FAMILY MEDICINE AND WONCA – THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Michael Kidd
President
World Organisation of Family Doctors (WONCA)
Vaclav Havel

“The salvation of this human world lies nowhere else than in the human heart, in the human power to reflect, in human meekness and human responsibility.”
“The future of our professional discipline will depend on our ability to work together in the service of humanity.”

Monty Kent Hughes
1st president of WONCA
1972
“with scientific knowledge and tender loving care”
Ian McWhinney (1926-2012)

“The family doctor is committed to the person rather than to a particular body of knowledge, group of diseases, or special technique.”
Barbara’s last message for WONCA

• “Here are the three challenges I think you should focus on:
  • “How do we develop primary care research to address the challenges of care for people with comorbidities?
  • “How do we truly adopt patient-centredness into family medicine?
  • “How do we use the information from primary care to improve population health?”
“In the 19th century we needed clear clean water.
"In the 21st century, we need clear clean information.”
“Family medicine provides comfort to our patients, our communities and our nations”
WHO World Health Report

In 2008 the World Health Report was devoted to the reinvigoration of primary health care
Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Global partnership for development
The power of family medicine to transform the world

- 7 billion people
- 1 billion with no access to any health care services
“You judge the character of a society, not by how they treat their rich and the powerful and the privileged, but by how they treat the poor, the condemned, the incarcerated.”
The Contribution of Family Medicine to Improving Health Systems

A guidebook from the World Organization of Family Doctors

Edited by Michael Kidd

Foreword by Dr Margaret Chan, Director General, WHO
“Experience in different health systems will make us better doctors and better human beings”
What do people want from their doctor?

- A doctor who will listen
- A doctor who is flexible
- A doctor who will help sort out problems
- A doctor who will be there when I need her
...what next?
What motivates family doctors to work with marginalised communities?

- Initial engagement
  - Interest and inspiration
  - Community calling
  - Being in the right place at the right time

- Continuing engagement
  - The challenges
  - Feeling empowered to make a difference
  - Contribution to own professional identity

“In an asynchronous world, how do we achieve continuity of care?”
Iona Heath

“I believe that general practice/family medicine is a force for good throughout the world.”
Our social responsibilities as family doctors

• To be an advocate for social justice and human rights
• To stand up for freedom and justice and peace
• To speak out for what is right
• To contribute towards ensuring equity of access to health care – “a fair go for everyone”
• To care for the health of our planet as well as the health of our patients
FAIR GO

Pursue and protect the common good where all people are treated fairly for a just society.
“Doctors are the natural attorneys of the poor, and social problems fall to a large extent within their jurisdiction.”