



## **Vasco da Gama Movement Update, April 2018**

The Vasco da Gama Movement (VdGM) has had a successful start to 2018. At the end of January, the VdGM community gathered in Porto, Portugal for the 5<sup>th</sup> Vasco da Gama Forum. Over 300 participants from all seven WONCA Regions had the opportunity to network, learn and engage through 20 workshops, seven special sessions, over 57 scientific research presentations and much more. The event was enriched by the presence of esteemed guests including the WONCA World President, Prof Amanda Howe, and WONCA Europe President, Dr Anna Stavdal, who graciously shared their valuable experiences and insights through key notes and participation in workshops.

The VdGM executive group and council had a face to face meeting prior to the event where several key developments were made with the progression of our constitutional reform and infrastructure. A lot of productive discussions and debates occurred in preparation for the upcoming events: Krakow Pre-Conference from 23-24 May 2018, and the 6<sup>th</sup> VdGM Forum in 2019 in Torino, Italy.

The newer members of the VdGM Executive Group have finished their handover process and are now in full effect in their roles. They are hard at work with both the maintenance of the organisation's existing activities and the review and development of new initiatives. In Krakow, during the Pre-Conference, the team will be joined by a new president – elect and policy officer as we hold elections to fill these roles for the next term of office.

The VdGM Community is very excited about the upcoming Pre-Conference on the 23- 24 May in Krakow, Poland. This year the theme "GP - more than a specialist" will dominate the program. The Polish organising committee has been working immensely hard to offer participants and guests high quality content and activities, including clinical skills workshops and spotlight workshops from WONCA Europe Networks and VdGM Special Interest Groups. We are also thrilled that due to a donation from the Pre-Conference organisers we will be offering 10 additional bursaries to attend the Preconference and main WONCA Europe Conference, on top of our traditional two VdGM funded bursaries. We hope this will bring opportunities for both new colleagues to join us and to support existing Vasco da Gamians who are passionate about our movement. For those still considering coming, we whole heartedly encourage you to join us for the Pre-Conference as past experience has shown us it will offer valuable experiences, community bonding and lasting memories.

Following the Preconference, we look forward to a strong young doctors presence at the main WONCA Europe Conference. Here we will announce our Junior Researcher and Exchange Awards winners, build our community in the innovative "Young Doctors Marketplace", host workshops on our 2018/19 policy themes of "Education and Training" and "Primary Care Workforce", collaborate with the WONCA Europe Networks and much, much more!

Hope to see you soon in Krakow!

Dr Claire Marie Thomas, Dr Kristina Ziuteliene