

WONCA News

Vol 46 Number 8: October 2020

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World family doctors. Caring for people

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From the President: October 2020



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Life as President of WONCA usually involves juggling regional visits with ongoing work commitments; trying to fit in as many conferences and meetings as possible, to share experience and give encouragement to all our members in every region of the world. Travelling to conferences and regional meetings is a key feature of the Presidential role. Travelling has to be planned with a degree of precision, to ensure that all regions are covered, as well as the global meetings where we ensure the voice of family medicine is heard. It is time consuming and challenging, given that we continue to have our daily work commitments, looking after patients. But that inter-personal connection is so important, the human face to face meetings, the reunions with old colleagues and friends, the meeting of new, usually young and enthusiastic, family doctors. Listening to their stories is one of the joys of being President. It offers a real-life picture of what it is like to be a family doctor in a wide range of circumstances and situations.

Those face to face discussions are often where we realise the need to establish a topic-specific Special Interest Group (SIG), or where we can direct someone to an already existing SIG or Working Party (WP) which addresses their particular interests or challenges. The range of topics covered by our SIGs and WPs is extensive and there is always room for people who are ready to offer their time and energy and expertise. As I have urged previously, please do not hesitate to join any one (or more) of the Working Parties and Special Interest Groups: it's a really good way to get to know people with similar interests

from across the globe, as we try to ensure that all of them have representation from each region.

[More about all WPs and SIGs](#)

Not meeting face to face has its own challenges and limitations. But I am delighted that so much interaction continues, albeit virtually. I have been really pleased to be invited to speak at numerous conferences, sessions and meetings since the COVID pandemic started – and I will continue to accept such invitations as and when I can.

In the short space of a month or so I had the opportunity to deliver talks to the Royal Australian College of GPs; to a semFYC conference in Spain; much closer to home, but still virtually, at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine; and across the world to the Masters in Family Medicine programme at Edinburgh University. I delivered opening addresses, virtually, to three AGMs in China – the Chinese Medical Doctors Association, The Chinese Medical Association and the Cross-Straits Medical Exchange Association. I also 'attended' meetings which would have been impossible to attend in person due to time and distance constraints. I was happy to send a talk to the recent meeting of the Research Committee of the Rajakumar Movement; and I was honoured to participate in the high-profile webinars organised by WHO's WIPRO. There are plenty more opportunities coming up to participate in meetings during the rest of this year and I look forward to those.

Presenting virtually does not have the same immediate response and reaction as when presenting to a live audience face to face (or stage to auditorium). There isn't the laughter or the smattering of applause at a particular point being made, or a groan of recognition when relating a recent experience. But because of the technology more questions can be asked and comments made by the audience, following a virtual talk, than can ever happen in a conference auditorium. And it is in listening to people's comments and questions that we really understand the issues that are important to our members.

The second tranche of our WONCA webinars started on Sunday 20th September and will continue weekly for nine weeks. Our CEO, Garth Manning, has provided details in his column. Log in, participate, and meet friends and colleagues who have similar interests.

As a final comment in this month's column, may I gather together the voices of all our members to thank Karen Flegg for her editing of, now, 101 editions of *WONCA News*

! Through her involvement in WONCA at regional level, as a Member at Large on WONCA Executive and as Editor of *WONCA News*, Karen probably knows more about our WONCA family than anyone else. And she has photographs to prove it! Thank you, Karen, for your commitment to WONCA and for all your efforts on our behalf!

Donald Li
President



From the CEO's desk: new webinars and secretariat transition



Greetings again to all WONCA members, wherever in the world you might be. We continue to live in very uncertain times, but hope that you and your loved

ones are managing to survive the global pandemic as best you can.

WONCA Webinars

This month I want especially to highlight the latest series of WONCA webinars, which started a couple of weeks ago.

Earlier this year, and with so many WONCA events being postponed or cancelled, we were determined to reach out to, and connect with, our global membership. To that end we planned a series of nine webinars, linked to COVID-19, to run on nine consecutive

Sundays throughout April and May. These webinars were extremely well received, and in fact can still be viewed on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_NvHfN_FH7I1d2rgggQA1ug

Having taken a well-earned rest over the (northern) summer months, we then started to plan for a second series of webinars. I have commented many times before about the rich expertise we are fortunate to have in our Working Parties (WPs) and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The first series of webinars amply demonstrated this, and we had high hopes for the second series. We were not disappointed!

An Organising Committee was established by Executive, to plan for this second series. Led by Dr Pratyush Kumar, the Organising Committee comprises Drs Raman Kumar, Jinan Usta and Jacqueline Ponzo and Professor Mehmet Ungan. WPs and SIGs were asked to bid for one of the eight sessions being allocated in this second round, with

preference given to those who had not yet had a chance to present. In the event, nine good bids were received and so the second series has been extended to nine webinars.

[Full details of new webinar series.](#)

The full list is:

20 September - SIG on Health Equity
27 September - WP on Women and Family Medicine
04 October - WP on eHealth
11 October - SIG on Ageing and Health
18 October - SIG on Complexities in Health
25 October - WP on Mental Health
01 November - SIG on Cancer and Palliative care
08 November - SIG on Adolescent and Young Adult Care
15 November - WP on the Environment

We hope very much that as many as possible will join, either via Zoom or on Facebook. As previously, webinars will also be recorded and posted on YouTube for those who want to watch after the live event.

WONCA Secretariat Transition

I thought it would also be useful to give members an overview of where we are up to with the transition of the WONCA Secretariat from Bangkok to Brussels. Dr Harris Lygidakis, CEO-designate, has been working hard to sort out the legal, logistics and financial framework for the new Secretariat, with regular Zoom calls with me, President, President elect and Hon Treasurer.

Some of the Secretariat functions (accounting and general administration) are being subcontracted out to an Association

Management Company, and Harris and I have been assessing all bids received, shortlisting the top contenders and then interviewing the companies concerned. A decision on the successful bidder has just been made (at time of writing) but will only be released to members once Executive has been officially informed.

The Secretariat itself will house the CEO, his new Chief Admin Officer and a Communications/PR officer. This latter post will in part take on the role of WONCA Editor, so effectively performed by Dr Karen Flegg over these past 10 years, but with an expanded role to look after social media, general communications and WONCA public relations. Job descriptions for both posts have been drawn up and recruitment is currently under way.

[More details on the CAO post](#) [More details of the Communications/PR post](#)

The CEO, together with the new CAO, will take post officially on 1st November, to overlap with the current Secretariat staff during November and December. They will formally assume the Secretariat role on 1st January 2021, when the Bangkok staff will close that office and prepare for the final audit of the 2020 accounts.

We will report more fully on the transition in next month's *WONCA News*.

And that's it for another month. We continue to miss the personal contact with you all and look forward to the day when we can all meet up again. Stay safe and stay well.

Dr Garth Manning
CEO



Feature Stories

Charles Boelen: WONCA & Family Docs, best partners for health system revival



A guest feature by Charles Boelen, MD, international consultant in health system and personnel, former coordinator of the WHO (Geneva office) program of human resources for health, president of RIFRESS.
boelen.charles@wanadoo.fr

In 1988, as a newly assigned coordinator of the Human Resources for Health program at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, I met the then WONCA President and liaison officer with WHO, Dr M K Rajakumar, from Malaysia. In his frank style, his first words were: "We often meet and talk at WHO but never do things together"! Having already worked for years in different parts of the world, at WHO national and regional office levels, I boomeranged to him: "OK, let's start doing things"!

Cascading for that first contact several events followed over ensuing years: a later WONCA President, Dr Göran Sjönell, took a decision with Dr Michael Boland (also to become WONCA President), to hold an international WHO-WONCA sponsored conference in London, Ontario, on "Making medical practice and education more relevant to people's needs : the contribution of the family doctor. It was also agreed to draft a WHO-WONCA collaborative plan of work, one of which was to write the first version of a book, which years later was reedited by Michael Kidd and became a best seller, "The contribution of

family medicine to improving health systems : a guide from the World Organization of Family Doctors". [See re-edited "Guidebook" information.](#)

In 1995, a resolution was passed by the World Health Assembly (WHA 48.8) entitled : "Reorientating medical education and medical practice for health for all", with clear reference of the crucial role of family doctors.

A monograph, "Doctors for health", enunciated a global strategy to implement the above-mentioned resolution, with due reference to the "Five-star-doctor", highlighting key aptitudes any physician anywhere should possess. WONCA President, Bob Higgins MD, suggested to use this model for a WONCA award. Since then, WONCA has promoted it worldwide. [More on the "Five-star-doctor" award.](#)

The publication in 2000 of [WHO strategy "Towards Unity For Health"](#), fostering a strong partnership among stakeholders in the health system, led WONCA leadership to organise an international expert committee to examine how family medicine could become a 'cement' among health actors, for greater unity of purpose.

Throughout the years, WONCA has been on the side of innovation : more recently in 2016, the then President, Amanda Howe , delivered a keynote speech at the world summit on social accountability in health, held in Tunisia, in conjunction with an international NGO, The Network Towards Unity for Health (TUFH).

Today, in the special circumstances of the viral pandemic, there is nothing more important than to strengthen links with faithful friends. The notion of solidarity and "social accountability" is being more widely used.

In 1995, I published with Jeff Heck (an American family doctor), a [WHO monograph](#) "Defining and measuring the social accountability of medical schools". Today, being socially accountable is a requirement for any health actor, and the synergy must be

generated among policy making bodies, health organisations, academic institutions, health professionals and civil society for the emergence of a health system that is person-centred, equitable and efficient. It becomes now obvious that it is closely linked to sustainable development goals and the influence of a whole spectrum of health determinants.

Family doctors are not only first line practitioners, they also excel as medical educators, team builders, researchers and health service designers. They have a foot everywhere and are good in understanding the standpoint of others, an ideal recipe to

make the unity chemistry work. The family doctor is potentially the best ally in the enterprise of revival of a health system funded on humanist values because he or she is open to adapt their own behaviours to better meet priority health needs of society.

WONCA is well considered by two international organisations dedicated to social accountability in health : TUFH for the Anglophones (www.thenetworktufh.org) and RIFRESS (Réseau International Francophone pour la Responsabilité Sociale en Santé) for the francophones (www.rifress.org). They look forward to strengthen their collaboration.

Guest Feature by John Wynn-Jones: Flowers

Dr John Wynn-Jones is well known in WONCA circles and immediate past chair of the WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice. During the COVID-19 crisis he has been writing a daily 'Rural Miscellany' email with poems and resource ideas to help and divert us in this difficult time. This month we feature his item on "flowers".

"The earth laughs in flowers."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"I must have flowers, always, and always."

Claude Monet

*"I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine."*

William Shakespeare (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

"A flower blossoms for its own joy."

Oscar Wilde

*"Who wants flowers when you're dead?
Nobody."*

J.D. Salinger (The Catcher in the Rye)

These Poems are based on the theme of flowers. Flowers feature in all aspects of our lives. They are used as tokens of love, faithfulness, friendship and grief. Their blossoms are transient, and poets often conjure images of flowers to remind us of our mortality and our frailty. We labour to grow flowers in and around our houses and gardens because they make us feel comfortable, peaceful and happy. Whatever they signify, they are items of great beauty and they are to be celebrated and adored.



We have eight poems from around the world starting in the 8th Century and finishing in the 21st Century. Please enjoy!

Bai Juyi (772-846)

Bai Juyi was a renowned Chinese poet and Tang dynasty government official. Many of his poems concern his career or observations made about everyday life, including as governor of three different provinces. Bai was also influential in the historical development of Japanese literature

Regret for Red Peonies

A melancholy walk among red peonies;
When evening comes, only two flowers
remain.

They will not survive the morning wind;
I regret their passing by the campfire's light.
Translated by Baudelaire Jones

William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

William Wordsworth was an English Romantic poet who, with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, helped to launch the Romantic Age in English literature with their joint publication *Lyrical Ballads*.

Some of you will remember that I have already included this poem before but it is impossible to put together a collection of poems on flowers without including this wonderful joyous poem form such a great romantic poet. The poem records a moment when Wordsworth was walking with his sister Dorothy when they came across an expanse of wild daffodils. She recorded the event in her diary; "I never saw daffodils so beautiful they grew among the mossy stones about & about them, some rested their heads upon these stones as on a pillow for weariness & the rest tossed and reeled and danced & seemed as if they verily laughed with the wind that blew upon them over the Lake, they looked so gay ever dancing ever changing."

I wandered lonely as a Cloud

I wandered lonely as a Cloud
That floats on high o'er Vales and Hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden Daffodils;
Beside the Lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,

Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:—
A Poet could not but be gay
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the shew to me had brought:

For oft when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude,
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the Daffodils.

[> Listen to the poem recited by Victor Vertunni](#)

William Blake (1775-1827)

William Blake was an English poet, painter, and printmaker. Largely unrecognised during his lifetime, Blake is now considered a inspirational figure in the history of the poetry and visual arts of the Romantic Age.

The sunflower acts as an allegory for a human being: in particular, a traveller. They are tired of life and wish for something more. This takes the form of an afterlife that may also be associated with a world of imagination where people can visualise their highest aspirations. Blake presents this (afterlife/imagination) as an end-goal that everyone should attempt to reach, as he believes that it will enable them to escape from the brutal realities of human existence.

Ah! Sunflower

Ah Sunflower, weary of time,
Who countest the steps of the sun;
Seeking after that sweet golden clime
Where the traveller's journey is done;

Where the Youth pined away with desire,
And the pale virgin shrouded in snow,
Arise from their graves, and aspire
Where my Sunflower wishes to go!

[Ah Sunflower, William Blake, read by Allen Ginsberg](#)



Percy Shelley (1792-1822)

Percy Bysshe Shelley was one of the major English Romantic poets, widely regarded as one of the greatest lyric and philosophical poets in the English language.

The Flower That Smiles Today is a poem about the brevity of all things – all hopes, desires, and delights the world has to offer are short-lived and doomed to die. Everything is fleeting and transitory.



The flower that smiles to-day

The flower that smiles to-day
To-morrow dies;
All that we wish to stay
Tempt and then flies.
What is this world's delight?
Lightning that mocks the night,
Brief even as bright.

Virtue, how frail it is!
Friendship how rare!
Love, how it sells poor bliss
For proud despair!

But we, though soon they fall,
Survive their joy, and all
Which ours we call.

Whilst skies are blue and bright,
Whilst flowers are gay,
Whilst eyes that change ere night
Make glad the day;
Whilst yet the calm hours creep,
Dream thou—and from thy sleep
Then wake to weep.

A. E. Housman (1859-1936)

Alfred Edward Housman, usually known as A. E. Housman, was an English classical scholar and poet. He is best known for his cycle of poems A Shropshire Lad which evoke the dooms and disappointments of youth in the English countryside.

This poem is not so well known. The Lent Lily' is, the daffodil. Daffodils don't last long, and we have a narrow window every spring to enjoy their beauty in all its bright and yellowness. Like Wordsworth's poem above it is celebration of their joyous quality, is as much a reminder that part of the joy of daffodils lies in their being recollected long after they have been seen and admired.

The Lent Lily

'Tis spring; come out to ramble
The hilly brakes around,
For under thorn and bramble
About the hollow ground
The primroses are found.

And there's the windflower chilly
With all the winds at play,
And there's the Lenten lily
That has not long to stay
And dies on Easter day.

And since till girls go maying
You find the primrose still,
And find the windflower playing
With every wind at will,
But not the daffodil,

Bring baskets now, and sally
Upon the spring's array,
And bear from hill and valley
The daffodil away
That dies on Easter day.

A E Houseman - The Lent Lilly

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NfgNqAhLe8>

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

Rabindranath Tagore was a Bengali poet, writer, music composer, and painter from the Indian subcontinent whose poetry we have already met a week ago. The poem talks once again about the short-lived life of the flower and the transience of our lives. We all have something to offer however insignificant we might appear. We can offer ourselves up to something greater.

Flower

Pluck this little flower and take it, delay not! I fear lest it

droop and drop into the dust.

I may not find a place in thy garland, but
honour it with a touch of
pain from thy hand and pluck it. I fear lest the
day end before I am
aware, and the time of offering go by.

Though its colour be not deep and its smell be
faint, use this flower
in thy service and pluck it while there is time.

[>Listen to the poem](#)

Peter Seeger (1919-2014)

Peter Seeger was an American folk singer and social activist. He had a string of hit records during the early 1950s as a member of the Weavers.

"Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" is a modern protest folk song written by Pete Seeger. In fact he wrote the melody and the first 3 verses. Additional verses were added in May 1960 by Joe Hickerson. The New Statesman listed it as one of the "Top 20 Political Songs".

It has been recorded many times but probably the most well known is by Peter, Paul and Mary in 1962



Where have all the flowers gone

Where have all the flowers gone, long time
passing?
Where have all the flowers gone, long time
ago?
Where have all the flowers gone?
Young girls have picked them everyone.
Oh, when will they ever learn?
Oh, when will they ever learn?

Where have all the young girls gone, long time
passing?

Where have all the young girls gone, long time
ago?
Where have all the young girls gone?
Gone for husbands everyone.
Oh, when will they ever learn?
Oh, when will they ever learn?

Where have all the husbands gone, long time
passing?
Where have all the husbands gone, long time
ago?
Where have all the husbands gone?
Gone for soldiers everyone
Oh, when will they ever learn?
Oh, when will they ever learn?

Where have all the soldiers gone, long time
passing?
Where have all the soldiers gone, long time
ago?
Where have all the soldiers gone?
Gone to graveyards, everyone.
Oh, when will they ever learn?
Oh, when will they ever learn?

Where have all the graveyards gone, long
time passing?
Where have all the graveyards gone, long
time ago?
Where have all the graveyards gone?
Gone to flowers, everyone.
Oh, when will they ever learn?
Oh, when will they ever learn?

Where have all the flowers gone, long time
passing?
Where have all the flowers gone, long time
ago?
Where have all the flowers gone?
Young girls have picked them everyone.
Oh, when will they ever learn?
Oh, when will they ever learn?

[Listen to Peter Paul and Mary](#)



Ishan Malik

I must apologise but I can find very little about Ishan Malik on the internet. I believe he is young and writes in Urdu. Please let me know, if you can find more about him.

I loved this poem which was written in 2006. Simple but also profound. Please enjoy.



Rose in Full Bloom

Rambling down a cobbled pathway,
I stumbled upon a wild rose,
Deep garnet red,
Velveteen petals each curled to perfection,
Luminescent and innocently pretty,
A coy damsel oblivious of her beauty,
Fading away unadored and unsung,
Looking at me, she blushed
I stood love stung, adoring her,
Borrowed a steam bearing a bud
Planted her proudly in my garden,
Ever day, day after day,
I watched my rose break out of its chrysalis,
Groomed it with devout care,
Nurturing it with fertilizer,
Admiring it with every moment,
Watching it grown and come into full bloom,
Tall and elegant till it grew
And looked down on me!

Region News

Family Medicine in Medical Schools in the EMR

Report on and e-poster accepted for AMEE's 2020 conference – QR code permits online viewing of poster

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), in collaboration with the WONCA East Mediterranean Region (EMR) and the WONCA Working Party on Education conducted a survey of the medical schools in the EMR region. The aim of the survey was to explore the medical schools' curricula for the presence of a Family Medicine (FM) rotation at the undergraduate level, its setting, duration, topics covered, methods used for teaching, and assessment.



The survey was sent to the 108 contacts of IFMSA in the various medical schools of the region.

Responses were received from 92 representatives (response rate of 85.2%); 19 were excluded as incomplete, 64 reported having FM rotations (87.7%).

Although present in most medical schools of the EMR region, FM rotations are relatively short and mostly take place outside of the community setting and in the form of lectures, offering medical students limited exposure to and practice in primary health care. The content and methods of teaching FM are quite diverse across the region. For more details on the results, you can access <https://api.ltb.io/show/BCOUC>.

As there is a shortage of family physicians worldwide and more so in the EMR region, medical schools can play a big role in influencing students' interest in FM, and they need to adjust their curricula accordingly. Longer rotations in PHC specialties have been shown to increase students' chances of pursuing a PHC specialty. The wide diversity of FM curricula and teaching methodologies can be an opportunity to compare what works best and what does not.

EMR training resource on “PHC practice in the context of COVID-19”

On Monday Sept 7, 2020, a training resource on “Primary health care practice in the context of COVID-19” was launched.

The online course is the outcome of joint collaboration between the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO), World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) East Mediterranean Region and United Nations partners, including the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to ensure that primary health care is integrated into national COVID-19 response plans.

The launch of the training course can be accessed on www.facebook.com/WHOEMRO/videos/318905975887942/

The online training aims to support PHC personnel in their efforts to maintain essential services and to effectively assist in controlling the pandemic. It focuses on four main areas: maintaining essential health services; preventing COVID-19 through supporting effective public health measures; diagnosing COVID-19 cases and ensuring adequate referral; and managing mild and moderate COVID-19 cases.

The course content will be updated periodically, and the trainees will receive certificates of completion from WHO accredited for 15 hours under the category I credit system of the American Association of Continuing Medical Education (AACME).

PHC physicians working in the public and private sectors in the EMR region are strongly encouraged to undertake this training.

[Access training course](#)

Working Party News

Education for Primary Care free access articles



Prof Val Wass, Chair WONCA Working Party on Education writes on the latest open access items in Education for Primary Care.

Education for Primary Care : Offers free access to important Covid articles

[COVID articles](#)

Issue 31:4 is now on line with free access for a month to an article on GP training which highlights the importance of near peer teaching: an important way forward as we internationally face a workforce crisis: An important move to recruit and retain.

“GP registrars teaching medical students- an untapped resource?” Jones

M, Kirtchuk L, Rosenthal J.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14739879.2020.1749531>

WP on Mental Health

Professor Chris Dowrick, chair of Working Party on Mental Health, reports:



Dear colleagues,

I do hope you are all staying as well as possible in these exceptionally difficult times, with the pandemic spreading ever more rapidly around the world, accompanied by economic insecurities, political turmoil and other natural and man-made disasters. It does seem that we are living through a series of catastrophes right now. So it is more important than ever that we take care of ourselves, as well as looking after the welfare of our patients.

WONCA Webinar Sunday October 25, 2020

We will be discussing how to do this during our next live WONCA webinar, on Sunday October 25, at 12 noon GMT/UTC.

Juan Mendive will describe his experiences of living with the pandemic in Barcelona. Weng Chin will explain how non-drug interventions can help patients whose mental health has been affected by COVID. Kim Griswold and Alan Cohen will advise on taking care of the physical health needs of patients with severe mental illness. And Jill Benson will guide us in building resilience to adversity.

If you would like to prepare for this session, you will find lots of relevant material online on [our pages of the WONCA website](#), and in our new book on Global Primary Mental Health Care (Dowrick C ed, Routledge 2020).

[Webinar joining information will be posted here](#)

Education and training

Members of our working party members continue to advance education and training in primary mental health care:

- Our advocacy project is nearing its conclusion. Thanks to the great work of Larry Green and the Farley Center team in Colorado, we now have a group of 12 amazing young family doctors, from all over

the world, who are rapidly becoming skilled in advocating effectively for mental health care in their localities. We will publish a report on this project later in the year, and will be delighted to share it with you all. We see this as just the beginning...

- Cindy Lam and colleagues are developing an exciting programme on digital mental health for primary care in the Asia-Pacific region: a position paper has been submitted for publication, and we expect to start pilot studies in several south-east Asian countries early next year.

- And we are in discussions about a major new programme to provide online training for family doctors in depression care, with emphasis on Latin America, Africa/Middle East and Asia. More news on this in the next few months.

Projects

Many of us are increasingly concerned about the mental health of asylum seekers and refugees. I expect you will have seen the harrowing pictures from the refugee camp on Lesbos, and be aware of the plight of refugee detainees in the USA, and the devastating impact of political disintegration in Venezuela. We are planning a series of initiatives, in co-operation with the WONCA Special Interest Group on Migrant Care, at both policy and practice levels. Please let me know if you would like to join us in tackling these problems.

Alfredo de Neto is proposing an international collaborative venture to explore the benefits of music on mental health. First, he will conduct a survey to find out what people are doing now. Then we will propose plans to increase the engagement of family doctors and patients in therapeutic music-making. Please let me and Alfredo (oalfredoneto@gmail.com) know if you are interested in this venture.

WHO has produced a new website on mental health and social support, with a page dedicated to frontline health care workers. It contains very helpful, practical advice. [Here is the link.](#)

With my best wishes to you all,
Chris

WHO webinars on mental health for health workers



Mental health and our health and care workforce

Join WHO/Europe for a three part webinar series which will explore HOW to implement mental health and psychosocial supports for our health and care workforce:

PART 1

Promoting and protecting the mental well-being of the health and social care workforce; from self-care to dedicated support.

Thursday September 24, 2020
11.00 – 12.30 CET
Copenhagen

[Register here](#)

https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xotFKqItSOayxeXKPbF0sQ

PART 2

Employer practices and policies to support the well-being of the health and care workforce.

Thursday October 22, 2020
11.00 – 12.30 CET
Copenhagen

[Register here](#)

https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mm09VHI5R9GT_RDhlyB93A

PART 3

Engaging our communities in the well being of the health and care workforce.

Thursday November 19, 2020
9.30 – 11.00 CET
Copenhagen

[Register here](#)

https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ITGiqzchTxSY97iHJP4-tQ

Any questions? duquee@who.int

Environment WP news: International Day of Clean Air for blue skies.



International Day
of Clean Air
for blue skies



What are health professionals doing to achieve Clean Air for blue skies?

September 7 marks the inaugural United Nations International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, a day to call upon governments, corporations, civil society and individuals to take action to reduce air pollution to protect human health. The World Health Organization estimates that air pollution is responsible for about seven million premature deaths globally every year, with over 90% of these deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries.

The theme of the first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is "Clean Air for All" and it invites us all to consider how we can change our everyday lives to reduce the amount of air pollution we produce. Through the WONCA Air Health Train the Trainer Program, health professionals from low- and middle-income countries in every world region have been working to address this theme for the past 16 months. After completing an online training, participants in the program became trainers, educating their students, colleagues, patients, communities and governments about the health effects of air pollution and advocating for measures to reduce exposure to pollutants.

Since the training program began in April 2019, 38 health professionals have recorded delivering 252 activities in 20 different countries. These activities have included small workshops and trainings, lectures and presentations, media interviews and mass communication and many other creative activities. Over 14,400 individuals have been reached directly through their participation in trainings and presentations and over 200 million people are estimated to have been reached indirectly as a result of TV and radio

interviews, podcasts, social media and publications in academic journals. Below are a few short examples of trainers' stories.

Mayara Floss



Mayara (pictured second from the right) working with community health workers to discuss the health effects of air pollution in the community of Costa e Silva in Porto Alegre, Brazil), is a family medicine resident in Porto Alegre, Brazil. At the very local level in her working community, Mayara has organized local talks and a local "radio" program about air pollution, broadcasted through WhatsApp. Mayara has also been engaging health professionals in planetary health across Brazil and around the world through an online training course, podcasts, videos and a Planetary Health Symposium.

Christophe W Ngendahayo

Christophe is a global NCD and Climate Health advocate and a junior doctor at Rwandan Ministry of Health, Kigali. Christophe has led a nation-wide training program campaign to raise awareness on Air Pollution and patients' health among doctors, nurses, midwives, residents and healthcare students.

He has run trainings in 26 of the 42 hospitals of Rwanda. He has also raised awareness through media including TV & Radio Stations and newsletters to Rwandan communities and civil societies.

Enrique Barros

Enrique is a family doctor in Santa Maria do Herval, a rural town of 6000 inhabitants in the mountains in southern Brazil. He is also a professor at the Universidade de Caxias do Sul and the Chair of the WONCA Working Party on the Environment. Enrique leads the transdisciplinary "Ar Alegre" project, which is implementing a high tech / ultra-low cost network of PM2.5 sensors in primary care clinics in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Sadia Sultana



Sadia (pictured centre, delivers a particulate matter awareness program to women in Dhaka, Bangladesh). is a public speaker, health advocate and resident doctor in National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Sadia has run training programs for a range of audiences from street dwellers, smokers, industry workers, high society to politically influential people, from kindergarten to University, from volunteers to medical students, doctors, and nurses.

Peter Aggrey Oduor

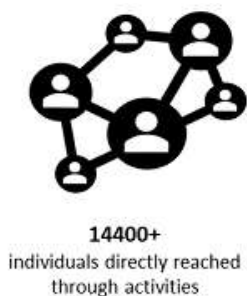
Peter is a public health practitioner in Kisumu, Kenya. He has worked with the Ministry of Medical Services and Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation to train 560 community health workers in all the seven sub Counties of Kisumu County to prevent diseases that are triggered by indoor and outdoor air pollution. Peter trained the community health workers in a range of educational styles, including meetings, facilitation, workshops, role plays, pictures, stories, group discussions, and plenary presentations and discussions.

Elvis Ndikum Achiri

Elvis is a community health worker, advocate and student at the University of Yaoundé I, in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Elvis has led advocacy actions towards Ministry of Health from September to November 2019 by letter writing and visits to the Ministry, requesting collaboration to facilitate training of staff, healthcare facilities (such as health districts and clinics) and the public. The Ministry of Health has agreed to this collaboration to raise awareness in air health in Yaounde.

Yousser Mohammad

Yousser is a professor of pulmonary medicine in Lattakia, Syria, and the director of the Syrian national center for research and training on Chronic Respiratory Diseases and co-morbidities. Yousser has led a range of activities, including educating primary care lead nurses within the Ministry of Health in Damascus, to seeing the inclusion of air pollution within undergraduate medical curricula to conducting surveys of patients with chronic respiratory conditions to assess their exposure to air pollutants.



ICPC-3 field test invitation

Dear colleague,

The ICPC is the most widely used international classification for the systematic recording and organizing of clinical information in primary care.

The newest version ICPC-3 designed by the ICPC-3 Consortium in collaboration with the WONCA classification committee is in the testing phase. The ICPC-3 Consortium is established in cooperation with WONCA, WONCA Europe, and a number of participating Countries/Institutes to develop the ICPC-3 within a set time frame.

We would like to invite you to test it. You can do this by sending an email, with your name, profession and country to: info@icpc-3.info For more information about the ICPC-3 and the field test see on our website: www.icpc-3.info/field-test

Why use the ICPC-3?

- It allows patients' health problems to be tracked over time through the recording of episodes of care, and by allowing the coding of the reason for encounter through to a recognisable disease/problem with functioning and interventions.
- It reflects the frequency and distribution of health problems commonly encountered in primary health care and reflects the way in which primary care provider's work to solve problems in the common language for Primary Health Care.
- It is simple and easy to use for primary care providers including doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers, therefore increasing the likelihood of consistent and accurate coding.
- It is harmonised with other classifications such as ICD, and clinical terminology systems such as SNOMED CT.
- It enables meaningful feedback to primary care, enables the exchange of information between primary and secondary care, as well as with policymakers and funders to understand what is happening in primary care, and therefore improve the provision of care.

Kees van Boven and Huib ten Napel, project leaders

Member Organisation News

Survey on communication courses - EACH

[EACH: International Association of Communication in Healthcare](#) and WONCA are organisations in a collaborative relationship and we are attempting to strengthen this collaboration. EACH is offering courses relevant for teachers, researchers and policymakers in healthcare communication, and for clinicians, to help improve communication between patients and healthcare professionals.

The current offer of courses can be viewed by clicking [here](#). However, EACH offers very few courses specifically aimed at practicing healthcare professionals.

We would like to hear directly from these professionals what types of communication courses would be valuable so that we can start collecting and/or co-developing courses and materials that are relevant to them. If you are a practising Family Doctor, could you please answer this short survey and list three courses not already offered by EACH that you would like to be co-developed by EACH and WONCA that would inform your practice.

[Go to survey](#)

Evelyn van Weel-Baumgarten,



Farewell to the Scandinavian Delegation of Family Physicians

Dr Allan Pelch, of Denmark (photo at right), has led the Scandinavian Delegations of Family Physicians to dozens of conferences over the past 22 years. After this remarkable effort over many years, Allan is now retiring and reflect on the joys of these delegations. Pictured above are the Delegation members in Japan



Dear Friends of the Scandinavian Delegation of Family Physicians:

Scandinavian family physicians have focused on WONCA conferences since 1988.

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) hosted the WONCA World Conference in New Orleans in 1988. Having lived in the USA and having studied at universities there, I felt that this was the right time for me to ask my colleagues if they would accompany me. I received enthusiastic support from our Danish College of Family Physicians, enabling me to send out invitations to our 3600+ members. The resulting quite large group of 65, was warmly welcomed by AAFP and by WONCA. We were actually the largest international group from the smallest countries! We were encouraged to return to AAFP's Annual Scientific Assembly in 1989. Actually, we have returned every year since.

The following year we invited our Norwegian and Swedish colleagues to join us. "The Scandinavian Delegation of Family Physicians" became our official name. We have continued to support WONCA conferences every year since then and we have visited all five continents thanks to WONCA's member organizations. All conferences have been memorable.



If asked about my own favourites, I would whisper: those held in Africa. One particular conference comes to my mind. Durban, in June, 2001. Before 9-11. Our very large delegation of four hundred members, most of them seeing Africa for the first time, had a great time at the conference, followed by a week doing a traditional safari. This was in sharp contrast to AAFP's Assembly in Atlanta, in October the same year. Our delegation there numbered eight only! We commiserated with our American colleagues.

Since then we have many happy memories from WONCA conferences and its Member Organisations' conferences. I have not kept a diary and therefore I do not know the exact number of

conferences. Between seventy and ninety?

Now we come to the sad and final part. The time has come for me to terminate the Delegation. I am unable to find a successor and so there will be no more organised Scandinavian delegations. There is a beginning and an end. And this is the end. Thirty-two years of active collaboration with WONCA, AAFP, RACGP (Australian College) and the three Nordic colleges are quite a record, of which I am proud.

We are all lying low at this time reflecting on the good things behind us and waiting for the day when we can resume our busy lives and visit with our colleagues and friends abroad. Will the European Region Conference in Berlin in December 2020 present that opportunity? We hope so.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my wife, Elisabeth, for her very active participation and support throughout these years. You gave me the freedom to devote time to our planning and you were the perfect companion for our colleagues and their families and for me on all our tours.

Do continue to support WONCA with your active participation. Our Delegation is grateful for WONCA's support and wishes Karen Flegg, our WONCA News editor, many more happy and active years!

Sincerely,

Allan Pelch, Family Physician.

Delegation outside a hospital in Manaus pictured below.



WFPHA Statement on COVID-19 Immunization and Equitable Access to Vaccines

Dear Colleagues,

The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) and its International Immunization Policy Taskforce, share with you the WFPHA Statement on COVID-19 Immunization and Equitable Access to Vaccines (English updated Version). The statement is now available also in French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

We consider this statement as an international "standard" to be adopted by each of you when approaching national and regional authorities. We are confident that this statement in different languages will facilitate your advocacy activities and we are keen to support our members in this efforts.

Immunization is one of the most successful public health measures of modern times. Annually immunization prevents an estimated 2.5 million deaths globally and reduces disease-specific treatment costs. For all the devastation caused by COVID-19, an important lesson is that the balance needs to shift from treating disease to preventing it. Specific to COVID-19, almost everyone is at risk and may require vaccination if given the opportunity. Hence, it is likely that demand will surpass supply. The concern of the WFPHA International Immunization Policy Task Force is the tendency for the rich to acquire and pay for the limited supply of available efficacious vaccines to the detriment of the at-risk populations in low income settings. Therefore, the WFPHA International Immunization Policy Task Force provides some recommendations in the statement.

The statement is available on the [WFPHA website here](#).

For more detailed information on the WFPHA International Immunization Policy Task Force, please visit WFPHA website here: <https://www.wfpha.org/wfpha-projects/14-projects/369-international-immunization-policy-taskforce>

Should you have any questions, comments or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Stay Safe; Stay Healthy.



WONCA Notices

WONCA seeks Chief Administrative Officer

The World Organisation of Family Doctors (WONCA) is a global not-for-profit professional organisation representing family doctors from all regions of the world (www.globalfamilydoctor.com).

We are looking for a Chief Administrative Officer to work in the new Secretariat of WONCA, based in Brussels. We seek a highly motivated individual, with a strong 'can-do' attitude and positive mentality.

You will have the opportunity to work for a not-for-profit organisation with a mission to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world by promoting the development of general practice/family medicine globally, fostering high standards of care, and disseminating information concerning the educational, research and service provision aspects of our discipline.

What you will be doing

The Chief Administrative Officer will be responsible for day-to-day organisation of WONCA, including human resources, finances and membership management.

1) Coordination

- Managing office communications, being the first point for enquiries, managing correspondence, engaging with WONCA's Members (Organisations and Individuals) and working groups in a positive, respectful and diplomatic manner, resolving issues appropriately, responding to ideas and suggestions, proactively reaching out to Members;
- Identifying and synergies and supporting linkages among Members, actively proposing innovative ways of working and assisting in improving organisational procedures;
- Providing input to the planning and implementation of WONCA's strategy, identifying opportunities to strengthen the organisation;
- Assisting in monitoring of the association's developments;
- Scheduling and managing calendars and action lists;
- Researching and preparing information for reports and publications;
- Assisting in formulating collective policies related to the mission of WONCA;
- Seeking opportunities to promote WONCA, working closely with WONCA's Communications Officer;
- Supporting the preparation of the Executive Committee meetings, including distribution of documents, minute taking, maintaining records of meetings and sharing key decisions;
- Supporting the organisation of WONCA's General Assembly (World Council Meeting), including distribution of documents and invitations, handling registrations and attendance lists, etc;
- Providing support in the organisation of other physical and virtual events;
- Participating in the WONCA World and other conferences, coordinate the organisation's promotion efforts and own booth during conferences;
- Providing suggestions and advice on internal organisational and strategic matters;
- Assisting in fundraising activities.

2) Secretariat management

- Acting as contact with our Association Management Company (overseeing financial and membership management) and other services providers (legal consultants, insurance companies, travel agents, accountants, auditors, etc);
- Developing, revising and maintaining standard operating procedures related to the Secretariat's work;
- Developing, revising and maintaining the human resources policies of WONCA's Secretariat;
- Maintaining accurate databases and filings;
- Monitoring and providing input to the operational budget;
- Assisting in the preparation of monthly payroll;
- Coordinating office matters, including office supplies;

- Organising the recruitment of new staff;
- Closely cooperating with other officers and providing support other tasks as required;
- Participating in Secretariat meetings.

Required skills

- At least five years of relevant work experience, preferably in an international environment;
- At least Bachelor's degree — Master's preferred;
- A healthcare related degree or work experience in a pertinent organisation is preferred, but not essential;
- Fluency in English language (CEFR C1 level; or IELTS Academic band 7 and above; or equivalent TOEFL score in writing, reading and speaking; a certificate is desirable);
- Advanced knowledge of other languages, especially of Spanish, is an asset;
- Strong digital literacy (find, evaluate, manage, create and communicate information through/for digital channels);
- Excellent IT skills, including competence with office suites (word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, databases), organisational and communication tools (e.g., Trello, Asana, Slack, Teams), and ability to learn new tools;
- Experience with provision of support for legal matters (eg General Data Protection Regulation);
- Able to explain complex ideas clearly and plainly, accurate and attentive to detail;
- Open to learn, ready to digest detailed information, and willing to gain deep insight into WONCA's operations;
- Be prepared to travel internationally for the organisation.

We are also looking for

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills and ability to communicate in a variety of different formats;
- Excellent prioritising, time management and organisational skills, with the ability to manage multiple projects and agendas, work independently and within a team, deal with competing demands, and meet deadlines;
- Proactive approach, outstanding problem-solving skills, willingness to take initiative to solve problems independently and creatively;
- Attention to detail and procedures, focus on quality;
- Team-oriented approach and team-building skills;
- Previous work in coordination of groups is highly recommended;
- Sensitivity to operating within a diverse community and in a multicultural environment;
- Openness to feedback;
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and handle sensitive information discreetly.

What we offer

This is a full-time position (38 hours per week), offered under the Belgian law. The candidate must possess a valid passport and a valid EU working permit. The working location is in Brussels. The Secretariat office is located in the Brussels Madou area and is easily accessible by public transport.

WONCA offers an initial contract of two years, with the view to extend beyond that. We offer a monthly gross salary of between €3,000 and €3,600 depending on the level of experience, in addition to a 13th stipend, holiday bonus, lunch vouchers (€7 per working day), and 20 days of legal annual leave.

Costs relating to travel (economy class) and accommodation for WONCA business will be covered by the organisation. In addition, a per diem will be paid for every day away on WONCA business.

Desired starting date is 2 November 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter.

How to apply

WONCA is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive working environment. Candidates from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

To apply visit wonca.workable.com and send your CV and cover letter (maximum one page) explaining why you are interested in this post and how your skills and experience make you suitable for the post. Your cover letter should explicitly state how your profile matches the job requirements as indicated above.

Please also include the names and contact details of two people (ideally one former or current supervisor / manager and one person that you supervised) who could provide references and be contacted by us.

Your application must be received by 9 October 2020, 17.00 CEST. Incomplete and late applications will not be considered. Only well-qualified candidates will be invited for an interview.

For any questions, please contact: communications@wonca.net

WONCA seeks Communications and Public Relations Officer

The World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) is a global not-for-profit professional organisation representing family doctors from all regions of the world (www.globalfamilydoctor.com).

We are looking for a Communications and Public Relations Officer to work for the new Secretariat of WONCA based in Brussels. We seek a highly motivated individual, with a strong 'can-do' attitude and positive mentality.

You will have the opportunity to work for a not-for-profit organisation with a mission to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world by promoting the development of general practice/family medicine globally, fostering high standards of care, and disseminating information concerning the educational, research and service provision aspects of our discipline.

What you will be doing

The Communication and Public Relations Officer will be responsible for developing and implementing WONCA's global media engagement plans aligned with the overarching Communications Strategy, with a focus on being innovative and creative. The Communications Officer will report to the WONCA Chief Executive Officer.

1. Strategic/planning role

- Contributing to the development and update of WONCA's Communication Strategy and developing an aligned work plan;
- Leading the development of innovative, timely and strategic external communications that are adapted to diverse global media channels;
- Seeking opportunities for media engagement and investigating ways to reach a wider member and stakeholder base;
- Making recommendations as to activities to be developed, and creative communications actions and strategies to be developed and implemented;
- Monitoring emerging trends in communications and media channels, identifying opportunities for WONCA, and leading implementation of the organisation's response (including oversight and updates/upgrades of the website and social media channels);
- Developing and updating guidelines and standard operating procedures.

2. Editorial role

- Drafting and editing talking points;
- Drafting statements, articles, press releases and other relevant materials for international media and key events (e.g., World Health Assembly);

- Commissioning and editing items for WONCA's Newsletter (WONCA News), circulating at least 10 editions per year;
- Compiling the organisation's weekly e-bulletin ("e-update");
- Proofreading and editing documents written in English by non-professional writers and improving their readability, standardising and correcting grammar and terminology and appealing to a wide range of family doctors globally;
- Forward-planning the editorial calendar.

3. Curating the website and social media channels

- Designing and delivering campaigns and advocacy work, implementing processes for production of content (visual, digital, written) by developing infographics, presentations, lay-outs and visuals;
- Effectively using social media to push campaign messaging, engage audiences and achieve advocacy goals;
- Managing and updating WONCA's website (www.globalfamilydoctor.com) including:
 - o Uploading items of news and other material as it come to hand;
 - o Actively seeking to maintain currency of pages that change frequently (e.g., those related to conferences or WONCA groups);
 - o Assessing its quality and making proposals for improving the contents, structure, taxonomy, navigation and user experience;
- Designing and organising support for communications at WONCA's events with a focus on visual and promotional content.

4. Quality assurance

- Reviewing and revising content and ensuring that communications outputs are consistent, impactful and high quality according to WONCA's quality guidelines and visual identity;
- Assessing the impact of the communication actions;
- Communicating achievements assessed and lessons learned;
- Producing qualitative inputs for the continuous development of the WONCA's communication strategy.

5. Public Relations role

- Maintaining and developing a wide network of relevant media contacts and monitoring coverage;
- Speaking to journalists and stakeholders about the WONCA's work and activities;
- Developing and maintaining relationships with an extensive network of internal stakeholders.

6. General

- Closely cooperating with other officers and providing support for other tasks as required;
- Participating in Secretariat meetings;
- Participating when necessary in Executive meetings;
- Attending some of WONCA's Conferences.

Skills

- Background in medical or healthcare-related writing and editing;
- Bachelor's degree in a relevant field;
- Proven experience in communications and/or journalism, previous work on social media and good knowledge of global and regional social media;
- Fluency in English language (CEFR C2 level; or IELTS Academic band 8 and above; or equivalent TOEFL score in writing, reading and speaking; a certificate is desirable);
- Advanced knowledge of other languages, especially of Spanish, is an asset;
- Ability to post messages with multimedia content in a variety of social media and networks;
- Ability to manage and engage with online communities;
- Good knowledge of methodologies of how to assess the impact of social media and of development and analysis of communication performance indicators;
- Ability to explain complex ideas clearly and plainly, accurate and with attention to detail;

- Competent with managing content (e.g., articles) with Content Management Systems;
- Ability to use an image editor (such as Photoshop);
- Basic skills in vector and layout editing (vector editing such as, Illustrator; layout editing such as, InDesign) and ability and willingness to learn and improve skills on such software;
- Open to learn, ready to digest detailed information, and willing to gain deep insight into WONCA's operations;
- Be prepared to travel internationally for the organisation.

We are also looking for:

- Excellent interpersonal skills;
- Excellent prioritising, time management and organisational skills;
- Proven leadership and team-building skills –previous work in coordination of groups is highly desirable;
- Proactive approach, outstanding problem-solving skills, willingness to take initiative to solve problems independently and creatively;
- Attention to detail and procedures, focus on quality;
- Openness to feedback;
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and handle sensitive information discreetly;
- Sensitivity to operating within a diverse community and in a multicultural environment.

What We Offer

This is a full-time position (38 hours per week), offered under the Belgian law. The candidate must possess a valid passport and a valid EU working permit. The working location can be flexible, although presence in the Brussels office will be preferable.

WONCA offers an initial 18-month contract, with the view to extend beyond that. We offer a monthly gross salary of between €3,000 and €3,300 depending on the level of experience, in addition to a 13th stipend, holiday bonus, lunch vouchers (€7 per working day), and 20 days of paid annual leave. Equivalent stipend and conditions will be discussed if the candidate is based on another country.

Costs relating to travel (economy class) and accommodation for WONCA business will be covered by the organisation. In addition, a per diem will be paid for every day away on WONCA business. The Secretariat office is located in the Brussels Madou area and is easily accessible by public transport.

Desired starting date is 1 December 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter.

How to Apply

WONCA is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive working environment. Candidates from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

To apply visit wonca.workable.com and send your CV and cover letter (maximum one page) explaining why you are interested in this post and how your skills and experience make you suitable for the post. Your cover letter should explicitly state how your profile matches the job requirements as indicated above.

Please also include the names and contact details of two people (at least one former or current supervisor / manager) who could provide references and be contacted by us.

Your application must be received by 12 October 2020, 17:00 CEST. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Only well-qualified candidates will be invited for an interview.

For any questions, please contact: communications@wonca.net

WONCA CONFERENCES

WONCA Direct Members enjoy *lower* conference registration fees.

To join WONCA go to: <http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/AboutWONCA/Membership1.aspx>

WONCA Conferences 2021 and 2022

July 7-10 2021	WONCA Europe region conference	Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS	https://woncaeurope2021.org/
August 5-7, 2021	World Rural Health conference	Kampala, UGANDA	Save the dates
November 25-28, 2021	WONCA World conference	Abu Dhabi, UAE	www.wonca2021.com
April 9-12, 2022	WONCA Asia Pacific región conference	Yangon, Myanmar	Save the dates!
June 1-4, 2022	WONCA Europe region conference	London, UK	www.woncaeurope2022.org
2023 dates to be confirmed	WONCA World conference	Sydney, AUSTRALIA	www.racgp.org.au/wonca-2022/home

Revised Important dates – WONCA World conference Abu Dhabi, now 2021

Abstract Submissions Open (Workshops/Symposia) July 5, 2020

Online Registration Open (Early Bird) July 5, 2020

Abstract Submissions Open (Oral/Poster) July 5, 2020

Submission Close (Workshops/Symposia) January 10, 2021

Author Notifications (Workshops/Symposia) March 7, 2021

Online Accommodation Open March 18, 2021

World Council November 21-23, 2021

World Conference November 25-28, 2021

➤ [website](#)

Member Organization Events

Note: most are virtual

13 Oct **AAFP FMX Virtual**

- 17 Oct Chicago, USA

2020

15 Oct **RACGP GP20**

- 17 Oct virtual

2020

04 Nov **Virtual Family Medicine Forum / Virtuel**

- 07 Nov **Forum en médecine familiale**

2020 Winnipeg, Canada

04 Nov **RNZCGP Annual conference**

- 07 Nov Auckland, NZ

2020

20 Nov **North American Primary Care Research**

- 24 Nov **Group (NAPCRG) annual conference**

2020 San Francisco USA

17 Dec **European Conference for Family Doctors**

- 19 Dec **and DEGAM Annual Congress**

2020 Berlin, Germany

11 Feb **RCGP annual primary care conference**

- 13 Feb Glasgow, United Kingdom

2021

24 Feb **Rural Medicine Australia**

- 27 Feb Hunter Valley, NSW, Australia

2021

For more information on Member Organization events go to
www.globalfamilydoctor.com/Conferences/MemberOrganizationEvents.aspx
www.globalfamilydoctor.com/Conferences/MemberOrganizationEvents.aspx