



Greetings from WONCA Polaris!

We recently held our annual executive meeting in Montreal, Canada on 09 November 2017 where we highlighted several activities and collaborations over the last year including

Conference Representation across the globe:

This included the American Academy of Family Physicians Family Medicine Experience, American Academy of Family Physicians Global Health Workshop, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Conference, American Medical Student Association Conference, and the American Academy of Family Physicians National Conference in the United States. The annual Family Medicine Forum conference in Canada as well as several other conferences around the world including those in Mexico, Kazakhstan, Thailand, and South Korea.



Social Media

Social Media engagement has continued to grow with Polaris now boasting over 2660 Facebook followers and over 1350 Twitter followers.

Six peer reviewed publications:

1. Pinho-Costa L, Yakubu K, Hoedebecke K, Laranjo L, Reichel C, Colon-Gonzalez M et al. Healthcare hashtag index development: Identifying global impact in social media. *Journal of Biomedical Informatics*. 2016;63:390-399.
2. Hoedebecke K, Beaman L, Mugambi J, Shah S, Mohasseb M, Vetter C et al. Health care and social media: What patients really understand. *F1000Research*. 2017;6:118.
3. Hoedebecke K, Scott-Jones J, Pinho-Costa L. New Zealand among global social media initiative leaders for primary care advocacy. *Journal of Primary Health Care*. 2016;8(2):94.
4. Yakubu K, Hoedebecke K, Pinho-Costa L, Popoola O, Okoye I. A qualitative study of young Nigerian family physicians' views of their specialty. *South African Family Practice*. 2017;59(3):98-102.
5. Onat T, Copurlar C, Geroglu B, Alanyali F, Hoedebecke K. An Interview with Young Family Doctors. *Turkish Journal of Family Medicine & Primary Care*. 2016;10(1):1.
6. Hoedebecke K, González L, Díaz N, Cárdenas L. Palabras convertidas en acción [Internet]. *Revmgi.sld.cu*. 2017 [cited 26 November 2017]. Available from: <http://www.revmgi.sld.cu/index.php/mgi/article/view/196>

Finally, elections were held and Dr. Cheyanne Vetter (Canada) and Dr. Amber Wheatley (British Virgin Islands) were selected as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

Respectfully,
Dr Kyle Hoedebecke - Chair, WONCA Polaris