

# WONCA Working on Research Party Cross-Country Primary Health Care Comparison Panels

Felicity Goodyear-Smith, revised July 2019

## Introduction

This project is designed to address a knowledge gap in terms of how primary care is organised around the world, and to create dialogue between colleagues and colleges about how the fundamental values of primary care can be addressed and preserved within the constraints of different healthcare systems, sometimes operating within the same country. It is a low-cost project undertaken in different WONCA regions by capitalising on the existing opportunity that WONCA regional meetings represent for dialogue and scientific communication by leading primary care clinicians and researcher.

The project is supported and endorsed by WONCA and by the International Committee of the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG).

There are seven WONCA world regions: Europe, Asia/Pacific, Africa, North America, Iberoamericana, South Asia and Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) and most hold an annual regional meeting. This has enabled us to rapidly build up a repository from many nations. Designated members of the Working Party (WP) take responsibility for organising the panels for their region. In North America, instead of a WONCA Regional meeting, workshops are held at the annual North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) conference as the International Forum, and issues relating to comparing PHC systems are further explored.

## Project co-ordination

Overall co-ordination is undertaken by Chris van Weel ([Chris.vanWeel@radboudumc.nl](mailto:Chris.vanWeel@radboudumc.nl)) and Felicity Goodyear-Smith ([f.goodyear-smith@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:f.goodyear-smith@auckland.ac.nz)), who assist with the provision of templates, provide overall guidance and support to the WP Regional Coordinators, assist with publications, and co-ordinate the report back to the WP on Research annually.

## WP Regional Coordinators for the project

Region	Coordinator	Country	Email
Europe	Mehmed Akman	Turkey	<a href="mailto:makman4@gmail.com">makman4@gmail.com</a> ;
Asia/Pacific	Ryuki Kassai	Japan	<a href="mailto:ryukikas@fmu.ac.jp">ryukikas@fmu.ac.jp</a>
Iberoamerican a-CIMF	Lidia Caballero	Argentina	<a href="mailto:lidia.gladis@gmail.com">lidia.gladis@gmail.com</a>
South Asia	Raman Kumar	India	<a href="mailto:dr_raman@hotmail.com">dr_raman@hotmail.com</a>
Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO)	Taghreed Farahat	Egypt	<a href="mailto:taghreedmfarahat@yahoo.co.uk">taghreedmfarahat@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Africa	Bob Mash	South Africa	<a href="mailto:rm@sun.ac.za">rm@sun.ac.za</a>

## Format

At each regional meeting, a panel discussion takes place at a workshop where representatives from up to six countries discuss the facilitators and barriers that the organisation of the healthcare system in their nation impacts on providing effective primary care.

The suggested format is a 90-minute panel with a 10-minute presentation from each country and a 30-minutes facilitated discussion. From 2019 the panels are focusing on ways to

strengthen primary care.

### **Role of WP regional coordinators**

1. Submit an abstract for the workshop under the Working Party on Research banner.
2. Identify people from different countries who will already be attending the conference and whom they think will be knowledgeable about their PHC system, and invite them to participate. Ideally want 5 panellists but may need to ask more as some may drop out.
3. Provide panellists with the blank slide set, the exemplar slide set, and the instructions, and ask them to return their slides in plenty of time before the conference.
4. Ensure that the panellists follow the template exactly and especially do not have additional slides. Ask them to practice to ensure they do not take more than 10 minutes to present.
5. Chair the workshop and make sure that each panellist presents for no more than 10 minutes at the workshop
6. Invite discussion from workshop participants either in small groups or together (depending on numbers)
7. Make sure there is a note-taker. Other members of the Working Party who are attending may assist.
8. There may subsequently be enough valuable knowledge for a published paper. Identify key themes raised by the presentations and discussion. All panellists can be co-authors but may only each contribute a short paragraph (for example exemplifying the theme). Chris van Weel and Felicity Goodyear-Smith can help with the publications.

### **Subsequent publications**

These panels provide a useful resource, allowing us to compare PHC systems throughout the world and to further our understanding when one of our colleagues from another nation talks about PHC, family medicine or general practice. They can help build up a picture of what works well and what does not. There is frequently valuable information provided at the panels from presentations and discussion that leads to a peer-reviewed publication with panel presenters being co-authors.

The panels have resulted in the following publications:

1. Miedema B, Goodyear-Smith F, Gunn J, et al. Primary care: a comparison across five nations. *Can Med Assoc J Blog* 2015;2 Mar(Parts 1-6).
2. Phillips RL, Jr. International learning on increasing the value and effectiveness of primary care (I LIVE PC). *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine* 2012;25 Suppl 1:S2-5.
3. van Weel C, Turnbull D, Whitehead E, et al. International collaboration in innovating health systems. *Ann Fam Med* 2015;13(1):86-7.
4. Goodyear-Smith F, Kassai R. International primary care snapshots: New Zealand and Japan. *British Journal of General Practice*. 65(632):142-3, 2015 Mar.
5. van Weel C, Kassai R, Tsoi GW, et al. Evolving health policy for primary care in the Asia Pacific region. *British Journal of General Practice* 2016;66(647):e451-3.
6. van Weel C, Turnbull D, Ramirez J, et al. Supporting Health Reform in Mexico: Experiences and Suggestions from an International Primary Health Care Conference. *Ann Fam Med* 2016;14(3):279-80.
7. Van Weel C, Kassai R, Tsoi G, Hwang S, Cho K, Wong S, Phui-Nah C, Jiang S, Li M, Goodyear-Smith F. Evolving health policy for primary care in the Asia Pacific region. *British Journal of General Practice*, 2016 Jun e451-453.
8. Van Weel C Van Turnbull D, Bazemore A, Garcia-Penãs C, Roland M. Glazier Rh, Phillips B, Goodyear-Smith F Implementing primary health care policy under changing global political conditions: lessons learned from four national settings. *Annals of Family Medicine* 2018;16:179-180. DOI <https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.2214>.

9. Ramirez-Aranda J, Van Weel C, Goodyear-Smith F. Strategies for Increasing the role of family medicine in Mexican health care reform. *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*, 2017. 30:843-847. doi: 10.3122/jabfm.2017.06.170024.
10. Van Weel C, Alnasir F, Farahat T, Usta J, Osman M, Malik M, Nashat N, Alsharief W, Sanousi S, Salah H, Tarawneh M, Goodyear-Smith F, Howe A, Kassai R. Primary Health Care Policy Implementation in the East Mediterranean region – experiences of six countries. *European Journal of General Practice*. 2018. 24(1):39-44. 10.1080/13814788.2017.1397624

Furthermore, many of these papers with associated commentary have been published in a book: *International Comparisons of Primary Health Care Policy: experiences and methodology. In Primary care around the world: recommendations for international policy & development.* Edited by Chris van Weel & Amanda Howe, CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group, Oxford, UK, 2018.

### Summary of panels and workshops

Meeting	Number countries in panel
1. <b>NAPCRG Oct 2010</b> US, Canada, UK, Australia, Netherlands, NZ	5
2. <b>WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference Feb 2011</b> Cebu, Philippines. New Zealand, Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea.	4
3. <b>International Learning on Increasing the Value and Effectiveness of Primary Care (I LIVE PC) Apr 2011</b> Washington DC, USA. Australia, Canada, Denmark, The Netherlands, NZ, UK, US	7
4. <b>WONCA South Asia Regional Family Medicine Conference Aug 2014</b> Chenna. Led by Dr Raman Kumar. Sri Lanka, South Africa, India, Nepal, Bangladesh	5
5. <b>WONCA Europe Conference, Lisbon Jul 2014</b> Collaboration with WONCA Europe and its research network EGPRN. Led by Prof. Mehmet Urgan and Prof. Christos Lionis. Spain, United Kingdom, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Netherlands, Turkey, Denmark.	6
6. <b>NAPCRG International Forum Oct 2014</b> International Implementation Research Network in Primary Care Workshop Mexico, Hong Kong <sup>3</sup> van Weel C, Turnbull D, Whitehead E, Goodyear-Smith F, Lam C et al	2
7. <b>WONCA Iberoamericana-CIMF Mar 2015</b> Montevideo, Uruguay Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Cuba, Peru	5
8. <b>WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2015</b> Taipei, Taiwan and convened by Chris van Weel and Gene Tsoi Hong Kong, Japan, China (Shanghai region), Republic of South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan.	6
9. <b>WONCA Africa Regional Conference 2015</b> Accra, Ghana in May. Convened by Dr Ayke Essuman & Dr Henry Lawson South Africa, Uganda, Sudan, Mali, Botswana	5
10. <b>WONCA Europe Regional Conference 2015</b> Istanbul, Turkey in October. Convened by Prof Mehmet Urgan Bulgaria, France, Norway, Italy, Sweden, Ireland, Hungary.	7
11. <b>NAPCRG International Forum Oct 2015</b> Cancun, Mexico. Supporting health reform in Mexico Development of the Cancun Manifesto. Ramirez-Aranda J, Van Weel C, Goodyear-Smith F.	

12. <b>WONCA South Asia Regional Conference Feb 2016</b>	5
Led by Prof Chris van Weel in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan	
13. <b>WONCA Europe Regional Conference 2016</b>	4
Prague, Czech Republic in June. led by Prof Mehmet Ungan Ukraine, Romania, Macedonia and Finland	
14. <b>WONCA Eastern Mediterranean Conference 2017</b>	6
Led by Prof Chris van Weel at WONCA Regional Conference, Abu Dhabi. Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Qatar, Sudan, United Arab Emirates	
15. <b>WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2016</b>	6
Led by Ryuki Kassai at WONCA Regional conference at Pattai, Thailand in November. Australia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam.	
16. <b>NAPCRG International Forum 2017</b>	
Led by Prof Chris van Weel in Montreal in November Advancing primary health care despite unfavourable political conditions: how to continue to reach the ears and hearts of policy makers, and how to measure its impact?	
17. <b>WONCA Iberoamericana-CIMF 2017</b>	5
Led by Lidia Caballero and Jacqueline Ponzo in Lima, Peru, August. México, Rep. Dominicana, Argentina, Paraguay, Ecuador, Panamá	
18. <b>NAPCRG International Forum 2018</b>	
NAPCRG 45 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Chicago, US. Oct Is the work in progress on developing PHC measures capturing the values of PHC? Van Weel C, Etz R, Goodyear-Smith F, Kidd M, Olde Hartman T, Phillips B, Roland M, van Boven K.	
19. <b>WONCA World Conference 2018</b>	
Seoul, November. Profiling Profiles of Primary Health Care Policy Implementation around the World – from current experiences towards the next phase. Van Weel C, Goodyear-Smith F, Kassai R, Bazemore A, Phillips B.	
20. <b>WONCA Iberoamericana Regional Conference</b>	5
Tijuana, May 2019. Led by Caballero L, Franco, J, van Weel C Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela	
21. <b>WONCA Europe Regional conference, 2019</b>	
Bratislava, Jun 2019. Filling the evidence gap on outcomes from primary care development. Howe A, Goodyear-Smith F, Akman M.	