



WORLD FAMILY DOCTOR DAY 2021

I would like to express my most sincere appreciation for the support stated by the WHO Regional Director for Eastern Mediterranean, Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, on the occasion of World Family Doctor Day.

World Family Doctor Day represents the perfect opportunity to celebrate family medicine; to acknowledge the crucial role of family doctors and primary care teams; to recognise their strength while providing unique, continuous, service despite adversity; and to praise the resilience and innovation used by all our colleagues to stay 'in-touch' with patients and carry out their mission.

We are beyond grateful to see that the enthusiasm for World Family Doctor Day grows year on year. This year, organisations and colleagues worldwide reacted to our theme "Building the future with family doctors", which aimed to reflect and make use of crucial learnings — especially those acquired during the COVID19 pandemic— as building blocks of our future.

Innovation and traditional skills will also take us to our future. As family doctors, we are committed to delivering the best quality primary care available within the constraints in which we live and work. We build on our knowledge and skills through learning from research undertaken, from sharing best practice with our colleagues, and from our patients. It is necessary to boost and promote all the resources that are within our reach. As Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari mentioned, I also encourage primary care physicians to register for the [free online training package on COVID19](#), developed in partnership with WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region and available in four languages.

The efforts gathered during World Family Doctor Day 2021 showed our clinical and health planning colleagues, as well as our politicians, that building the future with family doctors is the right approach to achieve our shared goal of health for all. But our commitment goes beyond one day. Let's come together as family doctors and consolidate our daily call to deliver comprehensive patient-centred health care to each and every person we serve.

Once again, thank you Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari and WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region for being a part of World Family Doctor Day and thanks to all our colleagues around the world for the countless expressions of support!

*Sincerely,  
Dr Donald Li,  
WONCA President*