

WONCA News

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Contents

From the President:

Keeping it in the (WONCA) family 2

In my view... May 2019

Letter to College of GPs Sri Lanka

From the CEO's desk: May 2019 6

Feature Stories 8

WONCA wins Mental Health champion award

WONCA's CEO search

WONCA Working Party news 9

Rural Round-up: Landmark Global Rural Framework Released for Consultation

Education for Primary Care features Scottish article

Air Health Train the Trainer Program update

WONCA Special Interest Group news 12

SIG Migrant Care

SIG on Family Violence report

SIG on Complexities in Health report

SIG Emergency Medicine report

SIG on Workers' Health report

Featured Doctor 17

Dr Klaus von Pressentin

Jessie Mbamba, Montegut Global Scholar in Seoul 2018

Young Doctors' Movements news – May 2019 21

WONCA CONFERENCES 27

WONCA 2020 world conference call for abstracts

WONCA President

Dr Donald Li (Hong Kong, China)

Email: President@WONCA.net

Twitter @WONCAPresidentLi

Facebook: Donald Li

WONCA Chief Executive Officer

Dr Garth Manning

WONCA World Secretariat

World Organization of Family Doctors

12A-05 Chartered Square Building,

152 North Sathon Road,

Silom, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500, THAILAND

Phone: +66 2 637 9010

Fax: +66 2 637 9011

Email: admin@WONCA.net

President-Elect

Dr Anna Stavdal (Norway)

Immediate Past President

Prof Amanda Howwe (UK)

Executive Member at Large & Honorary Treasurer)

Prof Val Wass UK)

Executive Member at Large & WHO Liaison Person

Dr Viviana Martinez- Bianchi (USA/Argentina)

Executive Member at Large

Dr Pratyush Kumar (India)

Regional President, WONCA Africa

Prof Shabir Moosa (South Africa)

Regional President, WONCA Asia Pacific

Prof Meng-Chih Lee (Taiwan)

Regional President, WONCA East Mediterranean

Prof Jinan Usta (Lebanon)

Regional President, WONCA Europe

Prof Mehmet Urgan (Turkey)

Regional President, WONCA Iberoamericana-CIMF

Adj/Prof Jacqueline Ponzo (Uruguay)

Regional President, WONCA North America

Prof Marvin Reid (Jamaica)

Regional President, WONCA South Asia

Dr Raman Kumar (India)

Young Doctor Representative

Dr Ana Nunes Barata (Portugal)

Editor, WONCA News

Dr Karen M Flegg

Email editor@WONCA.net

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From the President: Keeping it in the (WONCA) family



Past Presidents Michael Kidd, Chris Van Weel and Rich Roberts - still working for WONCA

[Español](#) [Français](#) [中文](#)

At each World Council meeting we elect a new Executive to undertake the work of the organisation for the following term. Historically that term was three years, until Council voted to reduce it to a two-year term at its meeting in 2013. WONCA is well served with enthusiastic and active members, ranging from our Working Parties and Special Interest Groups (SIGs), to our higher profile roles in Executive. Executive consists of seven Regional Presidents, three Members at Large, President-Elect, President and CEO.

As President-Elect, I had two years in which to plan how I wanted my presidency to look and to decide how it should operate. I realised very early in the process, that WONCA is truly blessed with the range and depth of knowledge within the organisation. There is a huge amount of institutional knowledge and expertise among those who have been Presidents in the past, and those who have served on WONCA Executive. There is a risk that once a person finishes their time on Executive, they could fade into the background. I wanted to harness those skills and that enthusiasm to help raise WONCA's profile globally so that we can influence at the highest levels on behalf of family medicine. As Michael Kidd once said "WONCA is a big tent and there's room for everyone inside". I knew we needed to capitalise on that talent which would contribute to our growth and sustainability.

On 'Day 1' of my presidency I grasped the opportunity to establish a Past Presidents' Advisory Group, to which we can turn for advice and guidance, should we need it. In addition to the advice and guidance, members of the Past Presidents' Advisory Group continue to provide important technical and legal inputs into the work of WONCA. This includes, for example, Chris van Weel as Co-

Chair of the International Scientific Committee for the Abu Dhabi World Conference, in 2020. Rich Roberts, Michael Kidd and Amanda Howe are members of the same International Scientific Committee. Rich Roberts is helping to pilot the WONCA practice accreditation programme. Michael Kidd continues to raise WONCA's profile at WHO in a number of ways and, of course, the Department of Family Medicine in Toronto that he leads has become the first WHO Collaborating Centre on primary care. Michael, through his ongoing collaboration with WHO EMRO, has contributed to a number of joint WONCA-WHO publications, the latest of which is on family practice in Eastern Mediterranean region. Amanda Howe, along with colleagues

Felicity Goodyear-Smith and Bob Mash (pictured together in Seoul in 2018), represents WONCA in our research work with Ariadne Labs.



In recognition of the exponential growth in our work and liaison with WHO, also on 'Day 1' of my presidency I established a WHO Advisory Group, made up of a range of people including Past Presidents Michael Kidd and Amanda Howe; our CEO, Garth Manning; President-

Elect, Anna Stavdal; former Executive member, Ruth Wilson; former WONCA-WHO liaison, Luisa Pettigrew; and our current, extremely active, WONCA-WHO liaison, Viviana Martinez-Bianchi. This small group advises on issues such as WONCA's priorities for the WHO Executive Board and World Health Assembly, as well as policy issues which WONCA is well placed to comment on. Working together and as individuals on behalf of WONCA, we are in a better position to address the many requests from WHO for inputs. We can also highlight issues which we need to involve ourselves in, such as the importance of inclusion of family doctors in workforce planning for primary care delivery, disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness, environmental health and, not least, digital health.

Of course, while I fully appreciate the experience of those who have served WONCA well over the years and welcome their inputs to our ongoing work, I also want to support and help strengthen the work of the Young Doctors' Movement – and the increasing inclusion of their medical student colleagues from IFMSA. The young doctors are the future of family medicine. Their views – and especially their energy and enthusiasm – are crucial to our growth. This is why we strongly encourage the inclusion of a young doctor representative in every Working Party and SIG and in every regional Executive.

It is always sad to see a family member leave, but one of the jobs being undertaken by our WONCA Executive is the search for a new CEO. Garth took up his post in October 2012. He had indicated his intention to retire at the end of 2018, at the WONCA World conference in Seoul but, after some negotiation at home, he graciously agreed to stay on to support me in my Presidency. I am delighted and relieved that he did so and he will remain in post until very early in 2021. Along with the Secretariat,

Garth has helped shaped WONCA in readiness for the future and has helped ensure that our finances are on a better footing, to allow us to do the work we need to do. In anticipation of Garth retiring the 'CEO Search Team' (led by our President-Elect, Anna Stavdal, and utilising expertise of past Executive members Job Metsemakers and Ruth Wilson) has been working to develop a person profile and job description for the new CEO. WONCA members will see the position of CEO advertised soon in WONCA News. In



order to ensure good governance and as smooth a handover as possible, it is intended to appoint someone to the position

of CEO for a period of overlap, working with Garth and the Secretariat team, before taking over full time. And so, another member of the WONCA family will join us. It's unlikely that retirement will see the end of Garth's involvement with WONCA! He may choose to spend a bit of time in the house he built in Belfast, but we fully expect to welcome him to WONCA events in the future.

We're a big – and growing - family in WONCA. We've each got our own personalities and preferences. Through respect for one another, a strong sense of continuity, and a belief in the same global goals, we are a strong family. The WONCA family is growing, from strength to strength.

Donald Li
WONCA President

In my view... May 2019

[Español](#) [中文](#)

Donald Li, WONCA President, writes: There is a view that says we can hold most of our business meetings using apps such as Skype and go-to-meeting and zoom. It is useful to be able to see colleagues and to observe their expressions when in discussion. There is a good argument that such meetings

are time-efficient, in that people can participate from wherever they are working, with minimal disruption to their working day. There is also the argument that reducing the carbon footprint from multiple flights, train and car journeys is a 'good thing', contributing to a better, safer environment. But nothing can really match the level of engagement possible through direct face to face meetings.



Photo: WONCA Executive and Chinese colleagues in Beijing during April.

In April, the Chinese Medical Doctors Association (CMDA) invited WONCA to hold their Executive meeting in Beijing, to coincide with the annual conference for general practitioners which attracts more than 2,500 attendees from all across China. This was the first face to face meeting of your new Executive since they took up their positions in Seoul in October 2018. Of course, we have had numerous teleconferences in the intervening period and a few of Executive have met when attending WONCA conferences in the regions. However, the level of engagement and the amount of interaction which was possible through the face to face meeting of Executive reinforced just how important personal interaction really is. As family doctors we are all well aware of this, even with the advantages of improving technology and the potential for remote consultations or training or diagnosis.

WONCA Executive members are currently appointed for two years; many of the regions have gone to single terms (two years) for their regional presidents. Executive only meets face

two face twice in each year. This means there is very little time for Executive members to get to know each other, to learn about how WONCA World functions, to get to grips with their responsibilities on Executive – and then get on with the business of making decisions and undertaking work on behalf of WONCA. Face to face meetings are crucial to develop the collegiality, mutual recognition and respect necessary to encourage a well-functioning and effective Executive.

Watching Executive members work together collaboratively, listen to and learn from each other about how things work in the different regions, discuss and decide on priorities and how to implement them, was both exhilarating and humbling. We know there is much work to be done but together we are raising the profile of WONCA globally, using targeted approaches, reinforcing the same messages about the importance of family medicine. That face to face interaction, building collaboration, which Executive enjoyed in Beijing will serve us well as we continue our work.

Photo: Donald Li speaks at the CMDA conference watched by other WONCA Executive members



At the CMDA conference with which our meeting coincided every member of Executive was invited to speak. Region Presidents were able to provide some background and information about the regions they represent; Members At Large offered their insights into key activities of WONCA (such as our liaison with WHO and Rural Health); the Immediate Past President offered her views on global trends in medical education; while the CEO gave a brief overview of WONCA's Practice Accreditation programme, which some Chinese practices have already been awarded.

CMDA conference delegates were enthusiastic about what the WONCA Executive members presented and they took every opportunity possible to follow up on their particular areas of interest over the next days. Equally, Executive members followed up on a whole range of topics addressed in the conference on policies and innovations in Chinese family practice development. This is the way lasting professional relationships are built, cross-referencing experiences, building on knowledge.

We will, of course, embrace digital technology and make the best use possible of it for



Photo: WONCA CEO and Dr Margaret Chan reach out to greet each other at the conference.

ourselves and our patients. But nothing will ever take the place of face to face discussion and interaction as a way to build trust, respect, understanding and warmth.

Letter to College of GPs Sri Lanka

The WONCA President, Donald Li has written to Dr Jayantha Jayatissa, President, College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka:

Dear Dr Jayatissa,

The entire WONCA family is in shock at the brutal killings today in Sri Lanka. On behalf of WONCA I send our thoughts and commiserations to you, your members and the people of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has been through so much in recent years and seemed to be emerging from the grief and horrors of its past, making a bright new future for itself and its citizens. All that has been compromised by today's act. Your members will be at the forefront of dealing with the awful outcomes from today – not just now but for many months and years into the future. As a global family we all grieve together.

With kind regards
Dr Donald Li
WONCA President

From the CEO's desk: May 2019



Photo: Executive with colleagues from the Cross Straits Medicine Exchange Association who receive their certificate of membership

Nihao! Hello from Beijing where we have just completed the first full face to face meeting of the 2018-20 WONCA Executive (17th to 19th April). The meeting was planned to coincide with the 4th Annual General Practice Training Forum of the Chinese Medical Doctors' Association (CMDA) Society of GPs (a WONCA Member) during which all members of Executive took part in a global panel discussion on the morning of Thursday 18th April.

My article this month is to try to summarise some of the key issues discussed, and decisions reached, by Executive during the meeting.

Statutory Committee reports

All of WONCA's Statutory Committees have to formally report to Executive on each occasion. During the April meeting the following key issues were reported on:

Finance – finances are in good shape generally and some income streams, such as consultancy, have already met the target for 2019. Nevertheless the Hon Treasurer urged caution about a couple of income streams – most especially membership levy payments and conference income – and minor budget revisions were proposed and accepted by Executive to take the revised estimates into account.

Bylaws – as it is early in the biennium there

was relatively little to report, though there were some outstanding issues from the 2018 Korea Council, more fully reported on below.

Membership – Membership Committee had reviewed four applications for WONCA membership and recommended them to Executive for endorsement. Executive was pleased to endorse all four applications:

- Full membership to the Association of Family Physicians of Kosovo.
- Full membership to the Greek College of General Practitioners.
- Associate membership to the Cross-Straits Medicine Exchange Association Committee of International and Premium Medicine (CHINA)
- Academic Membership to Department of Community Health and Family Medicine, University of Florida (USA)

The certificate of membership was presented to colleagues from the Cross Straits Medicine Exchange Association at a small ceremony in Beijing. (see photo at top)

Organizational Equity Committee – OEC had reaffirmed support for LGBTQ issues, including a call for all such issues to be open for free discussion during the next world conference in Abu Dhabi, despite that country's viewpoint on the topic.

Working Party and Special Interest Group Reports

Reports had been received from most of WONCA's 11 WPs and 15 SIGs (a SIG on

Adolescent and Young Adult Health having been approved by Executive in January).

Photo: Dr Ding receives her certificate of Direct Membership from WONCA president, Donald Li.



Executive considered, and unanimously supported, a proposal for a new WONCA SIG on LGBTQ (Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender and Queer/Questioning) Issues. It felt that this was an important SIG for many of our members, but also an essential group to help to advise Executive on LGBTQ health issues affecting our LGBTQ patients. Hopefully we can get this group to write a short article for a future WONCA News, with details of how to join for those interested.

Executive also had some discussion on our current set of WPs and SIGs, to provide feedback to those groups which were perhaps performing less well and also to see if there were any significant absences of relevant groups which was leading to key WONCA priorities being overlooked. Digital health and Disaster Risk Reduction are increasing priorities and Executive discussed ways in which these topics could be highlighted through our networks.

WHO – Executive also received a report from our WONCA-WHO Liaison, which was followed by an open discussion on WONCA priorities with WHO for the forthcoming period. This is especially relevant as a WONCA delegation (Donald Li, Anna Stavdal, Vivi Martinez Bianchi and me) will attend World Health Assembly in Geneva starting on 20th May, and will help to inform our discussions with WHO colleagues at that time.

CEO Search Committee

As many of you will know, I plan to step down from my role as WONCA CEO at the end of 2020, and so the search is now on for my successor. Executive had appointed a CEO Search Committee, led by Anna Stavdal and including Job Metsemakers and Ruth Wilson, and it heard reports from the committee including a suggested job description and timeline for the recruitment process. By the time you read this the advert and job description should be on the website and have been circulated to all Member Organizations and other interested groups. Please do promote this as widely as possible so that we ensure plenty of good quality applicants.

Bylaws and Extraordinary General Meeting

Finally for this month I return to the topic of Bylaws. Many of you will recall that due to a Secretariat oversight we had not circulated proposed Bylaws amendments with the 90 days' notice, as required by our Bylaws, prior to the Korea World Council. Thus although the topic was fully discussed in Korea – and Karen Flegg (as Chair of Bylaws) fully briefed Council and answered any queries - it was not possible to take a vote on the issue.

One of the proposed amendments, concerning replacement of the YDM representative on Executive in the event of resignation, incapacity or death, was not agreed by Council, who asked that it undergo further revision. This was undertaken by Karen and Ana Nunes Barata (YDM rep on Executive) before the revised proposed amendments were finalised. These were then sent to all MOs on 15th January.

The proposed amendments now need to be voted on, and so an EGM has been set for 27th May (120 days' notice having been given to Member Organizations) when an electronic vote will take place. MOs will be reminded in advance and then have two weeks to return their vote to the Secretariat after which the result will be formally announced.

Until next month.
Garth Manning. CEO

Feature Stories

WONCA wins Mental Health champion award



Chris Dowrick, chair of the WONCA Working Party on Mental Health writes:

I am delighted to share with you all the news that WONCA has been voted a Mental Health Champion by the World Dignity Project, in the academic and educational institutions category.

In a worldwide vote involving more than 2000 people, we are honoured for making "an outstanding contribution to stand up for, fight for and promote well being for all with equality of treatment and dignity in experience". Many congratulations to everyone in our Working Party who has contributed to this excellent achievement.

We are invited to present our work to the World Dignity Project at their next meeting in Lille, France in December 2019, or else at their conference in San Diego, USA June 11-13 2020.

WONCA's CEO search

Dear WONCA family:

Dr Garth Manning, our current CEO, will be stepping down from his current role in December 2020. We are beginning the search for a successor; please read and circulate the attached advertisement widely to anyone who might be interested in applying.

Ms Holly McCoy of the American Academy of Family Physicians has agreed to co-ordinate responses to this advertisement; she has provided this service in the past for WONCA, and we know that all responses will be kept confidential. This is an exciting opportunity for an individual committing to furthering the work of WONCA.

Thanks for your assistance,
Dr Anna Stavdal, Chair of Search Committee for WONCA CEO and President elect
[see detailed information](#)

WONCA Working Party news

Rural Round-up: Landmark Global Rural Framework Released for Consultation



Assoc Prof Alan 'Bruce' Chater, Secretary and Chair Elect WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice write on the "Checklist for implementing rural pathways to train and support health workers in low and middle income

countries (LMIC): which WHO has approved for consultation.

Why do we need a Checklist?

The shortage of rural health professionals including family doctors is common across the world including Northern and Southern Hemispheres, high income countries (HIC) and low and middle income countries (LMIC). Although it is tempting to think that there is a single or simple answer to this disparity, experience across the world has shown that the strongest and most sustained results are achieved by a coordinated pathway that includes recruiting and training rural workers in rural communities for rural practice and ensuring professional working conditions which promote retention. This requires a continuous, connected and sustained effort to produce real benefits for rural people, but in return it delivers social, economic and health benefits to rural communities by providing pathways into health work for rural people.

What is it?

In late 2018, the World Health Organization sponsored the WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice (Rural Wonca), in partnership with Monash University to develop a comprehensive Rural Pathways Checklist. The Checklist covers

development, recruitment and retention of all types of skilled and qualified rural health workers in a

range of countries and contexts but specifically focussed on evidence from and solutions for low and middle income countries. It is intended to help guide how to build strong primary care teams with all professionals working at broad scope to address the needs of rural communities. The Checklist includes eight inter-dependent action areas. Each is important and the more actions that are implemented, the stronger the effect. For each of these, a series of questions and a summary of evidence is provided to support reflection, learning and action for implementing rural pathways. The evidence is supplemented by a series of exemplars.

How was it developed?

The Checklist was developed based on a



large-scale review of literature and policies about rural pathways in low and middle income countries. Many global stakeholders provided input during a global consultation process to shape and fashion the document. We were exceedingly proud that despite their obvious challenges with heavy workloads and limited facilities, rural services in LMIC produced exceptional exemplars. Thanks to our wonderful network of rural health professionals, rural generalists and family doctors for their help in providing guidance and feedback throughout the development phase.

What next?

The Checklist is now undergoing consultation and field testing for a planned release at the World Rural Health Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA over October 12-15, 2019. Feel free to use it benchmark your local or national health system. Please

share with all your local, national and international medical and non-medical professional associations, health services and program staff and encourage them to do the same. We will also be presenting the Checklist at Conferences, in person and through email, as part of a formal consultation and field testing process soon.

If you would like to participate in this, please send your details to Belinda.osullivan@monash.edu.au

[draft document for consultation](#)

We can only succeed for our rural communities if we get the support of you at the front line and as many of our professional organisations as possible.

Education for Primary Care features Scottish article

Prof Val Wass OBE, Chair WONCA Working Party on Education and WONCA World Honorary Treasurer, updates us on this month's free access offering from *Education for Primary Care* - our affiliated journal.



Education for Primary Care:

30:2 is now online: It is opened by some thoughts on our increasingly culturally complex world:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/14739879.2019.1591170> and offers a range of papers from Australia, Denmark, Japan, Netherlands, and the UK. Undergraduate training in rural Scotland and Japan alongside postgraduate training across Europe are all covered.

We have chosen to offer Free Access for four weeks from April 19th to a paper from Scotland. Bartlett et al describe the Longitudinal Integrated clerkship in General Practice piloted for medical students in Scotland:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14739879.2018.1564889>. Evidence is accruing that these attachments positively support student learning on holistic care and work well in the rural context. This model may well be a step to improve contact with Family Medicine in medical schools globally.

Maggie Bartlett, Jon Dowell, Fiona Graham, Kara Knight, Susan Law, Penny Lockwood, Fiona Muir, Jean Robson & Emma Watson (2019) Dundee's Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship: drivers, implementation and early evaluation, *Education for Primary Care*, 30:2, 72-79, DOI: 10.1080/14739879.2018.1564889

Air Health Train the Trainer Program update



Alan Abelsohn and Alice McGushin from the WONCA Working Party on the Environment (pictured together in Korea in 2018) report on the high level of interest in the WONCA Air Health Train the Trainer Program.



The WONCA Air Health Train the Trainer Program is well underway, with trainers currently completing the training aspect of the program. This is an 18-month pilot training program which will continue until mid-2020.

There were 178 health care practitioners who applied to our program. The applicants came from 52 different countries, with representation from each of the WONCA regions. Map shows countries of applicants.

We were able to accept 62 applicants from LMIC into our program; who will be reimbursed for their activities after training, in educating their colleagues, and advocacy.

We have invited the remainder, including all those from high income countries, to join the training, and to participate as trainers in the same way as the others, but without reimbursement for their time.

Once the training is complete, trainers will then have the opportunity to go forth and engage their colleagues, their associations and their communities to minimise the exposure to harmful air pollution. Outreach activities could include hospital grand rounds, staff trainings, lectures, workshops, articles and position papers. We look forward to reporting on what our trainers achieve!

[See WP Environment April newsletter "Green WONCA"](#)



WONCA Special Interest Group news

SIG Migrant Care, International Health and Travel Medicine report

Submitted by Guus Busser, Convenor

[Join our SIG](#)

Organization and members

During the year 2018 Guus Busser, Principal Lecturer at Radboud University Medical Centre in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, gradually took over the chair of the SIG. As Maria van den Muijsenbergh, the former chair, and Guus are working at the same department their cooperation will continue.



The SIG has steadily grown over the years with a sharp rise this last year. Since May 2018 we have grown from 64 to 151 members and from 18 nations to 32 nations. Members come from all over the World with a good representation from the UK, the Netherlands, Portugal, USA, Turkey, Australia and Brazil.

Members are involved in international research, medical (postgraduate) education and health care delivery related to refugees and other migrants. Surprising is the high participation of young family doctor's, trainees and students. A core group has formed over the years. All involved in teaching and/or research on migrant health and refugee care.

Activity in collaboration with WHO, either regionally or globally

Viviana Martinez Bianchi (WONCA WHO liaison person) is a member of our SIG and our WHO liaison.

At Nijmegen university and at the department of primary care several people collaborate with WHO in the field of public health (Prof Koos van der Velden) and primary care (Pim Assendelft) and patient record registration data processing (Dr Kees van Boven, member WICC (WONCA International Classification committee).

Achievements over the last two years

In 2018 we had a collaboration with Euract and the WONCA WP on Education to exchange and develop educational programs and materials related to culturally sensitive care and immigrants. We exchanged information on curricula and educational materials for GP training. We are seeking opportunities to publish about educational programs on migration.

We continued our collaboration with the WONCA WP on Mental Health. The joint guidance for mental health care and migrants will be finished in 2019.

The European book on migrant care, with contributions of several SIG members, will be published in 2019.

In March 2018, on request of one of our Syrian members, we supported the issuing of a WONCA statement on the dramatic situation in Ghouta, Syria, pleading against destruction of medical facilities and for at least access to medical care.

We have started collaboration with Vasco da Gama's SIG Migrant Care, International Health & Travel Medicine. In Krakow, during WONCA Europe 2018 we participated in each other's workshops on migrant care, and discussed further collaboration. We also convened a workshop on migrant healthcare and human trafficking and a workshop on implicit bias with a team from the SIG on Equity.

At the migration conference in Edinburgh, May 2018, we participated in the workshop on international collaboration on migrant care and migration health networks, and the development / implementation of guidelines on migrant care.

Activities planned and in progress in 2019

Improving contact between members

In 2019, our main goal will be to improve the

communication and connectivity between our members. We have already a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/SIGmigrantcare/>. This proves to be a well-read medium for sending information.

We plan to have a WhatsApp SIG group. Within this group we hope to exchange information and to bring members of the SIG into contact with each other.

Collaboration

We will continue our existing internal WONCA collaborations. We will strive to strengthen the connection and communication with WHO, which will be facilitated by the existing connections with WHO of our SIG and the department of Radboud university. We also continue our collaboration with Euract.

A workshop is planned for WONCA Europe Bratislava 2019, on communication and migrants.

SIG on Family Violence report

Submitted by co-convenors: Hagit Dascal-Weichhendler (left) and Kelsey Hegarty (right).



The Special Interest Group on Family Violence (SIG FV) has focused over the last two years on expanding our global connections to systematically support family doctors to address family violence in practice and policy. We have an Executive group consisting of the co-convenors, Hagit Dascal-Weichhendler (Israel) and Kelsey Hegarty (Australia), the past co-chair Leo Pas and communications lead Raquel Gomez Bravo. In addition to this group, we have a steering committee involving various regions (see below) and Young Doctor links through Nina Monteiro.

Steering Committee

Kate Anteyi - Nigeria
Jinan Usta - Lebanon
Nina Monteiro - Portugal
Joyce Kenkre – UK
Carmen Fernández-Alonso – Spain
Nena Kopcavar - Slovenia
Omneya Ezzat Elsherif - Egypt
Sajar Othman - Malaysia

Our current and future activities are structures under six main strategies: Connect, Resource, Support, Educate, Communicate, Evaluate.

Connect:

We have expanded our connections across regions whilst maintaining our strong connection to the Young Doctors movement, particularly with Ana Nunes Barata and the Womens Working Party, particularly with Amanda Barnard. The group continues to grow

connecting with other professionals who are interested in contributing their knowledge and ideas to the SIG FV.

Resource:

Our Call to Action statement of recommendations was approved by the executive group in March of 2018, focusing on exchange and dissemination of training curricula and new knowledge from research. The statement called for at national levels that colleges and academies in WONCA should address family violence policy, training and procedures as a matter of urgent priority in order to have their members supported and resourced to manage this common problem effectively and in an evidence-based manner

Support:

In October 2018, WONCA executive agreed to our proposed framework for Family Violence consultancy work, and we endeavour to gather interest in participating in that work moving forward in 2019. Taking into consideration the national and cultural contexts, and the specific services within each country, our framework will offer education and training, policy and research through a three-tiered approach, either through face to face, online help and secondary consultation.

Educate:

SIG FV has continued to work collaboratively with other groups to educate, including VdGM, WWP Rural, WWPWFM, and Emergency Medicine SIG and Patient Safety SIG through a number of presentations and workshops in conferences. Furthermore, we had a number of abstracts accepted at conferences, including WONCA Rural in Delhi (April), WONCA Europe in Krakow (May) and the WONCA World conference in Seoul (October), where we also held our annual SIG FV group meeting, and EURIPA Rural Health Forum in Israel (November).

Communicate:

A major achievement has been the update of our website and online newsletters as we seek to communicate with a broader group of people. Alexandra Wilson (SIG FV support person) and Raquel Gomez Bravo have done an excellent job in coordinating this aspect of our work.

Evaluate:

Members continue to link together to apply for research grants with Leo Pas leading this work in Europe. We continue strong links with the World Health Organization (WHO) on both clinical guidelines, curriculum and research. Our Co-Chair Kelsey Hegarty worked in an advisory capacity delivering WHO Gender Based Violence training in Myanmar, with Dr Claudia Garcia Moreno, which included work with doctors and nurses. Members had previously advised on the content of curriculum for Gender based Violence for preservice and post service, which will be released in 2019. Dr Jinan Usta, member of SIG, attended WHO Train the trainer program in 2018 for delivering this curriculum. We highlight the WHO materials on our website, which members have contributed to including a Clinical Handbook and a Health Systems Manual.

SIG on Complexities in Health report

Submitted by convenor: A/Prof Carmel Mary Martin (Australia)

[Join our SIG](#)

Complexity sciences is increasingly recognized to provide the mental framework as the research methodologies to deal with the “messy problems” facing health care and general and general practice/family medicine/primary care in particular. The notions of complexity remain difficult in the linear mindset in which especially young doctors are being trained and have to survive in their postgraduate education programs.

[More here](#)

The WONCA SIG on Complexities in Health has successfully promoted complexity thinking and research in regional and world meetings with many young researchers integrating this into their local work. The SIG is slowly edging towards reaching a critical mass that will require the implementation of a complexity stream in meetings and a representation in the organization’s formal structures.

Of particular note, many of the WONCA SIG

members regularly publish systems and complexity science informed papers in peer-reviewed journals.

Recent WONCA-SIG activities

The WONCA world meeting at Seoul

There was considerable interest in the Special Interest Group, notably in the areas of whole person-care, social determinants of health, networks and big data, integrated care and unstable health journeys and potentially avoidable hospitalizations.

Members presented on these topics.

WONCA Europe meeting in 2018

Similar presentations were from Australia, Germany, Switzerland.

Plans/hopes for the WONCA SIG Complexity in Health?

Our vision is to continue to centre care on dynamic systems that represent changes in health experiences including pain into health systems design and evaluation. We are highly supportive of others who have the courage to work with new methodologies and new ideas.

Our SIG would like to engage and link WONCA members who are working on



transforming overly simple silos of disease management into care networks that can address multimorbidity which encompasses physical, biopsychosocial, spiritual and environmental influences. Artificial Intelligence, deep learning are part of this transformation which is occurring internationally with learning systems including IT.

Links with other organisations and networks

The North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG), with the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM), is also addressing these issues. NAPCRG released the following: [Revitalizing generalist practice: the Montreal statement](#). There is an overlapping membership between NAPCRG and WONCA SIGs. Many of the tools developed are available on the [STFM website](#).

Currently, a workshop is being prepared for the next NAPCRG convention with an updating of selected resource materials. In this process materials will be updated in a more user friendly manner for every day practice.

International Society for Systems and Complexity Sciences for Health - Joachim Sturmberg has become the Foundation Chair. The fourth Annual meeting is being held in Knoxville, Tennessee, USA with a strong primary care theme.

International Society for Integrated Care (ICIC). While multifaceted, the ICIC has a stream of complexity science and input into WONCA Europe.

SIG Emergency Medicine report

Submitted By: Dr Victor Ng (Canada)



[Join our SIG](#)

The WONCA SIG on Emergency Medicine was formed in 2016 at the WONCA world conference at Rio de Janeiro. Since that time, we have grown to include over 100 members representing trainees and practising family doctors from all regions of the world. We have a strong work plan that is engaged in creating networks among members who are interested in acute and emergency medicine as a component of their family practice. Additionally, we have a commitment to provide quality workshops and learning opportunities at WONCA regional and world conferences and assist WONCA in providing technical expertise in the area of emergency medicine.

Our most recent meeting was held in Seoul, Korea in October 2018 in conjunction with the WONCA world conference. I will present to you some highlights since our meeting for your review:

- At our meeting in Seoul, we had identified that we did not have any members from the WONCA East Mediterranean Region. We are grateful to Dr Jinan Usta for suggesting the following doctors to our group and we would like to extend a warm welcome to:
 - o Dr Hassan Tawfik (Qatar)
 - o Dr Hassan Al-Bulushi (Oman)
 - o Dr Mohammed Saif Al-Hattali (Oman)
 - o Dr Nariman Babers (Egypt)

- We have established a SIG executive group with which we are in constant contact to discuss pertinent issues. The group members include both early career and experienced doctors represented several WONCA regions with attention given to gender equity.
 - o Dr Victor Ng (Canada) – Chair
 - o Dr Elena Klusova (Spain/VdGm)
 - o Dr Kim Yu (USA)
 - o Dr Nisanth Menon (India)
 - o Dr Pramendra Prasad Gupta (Nepal)
 - o Dr Joy Mugambi (Kenya)
 - o Dr Santosh Dhungana (Nepal/Spice Route)

- Dr Kim Yu is currently leading a discussion

paper examining the role of family doctors in providing acute and emergency care around the world. She will be collecting examples to illustrate this from different perspectives. This project is moving ahead well. Please reach out to Dr Kim Yu or me should you have any questions regarding this project and/or wishing to contribute.

- We have committed to providing quality education sessions at regional and world conferences. We are in a fortunate position where we have more member engaged in this work that our ability to describe them in this report! However, I will highlight the phenomenal work of Dr Pramendra Prasad and Dr Nisanth Menon who have both presented at several conferences in South Asia on emergency medicine and plan to attend the WONCA Asia Pacific Region conference in Kyoto. Dr Elena Klusova will be

presenting at the Vasco Da Gama (VdGM) Forum in Torino on emergency medicine topics and both her and I will be attending the VdGM preconference and 2019 WONCA Europe conference in Bratislava, Slovakia.

- We continue to assist the WONCA Executive and Dr Donald Li on matters relating to disaster planning and management. We look forward to being engaged in this work as these discussions and projects evolve.

- The planning of a WONCA emergency medicine conference is currently underway. Dr Pramendra Prasad is leading this and tentatively has been scheduled for August 2019 to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Please stay tune for more information on this exciting event and hope many members will be able to attend.

SIG on Workers' Health report

Submitted by Ezequiel Lopez (Argentina)



[Join our SIG](#)

The Special Interest Group on Workers Health has achieved several things, but perhaps its greatest achievement has to do with being living proof that working together between major organizations is possible and fruitful.

The Hague Conference celebrated in The Netherlands in 2011 is the cornerstone of this joint work and I am confident this meeting may one day be remembered as the “Alma Ata” of Primary Health Care and Workers' Health.

WONCA, WHO and ICOH have taken the lead in demonstrating that working together is possible and fruitful between large

organizations dedicated to patient centred care.

The joint statement of WONCA and the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) – the first one ever made together – was released on July 3, 2014, during the WONCA Europe conference in Lisbon, Portugal. [see more](#)

As a new SIG we have set course in order to take this pledge into practice. Main activities undertaken have included aiming to provide resources and support and promote research through presentations and workshops at WONCA conferences.

Attendance

The 32nd ICOH 2018 Congress on Occupational Health. Sponsor: ICOH. International Commission on Occupational Health. Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. ICOH-WONCA Session. Scaling up Workers Health Coverage Through Primary Health Care. Dublin Convention Center. Dublin, Ireland. April 29 to May 4, 2018.

The Future

We renew our commitment to work together with WHO and other organizations with the decision to generate a specific agenda and meetings for the discussion of Workers

Health.

We also continue to have as goals to organize a work conference on basic workers' health care in PHC settings, trying to continue the work done by WONCA, WHO, ICOH and many other organizations during The Hague Conference in 2011.

We have developed an SIG email Group for enhancing communication between members which can be accessed through [our web page](#). This group already comprises 25 family and occupational health specialists from different regions

We are constantly developing SIG meetings during WONCA- and ICOH Congresses

We also set a special interest in identifying financial resources to support developments, and we reinforce the promotion of SIG activities through social networks.

Twitter <https://twitter.com/PCWorkersHealth>
Linkedin
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12122638/>

Finally we continue to recruit and welcome new members from all WONCA regions who wish to work together to strengthen the discipline of Family Medicine with a special interest on Workers Health.

Featured Doctor

Dr Klaus von Pressentin South Africa: Family Doctor

What work do you do now?

I am working as a family physician within the Mossel Bay sub-district healthcare team since September 2016. Mossel Bay is located on the coast of one of the rural health districts of the Western Cape Province, South Africa.

I qualified as a family physician by completing the 4-year Master's degree at Stellenbosch University (graduated in 2010), as well as the Fellowship examination of the South African College of Family Physicians (graduated in 2011).

My weekly routine includes the full spectrum of roles and competencies required of the South African family physician, namely: working as a primary care clinician, supporting the local team as a consultant in both primary care facilities and the district hospital (inpatient service with emergency centre and theatre duties), supporting the management team with clinical governance (such as investigating adverse events, leading quality improving activities, reviewing routine health performance data and leading weekly antibiotic stewardship ward rounds), facilitating in-service capacity building (especially around maternal and childcare), as



well as being a clinician educator and mentor to undergraduate students and postgraduate registrars in family medicine, who are allocated to Mossel Bay for distributed workplace-based service learning.

Other interesting things you have done?

During 2014 until 2016, I had the pleasure of working on a national EuropeAid-funded project, "Strengthening primary health care through primary care doctors and family physicians", which was led by Professor Bob Mash at Stellenbosch University ([more here](#)). Dr Zelra Malan and I were tasked to help coordinate the project, which aimed to strengthen primary health care through primary care doctors and family physicians in South Africa. Being part of the project team offered me the opportunity to work more

closely with family medicine colleagues across the country, as well as regional (Primafamed, WONCA Africa and AfriWon) and international colleagues (such as the RCGP colleagues who assisted with our project activity aimed at capacitating clinical trainers involved with postgraduate family medicine training).

One of the key activities of the project was an applied research project aimed at evaluating the initial contribution made by family physicians to strengthen South Africa's district health system (this represented my PhD research under the supervision of Professor Mash). The research output consisted of a number of publications, including a policy brief published by the South African Academy of Family Physicians (SAAFP) – available [here](#), as well as a chapter in the [South African Health Review 2018](#).

It is our hope that these publications will contribute to the growth of our discipline by ensuring consistent policy decisions in support of family physician-containing PHC teams.

Through the EuropeAid-funded project activities, I was also able to attend several of the annual meetings of [The Network: Towards Unity for Health](#), which enabled me to meet like-minded colleagues from across the globe and serve on the organisation's board of directors for one year.

Your interests at work and privately?

I am passionate about advocating for family medicine and primary care as a discipline. One of the key advocacy platforms include social media, and I help coordinate the social media accounts for Stellenbosch University's Division of Family Medicine and Primary Care (@SUFammed), SAAFP (@SAAFP1), the South African Family Practice journal (#SAFP, @SAFPjournal), WONCA Africa and the Rural Doctors' Association of South Africa (RuDASA).

I enjoy attending the SAAFP and WONCA conferences.

Research in family medicine and primary care is another passion, and I enjoy collaborating with colleagues, offering mentorship to my registrars, as well as contributing as a [peer reviewer](#). I also volunteer as an examiner for the South African College of Family Physicians. Since 2014, I have been contributing to a 2-monthly registrar section in the SAFP journal, aimed at helping family medicine registrars prepare for the final FCFP (SA) examination.

Mossel Bay is a wonderful place to raise our daughters and we enjoy the outdoor opportunities offered by this scenic area, such as walking the dogs on the beach, camping with friends, and photographing the beautiful natural surroundings. We also enjoy reading and travelling.

Tell us about your new position?

On 1 March 2019, I was appointed as the new editor-in-chief of the [South African Family Practice](#) journal, the official journal of our national academy (SAAFP). I am grateful to the SAAFP's leadership for entrusting my colleague, Professor Indiran Govender (assistant editor), and me, with the responsibility and opportunity to build on the work done by our predecessors. I am thankful to my previous experience as assistant editor of the *African Journal of Primary Health Care and Family Medicine*, as well as support of my mentors, colleagues, friends and family to take on this new role.

I look forward to working with the newly appointed editorial board of the SAFP journal, which includes a RuDASA representative, representatives from the nine South African training programmes, as well as international WONCA members who have demonstrated their commitment to growing the discipline within the African region.

You are welcome to engage with me on Twitter (@klausvon).



Jessie Mbamba, Montegut Global Scholar in Seoul 2018



Jessie Mbamba, family medicine registrar from Malawi, received a Montegut global scholarship to attend the WONCA World conference, in Seoul, in 2018. The [Montegut Global Scholars Program \(MGSP\)](#) was established by the American Board of

Family Medicine Foundation (ABFM-F) in 2010. The MGSP was established to foster international education, research and collaboration, in the specialty of family medicine. Jessie is pictured with African and Korean colleagues and below reports on her experiences:

The 22nd WONCA World conference in Seoul, Korea was a reality and an experience and a half! Thanks to the Montegut scholarship.

The pre conferences were a bonus for me - both the young doctor's movement (YDM) and WONCA Working Party for Women in Family Medicine (WWPWFM). The WWPWFMs have been my personal motivators. I remember from WONCA Africa 2017 sitting in the Chiawelo community practice, in Soweto, at the pre-conference and connecting with the most powerful women in the world. It was great to be part of the team again in Seoul. The process of mentorship between the young and the old beginning to unfold and being part of it was a big opportunity to address both professional and personal challenges faced by

women in WONCA.

Meeting the young doctors from around the world and Africa strengthened my interest in Family medicine networking. I have been included within the AfriWON forum of the Young Doctors' Movement (YDM) and I recruited fellow Malawian doctors to this group. Currently I represent the FM 360 exchange programme for AfriWON, I would not have imagined this. The creation of special groups within WONCA helps to bring out ideas and interests and identifies people with similar agendas and goals.

The theme for the conference was 'primary care in the future: professional excellence' which aimed at helping us to focus on making a medical home for the patient in our clinics and hospitals. How the medical home can be established in chronic illnesses by aligning the primary care blocks of comprehensiveness, continuity, coordination and accessibility to achieve professional excellence patient and family centred care. The question that arose in my head after being raised by the presenter, Prof Amanda Howe, was do my patients have a medical home? I thought of the patients I see in the hypertension and diabetic clinic that are also HIV positive, who need a separate date for their HIV management because my clinic is not fully equipped for integrated care. How can these patients get a comprehensive and affordable package to avoid routine care for each illness?

From the plenary on rural research I learnt about the Delhi declaration which talks about realigning the research agenda to have



research centres in rural areas and move academia into rural practice. I was encouraged to be more inquisitive and take ownership of the health related research work that is being conducted in my catchment area. I practice in a hospital where many organisations have research projects being carried out. I have been on both sides, as a researcher and a clinician wondering

about certain research projects. In most cases the project comes in with their team without much inspiration or exposure to the staff of the institution. The presentation highlighted the importance of integration of the facility staff in research to encourage a spirit of ownership and continuity. If the research project findings prove to be beneficial and require handover and continuation, it is easier if the staff were involved.

The rural research and practice meetings were of particular interest to me, because for the past four years I have been working in the semi-urban district hospital of Mangochi, with a wide rural catchment area, helping patients that face challenges of access to the main hospital where I work.

There were a list of actionable solutions from the WONCA rural forum to improve rural capacity, the daunting challenge of lack of well trained staff. To mention a few they included: provision of housing, medical school loan repayment, free medical education for rural students within that catchment, social support by job matching and spouse match making, establishing competent medical training both postgraduate and undergraduate teaching facilities in rural areas.

The case studies presented by fellow young doctors, reminded me of the case studies bank that I have been collecting throughout my residency which could easily be published and be learning material to others. I could

relate to quality improvement projects carried out in developed countries, one particular which was from Japan; 'Case analysis; Emergency transportation from primary care hospital to tertiary emergency hospital.' The aim was to assess the acute care system and analyse triage criteria for case transfer (from primary emergency Kaita hospital to Iizuka tertiary emergency hospital), which was undocumented. The lack of a defined referral triage is a similar challenge in my context and cases of emergency may not be urgently referred. Thoughts of repeating the study in my setting was quite interesting with referrals to central hospital from my hospital.

Sightseeing in Korea was better with the young doctors, with trips to the Gyeongbokgung palace, to the big night markets of Korea with the African bargaining techniques and the sharp Korean tongues. Viewing Gangnam city from the Namsan Seoul tower that is 236.7m high was both breathtaking from the top and nerve-wracking especially from the cable uphill elevators.

All in all WONCA Seoul 2018 was a platform for networking, learning forum, introduction to special interest groups and introduction to innovative ways to contribute to the research world. WONCA Seoul boosted my dedication towards the path of Family Medicine with the illuminating confidence from the senior Family Physicians and encouragement from my fellow YDM members.



The banner features a yellow background with a photograph of a historic building on the left. At the top center, there is a row of flags representing various countries. The main text is in bold, with the title in blue and the subtitle in green. Below the title, the dates and location are listed. At the bottom, there are logos for the organizing society and a medical emblem.

Primary Care-Complete Health Care
South Asia Regional Conference 2019
22-24 November 2019
Avari Hotel Lahore, Pakistan
Organized by Pakistan Society of Family Physicians, Lahore, Pakistan

Young Doctors' Movements news – May 2019



WONCA's Young Doctors' representative on World Executive, [Ana Nunes Barata \(Portugal\)](#), is coordinating regular news from our seven region Young Doctors' Movements.



A word from Ana Nunes Barata - YDM representative on WONCA Executive 2018-2020

The Young Doctors' Movements (YDMs) are WONCA's active network that engages youth and promotes intercultural knowledge exchange that helps to create new ideas, projects and initiatives that contribute for the development of Primary Care at the global level. WONCA's young doctors are defined as in their first five years' of practice as a family doctor OR in training as a family doctor. Each WONCA region has its own YDM that strives to develop its network and engage with the young doctors from every country it represents. You may find more information about the YDMs [here](#).

>[Join your region's Young Doctors' Movement](#)

Ana Nunes Barata: YDM presence on WONCA Executive

WONCA's Young Doctors' representative on World Executive, Ana Nunes Barata (Portugal), writes:

These have been the first six months of my second term as the Young Doctor Representative on WONCA World Executive. I have the privilege to collaborate with a new team on the Executive, learning through new experiences and knowledge, which make these meetings a true, global experience.

We have just finished our first face-to-face meeting in Beijing, People's Republic of China where we worked through a busy agenda. While discussing actions, we brainstormed new ideas and set the footing for the development of new initiatives and strategies for WONCA. It was a great example of full team engagement! As the Young Doctor Representative, it was also possible to include the points of view and the ideas of young doctors in these discussions, so as to drive the organisation to include the suggestions and ideas of youth in its future actions.

Photo shows Ana, Viviana Martinez- Bianchi, and WONCA manager, Nongluck Suwisith with Chinese colleagues.

During our stay, we had the chance to visit the Yuetan Community Health Service Centre, a Primary Health Care centre in Beijing. An amazing, enthusiastic group showed us around and explained all the different services that were provided at the clinic. The services ranged from general GP visits; to preventive mental care;



maternity and child health visits and women's health; and including the collaboration of other healthcare professionals in order to provide nutrition services, rehabilitation, speech therapy and dental care. The clinic also had one floor dedicated to Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) with rooms set up to provide acupuncture and moxibustion. This clinic had a radiology department, a laboratory and a surgical dressing room. Given that the clinic integrated both Western medicine and TCM, two pharmacies were included in this practice (one for TCM and one for Western medicine). It was fascinating to learn more about how Primary Care is organised in the People's Republic of China and to see so many young doctors working in primary care!

During our stay in Beijing, we were given the opportunity to participate in the 16th Annual Conference of General Practice and Community Health, promoted by the Chinese Medical Doctors' Association (CMDA). This event had over 2500 participants and WONCA was invited to give a plenary, linked to the opening ceremony where each member of the Executive had the chance to speak about their current work and role in WONCA. (see photo at top). The sharing of these



experiences was very well received and we had the honour to show first-hand what our organisation is able to deliver. After this panel, I also participated in a separate session where I presented the Young Doctors' Movements in more detail to our Chinese colleagues, especially the activities that the YDMs are developing and how it was possible to have more young doctors involved in the YDMs. I hope that many new colleagues will join the Rajakumar Movement!

All in all, I'm truly grateful to all our hosts in Beijing who showed tireless dedication to make our stay easy and made this a memorable experience.

In the YDMs we will continue working on different projects in order to integrate more and more young doctors into WONCA. For those reading, hope to see you soon in the WONCA family!

Al-Razi Young Doctors' Movement East Mediterranean Region



At the WONCA EMR regional conference that took place on March 21-23, 2019 in Beirut, Lebanon, Al Razi Young Doctors' Movement had the honour to present, on the second day, three workshops entitled; "Challenges in family medicine training in EMR", "Practical use of insulin in primary care" and "Critical appraisal of randomized control trials" with nearly 50 participants. The Al-Razi YDM members who were present included Nagwa Nashat (Immediate past chair (Egypt)), Anas Almohtaseb (Jordan), Khalid AlKarbi (Qatar), Reina Alameddine (Lebanon), Skander Essafi (Tunisia), Suha Yacoub (Palestine) and Yaqoub Said (Oman). The workshops were dynamic, interactive and full of enthusiasm and activities.

The WONCA EMR executive board came at the beginning of the day to show support to Al-Razi YDMs. Encouraging feedback was received. Submitted by Nagwa Nashat (Al Razi immediate past

chair)

Photo: from right to left: Suha Yacoub, Nagwa Nashat, Reina Alameddine, Skander Essafi, Yaqoub Said, Khalid AlKarbi and Anas Almohtaseb.



Polaris North America region



Spring has sprung in North America and we are quite excited to be free of the Polar Vortex!

A HUGE welcome to the WONCA family to all of the senior medical students who matched to and have accepted a family medicine training position commencing July 2019! We sincerely hope all of these fresh new faces love family medicine, strive to improve primary care and find a professional home with WONCA.

We are pleased to announce that Polaris will be hosting our annual preconference entitled “Health Equity Across Borders” in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on October 9, 2019. The preconference will formally run in conjunction with the American Academy of Family Physicians Global Health Summit. At the same time WONCA Rural will have their conference Oct 11-15. I strongly encourage everyone to come and join us for 3 exceptional learning and networking experiences! Registration for the Preconference and Global Health workshop can be found on the AAFP website, while WONCA rural registration is easily found via the WONCA website.

Polaris is thrilled that communication around here is getting easier; our new website is set to launch this spring! The website will be dynamic and ever changing to reflect the activities of WONCA, Polaris, and other YDM's, but at the same time it will be home to standard information that does not change. Our goal is to be more visible in our region and really be a resource for young doctors.

This quarter, in honour of all of our newly minted trainees in family medicine, Polaris would like to challenge each and every one of you to reach out and connect with a medical student! Talk about the options career options available in family practice, talk about the challenges of family practice, tell them why you love family practice and answer their questions. You never know the kind of impact paying it forward to the next generation of family physicians can make!

Cheyenne Vetter



The Rajakumar Movement Asia Pacific region

The Philippine Academy of Family Physicians celebrated its 58th anniversary and annual convention last March 7 to 9, 2019. In one with the celebration, the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians Residents' Organization held its annual general assembly and election of officers. Dr Fatima Liboon, a senior resident from Mindanao, was elected as the new president. Priority projects of the organization are: to help in strengthening the practice-based family medicine training program in the Philippines, to organize and collaborate with regional young doctors' movement in the country, and to engage with the Rajakumar movement, the WONCA Asia-Pacific Young Doctors' Movement.



Celebrating the Chinese New Year, the Hong Kong young doctors' movement, co-chaired by Dr Edmond Chi Wai Chan and Dr Wing Yan Chan, organized a hiking activity, "Hiking in Year of the Pig" with the objective of connecting junior and senior members of the organization. Other activities of the organization for this year include: career talk for medical students and liaising with public education committee for the World Family Doctor Day.



In Australia, the General Practice Registrars Australia (GPRA Ltd) has recently released a new position statement on general practice registrars providing care to practice staff. A useful document citing the conflict of interest around treating staff members and their family. We are looking forward to numerous national conferences in 2019 to update and improve our skills and hear the latest research.

The 6th Cross-Straits General Practice conference organised by The Cross-Straits Medicine Exchange Association Committee of General Practice (SMEA-GP) was held in Zhengzhou, China from March 29 - 31, 2019. The first Asia Pacific Young Doctors Forum was held the day before the main conference with more than 200 participants attending. Dr Donald Li, President of WONCA and Prof Shanzhu Zhu, Member-at-Large of the executive WONCA Asia Pacific region (APR) delivered opening remarks at the Young Doctors' forum. Young doctors in Asia-Pacific Region presented and delivered lectures: Dr Loretta Chan from HKCFP represented The Rajakumar Movement (TRM) and presented the update of Young Doctors' Movements in the APR; Dr Yang Hua from SMEA-GP, delivered a talk on the development of general practice in China; Dr Pingsun Chang from TAFM, made a presentation on the role of family physicians in palliative care services; and Dr Victor Loh from NUHS, gave a talk introducing the primary health care system in Singapore. The forum was well conducted and had received positive responses from the participants.

In Malaysia young doctors participated in the 5th Asean Regional Primary Care Conference in March 2019 with the theme: "The challenges in ASEAN in Caring for Individuals, Families and Communities".

In Henan Province, China, the Academic Conference of General Practice was hosted by Cross-Straits Medicine Exchange Association-Committee of General Practice (CSMEA).

Truly, young doctors are actively engaging and collaborating in shaping the field of family medicine across the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr Mel Anthony E. Acuavera
Honorary Secretary TRM

Vasco da Gama Movement Europe region

Aside from our preparations for the WONCA Europe Conference and VdGM Preconference in Bratislava here is the latest news from VdGM:



7th VdGM Forum Location Decided

We are thrilled to announce that our Council has recently voted to select the United Kingdom and the beautiful historical city of Edinburgh Scotland for the 7th VdGM Forum, set to take place in early 2021. We will be keeping you updated with developments over the following months.

New VdGM Special Interest Group

Hot off the press: a new VdGM Special Interest has just been approved! Workforce Migration: Doctors on the Move brings together migrant doctors across our region and beyond to examine issues of importance for doctors who relocate in a new country.

Strengthening Our European Relationships

We truly value our relationships with the other WONCA Europe Networks; promoting their activities creates opportunities for our members to engage in their areas of interest and continue contributing to WONCA and European Primary Care beyond their involvement with VdGM. The relationship is reciprocal as our members go on to strengthen the Networks they engage with. As such we are thrilled to announce that we now have Liaisons in place with all the WONCA Europe Networks; EUROPREV, EURACT, EGPRN, EURIPA & EQUIP. We have also now appointed Liaisons to the European Forum of Primary Care and the Primary Care Diabetes Society. Our Liaisons will be attending the Network events and reporting back to our membership on opportunities for young doctors through our social media and news feeds, so watch this space.

Join us for the 6th VdGM Forum

Finally no update would be complete without inviting you all to join us for our 6th VdGM Forum on the 27-29th September 2019, in the beautiful city of Torino, set at the foot of the snowy peaks of the western Alps and enclosed by the winding course of the River Po. Registrations are now open and the abstract deadline has been extended until the 18th April. We will share more details with you in our next newsletter update!

We hope to see you soon in Bratislava or Torino... or both!

Warm Regards

Claire Marie Thomas (President) and Elena Klusova (Events Officer) on behalf of the VdGM Executive

VdGM meeting together in Bratislava

Greetings from VdGM, The European Young Doctors Movement! We are getting ready for our busiest time of year here preparing for the WONCA Europe Conference, the VdGM Pre-conference and the VdGM Council Meeting in Bratislava this June.

As part of our preparations for Bratislava we are receiving nominations for our various awards:

- The Hippocrates and Carosino Exchange Awards
- The Junior Researchers Award
- The VdGM Fund Wonca Europe Conference Bursaries
- The Fons Sips Outstanding Achievement Award; which recognises outstanding contributions to VdGM and Primary Care by our young doctor members.

All VdGM members are called upon to nominate their most deserving colleagues!

In addition to awards, we are calling for nominations for our new Liaison to the WONCA Europe Board. This important role embodies our strong relationship and valuable connection to our parent organisation, enabling us to promote the voice and interests of young doctors.

Look out for our posts on our social media and our webpage or contact your national Council Representative for more information on how to apply or nominate!

The Bratislavan Pre-Conference organised by our Slovakian young GP colleagues is shaping up to be an exciting and vibrant event. The Pre-conference exchange will see up to 20 colleagues from across Europe take part in a professional exchange in clinics and consultations in East, Middle and West regions of Slovakia. On June 25 and 26, the VdGM Preconference will be held in the elegant and modern Sheraton Hotel in Bratislava. We expect that more than ever, the event will be full of freshness, updated science and innovative ideas.

The Pre-conference will include three types of workshops: Skills & development, Small group discussions groups and “Spotlight Sessions”. The themes include GPs in emergency medicine, refugee care, transgender care, ultrasonography in primary care and virtual medicine.

After the resounding success of the “Spotlight Sessions” initiative in the 2018 WONCA Prague Preconference, we will once again bring together the representatives of VdGM SIGs and WONCA Europe Networks offering them the opportunity to deliver short workshops for our pre-conference attendees aimed at showcasing their activities and giving opportunities for young and future GPs to become involved.

During the main WONCA Europe Conference we will be hosting our traditional workshops for Exchanges, the Junior Researchers Award and the innovative Young Doctors Marketplace, where senior and junior colleagues can learn more about VdGM activities and network to share ideas, projects and programs. We are awaiting the results of abstract evaluation to learn of the success of the many other abstracts submitted by our Executive, Council, Liaisons and Special Interest Groups, however we are certain there will be many young doctor led activities throughout the event.

You will be able to find VdGM Executive, Council Members, Special Interest Groups and Liaisons manning our VdGM Booth in the WONCA Village throughout the Conference, so please drop in and see us! We will welcome you with a warm smile and a good dose of the famous VdGM virus!

**24TH WONCA
EUROPE
CONFERENCE**

 **Bratislava
June 26-29, 2019**



Conference News

WONCA 2020 world conference call for abstracts



[Conference website](#)

For the first time in its history, WONCA partners with an Arab-based organization to host its WONCA World Conference. Taking place on November 25-29, 2020 in Abu Dhabi, UAE, the 23rd WONCA World Conference of Family Doctors (WONCA 2020) promises to be the largest gathering of practitioners, researchers and policy-makers involved in family medicine, in 2020.

The conference recently launched its call for abstracts for workshops and symposia. In line with WONCA's mission to improve world population's quality of life, proposals on global health, policy, health promotion, clinical practice, education, innovation and others are welcome.

After a blind peer review, the best research will be showcased prominently in the scientific program. This will complement WONCA 2020's plan to invite a list of world-renowned experts who will discuss the most relevant and important issues facing family medicine today and tomorrow – revolving around the conference theme, 'Together, We Own the Future.'

Submit online at the conference website, www.wonca2020.com before December 15, 2019 and have your research published at the world's biggest family medicine conference.

[Submit abstracts for workshops/ symposia here](#)

[Submit abstracts for oral presentations/ posters here](#)



WONCA CONFERENCES

WONCA Conferences 2019

May 15-18, 2019	WONCA Asia Pacific region conference	Kyoto, JAPAN	www.c-linkage.co.jp/woncaaprc2019kyoto
June 5-8, 2019	WONCA Africa region conference	Kampala, UGANDA	www.woncafrica2019.com
June 26-29 2019	WONCA Europe region conference	Bratislava, SLOVAK REPUBLIC	www.woncaeuropa2019.com
October 11-15, 2019	WONCA World Rural Health conference	Albuquerque USA	www.ruralhealthweb.org/wrhc
November 22-24, 2019	WONCA South Asia region conference	Lahore, PAKISTAN	www.globalfamilydoctor.com/SAR19

WONCA Direct Members enjoy *lower* conference registration fees.

To join WONCA go to: <http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/AboutWONCA/Membership1.aspx>

WONCA Conferences 2020

April 21-22, 2020	VIII Cumbre Iberoamericana de Medicina Familiar	San Juan, PUERTO RICO	Save the dates.
May 28-31, 2020	WONCA Asia Pacific region conference	Auckland, NEW ZEALAND	www.conference.co.nz/wonca20
June 24-27, 2020	WONCA Europe region conference	Berlin, GERMANY	www.woncaeuropa2020.org
November 26-29, 2020	WONCA World conference	Abu Dhabi, UAE	Save the dates

Member Organization Events 2019

09 May - 12 May 2019	88th EGPRN Meeting Tampere, Finland	29 Sep - 01 Oct 2019	European Forum for Primary Care conference Nanterre, Paris, France
09 May - 11 May 2019	39th semFYC conference Malaga, Spain	17 Oct - 20 Oct 2019	EGPRN meeting Vigo, Spain
10 Jun - 21 Jun 2019	Toronto International Program : Strengthening FM & Primary Care University of Toronto, Canada	23 Oct - 26 Oct 2019	Rural Medicine Australia 2019 Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia
26 Jul - 28 Jul 2019	RNZCGP Conference for General Practice and Quality Symposium Dunedin, New Zealand	24 Oct - 26 Oct 2019	RCGP annual primary care conference Liverpool, United Kingdom
10 Sep - 13 Sep 2019	The Network: Towards Unity for Health Darwin, Australia	24 Oct - 26 Oct 2019	RACGP GP19 Adelaide, Australia
24 Sep - 28 Sep 2019	AAFP Family Medicine Experience Philadelphia, USA	30 Oct - 02 Nov 2019	Family Medicine Forum / Forum en médecine familiale Vancouver, Canada

For more information on Member Organization events go to
www.globalfamilydoctor.com/Conferences/MemberOrganizationEvents.aspx

