



# Wonca NEWS

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**2022**

JANUARY/  
FEBRUARY



# Wonca

World family doctors. Caring for people.

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 2

## ON FAMILY DOCTORS' VACCINE DILEMMAS



Pandemic vaccines became available a full year ago, yet we still lack adequate coverage. Unfair global distribution is indisputably the major cause; without hesitation, many of us are speaking out for this to change. Complicating matters, however, is a growing trend in some areas toward vaccine hesitancy, even rejection. Both have been linked to increased divisiveness and finger-pointing, sharpening the fronts between those who comply with 'rational' medical advice and those who do not. How are we to relate to that phenomenon in a professional way? How do we understand it?

Health care is a human right. So is the right to make one's own health care choices. At this stage of the pandemic, a common understanding exists globally among health professionals: vaccination is the most powerful tool we have to control the spread of the virus, its negative consequences for individuals, and its impact on public health and societies as a whole.

Family doctors are advocates for increased health literacy. As first responders, we meet people where they live, in context, sharing our medical knowledge and historical perspectives to help our patients make good decisions about health. The knowledge we continue to amass via the scientific standards of Evidence-Based Medicine equips us to offer our patients 'rational' advice in the strict, biomedical sense. In that process, each family doctor functions as an interpreter, 'translating' validated evidence into clear, convincing messages: *"The best single action you can take to improve your health is to stop smoking."*

*"Avoid giving your toddlers soft drinks every day, and you'll help prevent caries and obesity and reduce their risk for developing diabetes later in life."*

However, no matter how deeply we physicians trust the EBM ideals, if we want the advice that we consider 'rational' to be useful, each patient must experience it as meaningful. This requires us to prepare ourselves to be interpreters at another level: If we are to adapt how we communicate our advice such that it actually impacts our patients' decision-making process, we need first to have sought insight into their cultures, beliefs, emotions, and values – their context. Consequently, our relationships with our patients and the levels of trust we establish are essential to our 'translating' the potential of our discipline into action.

Although the reasons given for vaccine hesitancy vary, I imagine it stems from an increasing lack of trust that, in turn, intensifies a growing sense that one's autonomy is under threat. Until only a few years ago, medical decision-making could be caricatured as involving a doctor, whose job was to acquire and dispense knowledge, and a patient, whose job was to receive and follow the doctor's orders. Much has changed. In particular, the arrival of the Internet has given patients access to more medical information – even if not always reliable. Now, cyberspace is often present in the consulting room, as if a virtual third person had joined in.

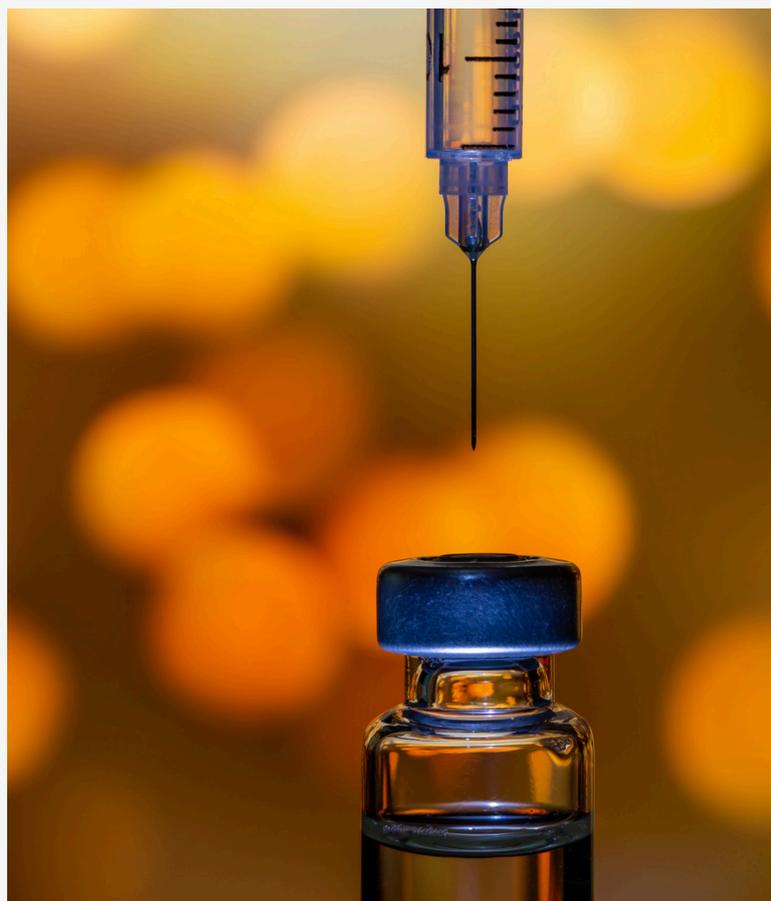


In this virtualized environment, knowledge and evidence crash into culture and beliefs at breakneck speeds. What we value as medical knowledge may suddenly be hijacked, exploited for political power games, or refashioned into identity markers.

We all have experience with individual patients not following our advice, and we can often explain why they haven't. But when the potential consequences of non-compliance include harming the collective, 'us', also us doctors, and when those consequences might increase the risk of death, not just of that particular patient but of untold others, also children and the elderly – many of us reach a level of frustration that is hard to manage.

Our spontaneous responses may leave us feeling caught without a good way to respond. Might a dogmatic trust in medical knowledge lead us toward abuses of power, toward the paternalistic demand, "Do what I tell you to because I know what's best for you"? Or, at the other extreme, might our felt commitment to respecting and protecting our patients' liberty and freedom of choice lead us toward a negligent shrug, "You insist you know what's best for you, so do whatever you want?" When we have kept our mouths shut even as crucial information is being drowned out or have not spoken out about the seemingly callous irresponsibility of anti-vaxxers, might we accuse ourselves – fairly or not – of moral cowardice? Might our silence reflect our fears, perhaps of confrontation, of losing others' positive regard, of noticing that we too may harbour tyrannical impulses?

We have to find ways to live with these dilemmas. We could ask ourselves and each other such important, professional questions as: How can we continue to deliver medical care in accordance with our professional core values, as well as our renowned, "Primum non nocere"? How can we maintain our empathy toward people who don't accept our advice, even as we perceive the consequences of their not doing so to be potentially lethal?



*Credit: Getty Images*

The first step is to put such questions on the agenda for reflection, discussion, and debate, with members of the public, yes, but even before that, with our Primary Care colleagues.

**DR ANNA STAVDAL**  
WONCA PRESIDENT

Also available in:

[Español](#)  
[Français](#)  
[中文](#)

# FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

FROM THE  
HEADQUARTERS

Beginning this year, an Ordinary Meeting of the Council will take place annually. We will continue to hold an in-person meeting together with the World Conference every two years. In addition, every other year, we will organise a shorter online or blended Meeting with a brief agenda.

We are delighted to announce that this year the Meeting of the Council will take place in London on **Monday 27 June 2022** — a day before the [WONCA Europe Conference](#) kicks off. The Meeting will be blended: delegates will have the option to attend it either in-person or online. It will be supported by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), and the in-person part will be hosted at its Headquarters at 30 Euston Square.

The agenda will be brief: we will start at 11 am UTC and aim to keep the business part of the meeting to just 90 minutes. Following this part, there will be a second interactive session of approximately 90 minutes, in which delegates will be divided into groups and invited to discuss key topics around WONCA and family medicine. We expect our global community to engage in fruitful dialogues and ideas exchange during this session. The WONCA Secretariat will send out participation forms soon, in which delegates can express how they intend to participate.

We are entering the third year of the pandemic, and our community continues to endure its effects. WONCA Iberoamericana has suspended the Ibero-American Summit of Family Medicine, scheduled for April 2022 in Puerto Rico. Yet, with the efforts and resilience of all, there are signs of change: in addition to the [WONCA World Rural Health Conference in Limerick, Ireland](#), and the [WONCA Europe Conference in London](#), United Kingdom, WONCA Africa is planning to host its conference in Abuja in November, and WONCA East Mediterranean is working on a regional conference in Oman. We also hope that our colleagues in the Asia Pacific region will soon share more exciting news with us.

Finally, with this edition of [WONCA News](#), you may have noticed that we have changed the platform to deliver our monthly newsletter and weekly e-updates. This is part of our continuous effort to improve communications with you. A survey on the newsletter and e-updates will also be launched soon — and we would like to invite you to take a moment to fill it in, as it will help us improve and successfully deliver our promise to you.

**DR HARRIS LYGIDAKIS,**  
WONCA CEO

"On behalf of The Royal College of General Practitioners, I look forward to welcoming you in person or virtually at 30 Euston Square, the RCGP Headquarters".

**STEVE MOWLE**

CHAIR OF THE HOC  
WONCA EUROPE 2022



FROM  
THE EDITOR**WELCOME TO VOLUME 48 OF  
WONCA NEWS!**

In this first edition of 2022, [WONCA President Anna Stavdal shares a powerful message On Family Doctors' Vaccine Dilemmas](#). In our section, *From the Headquarters*, we also bring you important information from the WONCA Secretariat about [this years' Meeting of the Council](#) and the upcoming WONCA regional events worldwide. You can also discover the most recent updates from the WONCA Europe Conference in London 2022, the [WONCA World Rural Health Conference 2022 in Limerick, Ireland](#), and the [WONCA World Conference 2023 in Sydney, Australia](#).

This issue also includes all the information related to the [statement delivered by the Global Coalition for Circulatory Health Members](#) – of which WONCA is a member – on the occasion of the 150th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board. On our Featured Stories, meet the [WONCA Five Star Award winner, Dr Anargiros Mariolis \(Greece\)](#), and discover the article *Primary health care response in the management of pandemics: Learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic*, by former WONCA

Presidents, Dr Donald Li, Prof Amanda Howe and WONCA Executive Member at Large, Dr Maria Pilar Astier Peña.

In this WONCA News January/February, we invite you to meet the [chairs of our Working Parties and Special Interest Groups](#). Click on the links to learn more about the mission and objectives of these WONCA groups.

Last but not least, discover the latest entry of ["Ageing Lines"](#) from our WONCA Special Interest Group on Aging and Health, dedicated to family bonds. To close this edition, do not miss out on the most recent announcements and updates from the WONCA Family.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and please remember that you can drop me a line (or an article!) at [editor@wonca.net](mailto:editor@wonca.net).

Happy reading, and stay safe!

Sincerely,

*Maria Dolores Zavala,  
WONCA Editor*



SAVE THE DATES  
AND REGISTER!

WONCA CONFERENCES

# WONCA RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2022

LIMERICK, IRELAND



You can [now register](#) for the [WONCA World Rural Health Conference 2022](#). The conference, hosted by the Irish College of General Practitioners, the University of Limerick School of Medicine, and the Rural, Island and Dispensing Doctors of Ireland, will be held from 17th to 20th June 2022.

Also, we are happy to announce that the [abstract submission deadline](#) has been extended to 16th February 2022 at 23:00 UTC

A range of topical themes and subthemes relating to general practice and community health will be showcased at the conference. *Improving Health, Empowering Communities* will be central to all events and topics explored over the conference weekend. We will explore how communities can be, and are, empowered to improve their own health and the health of those around them. We will hear from experts and presenters from all over the world in various sectors, including Health, Science, Engineering, the Arts, and NGO's of all shapes and sizes.

Community Empowerment for Health goes beyond the traditional methods of information sharing and consultation. It involves a change in power relations and enables people to have more control and responsibility for their own health and well-being. Various sectors can reach out to

communities to create empowerment opportunities to become more informed and more influential by giving them confidence, skills, resources and power to shape and influence their health.

This action-oriented conference is intended to foster a high level of meaningful dialogue and cooperation amongst stakeholders, all committed to rural health improvement.

There are seven conference subthemes:

- Needs, challenges and opportunities for the rural health sector (including climate change)
- Strengthening community systems and effecting change
- Community engaged health professional education and innovations in medical education
- Indigenous, migrant and refugee healthcare needs and social accountability
- Roles of educational institutes in community health and empowerment
- Emergency and pre-hospital care
- Practice and community nursing

We have lined up some great keynote speakers, among them:



**PROFESSOR AGNES  
BINAGWAHO**

*MD, M(Ped), PHD is the Vice Chancellor and co-founder of the University of Global Health Equity*

She is a Rwandan pediatrician, who returned to Rwanda in the late 1990s and worked for 20 years in the public health sector, first as a clinician in public hospitals. Afterwards, she worked in various high-level government positions between 2002 and 2016. She served first as the Executive Secretary of Rwanda's National AIDS Control Commission, then as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, and lastly as the Minister of Health for five years. Professor Binagwaho also serves as Professor of Pediatrics at UGHE, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and as an Adjunct Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine. She is a member of multiple editorial, advisory and directors' boards, including the Rockefeller Foundation Board of Trustees and the African Union Commission on African COVID-19 Response. She is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine and the World Academy of Sciences, and a fellow of the African Academy of Sciences. She has published over 220 peer-reviewed articles and was named among the 100 Most Influential African Women for 2020 and 2021.



**PROFESSOR DAME CLARE  
GERADA**

*President Elect, RCGP  
Co-Chair, NHS Assembly*

Having first trained in psychiatry at the Maudsely hospital, Dr Clare Gerada followed her father's footsteps and became a general practitioner, working in her practice in South London for thirty years.

Over this time, alongside her clinical practice, she has held a number of national leadership positions including in 2010, Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners, only the second woman in its 55-year history to hold this position. She has led the way in reforming how drug users are managed in general practice and was awarded an MBE for his services to medicine and substance misuse in the 2000 Birthday honours. Since she has led the way in developing services for doctors and dentists with mental health problems, establishing and leading NHS Practitioner Health since 2008. This has been, not only a world first, but massively impactful, particularly on young doctors and consequently on the patients they look after and the teams in which they work. The service was awarded Outstanding by CQC rating in March 2019. Currently Clare not only still leads NHS Practitioner Health but has, in 2020, established a service for problem gamblers; Chairs the newly formed registered charity, Doctors in Distress, is now co-chair of the NHS Assembly. In 2020 she was made a Dame in the Queen's birthday honours, making her the first Maltese person to be knighted. In October 2021 she will become the President-Elect at the RCGP. She is a highly respected NHS professional, whose views are listened to by NHS professionals and patients alike.



**PROFESSOR SHELLEY  
NOWLAN**

*Acting Deputy Director-General, Clinical Excellence Queensland  
Deputy National Rural Health Commissioner, Australian Government  
Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Queensland Health*

Shelley is a people-orientated executive leader with experience in contemporary healthcare systems including clinical innovation, leadership development, strategic planning, change management, policy development at State, National and International platforms.

As Clinical Excellence Queensland Acting Deputy Director-General Shelley’s leadership guides and drives the patient safety, quality improvement and clinical improvement agendas for the Queensland health system. Shelley provides overall professional, operational and industry advice for government by identifying, monitoring and promoting improvements in the quality of health services delivered by service providers. Shelley’s leadership has helped achieve practical outcomes within the health workforce and consumer through clinical care re-design and has led to success in developing and leading statewide Reform agendas, Covid response and clinical leadership programs. You may also know Shelley in her role as Australian Government Deputy National Rural Health Commissioner and her role as Queensland Health’s Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer. Her experience within the nursing profession extends nationally and internationally.

Dr Ryan first joined WHO in 1996, with the newly established unit to respond to emerging and epidemic disease threats. He has worked in conflict affected countries and led many responses to high impact epidemics. He is a founding member of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), which has aided the response to hundreds of disease outbreaks around the world. He served as Coordinator of Epidemic Response (2000-2003), Operational Coordinator of WHO’s response to the SARS outbreak (2003), and as WHO’s Director of Global Alert and Response (2005-2011). He was a Senior Advisor on Polio Eradication for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative from 2013 to 2017, deploying to countries in the Middle East. He completed medical training at the National University of Ireland, Galway, a Master’s in Public Health at University College Dublin, and specialist training in communicable disease control at the Health Protection Agency in London and the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training.



**DR MIKE RYAN**

*Executive Director of WHO Health Emergencies Programme*

Dr Mike Ryan has been at the forefront of managing acute risks to global health for nearly 25 years. He served as Assistant Director-General for Emergency Preparedness and Response in WHO's Health Emergencies Programme from 2017 to 2019.



**DISCOVER THE COMPLETE LIST OF SPEAKERS HERE.**



# WONCA 2023 WORLD CONFERENCE

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



Family doctors and GPs from around the globe will come together in Sydney to share research and discuss best practice, keeping communities healthy on an international level.

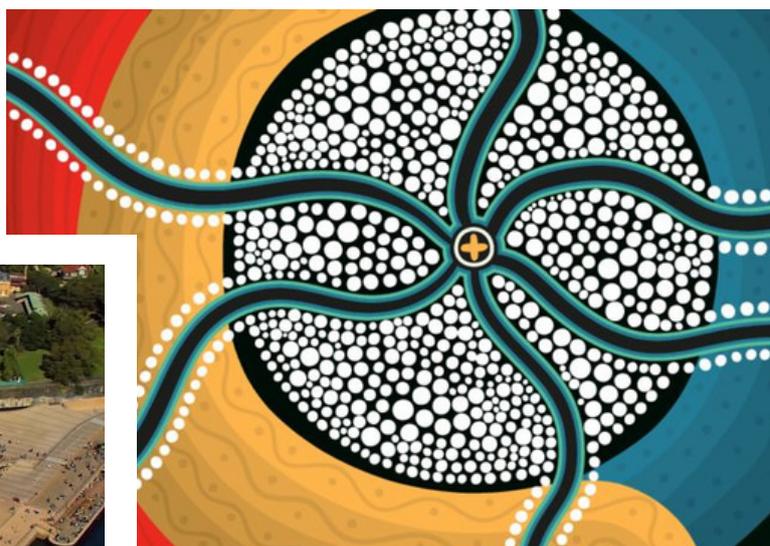
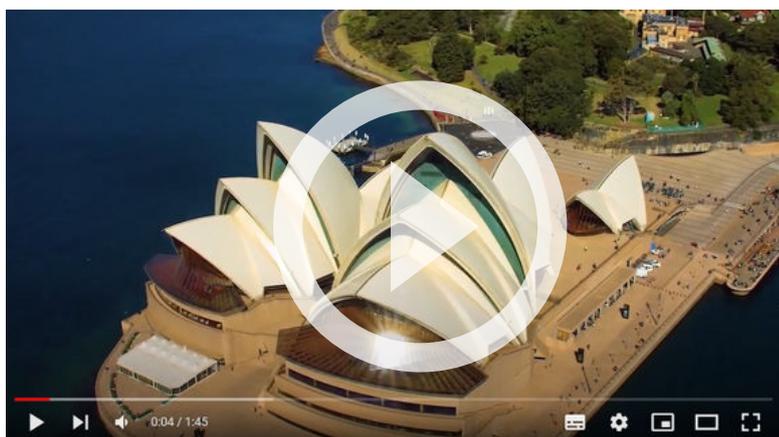
WONCA 2023 is also about having fun, with many social activities planned for delegates, and their families and travel companions.

Why not plan for the travel experience of a lifetime? Sydney Harbour is one of the world's most beautiful natural harbours, and there's other iconic Australian destinations both near and far. From the Outback in Uluru to the Great Barrier Reef, the tropical terrain of Kakadu National Park, and much more.

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of WONCA where it all began ... in Australia.



 [VISIT WONCA2023.COM.AU FOR MORE INFORMATION](https://www.wonca2023.com.au)



# CONSTITUENCY STATEMENT ON WHO'S WORK IN HEALTH EMERGENCIES

## WHO - 150TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Global Coalition for Circulatory Health Members – of which WONCA is a member – delivered a statement on the occasion of the 150th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board.

The joint statement focuses on the WHO's work in health emergencies and calls on the Member States to:

- Prioritize ongoing prevention, screening, and treatment for circulatory conditions in national COVID-19 response and recovery plans through patient co-creation;
- Increase domestic allocation of resources and develop targeted policies to tackle CVD and NCD risk factors, including the commercial determinants of health, through mechanisms such as taxation of unhealthy commodities;
- Integrate monitoring and data collection on NCD prevalence, comorbidities, and risk factors into measures of pandemic readiness, resilience, and response;
- Strengthen Primary Health Care and invest in family medicine to ensure equitable access to essential health services, particularly for people living with NCDs and in low-resource settings; and
- Strengthen the NCD component of emergency preparedness and response by formalizing these actions in a WHO convention, agreement or international instrument on pandemic preparedness.



*Credit: WHO*

### ABOUT THE WHO - 150TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The 150th session of the WHO Executive Board took place on 24-29 January 2022. The agenda items of the session included public health emergencies: preparedness and response, which priority is to support a radical reorientation of health systems towards primary health care, as the foundation of universal health coverage, by restoring, expanding and sustaining access to essential health services, especially for health promotion and disease prevention.



**READ THE GLOBAL COALITION FOR  
CIRCULATORY HEALTH MEMBERS FULL  
STATEMENT**

**DR ANARGIROS MARIOLIS**

WONCA 5 STAR AWARD WINNER 2021 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



“The Hero of Primary Health Care in Greece”, “The Role Model of General Practice”, “The Samaritan on the ancient grounds of Sparta”... These flamboyant terms, quotes of journalists, patients and community members, seem modest in the challenge to describe the inspiring figure of Dr Anargiros Mariolis. Having been the only doctor to receive the ultimate Award by the National Academy of Athens (2016) for his services in Primary Health Care and Greek society, his multidimensional impact is unprecedented.

At the age of 30, to realise his first Herculean Labour, he conceived the idea and literally constructed, with huge effort, the first Urban Health Centre in Greece, namely “Health Centre of Vyronas”; he had to act as a decision-maker, to convince governments and stakeholders, providing the scientific evidence for unmet health needs of citizens and cost-effectiveness of the Project and worked to help in the construction process, along with the battle for accessible, equitable and high-quality Primary Health Care for all. Health Centre of Vyronas has been a striking success with persistent impact on the Greek Health System, a system characterised by hospital-centrism, fragmentation and commercialisation.

Dr Mariolis, an excellent and charismatic communicator, presented and disseminated the effects of implementing the innovative Urban Health Centre, together with the Prime Minister of Greece in a seminal event covered by all major TV channels and newspapers of our country (2004).

He has created a multidisciplinary team, working as a leader and team member (GPs; nurses; health visitors; midwives; social workers; administrative employees). The Health Centre has been expanded, with a dedicated Emergency Department, Rehabilitation Department and a diagnostic laboratory. He lives within the Centre to offer his services as an excellent care provider on a 24/7 service basis. His dedication can be noted on stormy days at the sea when coast guard boats are not available. With local boat help, he endangers his life to reach remote beaches, where refugees, immigrants arrive from the sea, waiting to receive care. Dr Mariolis incarnates Primary Health Care as a societal vision for health and development, being an active community leader. He has inspired community campaigns, set an example with his generous actions, and raised funds.

## ARTICLE

# PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESPONSE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PANDEMICS

Former WONCA Presidents, Dr Donald Li, Prof Amanda Howe and WONCA Executive Member at Large, Dr Maria Pilar Astier Peña, shared their expertise in an article collected by the special issue on Healthcare Safety and Quality edited by Elsevier and published by the Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine (semFYC) Primary Care magazine.

The article [Primary health care response in the management of pandemics: Learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic](#) offers multiple points of view from three different countries (Hong Kong, UK, and Spain) about the reality of local systems addressing quality care and security, along the key lessons identified from primary care response in each region.

The authors agree on six fundamental points to reinforce the global response:

1. Collaboration, communication and integration between Public Health and Patient Care Technicians (patient care technicians, PCT.)
2. The need to strengthen systems based on accessible Primary Care.
3. Define the role of Primary Care during a pandemic.
4. Protect health professionals and the community.
5. Offer consistent, coordinated and reliable information from the same source.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.



The article is a comprehensive compendium of evidence and analysis closely related to the pandemic management in Hong Kong, the UK, and Spain, unveiling the main challenges Primary Care faced from a Patient Safety and Quality of Care perspective.



**DR MARIA PILAR ASTIER PEÑA**  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER AT LARGE  
SPAIN



**PROF AMANDA HOWE**  
WONCA PAST PRESIDENT  
UK



**DR DONAL LI**  
WONCA IMMEDIATE PAST  
PRESIDENT  
HONG KONG



With information of semFYC. [Read more here \(Spanish\)](#)

# MEET THE CHAIRS OF THE WONCA WP & SIGs

WONCA has a number of Working Parties and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that work between world council meetings to progress specific areas of interest to WONCA and its members around the globe.

These groups comprise hundreds of family doctors who meet three yearly, sometimes more often, and in between work by correspondence. Over the years they have carried out groundbreaking studies and research, and have produced a variety of important publications.

Learn a little more about those heading our Working Parties and Special Interest Groups (SIGs).



## WONCA WORKING PARTIES



### **EDUCATION**

Dr Victor Ng  
(Canada)



### **ENVIRONMENT**

Dr Özden Gökdemir  
(Turkey)



### **ETHICAL ISSUES**

Dr Tania Moerenhout  
(Belgium)



### **eHEALTH**

Dr Pramendra Prasad Gupta  
(Nepal)



### **MENTAL HEALTH**

Prof Christos Lionis  
(Greece)



### **QUALITY & SAFETY**

Prof José María Valderas  
Martínez (Spain)



### **RESEARCH**

Prof Mehmet Akman  
(Turkey)



### **RURAL PRACTICE**

Assoc Prof Bruce Chater  
(Australia)



### **INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION (WICC)**

Diego Schrans, MD PhD.  
(Belgium)



### **WOMEN & FAMILY MEDICINE**

Dr Noemi Mimi Doohan  
(USA)

MEET THE CHAIRS

WONCA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



WONCA GROUPS



**ADOLESCENT & YOUNG ADULT CARE**

Dr Maria Veronica Svetaz (USA)  
Dr Pierre-Paul Tellier (Canada)



**AGEING AND HEALTH**

Prof Dimity Pond (Australia)



**CANCER & PALLIATIVE CARE**

Dr Alan Barnard (South Africa)



**COMPLEXITIES IN HEALTH**

Prof Carmel M Martin (Australia)



**EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

Dr Elena Klusova Noguina (Spain)



**EMERGING PRACTICE MODELS FOR FAMILY MEDICINE**

Dr Donald Li, (Hong Kong)



**FAMILY VIOLENCE**

Dr Raquel Gómez Bravo (Spain)  
Asst Prof Nena Kopčavar Guček (Slovenia)



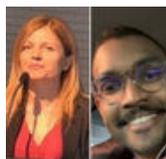
**GENETICS**

Dr Imran Rafi (UK)



**HEALTH EQUITY**

Dr Kim Yu (USA)



**LGBTQ HEALTH**

Dr Filiz Ak (Turkey)  
Dr Julien Artigny (France)



**MIGRANT CARE, INT HEALTH & TRAVEL MEDICINE**

Dr Rebecca Farrington (UK)



**NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Dr Ana Cebrián (Spain)



**POINT OF CARE TESTING**

Dr Rogier Hopstaken (Netherlands)



**QUATERNARY PREVENTION & OVERMEDICALIZATION**

Dr Karin Kopitowski (Argentina)



**WORKERS' HEALTH**

Dr Carolina Jara Pinochet (Chile)



## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON AGEING & HEALTH

### AGEING LINES: STORIES FROM CAREGIVERS AND ELDERLY PATIENTS

This is a space dedicated to caregivers and elderly patients, created with anonymous collaborations from the WONCA Special Interest Group on Ageing and Health. This section includes inspiring anecdotes for the simple purpose of adding value and quality to older patient's lives.

#### FAMILY BOND

In certain parts of the world specially Pakistan, India and other South Asian countries elderly people are surrounded by family members . This family bond brings magical outcomes in terms of health and longevity. It has been observed that elderly who live alone or in care centers are victims of earlier depression and dementia then the ones living with family.

Not only that they remain healthy ,they also contribute to small family day to day chores until able to do so.

One of my patients is 90 year old lady who lives with her 60 year old son, daughter in law and grandson. The rest of her children also live in the same city and she visits them often. She also has couple of great grand children whom she loves to play with. She talks on phone with her daughters, sews clothes for her great grandchildren and takes part in zoom meetings with her kids abroad. She has never kept herself unengaged in any family matters and her children respect her decisions

Making our elderly patients realise that they have an important place in our life is very important. It brings a smile on their face that is worth everything.



Photo Credit: Tasneem Borhany.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
& UPDATES**

RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR THE GLOBAL LAUNCH OF

## THE LANCET-WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION COMMISSION TIME FOR UNITED ACTION ON DEPRESSION

The Lancet Group invites you to the [global launch of the Lancet-World Psychiatric Association Commission: time for united action on depression](#) on Feb 16, 2022, at 12:00 pm GMT/7:00 am EST. Attendance is free and you can [register for the webinar here](#).

Can't attend the live event? By registering, you will receive a link to the on-demand version after the session concludes.

### FEATURED SPEAKERS

- Anna Stavdal, President, World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA)
- Afzal Javed, President, World Psychiatric Association (WPA)
- Helen Herrman, Chair, The Lancet-WPA Commission on Depression
- Vikram Patel, Co-Chair, The Lancet-WPA Commission on Depression
- Christian Kieling, Co-Chair, The Lancet-WPA Commission on Depression
- Opeyemi Lawal, Director, Asido Foundation for Mental Health
- Vivek H. Murthy, U.S. Surgeon General
- Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization

THE LANCET *Webinars*

## VIRTUAL TORONTO INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN FAMILY MEDICINE AND PRIMARY CARE



Family & Community Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



The University of Toronto invites you to join this 12-week course, taught by faculty leaders from the Department of Family and Community Medicine (DFCM) and international guest faculty. The program provides an overview of how to leverage excellence in education, research, clinical services and leadership to deliver high quality family medicine globally, by sharing experience and building on lessons learned at the DFCM, in Canada and around the world.

 **MARCH 23 - JUNE 29, 2022.**

 **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
& UPDATES**

**LAST CALL FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**
**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON COMMUNICATION IN  
HEALTHCARE (ICCH) 2022**
**GLASGOW, 5-9 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Today your last opportunity to submit your work to the International Conference on Communication in Healthcare (ICCH) 2022 to be held in Glasgow, 5-9 September 2022.

Submissions are welcomed from participants at all stages of their careers, including students, post-doctoral, trainees, faculty and practicing health professionals. Students are especially encouraged and those in the early stages of their careers to apply, particularly for works in progress and innovative technology sessions.

To make your submission, please register on the submission site here and follow the instructions once logged in. The closing date for submissions has been extended to Midnight GMT on Friday 11 February 2022.



**[FIND MORE INFORMATION AND  
SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT HERE.](#)**

## WEBINAR

### PRACTICAL TIPS FOR OBESITY MANAGEMENT

WONCA Europe, in conjunction with the European Association for the Study of Obesity, invites you to the webinar Practical Tips For Obesity Management, to provide GPs with practical solutions and takeaways.

Presentations:

- How to correctly diagnose obesity and identify appropriate treatment options?
- How to talk to your patient about weight and obesity, and avoid stigmatising your patients?
- How to treat post-bariatric surgery patients (remembering diet and behaviour)?
- What are the latest drug options?

**FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2022 | 17:00 UTC**

**[REGISTER NOW](#)**





**Wonca**

World family doctors. Caring for people.