

WONCA Working Party on Education (WPE)

Activity Plan for 2016-2018

“To have a positive effect on the functioning of health systems and ultimately on health outcomes of patients and populations, educational institutions have to be designed to generate an optimum instructional process.”¹

1: Background:

1:1 The WPE activity plan is based on a workshop held by the working party at WONCA Rio 2016 chaired by Allyn Walsh (outgoing chair) and Val Wass (incoming one). Small group discussions fuelled plenary decisions which defined outcomes for the 2016-2018 strategy outlined here.

1:2 Two important key statements underpin the WPE strategy:

1:2:1 WONCA Singapore statement 2007:

Every medical school in the world should have an academic department of family medicine, or an equivalent academic focus.

Every medical student in the world should experience family practice as early as possible and as often as possible in their training.

1:2:2 The Rio statement 2016

The World Organisation of Family Doctors (WONCA) calls for all countries to increase the number of family doctors in order to achieve high quality comprehensive primary care and universal health coverage.

Effective strategies include: improving the skills of doctors already working in the community; recognising Family Medicine as a specialty and enhancing the academic basis of the discipline; strengthening the family medicine experience of all medical students; actively recruiting more medical graduates into more postgraduate family medicine training programs; giving all family doctors and members of their teams the resources to carry out their work, recognising their contribution, and ensuring their retention in the workforce – all in order to deliver excellent integrated cost-effective people-centred care.

1:3 The WPE acknowledged the excellent work over the past three years led by Allyn Walsh and Victor Ng to develop the *WONCA Standards For Postgraduate Family Medicine Education (2013)* and the *WONCA Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Standards (2016)* to be found at:

www.globalfamilydoctor.com/groups/WorkingParties/Education.aspx

1:4 There was general recognition of the need to apply these standards to postgraduate and CPD accreditation processes. The main focus should now be on the undergraduate (UG) family medicine FM curriculum to support and move the WONCA Singapore and Rio statements forward.

1:5 The workshop confirmed that globally, despite the strong report of the Lancet Commission *Health Professionals for a New Century*¹ (2010), there has been little movement to develop FM within the UG curriculum. The status of FM remains low, many universities lack Academic Departments of Primary Care and the exposure of medical students to FM practice remains rudimentary. A recent UK report confirmed that medical schools can and should influence this².

1:5 A strong call was heard for more sharing of resources and expertise at all levels of education: curriculum and faculty development; assessment and teaching the teachers. The group recognised that resources may already exist in other WONCA networks e.g. EURACT and should not be replicated. Close collaboration is essential.

2: 2016-2018 strategy: Priorities for the group are to:

2:1 Raise the status of FM in the undergraduate (UG) curriculum: Lobbying through WONCA to influence the UG curriculum to support the Singapore and Rio statements. We aim to (i) improve the status of the discipline (ii) attract the brightest and best into FM (iii) foster high Academic status for FM.

2:2 Programme accreditation: Continue to build on the published WONCA standards for PG and CPD education building a resource for WONCA to support programme accreditation. Work to promote PG training CPD for FM particularly for underserved areas.

2:3 Sharing resources: Develop processes for sharing education resources both within the Working Party and across the WONCA networks and for producing guideline documents applicable across the continuum of education.

3: First steps:

3.1: Create a strong interactive Google group for exchange of ideas and to develop a strong mutually supportive WONCA Education network.

3.2: Appoint a regionally representative WPE Executive Committee with whom to develop clear goals and outcome measures.

3.3: Develop monthly contributions to *WONCA News* and the Education website- supported by the Google group- to highlight new available resources, share ideas and develop initiatives.

4: Work with the WONCA Executive to support the ongoing development of WONCA accreditation delivery.

1: The Lancet Commission: Health Professionals for the 21st Century. [http://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736\(10\)61854-5/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736(10)61854-5/fulltext)

2: By Choice not by Chance. <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/By%20choice%20not%20by%20chance%20web%20FINAL.pdf>