

Vasco da Gama Movement
Europe region



Greetings from VdGM: The European Young family Doctors Movement.

This autumn we have been busy representing young doctors at all the European Network Meetings and the WONCA World Conference, through the presence of our Liaisons, Council Members, Special Interest Groups and members of our hard working Executive Committee. Our President, Dr Claire Marie Thomas was honoured to be invited to give the closing remarks at EUROPREV's recent 2nd Forum on Prevention and Primary Care. Our strong presence at these events is a reflection of the respect and weight afforded to the voice of Young doctors in our region and how much progress has been made in building our relationships with the European Networks.

We finished off 2018 with a very successful Executive Board meeting in London, UK, where we reflected on the past year and laid down our plans for the year ahead. 2019 will see both the 14th VdGM Preconference ahead of WONCA Europe in Bratislava and the 6th VdGM Forum in Torino so there is much to be done!

In January our Council will vote on the location of the 7th VdGM Forum in 2020/21. We have two very exciting proposals from Turkey and UK to chose from, the videos of which can be seen here:

- Turkey - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18EPA5ahoE037BfNquQfAdR-tKBT4djfK/view>
- UK - <https://vimeo.com/305371107>

In early 2019 we will be seeking nominations for the 2nd Fons Sips Award and the 3rd Being Young Staying Young Award, recognizing outstanding achievement and contributions to VdGM of a Young Doctor and Senior Colleague respectively. The Fons Sips Award will be announced at WONCA Europe Bratislava and the Being Young Staying Young Award during the Forum in Torino.

A banner for the Exchange Awards 2019. It features the text "EXCHANGE AWARDS 2019" in bold blue letters. Below this are two boxes: one for the "HIPPOKRATES AWARD" (Best completed urban practice exchange of 2018) and one for the "CAROSINO AWARD" (Best completed rural practice exchange of 2018). At the bottom, it says "Apply to your National Exchange Coordinator until 28th February 2019".

Several pieces of work that have been underway for the past year or more will come to fruition in 2019 including our new Policy, Events and Ethical Fundraising Guidelines; helping us ensure continuity, professionalism and organizational memory for the future of the Movement. We will also be releasing our response statement to the WHO Astana Declaration.

At the Council Meeting in Bratislava we will be electing a new VDGM WONCA Europe Liaison, who will act as our voice on the WONCA Europe Board. Applications will open in the New Year.

We have an exciting schedule planned for the Preconference, including a keynote from Anna Stavdal, WONCA World Incoming President and WONCA Europe Outgoing President, spotlight sessions with our SIGs and the WONCA Europe Networks and several interactive workshops.

During the main WONCA Europe conference we will hold our popular Young Doctors Market Place as well as our Exchange and Research awards workshops. Applications for the Hippocrates and Carosino Exchange awards are open now and applications for the Junior Research Award and the VdGM Fund Bursaries will open in the New Year.

We are looking forward to a very exciting 2019 and hope you will join us in Bratislava and Torino! Happy Holidays!

[Link to our holiday greeting:](#)

Dr Claire Marie Thomas | President

