This month’s focus is on the WONCA Prague conference with much more available online than in this newsletter.

A return to our more usual format next month.
The Editor

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Prof Michael Kidd, new WONCA President

Professor Michael Kidd, has taken over the presidency of WONCA in a ceremony in Prague today, Thursday 27 June. Recently he was interviewed by the Prague HOC for the Prague conference newsletter.

What is your professional background?
I am a family doctor from Australia. I am also a primary care researcher and medical educator and dean of the faculty of health sciences based at Flinders University in Australia. I am also a past president of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and have been a member of the WONCA world executive since 2004.

Why do you invest your energy in WONCA?
Once you understand what WONCA does, why would you not want to invest at least some of your energy in supporting WONCA? WONCA has been a force for good during its 40-year history, with member organisations representing family doctors in over 130 nations and territories, all working together to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world by supporting the development of family medicine throughout the world. We have shown that by working together we can make a real difference.

Where will you drive WONCA?
I see the role of the WONCA president is to be a strong vocal advocate for family medicine around the world, and reinforce the role of family medicine in providing primary care to all people in each of our countries, especially those who are marginalised and vulnerable. I will also be working with our CEO to expand awareness of WONCA and our work through social media.

What are your expectations?
There is a golden opportunity for family medicine and primary care as the nations of the world wake up to the need to strengthen their systems of primary health care to better meet the current and future health needs of their people. I expect to see continuing high levels of interest in family medicine in many nations of the world and expect that WONCA will continue to work with our member organisations and with the World Health Organization to support these developments.

What do you expect to gain from the WONCA presidency personally?
Medical leadership roles provide incredible opportunities for personal development – to expand your knowledge and understanding, to challenge your attitudes, to allow you to work alongside wonderful people who share a similar passion for making a difference and to support them as they achieve wonderful things, and to provide opportunities to the leaders of tomorrow to develop their skills and interests.

How do you feel in Prague?
I know Prague well and feel very comfortable here. By now everyone attending this conference will realise that Prague is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It is wonderful to stroll the streets during the day or night and enjoy the sights and all the activity. I first visited Prague when I attended the WONCA Europe conference here in 1997 and I now have some wonderful friends here and have been back several times since.
WONCA World Council of representative of member organizations from around the world, met in Prague, on Saturday 22, Sunday 23 and Monday 24 June. At the meeting, the new executive of WONCA for the 2013-2016 triennium was finalised. Professor Amanda Howe, of the United Kingdom will be the new President Elect to support Professor Michael Kidd, the new WONCA President.

Also elected at the Council meeting were three members–at-large. Each WONCA region also has a new President and these leaders were ratified as they had already been decided at regional meetings.

The new elected WONCA Executive will be:
Prof Michael Kidd (Australia) - President
Prof Amanda Howe (UK) - President-elect
Prof Richard Roberts (USA) - Immediate Past President
Dr Matie Obazee (Nigeria) - Africa Region President
Prof J K Lee (South Korea) - Asia Pacific Region President
Dr Mohammed Tarawneh (Jordan) - East Mediterranean Region President
Prof Job FM Metsemakers (Netherlands) - Europe Region President
Prof Maria Inez Padula (Brazil) - Iberoamerica Region President
Read profiles of new Executive members

The WONCA council took the exciting step of also agreeing to the additional of an executive member to represent the interests of new and young doctors. This member is yet to be appointed.

Follow Michael Kidd WONCA President

WONCA has a new president, namely Prof Michael Kidd. In Prague, he launched his new social media strategy which will include a blog presence on the WONCA website, and regular activity on Twitter (where he now has 115 followers) and Facebook (where he has 91 likes). Why not find him at one of these sites and let's see how many followers and likes he has by next month!

Twitter @WONCApresident
LinkedIn WONCA president
Facebook Michael Kidd - WONCA president

FEATURE STORIES

Dr Margaret Chan speaks to family doctors in Prague

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 20th WONCA world conference in Prague, Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization, said how happy she was to be in Prague speaking to thousands of family doctors.

She called family doctors “rising stars” and “the heroes of modern day health care” adding that “you offer our best hope of coping with health challenges”.

Dr Donald Li, member of WONCA executive, was mentioned as being instrumental in bringing Dr Chan to our conference in Prague.

Dr Chan outlined many of the factors affecting health of populations and health systems and noted that the rate and complexity of illnesses and disease have accelerated, with health being shaped everywhere by the same forces – urbanisation and migration and environment.

Her speech was interesting and comprehensive. She was positive about the contribution of family doctors and the need for us to be the lynch-pin in the continuum of care, noting that family doctors are the bedrock of the health system. They deal with 95% of health problems while absorbing 5% of health budgets.

Dr Chan also launched the new “WONCA guidebook” (The Contribution Of Family Medicine To Improving Health Systems: A Guidebook From The World Organization Of Family Doctors And The World Health Organization. 2nd Edition).

See separate news item.

In finishing, Dr Chan stated that primary care is our best hope for the future. Out of the ashes built up by highly specialise care, family medicine rises like a phoenix and takes life...

Read Dr Chan’s full speech on the WHO website.

Hernan Montenegro from WHO at WONCA Council

At the recent WONCA World Council meeting in Prague, Hernan Montenegro, MD, MPH, Health Systems Adviser at the World Health Organization, Geneva, addressed the WONCA World Council on *Working in the international context with WHO and others.*

Council members were so impressed by his presentation that many asked to be able to download it from the WONCA website – Hernan generously agreed. Download presentation here

Also at the Council meeting was a doctor from Almaty (formerly known as Alma Ata), Kazakhstan – Dr Adriana Youngova.

Dr Youngova told the Council that when the *Declaration of Alma-Ata* was made, she was only a medical student but now she was representing Kazakhstan in the WONCA council! Dr Youngova’s story was appreciated by the Council.

Dr Adriana Youngova speaks at the WONCA Council

WONCA Guidebook launched

The WONCA Guidebook *The Contribution of Family Medicine to Improving Health Systems: A guidebook from the World Organization of Family Doctors, Second Edition* was launched yesterday by Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization. Dr Chan was speaking at the opening ceremony of the WONCA World conference in Prague.

The much anticipated second edition of this guidebook reveals ways in which family medicine can help countries throughout the world maintain and improve health and well-being by developing a more productive, coordinated and cost-effective approach to health care.

*Photo of Dr Chan with the guidebook in Prague*

It describes:

• the rationale for structuring health systems to be more responsive to the needs of people;

• a vision of optimal health services delivery based on primary health care;

• challenges to achieving this vision;

• family medicine’s response to these challenges;

• strategies for developing and strengthening family practice within countries.

The approaches described are consistent with each country’s specific health care needs, resources, and cultural expectations.

It provides practical, inspirational reading for healthcare managers, policy makers and shapers, and public health academics and professionals who will benefit greatly from implementing the flexible, local level options presented.

Download Executive Summary

Download Chapter 1: Meeting People’s Health Needs

Details

*The Contribution of Family Medicine to Improving Health Systems: A guidebook from the World Organization of Family Doctors, Second Edition*

ISBN: 9781846195549

Published: June 2013

Editor: Michael Kidd

Contributors

Jan De Maeseneer • Cynthia Haq • Jeff Markuns • Hernan Montenegro • Waris Qidwai • Igor Svab • Wim Van Lerberghe • Tiago Villanueva • Guo Aimin • Samia Almusallam • Liliana Arias-Castillo • Bruce Arroll •
Michael Kidd signs a guidebook for Dr Al Suwaidi from the UAE.

Available for purchase from Radcliffe Health

Revisit WONCA Prague

Happy memories of last week’s WONCA world conference in Prague are captured on an eight minute video and in photos on the Facebook and FLICKR pages of the Prague conference.

Links to video and photos on
Conference newsletters

**Issue 1** (distributed Tuesday 25 June)
**Issue 2** (distributed Friday 28 June)
**Issue 3** (distributed Friday July 5)

Conference Presentations

Dr Karen Kinder - Starfield memorial lecture
Prof Michael Kidd – keynote
Prof Amanda Howe - keynote

MEMBER ORGANIZATION NEWS

New semFYC board

![New semFYC board](image)

We inform you that Dr Josep Basora (centre in photograph of new board) has been re-elected as President of the Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine, semFYC. (We are sending attached the electoral program of the candidacy, in [English](#) and [español](#)).

The new Board of the society shall consist of:

- **President**: Josep Basora
- **Vice President**: Domingo Orozco
- **Vice President**: Salvador Tranche
- **Vice President**: María Fernández
- **Secretary**: Francisco Javier Castro
- **Vice Secretary**: Carmen Fernández
- **Treasurer**: Pascual Solanas

The government term of this new Board will run until 2016.

Regards,

The Secretary of semFYC

Highlights of the EGPRN meeting in Kusadasi Turkey.

![Highlights of the EGPRN meeting in Kusadasi Turkey.](image)

The 76th European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN) meeting took place in Kusadasi, Turkey from the 16 to 19 of May 2013.

This time the EGPRN meeting has run in parallel with the 12th National Congress of Family Medicine organised by the Turkish Association of Family Physicians (TAHUD).

Founded in 1990, the local host TAHUD is the professional organization representing Family Physicians (specialists and residents) on a national and international level. Working in
collaboration with the Turkish Board of Family Medicine (TAHYK) and the Turkish Medical Association (TTB), TAHUD is the main body in matters regarding primary health care and family medicine for the public, health care professionals, as well as, policy makers.

The success of the meeting was mainly due to the efforts and commitments of the organisers: Pinar Topsever, member of EGPRN Advisory Board; Mehmet Ungan, National Representative of Turkey and EGPRN Acting Chair; Pemra Ünalan, member of Host Organizing Committee; and Okay Basak, President of TAHUD.

The location of the meeting was Kusadasi (translated into English as “Bird Island”), a peninsula with a charming holiday resort, situated on the beautiful Aegean coastline of Western Turkey, close to historic sites like Ephesus, Pamukkale and Didyma.

The theme of the meeting *Risky behaviours and healthy outcomes in primary health care* addressed all kinds of risky behaviour. Risky behaviour of populations, individuals in the community, as well as, that of health professionals, can compromise health outcomes which usually first manifest in general practice.

Thus, the theme of this EGPRN meeting was constructed around counter-parting all kinds of risky behaviours threatening the health of individuals, as well as, population health with healthy outcomes, which can be achieved with patient centred, community-oriented, comprehensive primary health care delivered by competent health care professionals.

Keynotes and pre-conference workshops addressed the theme of *Risky behaviours and healthy outcomes in primary health care* with state-of-the-art evidence, highlighting the importance of family medicine for efficiency in health promotion and preventive care.

**Workshops and Speakers**

The workshop *Approach to substance misuse-abuse in primary health care; screening and brief interventions* was chaired by Martin von Fragstein (University Nottingham, UK) and Tijen Sengezer (Ankara Numune Training and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey).

The workshop *Sampling and techniques in qualitative research: what you always wanted to know* was chaired by Lieve Peremans and Étienn Vermeire (University of Antwerp, Belgium) and Pemra C Ünalan (Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey).

The workshop *How can behaviour change be measured and understood? Materials and methods* was chaired by Dilek Gündal (Dokuz Eylül University, Izmir, Turkey) and Serap Çifçi (Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey).

The workshop *Developing and validating translations of questionnaires: theory and practice* was chaired by Berend Terluin (VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and Erhan Eser (Celal Bayar University, Manisa, Turkey).

The first keynote speaker on Friday was A/Prof Esra Saaçılı, Department of Family Medicine, Cukurova University, Adana-Turkey who talked about *Risky Behaviours in High School Students*.

The second keynote speaker was Dr Martin von Fragstein, School of Community Health Sciences, Department of Primary Care, Nottingham, UK and the theme of his lecture was *Risky Behaviour in general practice: The clinical approach to substance abuse-misuse and addiction in primary care with a pan-European perspective*.

The third keynote speaker of the conference was Dr Toker Ergüder, WHO National Professional Officer, Turkey. who talked about *A successfully implemented health promotion and prevention campaign against tobacco use, the Turkish experience*.

One of the distinguished guests of this conference was the President of WONCA, Prof Richard Roberts of the USA.

**EGPRN: Election of the new Chair and new Executive Board.**

As well as the conference, there were elections for the new EGPRN Chair and Executive Board members, who are:

Jean Karl Soler (Malta): Chair

Mehmet Ungan (Turkey): Vice Chair and WONCA Europe Liaison person

Devonian Peek (Slovenia): Honorary Secretary

Kristin Hendricks (Belgium): Honorary Treasurer

Caroline Hues (France): Executive Board member
Ferdinando Petrazzuoli (Italy): Chair of the Educational Committee
Esperanza Diaz (Norway): Chair of research
Tiny van Meroe (The Netherlands): Chair of Public Relations and Communications Committee

EGPRN and EURIPA joint meeting Attar, Malta, 17-20 October 2013
EGPRN and EURIPA are proud to announce their first joint meeting which will take place in Attar, Malta, from 17-20 October, 2013.
The theme of the conference will be Research into different contexts in General Practice/Family Medicine: rural versus urban perspectives. The project follows discussions held at the WONCA meetings in Warsaw and Vienna, where members of both Executive Boards agreed to have one of the first such inter-network meetings within WONCA Europe. This joint meeting on research in family medicine with the special topic of “context” and how it affects health care in family medicine is a unique opportunity for collaboration between two network organisations within WONCA Europe. This will be indeed a network meeting of networks!
The conference, will take place on the small Mediterranean island of Malta, which has been at the crossroads of trade and inter-cultural exchange, for more than 6000 years. The conference fee is very affordable, and with contained costs, coming to Malta with its strong international connections should be painless and easy.
The scientific programme is expected to be very exciting, with input for the first time from two organisations, offering a unique blend of research and expertise. Key note speakers with links to both organisations shall give the meeting an appetising opening, and the meeting is expected to be well attended, with participants from both networks. Even the business meetings and social events of the two groups will be parallel and joint as appropriate. A new approach to working together.
Jean Karl Soler (Malta) EGPRN Chair
Mehmet Ungan (Turkey): EGPRN Vice Chair and WONCA Europe Liaison person
Ferdinando Petrazzuoli (Italy): EGPRN Executive Board & Chair of the Educational Committee

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO celebrates Family Doctor Day

An article was printed in the Trinidad Express Newspaper, the most widely read of three (3) daily newspapers published in Trinidad & Tobago. http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/World-Family-Doctor-Day-observed-in-TT-207956871.html

World Family Doctor Day observed in T&T
Story Created: May 17, 2013 at 8:55 PM ECT
Story Updated: May 17, 2013 at 11:22 PM ECT
Today, May 19, World Family Doctor Day is being observed internationally.
It is also being observed here in Trinidad and Tobago by the Caribbean College of Family Physicians (CCFP).
A message has been issued to mark the occasion by the WONCA Administration this year.
WONCA is the World Organisation of National Colleges and Academies of Family Medicine, also known World Organisation of Family Doctors. It has its headquarters in Thailand and includes members from virtually every nation in the world.
CCFP is a member of WONCA representing general practitioners (family doctors) and primary care doctors from the non-Spanish-speaking Caribbean.
The message from WONCA states: “The first World Family Doctor Day was celebrated on May 19, 2010. It has been taken up with enthusiasm around the world and has given us a chance to celebrate what we do to provide recognition to family doctors, to highlight important issues and the work we perform in supporting health care for all people in our local communities, our nations and around the world.
“We have much to celebrate, as governments around the world have really begun to realise the value of our specialty.
“In some countries there is work to do, and celebrating World Family Doctor Day will open up many opportunities to highlight the important contributions of family doctors.
“This day creates an atmosphere of global solidarity among family doctors and it will be a
positive and visible contribution of WONCA’s leadership and contribution to family medicine.”

Members of the Caribbean College of Family Physicians also issued a special Press Statement, using material sent by WONCA to mark the occasion through One Caribbean Media, as follows:

*World Family Doctor Day* was proclaimed in Cancun, Mexico in 2010 by WONCA, the World Organization of National Colleges and Academies of Family Medicine (short name “The World Organization of Family Doctors”).

The first *World Family Doctor Day* was celebrated on 19 May 2010 and it has been taken up with enthusiasm around the world. It has given WONCA a chance to celebrate what it does to provide recognition to family doctors, to highlight important issues and the work it performs in supporting health care for all people in their local communities, nations and around the world.

There is much to celebrate as governments have really begun to realize the value of the specialty of Family Medicine but there is work to do, and celebrating *World Family Doctor Day* can open up many opportunities to highlight the important contributions of family and primary care doctors in preserving health and delivering quality care in communities. This day creates as well an atmosphere of global solidarity among family doctors who belong to the 126 member Colleges in 102 countries worldwide.

WONCA is represented in the territories that belong to the non-Spanish-speaking Caribbean by the Caribbean College of Family Physicians (CCFP) with its headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica. Members of CCFP take this opportunity to thank the patients and their families who have over the years entrusted their lives and their health to them. Members also pledge to continue to be true to the tenets of continuing education and professional development for life, to the standards set by the College for ethical and non-judgemental care and to the CCFP Motto “Cooperating For Excellence”, working with other members of the primary healthcare team to deliver quality and contextual medical care to the peoples of the Caribbean.

**FEATURED WONCA LEADERS**

**Prof Jungkwon Lee**

**South Korea – WONCA Asia Pacific Region president 2013-16**

Jungkwon Lee MD, PhD, studied medicine (1974-1980) and obtained his PhD in clinical epidemiology in 1992 at the Seoul National University College of Medicine. He completed a three-year family medicine residency and a two-year clinical fellow at the Seoul National University Hospital. He began his career as an academic physician as a clinical instructor at Hanyang University College of Medicine in 1988.

Currently he is a professor of Family Medicine at Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine. He is also a director of Supportive Care Center at Samsung Medical Center. Dr. Lee has shown his leadership in numerous academic societies, serving as the Editor of the Journal of the Korean Academy of Family Medicine (1992-1994), the Director of Residency Training (2000-2003), the President of the Korean Academy of Family Medicine (2003-2005), and the Vice President of the Korean Society for Hospice and Palliative Care (2009-present). He is also a committee member in several organizations, including Korean Medical Association, Korean Association of Medical Science, Korean Society of Epidemiology, and Korean Cancer Society.

Professor Lee was a member at large of Asia Pacific Council for the last 6 years. He was an overall chair of HOC of 19th WONCA Asia Pacific Conference Jeju 2012.

His research fields and interests are in the areas of clinical epidemiology of chronic disease, palliative medicine and hospice care, application of qualitative method to clinical medicine, clinical teaching to residents and medical students, doctor-patient relationship and medical ethics. He has written a number of newspaper columns on health and medicine, and is also the invited senior commentator on medical affairs of KBS(Korea Broadcasting Company). He currently resides in Bundang, a city located south of Seoul, with his wife and two adult children.
Dr Luisa PETTIGREW
UK - WONCA Leader

Dr Luisa Pettigrew works as a family doctor/general practitioner in London. She studied medicine at Edinburgh University, Scotland (1997-2002). Whilst a medical student she became involved in the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA), and following her first year of residency training she undertook a Diploma in International Health at the National Institute of Health Carlos III in Madrid. Thereafter Luisa undertook her training to become a general practitioner in London, being awarded a Distinction in the final Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners (MRCGP) examination. In addition during her training she undertook further qualifications in Family Planning & Sexual Health, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Child health.

Luisa first became involved in WONCA in 2008. She was captivated by the power of WONCA to act as a forum for family doctors from diverse backgrounds to meet, exchange ideas and collaborate in order to further primary care both nationally and internationally. In particular she was inspired by the Vasco da Gama Movement, WONCA Europe’s network for trainee and new family doctors, to which she was elected as an Executive Group member. During her tenure she coordinated the ‘Hippokrates’ international exchange programme, helping secure its first significant European Union funding grant and she helped extended collaborative links to young family medicine doctor organisations in other WONCA regions. In parallel in the UK she helped establish the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Junior International Committee to enable the future generation of General Practitioners in the UK to also engage in international activities that would further their education and training. Luisa has also contributed to activities of the RCGP International Committee and Academy of Medical Royal Colleges’ International Forum.

With a growing interest in Global Health and Primary Care Luisa undertook a Master in

Health Policy, Planning, and Financing (2010-2011) jointly awarded with Merit from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Her dissertation took her to Sri Lanka where she looked at the role of overseas medical examination accreditation programmes. Luisa has special interest in the role of incorporating Global Health streams into the curricula of health professionals and has published on the subject in various journals including the Lancet and British Journal of General Practice. She has also written chapters in a number of books for family medicine trainees, as well as contributed the 2013 revision of WONCA’s Guidebook on the Contribution of Family Medicine to Improving Health Systems.

Throughout her career to date Luisa has taken time to undertaken voluntary work for various NGOs and health organisations in Argentina, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Mozambique. In addition she has undertaken work for the World Health Organization and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Luisa is aware that many health systems face financial challenges and that there are growing inequities worldwide, which are compounded by a mushrooming non-communicable disease epidemic and a global shortage of 4 million health workers. She believes that continuous, comprehensive, coordinated and person-centred primary care with a family doctor at the core of its team offers a solution, and that WONCA has the potential to help catalyse this through collaboration with patients, other primary care professionals, NGOs, policymakers, and international bodies such as the World Health Organization. Luisa hopes to help facilitate work towards this during her tenure as a Member at Large.

Luisa became a mother for the first time in May 2013. She is fluent in Spanish a result of a Spanish mother, Spanish speaking Scottish father, and Argentine partner.
WONCA CONFERENCES 2014

|-------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|

WONCA Direct Members enjoy lower conference registration fees. See WONCA Website www.globalfamilydoctor.com for updates & membership information.

MEMBER ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

**18th Nordic Congress of General Practice**
Host: Finnish Association for GP
Theme: Promoting partnership with our patients - a challenge & a chance ..
Date: August 21-24, 2013
Venue: Tampere, Finland
Web: [http://nordicgp2013.fi](http://nordicgp2013.fi)

**European forum for primary care**
Date: September 9-10, 2013
Venue: Istanbul, Turkey
Host: European forum for Primary care
Email: dr_raman@hotmail.com

**AAFP annual scientific assembly**
Host: American Academy of Family Physicians
Date: September 24–28, 2013
Venue: San Diego, USA
Web: [www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)

**RCGP annual primary care conference**
Host: Royal College of General Practitioners
Theme: Progressive Primary Care
Date: October 3–5, 2013
Venue: Harrogate, United Kingdom
Web: [www.rcgp.org.uk](http://www.rcgp.org.uk)

**RACGP GP ‘13 conference**
Host: The Royal Australian College of GPs
Date: October 17-19, 2012
Venue: Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia

**2013 Family Medicine Global Health**
Host: American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
Date: October 10-12, 2013
Venue: Baltimore, Maryland, USA
Web: [www.aafp.org/intl/workshop](http://www.aafp.org/intl/workshop)
Email: Rebecca Janssen or Alex Ivanov

**Family Medicine Forum 2012**
Host: The College of Family Physicians of Canada.
Date: November 7-9, 2012
Venue: Vancouver, Canada
Web: [http://fmf.cfpc.ca](http://fmf.cfpc.ca)

**The Network: Towards Unity for Health annual conference**
Host: TUFH
Theme: Rural and Community Based Health Care
Date: November 16-20, 2013
Venue: Ayutthaya, Thailand
Web: [http://www.thenetworktufh.org/conferences/upcoming](http://www.thenetworktufh.org/conferences/upcoming)