

## Vasco da Gama Movement (VdGM) - Europe



Wonca  
Young Doctors'  
Movements



Welcome to the latest update from VdGM. This update focuses on the recent WONCA Europe Conference in Krakow, Poland.

### Preconference

Our Pre-Conference opened with a light-hearted yet deep and personal keynote speech. For some though, the Pre-Conference started with an early run around Krakow!

The Pre-Conference included a number of very informative workshops including practical sessions such as sutures and delivery skills, as well as skills in assertiveness and communication, as well as communication with patients suffering from psychiatric conditions.

We also ran spotlight workshops for which we invited all the WONCA Europe Networks, our Special Interest Groups, as well as IFMSA to run interactive workshops highlighting their work and opportunities for our members. This was very useful to improve collaborations, understanding and to create better links in the WONCA family!

### Council

For the council members and executive, a large chunk of the Pre-Conference was taken up with the council meeting. This included presentation of the executive report and finances, and voting on constitutional amendments. We elected our new President-Elect as well as our new Policy Officer, hearing from all the candidates, giving the council the unenviable decision to choose between them!

We also had very fruitful working groups to discuss other topics such as council engagement and representation, image & branding, ethical fundraising and improving exchanges. We have seen through the constitutional amendments and these working groups much more engagement from council, as well as a clear desire from our membership to be more involved in the running of the organisation. This was evident by the number of observers present during council, and their engagement during discussions and working groups.

We are thrilled to announce the election of [Katarzyna Nessler](#) (pictured) as our President-elect, who will be supporting Claire Marie Thomas, our current president, for the next year, after which she will take over as president, with Claire supporting her as immediate past-president. We also elected Julien Artigny as our new Policy Officer, taking over Veronika Rasic. Veronika who has been both Policy Officer, as well as Beyond Europe Liaison, has reached the end of a very busy and productive term, and we thank her for her hard work and dedication in that time.



After council and the workshops finished, we had a much appreciated salsa class from two of our own members, who also ran a workshop during the Conference teaching Merengue.

### The main WONCA Europe Conference

For VdGM the Conference was a fantastic experience to talk with our senior colleagues, recruit new junior colleagues to our family and showcase what we have been up to over the past year. We had several workshops in the agenda, including but not limited to:

- our AGM, which since last year has taken the very effective open space technology format of a Young Doctors' Marketplace;

- our exchange workshop which brought together many who have participated in exchanges, strengthening the exchanges community, introducing and encouraging more members to participate in exchanges, as well as having presentations by our Exchange Award winners;
- our Research workshop during which we heard the presentations of the Junior Research Award (JRA) Finalists, leading to the selection of our JRA winner.
- our policy priority topic workshop 'The Primary Care Workforce of Tomorrow' which was about the challenges face in developing and maintaining the primary care workforce - who makes up the workforce, the GP's role in this, making the specialty more attractive and improving recruitment and retention. And several collaborative workshops with the WONCA Networks on topics of Education, Training and Research.

This year we were thrilled to expand the number of VdGM Fund bursaries available to 12, with the support of The College of Family Physicians in Poland, who aided us in proving an additional 10 bursaries on top of our usual two. This enabled us to bring in more young GPs from lower income countries and we saw a fantastic mix of young GPs applying for the bursary, with the winners attending and participating effectively. We look forward to reading about their experiences in Krakow soon in their bursary reports!

Finally we are thrilled to share with you our Annual Report, the product of hard work from our Executive, Council and National tong doctors organisations which highlights the continued thoughtful and strategic development of our network. We hope you enjoy the read and look forward to hearing from you on our social media channels soon!

Tweet: @vdgmeu

Instagram: @vdgmeurope

Facebook: @vdgmwonca

Report available on our website here:

<http://vdgm.woncaeurope.org/content/2017-2018-vasco-da-gama-movement-annual-report>

Claire Marie Thomas | President

Vasco da Gama Movement (VdGM)| European Young Doctors Movement of The World Family Doctors Organisation