

# WONCANews

An International Forum for Family Doctors



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**World Organization of Family Doctors**  
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## WONCA GLOBAL SPONSORS





6° bulletin

## 19<sup>TH</sup> WONCA WORLD CONFERENCE OF FAMILY DOCTORS

May 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Cancun, Mexico

[www.wonca2010cancun.com](http://www.wonca2010cancun.com)

### Attend the Wonca world conference and enjoy the Cancun wonderers

The Conference, 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.

Cancun is a gateway to the wonders of the mexican caribbean and the maya world, as well as the vast nature reserves of state Quintana Roo.

There are about 140 hotels in Cancun with more than 24,000 rooms and 380 restaurants. 4.000.000 visitors arrive each year in an average of 190 flights daily. Cancun's hotel zone is shaped like a 7 with bridges on each end connecting to the mainland. Resorts on the horizontal or short end of the 7 tend to have more gentle surf because the waves here are blocked by the island of Isla Mujeres which lies just off shore. The hotel zone offers a broad range of accommodations, ranging from relatively inexpensive motel-style facilities in the older section closest to the mainland, to luxury hotels in the later sections. Travelers will find many well-known theme restaurants and clubs here.

For more information, please visit:

<http://cancun.gob.mx/turismocancunqroo>

And for the delegates and their families, the Organizing Committee has negotiated special rates in the nearest hotels of Cancun Convention Center.

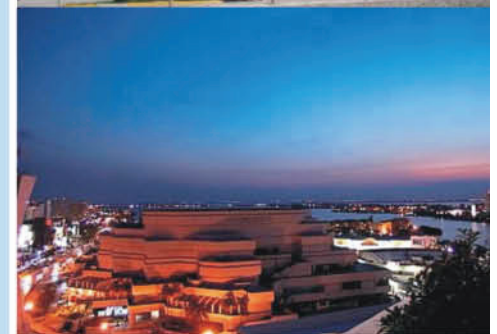
We would like to invite you to our web page, where you can find detailed information for accommodation and de conference.

[www.wonca2010cancun.com](http://www.wonca2010cancun.com)

We look forward to seeing you in Wonca Cancun 2010!

**Wonca Cancún 2010 at YouTube:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5WDzGyLsV0>



**For more information:**

+ 52 55 55 99 28 60

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## FROM THE WONCA PRESIDENT :

### WONCA, RESEARCH AND A NEW 'SUBJECT HEADING' FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND FAMILY MEDICINE

Since its inception, the development of family medicine and primary through health care (re)structuring, teaching, training and research has been Wonca's agenda. The engagement of many countries in health care reform – spurred by the recent WHO resolution on primary health care and the strengthening of health care systems – and the leading role of family medicine/primary care in an increasing number of medical schools are ample signs of the success that has been made over the years. At the same time, research in primary care has been lagging. This is a cause of concern as the development of new knowledge, the testing of preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic interventions and insight into patients' and communities' needs and expectations are critical input into the primary care and health reform agendas of change. Their availability is needed, now more than ever.

#### Building from 'Kingston'

With the Kingston Conference of 2003 and its report – Improving Health Care Globally: A Critical Review of the Necessity of Family Medicine Research and Recommendations to Build Research Capacity [1] – recommendations have been made to improve this. In order to secure a larger output of research of the highest quality, it is mandatory to build primary care research capacity around the world and specify it to local and regional priorities [2]. The Wonca Working Party on Research has made the Kingston report its work plan and stimulated regional activities. Emerging working parties on research in the Asia Pacific and Ibero-Americana regions – regions where primary care research is not a strong tradition – are clear indications that there is movement. Another positive development is that the working party is able to identify (and attract to its activities) more and more talented researchers from all parts of the (developed and developing) world. This is of course essential if primary care is to have a lasting impact on the health of all people. The new Wonca membership of university departments is a relevant factor in this as well: universities are after all the leading institutes in research, and at the same time the place where medical students can be brought into contact with (primary care) research. The recruitment for research of family physicians and other primary care providers should best be done early in their career – probably during the time of their

university study or specialty training. 'Capacity building' has to be directed as much at the 'after care' in providing exciting and challenging research opportunities while in practice, as at the initial training of research skills. In this context, the Brisbane Initiative [3] is another welcome development.

But building research capacity is a long term process, and in the end the critical point is the active involvement of national research communities. That is after all the context in which the hands-on research is done and careers are made or wasted. Wonca's main contribution is in the advocacy of primary care research and the implementation of models of success.

#### Vitality and Visibility

However, an important finding of the Kingston Conference [1] was that it was not only a problem of lack of research capacity that had to be addressed. Excellent research is produced in the primary care setting, but too often this remains unnoticed as such [4]. Part of the proposed solution is the expansion of primary care research forums (journals, conferences, workshops) for the critical appraisal of studies from primary care for primary care. Another problem is the poor visibility of primary care publications: while many medical professional fields can be analyzed in their own right in terms of the quality and quantity, publications from primary care and family medicine are part of an overall category ('medical, general and internal') which deprives the science community of specific insight in this respect. Bibliographic analysis is used on a large and increasing scale by universities and research institutes to value research output: for comparison of research groups, to analyze impact of research grants and to evaluate individual researchers' potential and performance. This is based on the impact factor of journals, but in order to be able to compare like with like, journals are often grouped according to their specialty domain for analysis. This is the importance of the discipline based subject titles or subject headings. And this is exactly why it is so damaging that journals with a mission in the domain of family medicine, general practice and primary health care are sorted together with journals of unrelated domains. This makes primary care research output invisible [4] in any bibliographic analysis that seeks to retrieve the landmark of publications. This invisibility is damaging for individual research careers, and for research groups and institutes in the field of family medicine and primary care. But it is above all damaging for the future of health care and medical practice: it excludes from analysis the domain primary health care – in other words, the domain of research that contributes like nothing else to the health of people and populations [5].

## 'Primary Health Care' as Subject Heading in Index Medicus

Earlier this year, the National Library of Medicine introduced a new Subject Heading 'Primary Health Care' (including Family Medicine) in Index Medicus and reallocated the journals that focus on primary health care, family medicine and general practice to this subject. This is a most significant development, as this indicates the way to order the research that matters for the health of people and populations. In particular now the WHO has put primary health care back on the political agenda, it is essential to analyze its underlying research output, review its strength and weakness in its own right. However, the initiative of the National Library – important as it is – is in itself not enough. It should now be followed by the large bibliographical databases like Thompson Reuters' ISI Web of Knowledge, as their database is used for research review. Wonca, on behalf of its member organizations, regions and (research) working parties, and together with the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG), have established contact on behalf of the international primary care research community with Thompson Reuters, to advocate this change. In the dialogue that is going to take place, support from our science community is more than welcome. At the same time, it is important to speak with a united voice, and therefore any support is best directed through the Wonca and NAPCRG offices. Now, more than ever, the opportunity the National Library has created should be capitalized upon – for the health and healthcare of people.

Professor Chris van Weel  
President of Wonca

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Professor Chris van Weel  
President of Wonca

## FROM THE CEO'S DESK:

### CANCUN MAY 2010 – MORE THAN A WONCA WORLD CONFERENCE

Most members and friends of Wonca will know that 19th – 23rd May, 2010 are the dates for the 19th Wonca World Conference of Family Doctors in Cancun, Mexico with the theme "The Millennium Development Goals – Contribution of Family Medicine".

But few know that there will be a host of other important related events that will be taking place in conjunction with that most important few days in the triennial calendar of the world organization. The chronological sequence of the various events are as follows :

- The Full Wonca Executive Committee Meeting will be held from 12th – 14th May 2010.
- The Wonca Regional Councils will be held on 15th May 2010
- The Wonca World Council will be held from 16th – 18th May 2010.
- The Meetings of Wonca Committees, Working Parties, Ad-hoc Committees and Special Interest Groups will be held on 19th May 2010
- The 19th Wonca World Conference starts off with the Opening Ceremony on the evening of 19th May 2010 and will go on till the Closing Ceremony on 23rd May 2010

These series of meetings, culminating in the Cancun World Conference, will mean that some key officials of the organization will be required to devote extended number of days to the business of the organization. In fact, for Members of the Wonca Executive Committee,

there is a need to commit fourteen full days to fulfill all the obligations needed of their appointment as a Member of Executive including travel time and attending the conference. For the Wonca Council Member, the commitment is still a significant eleven days.

### **The Wonca Executive Meeting**

The thirteen Members of the Executive Committee, comprising the President, President Elect, three Members of Executive at Large, six Regional Presidents, Chairs of the Bylaws & Regulations and the Publications and Communications and the CEO assisted by the staff of the Wonca World Secretariat, will be having the Full Executive Meeting at a venue different from that of the conference from 12th – 14th May, 2010. The Protem Regional President for the new Wonca Region, the East Mediterranean Region, will be invited to attend the meeting. The World Council in Cancun will be requested to officially endorse the formation of this new Region at the subsequent World Council Meeting.

During these three days of intense meetings, a review of the activities, progress and financial status of Wonca during the past triennium (2008 – 2010 ) will be made. The challenges facing the organization will also be identified and Executive Members' views and recommendations for certain key issues facing the organization in the new triennium will form important items in the agenda.

### **The Wonca Regional Council Meetings**

The various Wonca Regional Councils will hold their half or full day meetings on 15th May 2010 and will be electing their new Regional President whose appointment will later be endorsed by the Wonca World Council. Regional Councils will also review their past triennium's activities and finances, discuss the difficulties and problems peculiar to their region and make plans for the new triennium 2011 -2013. On this same day, it is customary for Members of the Wonca Executive Committee, especially the Wonca President, President-Elect, Honorary Treasurer and the CEO to make courtesy calls at these Regional Councils to meet and, if necessary, provide clarifications on some of the Wonca policies, activities and bylaw changes.

### **The Wonca World Council**

The forthcoming Wonca World Council in Cancun in May 2010, will be the largest ever with 110 Member Organizations represented. There will also be a significant number of observers invited to attend the event. The

three-day event will most likely also include two breakout sessions of Council to give every Member of Council the chance to contribute to discussions on key issues which the Organization faces. The coming Council will be requested to study and endorse the changes to parts of the Wonca Bylaws and Regulations in relations to the issues of equity, particularly gender equity. The other very important segment of the Council Meeting will be the discussion on the finances and financing of Wonca for the next triennium.

The final session of this intense three-day Council will be the election of the Wonca President-Elect, the three Executive Members at Large and the ratification of the Regional Presidents of the seven Wonca Regions and Chairs of the Wonca Committees, Working Parties and Ad-hoc Committees elected by their respective Regional Councils and groups.

Presidents of Member Organizations will be invited to sit as Official Observers alongside the Council Members of their organizations at the Council table.

### **Meeting of Wonca Committees, Working Parties, Ad-hoc Committees and Special Interest Groups**

Following the ratification by Wonca Council of the various Chairs of Wonca Committees, Working Parties, Ad-hoc Committees and Special Interest Groups will meet the day before the start of the scientific sessions of the conference, these new Chairs are given the opportunity to hold their first meeting to plan for the coming triennium. Some of these Chairs may organize workshops and seminars to create interest in their committees, working parties and interest groups. Delegates to the conference are encouraged to participate in these events.

### **The 19th Wonca World Conference**

The 2010 Cancun World Conference promises to be the largest triennial conference ever in the annals of Wonca as it is anticipated that there will be about 3500 – 4000 delegates attending. Preparations for the conference began as early as 2004, immediately after the 17th Wonca World Conference in Orlando where Cancun was voted by Wonca Council to be the venue for the 19th World Conference.

The Chair of the Host Organizing Committee, Dr Javier Dominquez, and the Scientific Committee have, from the onset of planning of the conference, ensured that there was international contribution to the scientific content of the conference by key personalities in the Family

Medicine global fraternity by inviting them to adjudicate on papers submitted for the plenary and free paper sessions. There will also be a good spread of chairs and speakers from the various regions of Wonca with varying levels of development in family medicine.

This conference, the first ever to be held and organized in a Latin American country, promises to be one filled with Latin hospitality and warmth. The proximity of the conference venue to Mayan historic sites will give Wonca members and their families plenty of opportunity to see, learn and enjoy. Members should not let this unique opportunity to enjoy a scientific feast in a culturally and historically rich environment slip by.

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

## FROM THE EDITOR:

### STAY UP-TO-DATE AT WONCA'S GLOBAL FAMILY DOCTOR.COM

The bimonthly issue of Wonca News reports on the relevant updates in our profession around the world. Wonca News always points you, the reader, to the source that helps keep you up-to-date in global developments each and every day, our Wonca news' daily website – [www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com](http://www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com)

This issue features news from our Special Interest Groups on Ethics and Environmental Health. Interested in learning more about Wonca's working groups – Classification, Rural Practice, Women and Family Medicine, Mental Health, Research, Quality, Informatics, Health Behavior Change, Elderly Care? Interested in joining an exciting educational network of global academic departments of general practice and family medicine? Visit [www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com](http://www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com)

This issue features news from two of our oldest and largest national associations of family medicine, the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the American Academy of Family Physicians, and news from one of our youngest and energetic national associations, the Kazakhstan Association of Family Medicine. Interested in learning more about Wonca's member organizations, including links to all our member organization websites? Then visit [www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com](http://www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com)

This issue of Wonca News features our Presidents Column from Chris van Weel on the latest about Wonca's research agenda and a new "subject heading" for 'Primary Health Care and Family Medicine'. This issue also features a

new global report on women's health recently released by the World Health Organization, entitled "Women and Health: Today's Evidence, Tomorrow's Agenda. Interested in learning more about the latest from the World Health Organization and the latest in disease outbreaks? Interested in outstanding review articles from family doctors and the latest in medical literature relevant to family doctors? Interesting in signing up for "Journal Alerts", a free Wonca email service that notifies you three days a week of the latest Journal Watch items and Clinical Reviews? Then visit [www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com](http://www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com)

This issue of Wonca News features our CEO Column from Alfred Loh on the much anticipated 19th World World Council and Conference meetings in Cancun, Mexico in May, 2010. This issue also provides the link to [www.wonca2010cancun.org](http://www.wonca2010cancun.org) and invaluable information to help you finalize plans to submit abstracts, apply for bursaries, and to register for the 19th World World Council. Want to learn more about our amazing triennial world reunion of family doctors awaiting you in Cancun, Mexico? Visit [www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com](http://www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com)

And there's more!! So, make it a daily habit to visit [www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com](http://www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com) and keep up-to-date.

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

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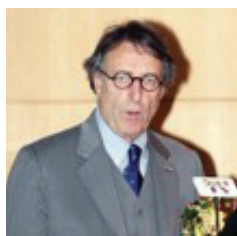
**FEATURE STORIES**

**WONCA EUROPE CELEBRATES IN BASEL SWITZERLAND**



The latest Wonca Europe conference, held in Basel Switzerland from 16-19 September, is now history but will never be forgotten!

The Conference attendance was huge, with 4,700 participants attending from 73 countries. A wonderful, friendly and cheerful atmosphere facilitated a very enthusiastic and interactive scientific exchange at the Basel conference under the scientific program theme: 'The Fascination of Complexity' – Dealing with Individuals in a Field of Uncertainty". The conference provided a stimulating venue of 9 very well attended key note lectures, 130 hours of crowded workshops, 50 well frequented sessions with 6 oral presentations each, 555 posters, 2 poster awards and 2 empirical workshops. The venue even included mountain climbing within the exhibition hall to experience decision making in risk and stress situations as well as playing medical didgeridoo against snoring and sleep.



Wonca World President Chris van Weel



Wonca Europe President Igor Svab



Peter Tschudi and Bruno Kissling



The Warm and Festive Basel Conference Atmosphere



Trisha Greenhalgh, Lilli Herzig, Peter Tschudi



Bruno Kissling with Elisabeth Tschudi, Yagya Shakya and sister from Nepal



The visiting SOBAMFA Brazilian family medicine delegation

The book 'Integrating mental health into primary care – a global perspective' was launched in Basel as a most important joint publication of the Wonca Working Party on Mental Health.

The 'Research Agenda for General Practice / Family Medicine and Primary Health Care in Europe', published by the European Research Network EGPRN was also distributed in Basel. It is downloadable for free from [www.egprn.org](http://www.egprn.org).

The conference programme and the abstract book were already available some weeks before the conference on the website [www.woncaeurope2009.org](http://www.woncaeurope2009.org) and they will remain accessible, to be downloaded by anyone who wishes. The scientific programme showed all conference activities of each hour at a glance. And for the first time in the history of Wonca the abstract book is published in a Medline listed journal: the 'Swiss medical weekly'. You are invited to have a look at it online ([www.smw.ch/dfe/set\\_aop.html](http://www.smw.ch/dfe/set_aop.html) or [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19693713](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19693713)). As a result, the high quality, fantastic research in family medicine will be visible worldwide and for "eternity".

The organizing and scientific committees are very proud of these publications and recommend this initiative be copied for the conferences to come. To make family medicine visible is one very

important mean to promote family medicine scientifically, politically and globally. And we know, much more remains to be completed in our global agenda here in Switzerland, Europe and worldwide.

A special Wonca edition of the Swiss journal of family medicine 'Primary Care' with 30 contributions (in English) from international authors about global and local influences of Wonca has been distributed to the conference participants. If interested, you can download it for free with a simple click on [http://www.primary-care.ch/d/set\\_archive.html](http://www.primary-care.ch/d/set_archive.html) (Nr 15). During the 12 coming months 'PrimaryCare' will continue to publish a series of more than 40 articles about workshops held in Basel most of them written in English and downloadable globally for free on [www.primary-care.ch](http://www.primary-care.ch).

We hope very much that the conference will have a long lasting effect and that it will contribute to the promotion and further development of family medicine within Switzerland, Europe and globally. That the very communicative conference environment will be a catalyst for sharing knowledge, attitudes, experiences and visions, for networking and making new national and international connections for many projects relevant to family medicine. We hope that our Basel conference will help to place family medicine into the centre of each health system where it really belongs globally: to offer care which is equitable and accessible to all, whether in countries with established economies or in developing countries, integrating mental health in primary care as it is promoted with the WHO-Wonca book launched in Basel.

It was very important for us to have the presidents of Wonca World, Chris van Weel, and Wonca Europe, Igor-vab, as well as the CEO of Wonca World, Alfred Loh, with us! Their presence added much value to the conference! Their words at the opening and closing ceremonies as well as at the founding ceremony of the newly founded association 'Family doctors Switzerland' (political union of the different societies of family doctors and paediatricians) were very important: "Family medicine is the core of each health system and family doctors must join together to strengthen their scientific and political force." And some sentences of Igor-vab's impressing closing words: "Brain and heart are the main tools of family medicine". "Family medicine is not just another industry. It is a caring profession that uses science as a tool. It has specific techniques, suitable for complex situations it encounters. It uses the most sophisticated tool of all: the human person. "Take care of your patients, because when you care, it makes all the difference. And take care of yourselves, because when you are tired or ill, you cannot care".

We will not close this message without expressing our warm thanks to the editor of Wonca News, Marc Rivo, for his support of our conference and Yvonne Chung, Wonca Manager, who actively promoted our conference and placed repeated conference advertisements on the back cover of Wonca News.

To all organizers of coming Wonca regional conferences and of the Wonca World conference 2010 in Cancun we wish all the best.

Bruno Kissling, MD, Chair - Host organizing committee  
Prof. Peter Tschudi, MD, Chair - Scientific Committee  
Lilli Herzig, MD, Co-chair Scientific Committee

## **JANUARY 15TH DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS FOR WONCA CANCUN**

The Scientific Committee of the 19th Wonca World Conference of Family Doctors, "Millennium Development Goals: the contribution of Family Medicine", invites you to submit abstracts by our January 15, 2010 deadline and to be part of the Scientific Programme of this international event.

Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts related with the World Health Organization's Millennium Development Goals or the main areas/topics selected for the Conference such as

- Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs
- Alternative and Traditional Medicine
- Environment
- Food and Nutrition
- HIV/AIDS
- Injury and Emergency Health Services
- Maternal Health
- Family medical care
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Podiatric Health
- Patient Health Education and Health Promotion
- School Health Education and Services
- Vision Care Section
- Family Studies
- Gender Topics
- Chiropractic Health Care
- Community Health Planning and Policy Development
- Epidemiology
- Gerontological and Geriatric Health
- Health Administration
- International Health Programmes
- Child Health



- Mental Health
- Oral Health
- Population, Family Planning and Reproductive Health
- Health Teams
- Statistics
- Training of family doctors
- Family Therapy
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues

If you do not see your topic listed here, please submit it under the 'Other Topics' session.

All submissions must be submitted electronically through this website at [www.wonca2010cancun/abstracts/index.php](http://www.wonca2010cancun/abstracts/index.php). There will no be paper submissions.

There is no fee for submitting an abstract and you can submit as many as you wish.

All submissions must be in English language. Submissions on other languages will be discarded. You do not need to be registered at the Conference to submit an abstract. However, if your abstract is accepted for presentation you MUST register for the Conference. Submission of an abstract implies a commitment to make the presentation during the meeting. All abstracts will be reviewed by a panel which is made up of members of the Scientific Committee and members of an International Advisory Group. Acceptance of abstracts will be notified via email 2 months after reception. All accepted abstracts will be published in the conference proceedings, but acceptance is conditional on registration as a delegate. Everyone presenting an abstract is responsible for their own registration and travel to the Conference.

## 19TH WONCA WORLD CONFERENCE CANCUN WATCH: MAY 19-23, 2010

### REGISTER NOW FOR 19TH WONCA WORLD CONFERENCE

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 19th 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:

Wonca Europe Secretariat  
Institute for Development of Family Medicine,  
Poljanski nasip 58,  
1000 Ljubljana,  
Slovenia.  
Phone +386 1 438 6913,  
Fax +386 1 438 6910.  
E mail Polona Miselj  
[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 19th Wonca World Conference on 19-23th 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

Wonca World Secretariat  
 World Organization of Family  
 Doctors (Wonca)  
 7500A Beach Road  
 #12-303 The Plaza  
 SINGAPORE 199591  
 Ph +(65) 6224 2886,  
 Fax +(65) 6324 2029  
 Email: admin@wonca.com.sg  
 Web: www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com

**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
- Dr Michael Boland, Ireland, 2007
- Professor Henk Lamberts, Netherlands, 2007
- Professor Zorayda Leopando, Philippines, 2007
- Professor John Murtagh, Australia 2007
- Dr Luis Pisco, Portugal, 2007
- Professor Maurice Wood, USA, 2007

**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](mailto:admin@wonca.com.sg)

Regional Presidents:

Wonca Africa, Prof Khaya Mfenyana; [kmfenyana@wsu.ac.za](mailto:kmfenyana@wsu.ac.za)  
Wonca Asia Pacific: Dr Donald Li; [dr2318@hotmail.com](mailto:dr2318@hotmail.com)  
Wonca Europe: Prof Igor Svab; [igor.svab@mf.uni-lj.si](mailto:igor.svab@mf.uni-lj.si)  
Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF: Prof Adolfo Rubinstein; [adolfo.rubinstein@hospitalitaliano.org.ar](mailto:adolfo.rubinstein@hospitalitaliano.org.ar)  
Wonca North America: Prof Alain Montegut; [Alain.Montegut@bmc.org](mailto:Alain.Montegut@bmc.org)  
Wonca Middle East South Asia (MESA): Preethi Wijegoonewardene; [drpreethiw@gmail.com](mailto:drpreethiw@gmail.com)

## WONCA WORKING GROUP NEWS

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH: SHOULD FAMILY DOCTORS SPEAK OUT?

World leaders gathered in Copenhagen in early December for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 15) with the task of reaching agreement to curtail Carbon Dioxide greenhouse gas emissions, in order to limit the warming of our planet.

A number of medical associations, including the World Medical Association<sup>1</sup>, have expressed concern about the health effects of climate change. Why?

Margaret Chan, the Director General of the WHO, has referred to climate change as “the defining issue for public health in the 21st century”. Clearly, human health is ultimately dependent on a healthy planet and ecosystem. The evidence base defining the threat to global public health from climate change is robust. The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Working Group II<sup>2</sup>, presents an extensive review of the health effects of present and future climate change, and peer reviewed articles in leading medical journals as well as a report by the Ontario College of Family Physicians support these findings<sup>3,4,5</sup>. The IPCC also clearly states that climate change is related to anthropogenic release of greenhouse gases, especially Carbon Dioxide, and that many measures taken to curb greenhouse gas emissions will have public health co-benefits.

As global concern and the call for action mounts, what should family doctors do? Here are a few ideas.<sup>6</sup>

In our homes and families; You can calculate your Carbon Footprint, and take steps to reduce your family's footprint.<sup>7</sup>

In the office, clinic or hospital: Clean up your act by following the GreenClinic guide from Australia, or the Green Office Guide from Canada.<sup>8,9</sup> Talk to your patients about needed action for GHG reduction, or have appropriate brochures on display.

In your community. As a respected scientist and leader in your community, speak out about the dangers of climate change, and the need for action. Explore your role in potential disaster management teams.

In your medical organization. Join the Climate and Health Council, a credible group of health professionals supporting climate change action, and ask your association to make a declaration about climate change or to join the Climate and Health Council.<sup>10</sup> Join the WONCA SIG Environment, or let us know what you have done, or what you think WONCA should do!

The WONCA Special Interest Group on the Environment will conduct a workshop on Climate Change and Health and the role of the family doctor at WONCA 2010 in Cancun.

Alan Abelsohn  
Chair, WONCA SIG Environment.  
[Alan.abelsohn@utoronto.ca](mailto:Alan.abelsohn@utoronto.ca)

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2. Confalonieri, U., B. Menne, R. Akhtar, K.L. Ebi, M. Hauengue, R.S. Kovats, B. Revich and A. Woodward, 2007: Human health. Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, M.L. Parry, O.F. Canziani, J.P. Palutikof, P.J. van der Linden and C.E.

Hanson, Eds., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 391-431.

3. McMichael AJ, Woodruff RE, & Hales S. Climate change and human health: present and future risks. *Lancet*. 2006;367,9513:859-869.
4. Costello A, Abbas M, Allen A, Ball S, Bell S, Bellamy R, Friel S, Groce N, Johnson A, Kett M, Lee M, Levy C, Maslin M, McCoy D, McGuire B, Montgomery H, Napier D, Pagel C, Patel J, de Oliveira JA, Redclift N, Rees H, Rogger D, Scott J, Stephenson J, Twigg J, Wolff J, Patterson C. Managing the health effects of climate change: *Lancet and University College London Institute for Global Health Commission*. *Lancet*. 2009;6(373):1693-733.

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON ETHICS – 2009 REPORT

Very much like at conferences in the last couple of years the Special Interest Group on Ethics in General Practice was present at the recent WONCA Europe conference in Basel, Switzerland and organized two events.

The workshop on “Ethical Dilemmas in GP/FM” was attended by approximately 100 colleagues from all over Europe. After presentation by several participants of ethical dilemmas which occurred recently to them, the audience selected the following four situations for a more detailed discussion in small groups:

- “End of live care”: this topic was triggered by the report about a recent change in legislation in Italy which forces attending physicians to provide nutrition and fluid replacement for terminally sick patients even if they refuse to do so. In analyzing the different situations the group finally focused on issues such as patient autonomy, agreements with patients, trust and confidence, influence of religion and similar topics.
- “A patient with a haemoglobin level of 2.4” which refused both diagnostic procedures and therapy; besides the issue of patient au-

tonomy the question was discussed how to make sure that the patient fully understands his/her situation and is aware of the consequences of the decision.

- “A 13 year old girl was asking for the “morning after pill”. Although she did discuss previously this issue in rather general terms with her parents, she did not talk about the actual situation with them. Now she requests secrecy from her GP. In the group, it was analyzed what the legal and medical aspects were and the possibility of rape was considered.
- A colleague in his duty as an occupational physician with an employer requests medical information on an employee’s ability to work and his sick leave certificate. The group discussed the different attitude of physicians depending on who requests the information and analyzed the consequences which result from who pays the physician.

Eloquently and competent as always Micky Weingarten concluded the workshop pointing out the major ethical issues addressed.

From the more formal perspective it became evident to all that a sixty minute workshop does not provide time enough to discuss ethical dilemmas in a meaningful way.

The second activity was the symposium: “Challenges to our professional attitudes – ethical implications of uncertainty in General Practice/Family Medicine”

- Janko Kersnik started out with his presentation on “The uncertain doctor” focussing on individual approaches such as “wait and see” or “let’s try this” or “best be save”. Consequences might be a high referral rate or a management not based on evidence.

- Iona Heath addressed the “Uncertain patient” using an example of a patient with a subdural haematoma who for fifteen years could not decide between two alternative therapeutic options for treatment.

- Bruno Kissling from Switzerland, despite his duties as president of the conference, was addressing the issue of “over-certainty in the GP” in dealing with “over-demanding patients”. Picking out an example from his own practice he underlined the necessity to always question ones own thoughts and decisions even if a long term relationship with a patient and the continuity of care resulting thereof should be a good basis for certainty in deciding; however, this sometimes can prove misleading.

- Anita Ray-Choudhury from the “Vasco-da-Gama Movement” reported about the “overwhelmed trainee” who might get into difficult situations between colleagues, the chief physician or ones own evidence based knowledge.

- It was definitely an honour and an added value that WONCA world president elect Rich Roberts summarized the symposium and pointed out how little we know despite accumulating evidence.

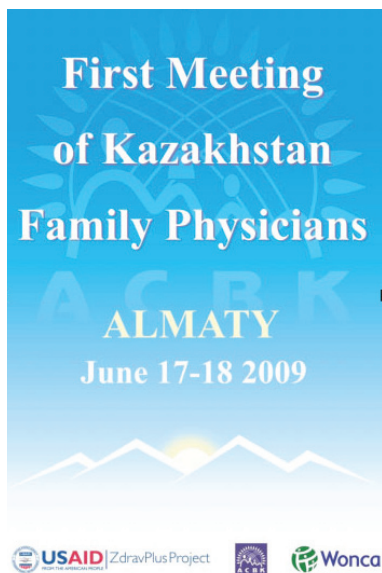
The “Special Interest Group” plans to continue with the series of workshops and symposia on ethical issues. It is hoped, that the activities in the future will be facilitated by moving up the status of the “SIG” to that of a working party within Wonca. This should be discussed and decided at the World council in Cancun/Mexico.

Univ. Prof. Dr. Manfred Maier  
Chair, Special Interest Group on Ethics  
manfred.maier@meduniwien.ac.at

**WONCA MEMBER AND ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS**

**HISTORY – FIRST MEETING OF THE KAZAKHSTAN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS**

The First Meeting of the Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians took place June 17-18, 2009, in the building of the Foundation of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Almaty.



The initiative of the Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians (KAFP) and the Almaty Postgraduate Institute for Physicians (APGI) to conduct the conference was supported and approved by the Ministry of Health by issuing Order #102 dated February 26, 2009.

The First Meeting of the Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians marked the 20th anniversary of the creation of family medicine in Kazakhstan and the 10th anniversary

for the Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians. The conference served to promote and advocate patient-centered family medicine/general practice approaches based on international experiences to health policy makers, health managers, and health professionals, as well as to the population. It served to unite the efforts of state bodies, non-governmental and international organizations, health care facilities and higher education institutions to strengthen primary health care.

The meeting was held with support from USAID Project ZdravPlus (United States Agency for International Development).



D. Nugmanova, KAFP President (with flowers) and the delegates from Almaty oblast.



The delegates from Karaganda oblast.

At the conference, delegates discussed and accepted the resolution “Health Care System Improvement: Family Medicine Input in Development of the Health Care System in Kazakhstan”. This resolution was sent to the Ministry of Health for consideration.

The meeting was opened by Damilya Nugmanova, KAFP President. She then gave the floor to representatives of the Ministry of Health, USAID, APGI, Wonca (Global Family Doctor) and AAFP (American Association of Family Physicians).

After all the greetings, the nomination of “The Best Family Doctor of KAFP 1999-2009” was announced by Prof. Rakhimbekov, the chairman of the KAFP Board of Guardians. In accordance with the board’s decision, this nomination was presented to Kuanish Abil, family physician from Karaganda oblast. This doctor alone serves about 3000 patients in Kengir village, situated between Zhezkazgan and Satpaev cities.



Kuanish Abil, the best family physician of the KAFP 1999-2009, was awarded with a certificate and tour to a resort in Turkey

Damilya Nugmanova, KAFP President, announced the winners of ten nominations and awarded them with certificates and gifts:



The Most Numerous Branch of KAFP” – Nadezhda Nurkina, KAFP Branch Director in Almaty



“The Most Effective KAFP Branch in Cooperation with State Bodies in 2009” – Tatiyana Ostretsova, KAFP Branch Director in Aktobe oblast



“The Most Faithful Friend of Family Physicians in Kazakhstan” – David Kuter, family physician, USA



“The First Family Physician in Kazakhstan” – Viktor Tilman, Head Physician of FGP “Tilman” in Zhezkazgan city



“The Best KAFP Branch Director 2005-2009 (cost effectiveness, membership enrollment, active work with branch members)” – Zhanat Dzhaisanbayeva, KAFP Branch Director in Almaty oblast;



“KAFP Branch that Won the Biggest Grants 2004-2009” – Raikhan Ospanova, KAFP Branch Director in Akmola oblast



“For Courage and Strength of Mind” – Tatiyana Lukina, KAFP Branch Director in Semey city



“The Most Popular FGP (PHC Center) in Kazakhstan” – Roza Abzalova, Director of the FGP “Demeu” in Astana city



“For the Continuous Quality Improvement of Health Care for Patients with Arterial Hypertension” – Ludmila Makazhanova, KAFP Branch Director in Karaganda oblast



“The Most Stable Branch of KAFP” – Alma Makenbayeva, KAFP Branch Director in Zhezkazgan region.



Dr. Alfred W. T. Loh, Chief Executive Officer of Wonca sent warm greetings to KAFP.

“Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians, a Full Member Organization of Wonca since 2003, should be proud of its efforts to promote GP/Family Medicine in Central Asia,” said Dr. Loh. “I am glad to learn that KAFP continues to play an active role in this regard and I am confident that the insights derived from its first meeting will add to this development,” he added.

Dr Alfred W T Loh

Delegates from all oblasts of Kazakhstan, KAFP members, representatives of KAFP branches, Ministry of Health, medical educational institutions, pharmaceutical companies, mass media, and KAFP partners participated in the meeting. Based on the number of their delegates, the most representative delegations were from Almaty oblast and Astana, Semey and Zhezkazgan cities. There were 180 participants in the First Meeting of Kazakhstan

Family Physicians which was held in an interactive format in which speakers talked on topical issues in family medicine and participants asked questions.



Viktor Tilman, head physician of FGP “Tilman” in Zhezkazgan city questions a speaker.



Left to right: Bryn Sakagava, Director of Health Care and Education Department USAID/CAR, John Morgan, Deputy Regional Director USAID/CAR, Tolebay Rakhimbekov, Rector of Semey Medical University, Damilya Nugmanova, KAFP President, Head of Family Medicine Department of Almaty PGI, Sholpan Makhmudova, Head Specialist USAID/CAR Semey Medical University, Damilya Nugmanova, KAFP President, Head of Family Medicine Department of Almaty PGI, Sholpan Makhmudova, Head Specialist USAID/CAR



Delegates examining medical books

“We are delegates from Astana





and we are glad to participate in the historical first meeting of Kazakhstan family physicians. We are impressed by the possibility to advance our own opinions and ask any questions. Especially we liked the discussion with Shakhmurat Ismailov, Head of the Scientific Center of Tuberculosis Problems of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Mr. Ismailov answered all questions and communicated with physicians of primary care on equal basis,” said Zhamal Tazhikenova, KAFP Branch Director in Astana city.

“Only a kind attitude and willingness to cooperate may change the health care system in Kazakhstan,” she added.

Zhamal Tazhikenova

Within the meeting a press conference was conducted. John Morgan, Deputy Regional Director USAID/CAR, Damilya Nugmanova, KAFP President, Head of Family Medicine Department of APGI, Nurkhan Nazirova, Head Expert of the Health Care Administration of Ministry of Health RK, Nurgul Khamzina, Head of the Science and Human Resource Department of Ministry of Health RK, David Kuter, family physician from USA, Wonca/ AAFP representative, Viktor Tilman and Aidin Nurdibaev, Kazakhstan family physicians, took part in the presidium of the press conference.



Press conference participants talked about the history of family medicine introduction in Kazakhstan that started in 1989 with the opening of the first mixed polyclinic for both children and adults. Since 1994, these efforts by the Ministry of Health were joined by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Almaty Post-Graduate Institute for Physicians and – for the past 10 years - the Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians.



Interview with David Kuter, family physician, Wonca/ AAFP representative, USA.

Family medicine as a worldwide recognized approach to providing integrated, patient-oriented medical care to the entire family is strongly supported by the State Health Care Development Program.

Transition to family medicine has proven to be an effective mechanism to ensure the delivery of high quality health care services to the population. Integrated primary health care facilities, where teams of social workers and nurses work together under the direction of well-trained and motivated family doctors can also address critical health problems such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and chronic diseases.

The First Meeting of the Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians caused great interest among local mass media such as TV channels, information agencies, radio stations, internet portals, medical media and other print media. In general 18 out of 27 mass media highlighted the event.



“I have been impressed by the work that you and KAFP have been doing for the past several years,” wrote Daniel J. Ostergaard, AAFP Vice President in the greeting letter to KAFP.

“Especially I would like to note the encouragement you gave to the family medicine movement in Central Asia,” he added.

Daniel J. Ostergaard

All KAFP branches had the opportunity to present their local results and achievements in family medicine and primary health care development in an attractive exhibition.



Ms. Gulmira Ibraeva, the Dean of the APGI Therapeutical Department reading the presentation of the KAFP Branch in Karaganda oblast



Damilya Nugmanova, KAFP President presenting KAFP Branch in East-Kazakhstan oblast's activity to Lisa Miglina, USAID Project ZdravPlus Manager and John Morgan, Deputy Regional Director USAID/CAR



Damilya Nugmanova, KAFP President and John Morgan, Deputy Regional Director USAID/CAR



Yelena Uzhegova, Associated Professor of the Family Medicine Department in Almaty PGI

Dr. Martin van den Boom, Associate Professional Officer, WHO Regional Office for Europe presented a WHO Strategy on Practical Approach to Lung Health (PAL). This strategy in order to improve TB detection and treatment targets PHC providers (FPs) and improves diagnosis and treatment of all most common lung infectious and non-infectious diseases (ARI, including pneumonia, asthma, COPD, etc.).



Dr. Martin van den Boom

“It has been a big pleasure and honor to participate in the historical event of the first national meeting of family physicians in Kazakhstan. I am happy about the fact that there is good communication and collaboration between family medicine and the community of TB control,” said Dr. Martin van den Boom.

Local Kazakhstan and CAR representatives of the pharmaceutical companies Nicomed, Boehringer Ingelheim, Astellas, and Medical Union Pharmaceuticals provided KAFP with sponsorship for the event and presented their products.



The last part of the event was dedicated to the Branch Directors' meeting to discuss KAFP organizational issues.

Damilya Nugmanova, KAFP President  
Assel Egizbaeva, KAFP web-site Editor

## COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS OF CANADA ELECTS PRESIDENT CATHY MACLEAN AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On October 30, 2009 The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) held its Annual General Meeting during the College's Family Medicine Forum in Calgary. At that time, the CFPC confirmed the CFPC Executive Committee for 2009-2010. It is my pleasure to share this information with you and introduce the members of the new Executive Committee including the College's new President, Dr. Cathy MacLean, Head of the Department of Family Medicine and Professor at the University of Calgary, Alberta.

Dr MacLean has been involved with The College of Family Physicians of Canada for many years contributing to numerous committees with particular focus on Patient Education. She has been a member of the National Executive Committee since 2005. Cathy served two years as President of The Nova Scotia College of Family Physicians and is currently a Board Member of the Alberta College of Family Physicians. She has been a member of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada since the 1980's.

### 2009-2010 Executive Committee Members:

President Dr. Cathy MacLean, Calgary, AB  
Past President Dr. Sarah Kredentser, Winnipeg, MB  
President-Elect/Chair of the Board Dr. Rob Boulay, Miramichi, NB  
Honorary Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Val Rachlis, Toronto, ON  
Member-at-Large (1 year term) Dr. Harold Dion, Montreal, QC  
Member-at-Large (3 year term) Dr. Nirvair Levitt, Vancouver, BC  
Calvin Gutkin MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP  
Executive Director and CEO  
The College of Family Physicians of Canada  
CG@cfpc.ca

## LORI HEIM NEW PRESIDENT AND ROLAND GOERTZ PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE AAFP

At its October 2009 annual meeting, Lori Heim, a family physician in Laurinburg, N.C., assumed the role of president of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Previously, she served three years as a director on the AAFP Board of Directors and one year as president-elect. Heim was elected president-elect in September 2008 by the Congress of Delegates, the AAFP's governing body. The AAFP represents more than 94,600 physicians and medical students nationwide.

A practicing family physician for 20 years, Heim currently serves as a hospitalist at Scotland Memorial Hospital in Laurinburg, N.C., where she manages the inpatient care of adult patients referred by primary care physicians in the community. Hospitalists bridge the gap between hospitalized patients and their primary care doctors to ensure continuity of care.. She retired as a colonel from the Air Force, where she was stationed in Turkey and the United States, after 25 years of service as staff physician, clinic chief, residency director, assistant professor, university health center director, chief of the medical staff and commander.

Roland Goertz, a family physician in Waco, Texas, was chosen president-elect of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Previously, he served three years as a member of the AAFP Board of Directors. For the past 12 years, he has served as chief executive officer of the three foundations that oversee all operations of the Waco Family Practice Center, which operates one of the oldest family medicine residency programs west of the Mississippi River. In his 25-year medical career, he has served as a physician in rural private practice, a family medicine residency program director at two highly

regarded Texas residencies, and chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston.

### **WONCA NEWS EDITOR - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

WONCA News is the official newsletter of Wonca - the World Organization of Family Doctors. WONCA News is published six times a year online and distributed by email to Wonca Member Organizations, Organizations in Collaborative Relations, Academic Members, Direct Members, Wonca Sponsors, other global health organizations and friends of Wonca.

#### **Job description and responsibilities**

The term of appointment will be for three years (May 2010 - June 2013) on an honorarium basis. The Editor will be responsible for the editorial preparation of all materials for six (6) issues of WONCA News published in February, April, June, August, October and December of each year. He/she will be required to be proactive and resourceful in soliciting and compiling suitable materials for publication on time and to liaise with the appointed graphic artist who will do the artwork and layout of the newsletter.

The Wonca News Editor will report to the Wonca Chief Executive Officer and will work closely with the Wonca World Secretariat mainly by email to achieve the timely publication of each issue. The Editor is expected to manage the Wonca News editorial work in a way best suited to his or her other time commitments.

The Editor is expected to keep the Wonca Executive Committee informed of his/her activities in a written short report at each Executive Meeting. The Editor will not be required to attend Wonca Executive Meetings. A review of the work of the Editor will be conducted by the CEO and Members of Wonca Executive at the end of each year.

#### **Key attributes and requirements**

- a) The Editor should have a medical or health-related background.
- b) Extensive knowledge of the workings of Wonca and its organizational structure will be an advantage.
- c) Prior experience of participating in member organizations, working groups at national and international levels, Regional and Wonca Council meetings.

- d) Prior editorial experience with a high standard of written English. Knowledge of other written languages would be an advantage.
- e) High level of computer and internet literacy.
- f) Commitment to be at the Wonca World Council Meeting in Cancun, Mexico, on 16 -18 May 2010 so that the person selected has the endorsement of the Wonca World Council as per the Wonca Bylaws. He/she will also be expected to attend the Wonca World Conference in Cancun immediately thereafter on 19 - 23 May 2010. The cost of travel to Cancun by economy class travel and accommodation for the duration of the World Council Meeting and World Conference only will be covered by Wonca. The in-coming Editor will have an opportunity to meet the out-going Editor, Dr Marc Rivo, in Cancun who can assist him/her in the transition process and discuss the role in greater depth.
- g) The in-coming Wonca News editor is expected to prepare the immediate issue of WONCA News June 2010 issue after the Wonca World Meetings in Cancun.

#### **Honorarium**

An annual honorarium of US\$2,000 will be paid to the Editor at the end of each Wonca financial year. An additional annual subsidy of US \$500 will be given to the Editor to cover the cost of email, telephone calls, faxes, stationery and postage where necessary.

#### **Deadline for applications**

Please submit your application and resume to Dr Alfred Loh, CEO of Wonca, by email [admin@wonca.com.sg](mailto:admin@wonca.com.sg) no later than 15 January 2010.

For further information please contact:

Dr Alfred Loh  
CEO of Wonca  
7500A Beach Road  
#12-303 The Plaza  
Singapore 199591  
Republic of Singapore  
Email [admin@wonca.com.sg](mailto:admin@wonca.com.sg)

## RESOURCES FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR

### WHO RELEASES REPORT – WOMEN AND HEALTH: TODAY'S EVIDENCE, TOMORROW'S AGENDA

We are pleased to inform you that the World Health Organization (WHO) launched a new report: Women and health: today's evidence tomorrow's agenda. The report provides the latest and most comprehensive evidence available to date on women's specific health needs and challenges over their life-course, from birth to older age.

Despite considerable progress in the past decades, societies continue to fail to meet the health care needs of women at key moments of their lives, particularly in their adolescent years and in older age, says the report.

Women provide the bulk of health care, but rarely receive the care they need - Up to 80% of all health care and 90% of care for HIV/AIDS-related illness is provided in the home - almost always by women. Yet more often than not, women go unsupported, unrecognized and unremunerated in this essential role and health care continues to fail to address their specific needs and challenges throughout their lives.

Women live longer than men but these extra years are not always healthy - HIV, pregnancy-related conditions and tuberculosis continue to be major killers of women aged 15 to 45 globally. However, as women age, non-communicable diseases become major causes of death and disability, particularly after the age of 45 years.

Policy change and action is needed within the health sector and beyond - The report seeks to identify key areas for reform, both within and outside the health sector. These include identifying mechanisms to build strong leadership with the full participation of women's organizations, strengthening health systems to better meet women's needs throughout their lives, leveraging changes in public policy to address how social and economic determinants of health adversely impact women, and building a knowledge base that would allow a better tracking of progress.

You will find the report, executive summaries in six languages and background material here: [http://www.who.int/gender/women\\_health\\_report/en/](http://www.who.int/gender/women_health_report/en/)

Directly link to the report at: [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241563857\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241563857_eng.pdf)

Subscribe to the WHO listserv on gender, women and health: <http://www.who.int/gender/listserv/en/index.html>

Gender equality is good for health. We hope that you will find the report useful for your work.

Monika Gehner  
Department of Gender, Women and Health (GWH)  
Communications, Advocacy and Resource Mobilization  
World Health Organization  
20 avenue Appia  
CH-1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland  
Email: [gehnerm@who.int](mailto:gehnerm@who.int)  
Tel: +41 22 791 3941  
Fax: +41 22 791 1585  
[www.who.int/gender/](http://www.who.int/gender/)

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

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.

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 visit our Wonca web at [www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com](http://www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com) or contact Yvonne Chung, Wonca Administrative Manager, by email: [admin@wonca.com.sg](mailto:admin@wonca.com.sg) for more information or an application to join this unique global community resource for academic departments and training programs in general practice and family medicine.

I am thrilled about your interest in 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

**GLOBAL MEETINGS FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR**

**WONCA WORLD AND REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALENDAR**

**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 Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Philippines 2011**

Host : The Philippine Academy of Family Physicians  
 Theme : Paradigms of Family Medicine: Bridging Old Traditions with New Concepts  
 Date : February 2011  
 Venue : Cebu, Philippines  
 Contact : Prof. Zorayda Leopando  
 Chair, Host Organizing Committee  
 Email : dfcmdada@yahoo.com  
 woncacebu2011@gmail.com

**Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Poland 2011**

Host : The College of Family Physicians in Poland  
 Date : 8-11 September, 2011  
 Venue : Warsaw, Poland  
 Theme : Family Medicine: Practice, Science and Art  
 Contact : Ms Katarzyna Dubas  
 Health & Management  
 Sarego 16/3 Street  
 31-047 Krakow, Poland  
 phone : 48 12 429 5015  
 fax : 48 12 431 21 44  
 Email : Katarzyna.Dubas@ziz.com.pl  
 Web : www.woncaeurope2011.org

**Wonca Asia Pacific Regional Conference, South Korea 2012**

Host : The Korean Academy of Family Physicians  
 Date : 24-27 May 2012  
 Venue : Jeju South Korea  
 Email : kafmsd@kafm.or.kr

**Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Vienna, Austria 2012**

Host : Austrian Society of General Practice / Family Medicine  
 Date : July 4-7, 2012, Austria  
 Center Vienna (ACV)  
 Theme : The Art and Science of General Practice  
 Contact : Vienna Medical Academy  
 Alser Strasse 4, Unicampus  
 AAKH  
 1090 Vienna  
 Tel : 43 1 405 13 83-0  
 Fax : 43 1 407 82 74  
 Mail : woncaeurope2012@medacad.org  
 Web : www.woncaeurope2012.org

**MEMBER ORGANIZATION AND RELATED MEETINGS**

**9<sup>th</sup> Austrian Winter Conference on General Practice and Family Medicine Austria 2010**

Host : Austrian Society of General Practice/Family Medicine  
 Date : 16-23 January, 2010  
 Venue : Lech, Austria  
 Web : www.oegam.at

**AAFP Annual Scientific Assembly, United States 2010**

Host : The American Academy of Family Physicians  
 Date : Sept 29 – Oct 3, 2010  
 Venue : Denver, Colorado  
 Web : www.aafp.org

**RCGP Annual National Primary Care Conference, United Kingdom 2010**

Host : Royal College of General Practitioners  
 Date : 7-9 October, 2010  
 Venue : Harrogate International Centre  
 Web : www.rcgp.org.uk

**Travel Medicine, South Africa 2010**

Theme : Travel Health Africa – Research and Reality  
 Date : October 14-17, 2010  
 Venue : Capetown International Convention Center, South Africa  
 Contact : Dr Garth Brink  
 Mail : gkb@itikzn.co.za