**WONCA Working Party on Research update – October 2010**

The WONCA Working Party on Research is tasked with increasing family doctors' research capacity, with the goal of assuring that all family physician practices/ general practices contribute to developing new knowledge to inform our work.

The working party recently met at Cancun and selected Waris Qidwai, Professor and Chairman of Family Medicine at Aga Khan University, as its Convener. He follows Professor Walter Rosser, who has stepped down after making great contributions to the progress of the Working Party. Professor John Beasley, from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, was selected as Vice-Convener for the Working Party.

The Working Party is currently recruiting Members. They plan to have "active" members, who will contribute in a variety of ways, including holding meetings at WONCA regional conferences and writing reports details for the Newsletter. The group will also have "corresponding" members who are interested in knowing what the Working Party is doing and will be invited to meetings.

The International Federation of Primary Care Research Networks (IFPCRN) is the implantation body for the Working Group, and will conduct projects as identified and advised by the Working Party, as well as those arising from within their membership. Professor Christos Lionis from Greece is its chairman with Dr Donna Manca from Canada invited to serve as its vice-chair.

It was decided at the Cancun meeting, that the Working Party on Research will have a presence at WONCA Region meetings. The members attending region conferences will meet to discuss issues confronting them in the region with regards to primary care research and will hold capacity building workshops for Primary Care Physicians.

Dr Felicity Goodyear-Smith, from New Zealand, has proposed and offered to lead a project in which Primary Care Physicians will meet at the WONCA Regional meetings and present papers on the status of primary care in their countries. These will be compiled to generate a paper related to the region, which in turn, will be compiled into a publication to give a global perspective.

A number of projects are under consideration by the working party members. They include a project to explore the hypothesis that better training of Primary Care Physicians will result in cost reduction by reducing referrals to secondary and tertiary level care. They may also explore the role of primary care in promoting equity in health care and look for evidence that person-centred care results in better outcomes in health care.

The Academy of Family Physicians of Taiwan gave two bursary awards to young researchers, for the best research papers accepted for presentation at the WONCA World Conference at Cancun. The Academy has pledged to continue to provide bursary awards to young researchers in future.

With a new convener and vice-convener and the development of a core of active members, the Working Party on Research is looking forward to contributing effectively towards ensuring primary care research at each and every primary care practice around the world.