Date : November 20-22, 2009  
 Location: Bridgetown, Barbados  
 Contact : The Caribbean College of Family Physicians  
 19a Windsor Avenue,  
 Kingston 5  
 Jamaica, West Indies  
 Tel/Fax : 876 946 0954  
 Email : ccfp@cwjamaica.com  
 Web : http://www.caribgp.org

### 2nd International Second Life Conference on Family Medicine, Barcelona 2009

Host : Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine (semFYC)  
 Date : November 25-27, 2009  
 Venue : Barcelona, Spain  
 Contact : José Miguel Bueno Ortiz  
 Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine (semFYC)  
 C/ Portaferriassa, número 8,  
 principal.  
 08.002 Barcelona, Spain  
 Tel : 34 93 317 03 33  
 Fax : 34 93.317.77.72  
 Email : jmbuenoortiz@telefonica.net  
 Web : www.semfy.com  
 www.secondlifespain.com

# 2<sup>nd</sup> African Regional Congress

Rustenburg Civic Centre

South Africa

October 25-28, 2009

Theme:

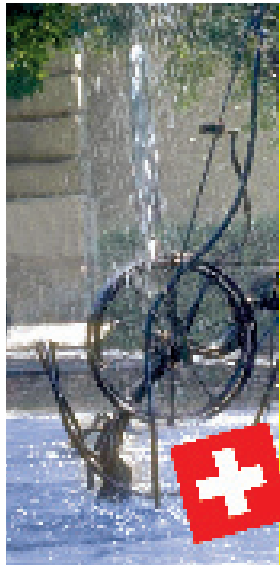
**"Family Medicine in the African Context"**



## Major themes:

- **The African context:** culture and diversity in health, values, traditional beliefs, family generalists, connecting and leadership.
- **Primary Health Care & Family Medicine:** relationship, equity/advocacy, intersectoral work, community-oriented primary care.
- **Training:** the development of Training Complexes and the context of training.
- **How to be "change agents"**
- **Teamwork and networking**

For more details log on to:  
[www.woncafrica2009.org](http://www.woncafrica2009.org)



# Wonca EUROPE 2009 conference

16–19 September 2009  
Basel, Switzerland

The Fascination of Complexity –  
Dealing with Individuals in a Field of  
Uncertainty

*From 1 June to 30 August*

**Fees: 550€ delegates**

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**350€ young doctors**

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**120€ students**

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[www.woncaeurope2009.org](http://www.woncaeurope2009.org)



SSMG  
SCAM