

WONCA News

An International Forum for Family Doctors



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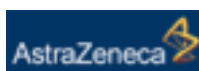
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FROM THE WONCA PRESIDENT:

IMPROVING RUSSIA'S HEALTH SYSTEM - THE CONTRIBUTION OF FAMILY MEDICINE

"The master word in medicine is work.... Though a little one, it looms large in meaning. It is the open sesame to every portal, the great equalizer in the world, the true philosopher's stone which transmutes all the base metal of humanity into gold."

Sir William Osler (1849-1919)

The weather was invigoratingly cold and a stark contrast to the heat of Africa of the day before. However the warm welcome and incredible hospitality I received in Moscow was most overwhelming and generous!

Thirty months before, work began on a joint project to improve the health status of the population of the Russian Federation, through the development and implementation of a sustainable primary health care system based on the family medicine model. The project was initiated by three partners, the European Union (Europe Aid/Tacis) who funded the programme, the Moscow Medical Institute (MMA), and the Russian Association of General Practitioners. In April the project reached its end, culminating in a congress in Moscow to reflect on the successes and propose possible plans for the future.

This meeting was attended by a variety of ministerial and government health officials, educationalists, specialists, family medicine teachers, trained family practitioners, trainees and general practitioners, from the far reaches of this the largest

country in the World, spanning 9 time zones! It was a privilege to be invited, and to be able present Wonca's support for the initiative.

I was absolutely amazed by what had been achieved by the role-players, led by a team of four experts from the EU. They included Toni Dedeu (Active Wonca member from SEMFYC, the Wonca Member Organisation from Spain, Rob McQuiston (Project Director, Northern Ireland)), Greta Ross (Educationalist, UK), together with Sylvie Schwall (resident Team Leader). They have fulfilled a tremendous task, and with their Russian, partners, colleagues and assistants are to be praised for their dedication and commitment to the upliftment and training of PHC doctors in the Federation. A visit to the UK with input from the RCGP, the Ministry of Health and the BMA, also added to the impact of the initiative. I also got a sense that previous contacts over the years by several other global family practitioner organisations, had in some way prepared a suitable soil for this successful venture.

Successes included a full baseline analysis of existing family practice in Russia together with an analysis of remuneration patterns nation-wide, culminating in development together with the Federal Mandatory Health Insurance Fund of suitable FM financing recommendations. Reports of the training programmes of GPs, GP trainers and GP Nurses particularly in the Moscow and Belgorod regions were fascinating. The experts developed a host of tutor guides, training manuals, quality assurance programmes and publications, many of which were distributed widely on CD. Several translations of European manuals and books were funded by the EU. Some of the best foreign EBM guidelines were selected, translated and distributed to

practicing GPs and teaching institutions. An agreement is being prepared between MMA, the Russian Association of GPs and the Spanish Society for Family and Community Medicine, which in Spain is responsible for the training, retraining and recertification of GPs. And all this in less than 3 years!

I was enthralled by the excitement and dedication of the trainers and trainees. While there was enthusiastic support for the development of family medicine as a speciality from most of those whom I met, I sensed some reservation from some clinical specialists. Deputy Minister Bertash, of the Moscow Region stated, "Stop trying to push for acceptance of Family Medicine – understand that the speciality has been already been accepted; Family Medicine is accepted as the way forward. But let me warn you, paediatrics must not be touched" – Paediatricians oppose GPs caring for children!

The foundations for future training of family doctors and the development of the discipline in the Russian Federation have been solidly laid by the role-players. The model and methodology utilized could I believe be an excellent template for similar developments globally. In addition the Russian Association of General Practitioners may soon become the 106th Member Organisation of Wonca! Wonca should however assist in nurturing this new programme for training family doctors in any way possible with the assistance of its member organisations in Europe, especially SEMFYC. I salute all those involved in the Russian project – their hard work has truly initiated a "transmutation into gold!"

Bruce Sparks, M.D.
President
World Organization of Family Doctors

FROM THE CEO'S DESK:

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
SINCE ORLANDO 2004**

Following the many decisions made at the Wonca Executive Meeting at St Augustine and the World Council Meeting in Orlando, Florida, USA in October 2004, the Wonca World Secretariat has been busy putting into practice and effect the decisions made.

As some of these decisions affect Wonca Member Organisations (MOs) and Direct Members (DMs) directly or indirectly, I felt it necessary that the changes be highlighted in this issue of Wonca News

Wonca Directory 2005

In past years, significant costs were incurred in the printing and mailing of the annual Wonca Directories to all MOs and DMs worldwide. Wonca Executive agreed to accept the recommendation of the Secretariat that this practice be discontinued.

In its place and in a move to save funds and also minimize on the use of paper, the Secretariat recommended that the Wonca Directory for 2005 be put on CDs and mailed off to all MOs and DMs. This alternative was accepted by Executive at the St Augustine Meeting and implemented at the start of the current year. There has been good feedback on this change and this will, from now on, be the format of future Wonca Directories. The lighter weight of the CDs meant significant savings in the mailing costs. Together with the lower production cost, this change has resulted in the saving of about US\$1.50 per Wonca Directory for the 2500+ CDs mailed out.

More importantly, I hope that this move would help in some small way to conserve the forests of the world and show Wonca as playing its role in environmental conservation.

2004 Wonca Council Meeting Minutes

In line with the move to again save on paper and the costs of printing and mailing, the Orlando Wonca Council Minutes were put on CDs and mailed to all the 100+ Full and Associate Member Organisations. I hope MOs will find this a convenient way to store materials which will be referred to in three years time at the next Wonca World Council. As a safeguard, the Minutes were also sent to all via the Internet.

As has been the practice since the Secretariat moved to Singapore, all Agenda and Agenda Papers for future Executive Meetings will continue to be sent to Members of Executive electronically via the Internet.

Standardisation of Direct Member Dues

At the Orlando Council, the CEO had highlighted the need to review the membership dues of Direct Members (DMs). The past triennium's accounts revealed that Wonca World Secretariat was subsidizing each new DM based on current levels of membership dues. He also proposed a more systematic approach in the way the membership dues are to be calculated to streamline administration and make the structure of the membership dues more transparent.

After much debate, Council agreed to the following:

1. In principle agreement to an

increase in the Direct Membership dues, except for developing countries, which would remain unchanged for the 3-years category at US\$100.

2. Using the "Wonca World" category of membership as a working basis, Council recommended that the proposed new dues of US\$75 for a 1-year membership, and US\$165 for 3-years membership be the upper limit of the dues increase. The other fee structures, where applicable for the Regions, would have to be re-worked and fine tuned with the respective Regions.
3. To keep the dues increase to a minimum, Wonca should consider a one-time non-refundable joining fee of an agreed US\$ amount.

Following these decisions, the Secretariat proceeded to institute the recommended change to a standardized renewal rate for DMs as approved by the Orlando Council.

New applicants now pay a processing fee of US\$40 with an annual Membership Dues of US\$25 per year, or \$75 for three years. This will mean a very low annual renewal fee for DMs. This should encourage continuity of membership from year to year. The new scheme would penalize those who join on an adhoc basis to gain from discounted conference registration fees given to DMs around the time of a Wonca World Conference. These will need to pay the US\$40 processing fee each time they rejoin to take advantage of the discounted conference registrations fees

Please note that in addition to these scheduled DM dues are added those of the different Regions, which may be significant and varies according to each Region.

Standardisation of Member Organisations' Dues

At the Beijing Wonca Executive Meeting, the CEO had earlier reported that as Wonca evolves into a truly global organization, there was a need to have a standardised method for the application of levels of discounts given for Member Organisations' Dues.

Using the GDP per capita listing of all countries as found in The World Factbook 2001 compiled by the World Bank and applying it to Wonca Member Organizations, the following data emerged:

1. 45 Wonca country members had GDP per capita at or above the World Average of US\$7,200.
2. 14 Wonca country members had GDP per capita between the World Average and half (50%) of the World Average, ie, greater than US\$3500 and less than US\$7,200.
3. 14 Wonca country members had GDP per capita of less than half (50%) of the World Average, ie, US\$ 3500 or less.

However, given the lack of standardization in the amount of discounts given, some Wonca MOs were receiving discounts when their GDP per capita were above the World Average, whilst some countries were receiving no discount from Wonca even though their GDP per capita was below half of the World Average.

It was proposed that the GDP per capita listing be used as the yardstick to calculate the MO Dues of all present and future MOs of Wonca along the following lines (using the 2004 MO Dues of US\$1.55 per member as an example):

1. Countries with GDP per capita at or above the World Average of US\$7,200 pay US\$1.55 per full member, (ie, no discount will be given.)
2. Countries with GDP per capita between the World Average and half (50%) of that Average (ie between US\$7,200 and US\$3600), will be granted 33% discount on their MO dues.
3. Countries with per GDP per capita of less than half (50%) World Average (ie at US\$3500 or less) will be granted 50% discount on their MO dues.

Of the existing Wonca's MOs, only Member Organizations from Argentina, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, and Romania respectively would be adversely affected by the adoption of this policy.

Careful preliminary calculations of the standardized discount policy as described above, revealed that there were not likely to be significant financial losses for Wonca. More importantly, a proper and more systematic method of calculating discounts to country members would have been established. It was proposed that this method of calculation come into effect in the triennium 2005-2007 onwards.

These changes have now been applied at the start of this year when all invoices for MO Dues were mailed off.

Sponsorships

In accordance with the decision of Wonca Council in Orlando to open Wonca to ethical sponsorships from the pharmaceutical and medical related industries, several approaches have been initiated in

the first quarter of this year to industries to secure sponsorships for

1. The Wonca Global Sponsors Programme
2. Wonca Regional Conference Satellite Symposia
3. Wonca Website and Journal Alerts.

In my April 2005 Column, I thanked ALTANA Pharma, AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Boehringer Ingelheim who were the first four to become Wonca Global Sponsors for this year.

I am pleased to announce and thank our new Wonca Global Sponsor, MSD.

Merck is the fifth company to provide these important, unrestricted grants in support of Wonca's Global Mission.

Sponsorships for satellite symposia in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Kyoto and the Europe Regional Conference in Kos have also been negotiated. These will generate additional income for the Regional Host Organizing Committees and Wonca World as well.

In addition, negotiations are underway to secure sponsorships for GFD's Journal Alerts directly.

In the CEO's Column for the August Issue of Wonca News, I hope to highlight some of the important decisions made by Wonca Executive at the recently completed Executive Meeting in Kyoto, Japan held in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference.

Dr Alfred Loh
Chief Executive Officer
World Organization of Family Doctors

FROM THE EDITOR:

FEATURING WONCA'S WORKING PARTIES

This issue of Wonca News features our Working Parties. Subsequent issues will feature our Task Forces and Special Interest Groups. These Wonca working groups comprise the core of Wonca's global initiatives to meet people's needs by improving health systems and enhancing the contribution of family medicine.

The Working Parties report on their activities during and after the 17th Wonca World Conference held in October, 2004 in Orlando Florida. During each Wonca World Conference, elections are held and work plans are generated for the upcoming Triennium.

Working Parties are an excellent mechanism for those interested in contributing to Wonca's mission and to becoming more involved in our global organization. Working Parties typically seek to coordinate their activities with each of Wonca's more than 100 member organizations. If you are interested in a particular Working Party, you are encouraged to contact the Chair. Additional information on Wonca's Working Parties may be found on Wonca's website at www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com

In addition, this issue reports on the important work undertaken by Turkey's Uludag University to translate into Turkish the landmark Wonca – World Health Organization Guidebook, "Improving Health Systems: The Contribution of Family Medicine". Several other organizations and individuals have come forth to translate the Wonca-WHO Guidebook into their native language as a means to inform and gain the support of leaders in government, business, health systems, the health professions and the public to recognize and enhance the role of family medicine in their respective countries. I welcome articles and photos from others who wish to share their important work translating the Wonca – WHO Guidebook. Those interested in translating the Wonca – WHO Guidebook or in purchasing a copy may contact Yvonne Chung, Wonca's Administrative Manager, at admin@wonca.com.sg.

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FEATURE STORIES

This issue features 2005 updates from Wonca's Working Parties. Membership information, publications and other useful information on Wonca's Working Parties are available on the Wonca website at www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com under "Wonca Groups" or "Research".

Wonca Working Party on Women in Family Medicine

The vision of the Working Party is to promote women family doctors in Wonca, to highlight their special contributions and to reduce the barriers facing them, thereby enabling them to reach their full potential and enhance the contribution of all family physicians/ GPs around the world to clinical care, women's health, education, research and leadership in family medicine.

The Wonca Working Party on Women and Family Medicine (WWPWFM) met for a successful set of meetings at World Wonca Conference in Orlando. During the pre-conference, the WWPWFM formalized its governance structure and prepared a Strategic Action Plan for the next 3 years. Since the meeting, the website has been updated, an action plan drafted and we are exploring the possibility of a meeting of the Executive and interested WWPWFM members in August 2006.

During the 2004 Orlando Wonca world meeting, the WWPWFM selected Dr. Cheryl Levitt (Canada) as its first Chair, with Dr. Amanda Howe (UK) as the Deputy Chair. Reflecting the group's commitment to flexible work arrangements and to collaborative relationships, several representatives from each of the 6 Wonca regions were selected to support Dr. Levitt in her role as Chair. These included Drs. Amanda Barnard (Australia), Sheila Dunn (Canada), Kymm Feldman (Canada), Barbara Lent (Canada), Edith Okoi (Nigeria), Kate Anteyi (Nigeria), Zoranda Leopando (Philippines), Soraya Abubakar (Philippines), Marietjie de Villiers (South Africa), Debbie Quilter (New Zealand), Joan Bedinghaus (US), Suzanne Gehl (US), and Lucy Candib (US).

A total of 38 women from 16 countries (US, Canada, UK, Netherlands, Austria, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Ecuador, Lebanon, Venezuela) met at a 1½ day Orlando workshop. The main task was to review a detailed working document, drawing on work that had previously

been developed at the Wonca meetings in Dublin in 1998 and in Durban in 2001. During the Orlando meeting, Dr. May Cohen's presented a plenary followed by a women's symposium on The Challenges for Women in Family Medicine: Making a difference around the world, attended by about 50 women.



Wonca Working Party on Women and Family Medicine

Back Row (left to right) - Susan Johnson, Suzanne Gehl, Sheila Dunn, Kymm Feldman, Joan Bedinghaus, Valeri Gilchrist, May Cohen, Amanda Barnard, Shelly Ross, Helen Batty, Soraya Abubakar, Debbie Quilter.
 Front Row (left to right) - Barbara Lent, Lucy Candib, Amanda Howe, Zoranda Leopando, Cheryl Levitt

Over the next 3 years the Working Party will work on implementing our objectives: identification of key issues for women doctors; reviewing Wonca policies and procedures for equity and transparency; providing opportunities to network at meetings and through the group's list serve and website; and promoting women doctors' participation in Wonca initiatives. The group is committed to equitable representation of women in Wonca activities, and will ensure an enhanced presence of women and women's issues at the next Wonca conference in Singapore.

Further information can be found at the our group's website at www.womenandfamilymedicine.com, where the Working Document and the Monograph/Literature Review are posted.

Cheryl Levitt
 WWPWFM Chair
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The Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice

The Wonca Working Party met in Orlando during the Wonca World Conference. At that meeting, Dr. Roger Strasser was congratulated on his extremely successful leadership as Chair of the Working Party. Dr. Jim Rourke was welcomed as the incoming Chair.

Of a particular note, the Wonca Working Party accepted a proposal for the 2006 World Rural Health Conference to be held in Seattle, September 8-12, 2006 with Post Conference September 14 and 15, 2006 in Alaska with the organization being led by WWAMI. For 2007 planning is beginning for a satellite conference to be held in conjunction with the next World



Some of the 38 attendees working to develop an Action Plan for the Wonca Working Party on Women and Family Medicine at the Preconference in Orlando, Florida, 11- 12 October 2004

Since Orlando 2004, WWPWFM and our members have been involved in a number of activities. Dr. Zorayda Leopando presented a WWPWFM symposium at the Kyoto Conference May 2005. The plans of the WWPWFM will be included in the agenda of the Regional Council Meeting and Dr. Leopando is planning to submit the papers from the conference to the Asia Pacific Family Medicine Journal for possible publication. A draft WWPWFM Action Plan 2004-2007 has been developed following Orlando. This will be discussed at an upcoming executive teleconference. The Working Party is exploring the possibility of submitting a proposal for a grant to bring the Executive and interested WWPWFM members together for a meeting in August 2006, in Italy.

Rural Conference in Singapore, July 24–28, 2007, with a focus on the satellite being held in a nearby country with a large rural population.

The “Health for All Rural People” (HARP) project is a high priority for the Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice with a goal of developing a resolution for the WHO World Health Assembly. Dr. Bruce Chater is the lead on this project with many collaborators. During the Orlando 2004 World Conference, the Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice joined the Wonca Executive in a productive meeting with Doctor Tim Evans, the WHO Assistant Director-General.

The Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice Executive Committee met by teleconference February 18, 2005. Of particular note, extensive negotiations following the October Orlando meeting focused on the appropriate timing for the HARP resolution to come forward to the WHO’s World Health Assembly. Extensive meetings with international collaboration on multiple levels, including governments, will be needed in order for successful passage.

The Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice will have a joint meeting with the International Association of Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health. This collaboration between the two groups has been developing over the last few years and has led to the Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice holding a joint meeting to be November 24–26 in Japan.

The Wonca Working Party has a broad membership representing most Wonca regions except in Iberoamericana-CIMF. The Wonca Working Party will work with the Regional President and other leaders to expand membership particularly in Central and South America.

Dr. James Rourke

Chair, Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice
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Wonca International Classification Committee

In October 2003, WHO accepted ICPC-2 within the WHO-FIC (Family of International Classifications) as a reason for encounter classification and as a classification for primary care or general practice whenever applicable (see: www.who.int/classifications/icd/adaptations/icpc2/en/). This means that ICPC-2 is now an accepted international classification with a

comprehensive mapping to ICD-10. A working group is looking into the areas where there are major differences, in order to see whether they can be corrected in the present classifications or whether changes have to be postponed until the development of the next generations of classifications: ICPC-3 and ICD-11.

WICC is working closely together with the SNOMED-CT primary care classification group and the international ATC group. Work with the International Primary Care Patient Safety Steering Committee will start at the next WICC meeting in Kyoto.

The input from these different groups will influence the development of a comprehensive primary care classification – ICPC-3. This will be based on our knowledge from the international experience with ICPC, and the future needs with respect to an optimal mapping with ICD-11 and SNOMED-CT and including links to ICF, primary care taxonomy for patient safety, the ATC and possibly other relevant classifications.

WICC decided in 2003 in Malta, that ICPC should be distributed as widely as possible, without making payment an obstacle. Few countries has so far bought a national license, and it is a challenge to ensure that poor countries and software developers get access to ICPC-2 without exploiting the copyright of Wonca and losing the quality control of WICC.

In order for WICC to function efficiently and effectively, a minimum of one meeting per year is required. WICC is growing in numbers of participants and some of these are coming from developing countries in Central and South-America, Asia and Africa. These members cannot get financial support from their Colleges or Governments to attend the WICC meetings, and yet their contribution is of vital importance for the development of ICPC in these countries.

If ICPC-3 in the next 4-5 years is going to be developed as a comprehensive primary care classification for these members of Wonca as well and in close collaboration with the above mentioned partners (WHO-FIC, SNOMED-CT, ATC, NML, Safety Taxonomy etc.) substantial additional financial support is needed.

A comprehensive ICPC-3 developed in close cooperation with the above named partners will ensure that Wonca maintain a leading role in the development of classifications in primary care for the benefit of communication, documentation and research in the whole health care system. ICPC can be an ordering principle for health care classifications and ensure

logical data entry into EPR (electronic patient records) and databases which are possible to retrieve for better patient care, quality assurance and vital statistics. This will give Wonca an important powerbase in the global health care development. This may have economical advantages for Wonca over time.

Niels Bentzen

Chair

Wonca International Classification Committee
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The Wonca Research Working Group

The Wonca Research Working Group has approximately 23 members who have different levels of activity. There are active members who are actively participating in the work of the committee and there are observer members who are receiving the information about the committee but who are not actively involved.

One of the problems the committee has is that we have virtually no members from the Iberoamericana-CIMF region. Reaching out and identifying members through our Wonca member associations may be an important part of the next steps.

The meeting in Orland of the Research Working Group agreed that the nine recommendations forthcoming from the Kingston Wonca conference on research development should be the principle priorities. Individual members of the Research Working Group were assigned specific tasks around implementing each of the nine recommendations from the Kingston group. Substantial progress has been made since the November meeting.

The Wonca website, with assistance and support from Alfred Low and Wes Fab has a separate site available for the Research Working Group which we have almost immediate plans to start implementing. Larry Culpepper had completed a survey of institutions providing education in Wonca countries. It is my understanding that this has been placed on the Wonca website and will be available. Dr. Bob Phillips, who is a member of the Working Group is completing a survey of research institutes in family medicine from around the world. A survey to determine the educational programs in research from the Wonca countries is ready to be distributed and hopefully the results of this will be forthcoming. This is the first step in forming a clearing house for research educational activities for anywhere in the world. This is one of the main recommendations

from the working group and we hope this clearing house will be functioning fully by the end of 2005. It will be important for the Research Working Group to expand representation and we await advice from the executive on how best this can be done. The plan for the Research Working Group is to continue towards fully implementing the recommendations from the Kingston conference and to hold a face to face meeting in Florence in conjunction with the WONCA Europe meeting in August, 2006. We are currently communicating by the internet which seems to work fairly well and we will continue our progress over the next year.

Walter Rosser, MD

Chair, Wonca Research Working Group
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The Wonca Informatics Working Party

The Wonca Informatics Working Party met during the 2004 World Wonca meeting in Orlando. Those present included Michael Kidd (Australia), Kumara Mendis (Sri Lanka), Carl Steylaerts (Belgium), Didier Duhot (France), Teng Liaw (Australia), while visitors included Wonca President Michael Boland, President-Elect Bruce Sparks and CEO Alfred Loh. Apologies had been received from Brian Meade (Ireland), Sheila Teasdale (UK), Pieter Houwink (Netherlands), Leo Pas (Belgium), Carlos Cristos (Spain), Wilfred Galea (Malta), Jean Karl Soler (Malta), Leon Geffen (South Africa), Hogne Sandvik (Norway) and Wes Fabb (Australia). Michael Kidd was appointed by the Wonca World Council in Orlando as Working Party Convenor for 2004–2007.

The Working Party discussed the 2001–2004 report to the Wonca World Council and the workplan for 2005–2007, which includes annual workshops. A one day workshop will be held in conjunction with the Wonca Europe meeting in Kos in September, 2005. This workshop will be to develop a checklist of principles to support the successful implementation of Electronic Health Records in Family Medicine/General Practice. Each participant will be expected to prepare a list of principles based on the experiences in their country, along with supporting documentary evidence.

It was also agreed to proceed with a one day workshop in 2006. This will be held in conjunction again with one of the Wonca regional conferences. This workshop will be to develop Wonca guidelines to support privacy and security in the use of electronic medical records in family medicine/general practice. Again each participant will be expected to prepare a set

of draft guidelines based on the experiences in their country, along with supporting documentary evidence.

It was agreed that the one day workshop in 2007 will focus on the issue of the use of informatics to support genomics in family medicine/general practice. This may be held in advance of the Wonca World Conference in Singapore that year to enable to paper to be ready in time for the World Council and conference. Final report checklists from each annual workshop will be presented to the Wonca World Council for endorsement and shared with Wonca Member Organisations.

The Working Party secretariat will write to each Wonca Member Organisation to confirm current membership or to seek new membership on the Working Party. The Working Party retains the ability to co-opt members with expertise in family medicine informatics onto the working party. Michael will also approach member organisations about informatics resources (guidelines, policies, education resources) which they are willing to share with other Wonca member organisations.

Michael Kidd
 Convenor
 Wonca Informatics Working Party
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WONCA REGIONAL NEWS

THE GREEK ISLAND OF KOS TO HOST SEPTEMBER 2005 EUROPE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

It is an honour and a privilege to invite you to the 11th Conference of the European Society of General Practice/Family Medicine-Wonca Region Europe, which will be held in Greece from the 3rd to the 7th of September 2005.

The overall theme of the Conference has been determined to be “From Hippocrates to the Human Genome: The Past, Present and Future of General Practice/Family Medicine.”

It is time to reexamine the Hippocratic principles, taking into consideration the large and recent scientific breakthroughs and to test, in terms of time endurance, our classical values in order to reassure them. As far as Greece is concerned, the country that has invented Family Medicine in the past, it will have the chance to reinvent it once more in the Conference, as well as to reform any basic principles while monitoring the evolution of General Practice along with its challenges. We believe that the concept of Family Medicine is a classical one. Nevertheless, we strongly feel that it is our duty to argue on our belief and to prove that our specialty is the actual core of Medicine itself; to such an extend this is, that the later cannot evolve as a science and a function in the absence of the former.



Bodossakis Merkouris
 HOC Chairman

The Conference will be organized in the island Kos, the birthplace of Hippocrates. Kos is a place where antiquity and modern civilisation find themselves in unison. The island of Kos is situated in the south eastern region of the Aegean Sea and is the third largest (295 sq. m.) of the Dodecanese Islands. Kos is an island of magnificent beauty also described as the jewel of the Greek Islands. Besides its breath taking golden sandy beaches, Kos is also full of ancient monuments, remnants from its glorious past. Kos is the site of the famous Hippocrates’ Plane tree, where the father of modern Medicine used to teach and practice medicine. This is considered to be the oldest tree in Europe. It is also home to the Asclepion of Kos, a temple dedicated to the Asclepios, the god protector of health in ancient Greece. The island’s mild climate, among the finest in the Mediterranean, is the primary reason for the island’s abundant green and other physical charms. No wonder that people call it “the garden of the Aegean”.

To learn more about the 2005 European Regional Conference and to register online, please visit our web site at <http://www.woncaeurope2005.org/>. Additional contact information is available in this issue under “Global Meetings for the Family Doctor”.

We are waiting to welcome you to our beautiful country so that we could offer our hospitality, always

under the gaze of Zeus, protector of guests according to the ancient Greek tradition.

Bodossakis-Prodrimos R.Merkouris
Chairman, Host Organizing Committee
Greek Association of General Practitioners

Come to Colombo, Sri Lanka for the 2005 Wonca MESAR Conference

The College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka is organizing a Wonca Middle East South Asia Regional (MESAR) Conference from the 12th to 16th October 2005 in Colombo on the theme Family Physician in Health Care – the Way Forward. There seems to be a great deal of enthusiasm among family physicians from the member countries of Wonca and I have had a number of inquiries from those who are interested in attending.

Family medicine as a speciality is well established in many parts of the world, and is now gaining momentum in the Middle East South Asia Region. Therefore, it is our duty as family physicians in the region to convince governments and universities to recognize it as such. We are at a crucial stage in the process of recognition in our region. The World Health Organization and other world bodies concerned with the health status of our region, have had several discussions on this subject and they strongly support the view that family physicians should play a pivotal role in primary health care of a country, and that a proper referral system should be established. The Sri Lankan College has taken many steps in this direction and this conference will be an ideal forum for all of us to express our views and speak in one voice. Many leaders and decision makers in health care in this region are expected to participate and therefore it is vitally important that as many of you as possible should attend this conference.



Dr Preethi Wijegoonawardene
President
College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka

A stimulating scientific programme is being planned and we will dedicate a session to the tsunami affected people, where presentations will be made to inform the delegates at the conference on the role of the College in rebuilding and rehabilitating tsunami affected families.

Preliminary studies on the tsunami, and its impact on the health system of the country will also be presented for discussion at a seminar. There will be an interesting social programme with much interaction and we also plan to have a day excursion to some of the tsunami affected areas on the coast line, for the foreign delegates to see for themselves. The Host College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka has decided to donate part of the proceeds of the Conference to the Tsunami Relief Fund.

Do not miss an opportunity to combine the benefits of a good scientific programme with enjoying one of the best destinations in the world. Sri Lanka, a tropical island situated at the southern tip of India, has been appropriately described as a paradise. Its sunny beaches, palm fringed coastline, abundance of rivers, streams cascading waterfalls, and its heartland of cool misty mountains, forests containing a variety of exotic flora and fauna are some of its major attractions. Sri Lanka has a colourful history of an advanced civilization that dates back to the Pre-Christian era. The ruins of palaces, irrigation systems and places of worship, which still can be viewed, bear eloquent testimony to the advances the ancient Sri Lankans made.

Please circulate this message to all your colleagues in your organization, keep the dates free and make your travel arrangements accordingly. You could communicate with us on our e-mail cgpsl@sltnet.lk as early as possible.

I welcome you all to Sri Lanka in the month of October for this great event.

Dr Preethi Wijegoonawardene
President, College of General Practitioners,
Sri Lanka

Professor W A Ferdinand
Secretary General
Wonca MESAR Conference 2005

HEALTH AND HEALTH SYSTEM NEWS

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY HELD: MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS URGED TO SELECT ANTI-TOBACCO CHAMPIONS

World No Tobacco Day 2005, held on May 31st, focused on the role of health professionals on tobacco control. Family doctors are in an excellent position to have a prominent role in tobacco control. They reach a high percentage of the population and have the opportunity to help people change their behaviour. Family doctors give advice, guidance and answers to questions related to the consequences of tobacco use, can help patients to stop smoking and forewarn children and adolescents of the dangers of tobacco.

We encourage all family doctors to be leaders in promoting a smoke free office practice and community. The World Health Organization has produced a booklet for World No Tobacco Day entitled, "The Role of Health Professions in Tobacco Control". Booklet highlights include:

- * The tobacco pandemic is decades away from its peak
- * The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control describes strategies for controlling the tobacco pandemic
- * Tobacco harms the economy and sustainable development
- * Women are targets of tobacco marketing
- * Smoking increases the rate of cervical cancer
- * Smoking increases the risk of TB
- * Immediate and long term benefits of cessation

We encourage each of our more than 100 member organizations to adopt the WHO Code of Practice on Tobacco control, and report your official endorsement to the Wonca CEO, Dr Alfred Loh, at ceo@wonca.com.sg.

Member Organizations are encouraged to appoint tobacco champions to the Wonca Task Force on Tobacco Cessation. We are applying for funding for an international initiative on tobacco guideline implementation in which you may play a key role. Please report your official appointment to Dr. Alfred Loh, ceo@wonca.com.sg so that they can join a Task Force listserve.

Dr Rick Botelho

Professor of Family Medicine
Co-chair of the Wonca Task Force on Tobacco Cessation
Rick_Botelho@URMC.Rochester.edu

Dr Michael Boland

Co-Chair of Task Force
Past President of Wonca
bolandgp@indigo.ie

(Editor's note: the WHO's 44 page booklet, "The Role of the Health Professional in Tobacco Control", may be downloaded at the following address: http://www.who.int/tobacco/resources/publications/wntd/2005/en/bookletfinal_20april.pdf)

The World Health Report 2005 - Make Every Mother and Child Count

The World Health Organization's World Health Report, released on April 7, 2005, brings global attention to the large inequities that remain in maternal and child health. Each year, "about 530,000 women a year die in pregnancy or childbirth, more than three million babies are stillborn, more than four million newborns die within the first days or weeks of life, and altogether 10.6 million children a year die before their fifth birthday", according to WHO's latest figures.

Exclusion from maternal, new-born and child health care is a key feature of inequity as well as a crucial obstacle to progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, the report says. The health of mothers and children "is at the core of the struggle against poverty and inequality, as a matter of human rights". Lack of access to skilled care and to major obstetric interventions is the prime reason why large numbers of mothers in rural areas are excluded from life-saving care at childbirth. For example, in a study of 2.7 million deliveries in seven developing countries, only 32% of women who needed a major life-saving intervention received it.

In many countries, "numerous women and children are excluded from even the most basic health benefits: those that are important for mere survival". Some countries, often the poorest, show a pattern of massive deprivation, with only a small minority, usually the urban rich, enjoying reasonable access to health care, while an overwhelming majority is excluded.

Among those left out, women and their children suffer most. "Being poor or being a woman is often a reason for being discriminated against, and may result in abuse, neglect and poor treatment, poorly explained reasons for procedures, compounded by views sometimes held by health workers that women are ignorant. The care that women are offered may be

untimely, ineffective, unresponsive or discriminatory. (Editor's note: The WHO's World Health Report is available online in English, Spanish, French, Chinese, Russian and Arabic at: <http://www.who.int/whr/2005/>)

UNICEF Reports Girls Education Not Expanding Fast Enough

Progress For Children: A Report Card on Gender Parity and Primary Education (No. 2)

Girls' education has been expanding all over the world, but not fast enough to ensure a basic education for millions of children still out of school or to ensure the progress of countries that lag behind. This is conclusion of the UNICEF Report, entitled, "Progress for Children: A Report Card on Gender Parity and Primary Education", released in April, 2005. "Progress for Children" reports on where the world stands in its commitment to eliminate gender disparity in education by 2005: the first Millennium Development target agreed to by the international community and key to achieving the goal of universal primary education by 2015.

The UNICEF Report, Progress for Children, measures the world's advances towards Millennium Development Goals 2 and 3, which pursue gender equality and universal primary education. It emerges at a vital time: 2005 is the year by which the first Millennium target –

to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education – is to be met. The elimination of gender disparity in education by 2005 is the key to achieving the goal of universal primary education by 2015.

The report card shows that in many regions and countries, the target will not be met. "Education is the right of all children: girls and boys, rich and poor. Investing in education – and girls' education in particular – remains our best hope of accelerating progress towards the wider goals in human development that the international community has pledged to meet", said UNICEF's past Executive Director, Carol Bellamy. "Education is about more than just learning. It saves lives: from the teenagers it protects against HIV/AIDS to the babies saved by their mothers' knowledge of health and nutrition. There is no time to lose."

(Editor's note:

The full report is available online at: http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/PFC_rev_11_April_Eng.pdf. The information can be viewed in English, Spanish and French at the following websites:

* English Website: <http://www.unicef.org/progressforchildren/2005n2/>

* Spanish website: <http://www.unicef.org/spanish/progressforchildren/2005n2/>

* French website: <http://www.unicef.org/french/progressforchildren/2005n2/>)

MEMBER AND ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

ULUDAG UNIVERSITY TO TRANSLATE WONCA – WHO GUIDEBOOK INTO TURKISH

Uludag University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine was established in 1993. Our first research fellow began in 1996. Today, our Department consists of 1 professor, 5 assistant professors and 11 research fellows. Our departments' members founded the Bursa branch of the Turkish Association of Family Physicians' in 2000.

As a new department, in 4–7 May 2004 we organized the 6th Turkish National Family Medicine Congress in our home city Bursa. Our colleagues had a chance of listening and talking with Wonca World and Europe executives' in our congress. We learned of the

importance of the Wonca-WHO Guidebook, "Improving Health Systems: The Contribution of Family Medicine", in educating and gaining the support of policymakers, health officials, the profession and the public in our efforts to improve health systems and the role of family medicine.



Uludag Department of Family Medicine Translation Team



Professor Nazan BILGEL



Wonca President Bruce Sparks, President-Elect Chris van Well, Europe President Igor Svab and Past Europe President Philip Evans with the Uludag Department at the Turkish National Family Medicine Congress, Bursu 2004

As a result, our departments' members decided to take responsibility for translating the Wonca-WHO Guidebook into Turkish. This Guidebook will be very helpful to family physicians, practitioners, other specialists, academic departments, ministry of health and related officials to help everyone understand the important global role of family medicine. The Guidebook will help us enhance our discipline in Turkey.

Publishing of the Turkish version of this valuable Wonca-WHO Guidebook is underway with a goal of beginning distribution in June, 2005. With the generous financial assistance and support of the pharmaceutical company, Aventis, approximately 5000 copies will be distributed to all family physicians and some practitioners all around Turkey free of charge. We think that the Wonca-WHO Guidebook will be the most important cornerstone which will show the right route for the journey of Turkish family medicine.

We thank Wonca World President Professor Bruce Sparks, President-Elect Professor Chris van Weel and Chief Executive Officer Dr Alfred W T Loh and the pharmaceutical company, Aventis, for their leadership and support.

Professor Nazan BILGEL

Director of Uludag University Faculty of Medicine
Department of Family Medicine
Bursa, Turkey
nazan@uludag.edu.tr

Remembering the Life of Wonca's 2nd President, Donald Ingram Rice

Donald Ingram Rice, a Canadian family physician well known and admired around the world as one of Wonca's founding fathers, died on May 19th, 2005 following a courageous struggle with Parkinson's disease.

A long time resident of Toronto, Ontario and Middle Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia, Dr Rice is survived by Ann (Archibald) of Bedford, Nova Scotia, his wife of 62 years; son Christopher (Debbie Edwards) of Toronto, daughter Cheryl (Rod Millar) of Chester and Fort Lauderdale and sister Dorothy Roper of Summerland Key, Florida.

Dr Rice was born in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia March 31, 1920 to Charles Louis and Mami Matilda Rice. Following service in World War II, he graduated from Dalhousie University Medical School in 1951. Don practiced medicine in Halifax, Nova Scotia as a family physician until 1964 when he moved to Toronto, Ontario to accept the position of Executive Director of The College of Family Physicians of Canada. During his tenure the College was acknowledged as having provided a major leadership role in the evolution of the general practitioner to that of a family medicine specialist.



Dr. Donald Ingram Rice

Dr. Rice's influence on organized medicine and particularly Family Medicine was not limited to Canada. He was a founding member of the World Organization of National College/Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians (Wonca). He attended the first officially recognized World Wonca meeting in 1972 in Melbourne, Australia, where he was elected Wonca's first Chairman of Council. In 1974, he was elected as Wonca's 2nd President, serving with great distinction on behalf of the organization during his 1974 to 1976 term. Dr Rice was also a founding member of the International Center for Family Medicine (ICFM), the predecessor of Wonca's Iberoamericana-CIMF Region, where he held the offices of Secretary, Vice President and President (1991-1993).

During his career, Dr Rice travelled extensively studying educational programs for family doctors in

many countries, where he tirelessly helped others improve the training of family physicians at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He authored numerous publications relative to training for Family Practice”, and was co-author of a textbook “Family Medicine – A Guide Book for Practitioners of the Art”.

In recognition of his contribution to family medicine, both nationally and internationally, Dr Rice was distinguished by Canadian Universities with three Honorary Doctorate Degrees, thirteen major Achievement Awards by the medical profession, and in April 1989 was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada.

The CFPC's Research and Education Foundation is accepting donations to the Donald I Rice Award Fund to honor one Wonca's founding fathers. This major CFPC award supports outstanding leaders in the discipline of family medicine to travel across Canada over a 2 year period and share their perspectives related to family medicine research, teaching and practice at Chapter ASA's and other meetings as well as with students, residents and teachers in Canada's 17 family medicine programs in medical schools across the country.

(Editor's note: Donations to the Donald I Rice Award may be sent in: 1) By mail to the D I Rice Award c/o The CFPC Research and Education Foundation, 2630 Skymark Ave, Mississauga Ontario Canada L4W5A4; 2) online at: www.cfpc.ca look for a specific D I Rice award on the front page or click on the "Research and Education Foundation" icon on the menu; 3) by telephone : (905) 629-0900 - ext 244; or 4) fax (905) 629 - 0893 attention Sandra Hollingsworth c/o REF. If questions, please contact Sandra via phone or email at shollingsworth@cfpc.ca)

Hong Kong Family Doctors Lee and Foo Honoured by Malaysian Academy

During its April 2005 annual convention, the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia conferred Honorary Fellowship to Drs. Peter CY Lee and Stephen Foo Kam So.

Dr. Peter CY Lee introduced the discipline of General Practice/Family Medicine into Hong Kong in 1973, and became the Founder-President of the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners (now known as Hong Kong College), he introduced the concept of General Practice into China in 1986, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Chinese Society of General Practice in Beijing in 1993, now with branches all over China. From 1992 to 1995, Dr Lee served as President of the World Organization of Family Doctors (Wonca). Dr Lee's work has been widely acclaimed in the world of academia and medicine in the Asia-Pacific Region and around the world. Honorary Doctorates and Fellowships conferred on Dr. Lee include: by the University of Hong Kong (LL.D., 1977); by the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners (FHKCGP, 1987); by the Royal College of General Practitioners in the United Kingdom (FRCGP, 1990); by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (MCFPC, 1992); by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP, 1994); and by the University of Birmingham (DDID., 2001).

Dr. Stephen Foo Kam So was President of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians between 1992 and 1998 and is still very active in College affairs by being repeatedly elected to serve in the College Council since 1998. He was elected and is still serving as Honorary Treasurer of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine since 2004. For his services to family medicine in Hong Kong and in China, he was awarded “Honorary Fellow” of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians (FHKCFP) in 2003, and “Honorary Fellow” of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP) in 2004.



In Kuala Lumpur at the Convocation Ceremony from left to right are: Dr. Stephen K.S. Foo, Tan Sri Datuk Dr. R.P. Lingam (current President of the Malaysian Academy), and Dr. Peter CY. Lee.

RESOURCES FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR

PRIMARY CARE GUIDELINES FOR ASTHMA, COPD AND ALLERGIC RHINITIS

The release of the first report of the International Primary Care Airways Group (IPAG) was announced during the May 2005 Asian Pacific Regional Conference of Wonca. The IPAG Handbook document has been prepared by a joint task force of primary care physicians and respiratory specialists. It is expected to provide a global basis for improving care in three leading chronic respiratory diseases – asthma, COPD, and allergic rhinitis. New tools for diagnosis have been developed for primary care settings and are completed with management recommendations based on latest available evidence.

Wonca will take an active part in the dissemination and implementation of the International Primary Care Airways Group Handbook through its over 100 national member organizations and its more than 200,000 direct members worldwide. Professor Chris van Weel, President-Elect of Wonca said, “The IPAG Handbook was developed by and for international primary care doctors in coordination with global, evidence-based guidelines of asthma, allergy, and COPD management. It should play a key role in primary care research and education and be a key reference in medical care at the local level”. This effort will be one of the key components of a worldwide campaign, which Wonca initiates to improve the diagnosis and management of chronic respiratory disease. In addition, primary care experts in the Inter-

national Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) also endorse the document.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and allergic rhinitis are the most common chronic respiratory diseases worldwide. COPD ranks high among the global causes of death, and is one of the fastest growing causes of disability and mortality worldwide. COPD is the leading cause of smoking related disability, more than stroke and heart disease. Primary care physicians provide care for most of the cases. At the same time, all of three diseases are significantly under-diagnosed in primary care; for example only about a half of COPD patients are correctly diagnosed. A number of links between asthma and allergic rhinitis exist which may be overlooked in practice. The differential diagnosis between COPD and asthma is of essential importance, as the two diseases may require different approaches to treatment. Both under-diagnosis and misdiagnosis of COPD and asthma are partly due to limited usage of the “gold standard” diagnostic method – spirometry in primary care.

The recent years have been marked by the introduction of global guidelines on the three chronic diseases. These were the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) in 1997, the Global Initiative for Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) and Allergic Rhinitis and Its Impact on Asthma (ARIA) in 2001. These guidelines were developed by panels of leading experts and included the latest evidence available on diagnosis and treatment. Because of their comprehensive evidence-based review by leading experts, GINA, GOLD and ARIA have become widely acknowledged. They are now the most referenced resources of information on asthma, COPD and allergic rhinitis respectively. How-

ever, their usability in primary care has been limited till now, as the guidelines were not specifically designed for operational use in the primary care settings.

The IPAG task force was established in 2002 to develop evidence based guidelines specially designed for use in primary care settings, on the basis of GINA, GOLD and ARIA. The IPAG expert panel included the world’s leading primary care physicians as well as the specialist representatives of GINA, GOLD and ARIA. Tsukasa Tsuda, MD, Chairperson of the Host Organizing Committee of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Kyoto, said, “Historically, diagnosis and treatment recommendations written by specialists without input from primary care were not always applicable in real life in a busy practice. IPAG is an important step in growing cooperation between secondary and primary care towards improving standards of care for chronic respiratory diseases.”

The expert panel developed and validated a set of questionnaire tools to help busy primary care physician attribute the patient’s presenting symptoms to either asthma, COPD or allergic rhinitis. A special questionnaire module has been developed to support the differential diagnosis between COPD and asthma in age group over 40, in which COPD starts to be more prevalent than asthma. Management recommendations of IPAG are in conformity with GINA, GOLD and ARIA.

In addition to supporting IPAG, WONCA will also be one of the leaders of the Global Alliance against Respiratory Disease (GARD) – a global initiative spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO). President-elect, Professor Chris van Weel, is the Wonca representative to GARD as well as

the GOLD initiative. Dr. Alfred Loh, CEO of Wonca said, "Busy primary care professionals in all countries are facing diagnostic and treatment decisions on chronic respiratory diseases every day. Wonca sees as its mission to help provide our family doctors with useful education and guidance, such as through IPAG and GARD, to help them improve the lives of respiratory patients worldwide".

(Editor's note: The IPAG Handbook may be downloaded from <http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/education/edresourcecenter/edresourcecentre.asp>. Additional information may be obtained online on the Global Initiative for Asthma www.ginasthma.org; The Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease www.gold.org; and Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma www.whiar.org)

The European Definition of General Practice / Family Medicine

This Wonca Europe consensus statement defines both the discipline of general practice / family medicine and its professional tasks. These new definitions and the statement of core competencies are published in order to inform and to contribute to the debate on the essential role of family medicine within health systems, at both national and Pan-European levels.

The statement describes the core competencies required of general practitioners. It delineates the essential elements of the academic discipline and provides an authoritative view family doctors in Europe should be providing in the way of services to patients, in order that patient care is of the highest quality and also cost effective. From the definitions within this paper the agendas for education, research, and quality improve can be derived, to ensure that family medicine will develop to meet the health care needs of the population in the 21st century.

General practice / family medicine is an academic and scientific discipline, with its own educational content, research, evidence base and clinical activity, and a clinical specialty orientated to primary care. The characteristics of the discipline of general practice/family medicine are that it:

- a) is normally the point of first medical contact within the health care system, providing open and unlimited access to its users, dealing with all health problems regardless of the age, sex, or any other characteristic of the person concerned.

- b) makes efficient use of health care resources through co-ordinating care, working with other professionals in the primary care setting, and by managing the interface with other specialties taking an advocacy role for the patient when needed.
- c) develops a person-centred approach, oriented to the individual, his/her family, and their community.
- d) has a unique consultation process, which establishes a relationship over time, through effective communication between doctor and patient
- e) is responsible for the provision of longitudinal continuity of care as determined by the needs of the patient.
- f) has a specific decision making process determined by the prevalence and incidence of illness in the community.
- g) manages simultaneously both acute and chronic health problems of individual patients.
- h) manages illness which presents in an undifferentiated way at an early stage in its development, which may require urgent intervention.
- i) promotes health and well being both by appropriate and effective intervention.
- j) has a specific responsibility for the health of the community.
- k) deals with health problems in their physical, psychological, social, cultural and existential dimensions.

The eleven central characteristics that define the discipline relate to eleven abilities that every specialist family doctor should master. They can be clustered into six core competencies (with reference to the above characteristics) :

1. Primary care management (a, b)
2. Person-centred care (c, d, e)
3. Specific problem solving skills (f, g)
4. Comprehensive approach (h, i)
5. Community orientation (j)
6. Holistic modelling (k)

To practice the specialty the competent practitioner implements these competencies in the three areas:

1. clinical tasks,
2. communication with patients and
3. management of the practice.

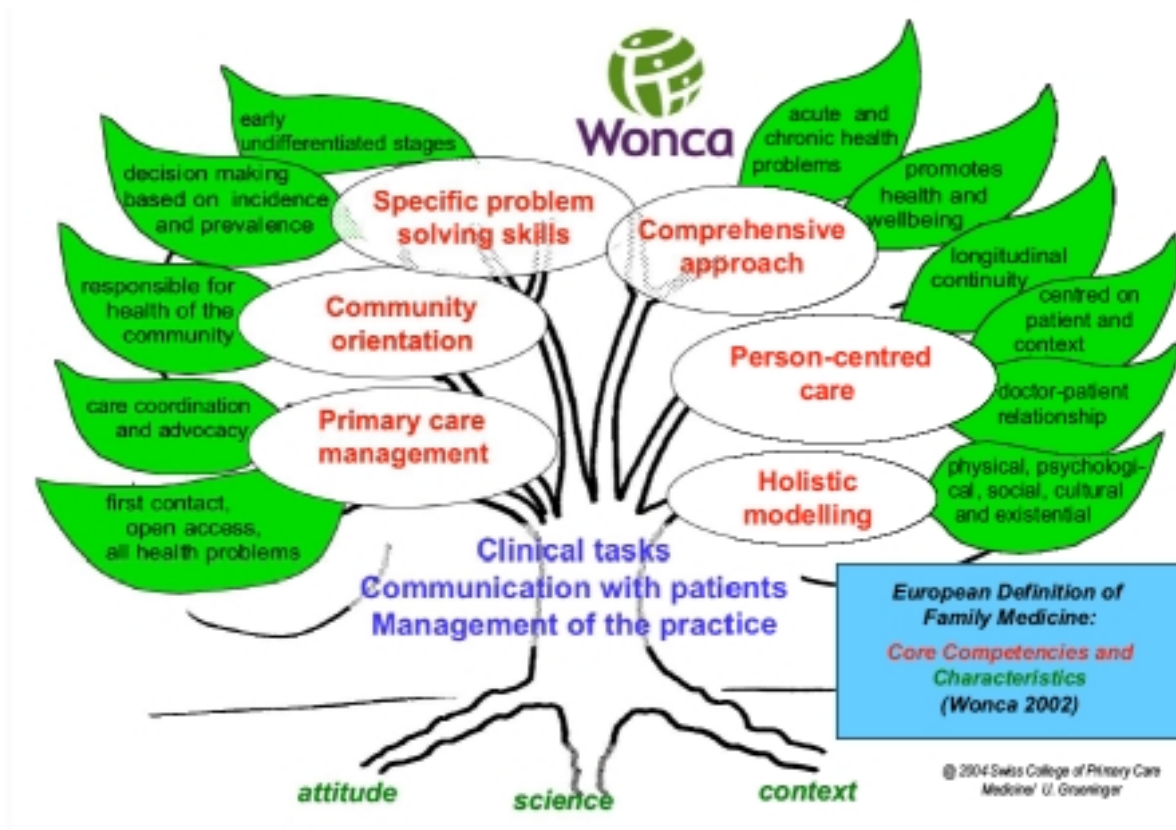
As a person-centred scientific discipline, three background features should be considered as fundamental:

1. contextual, using the context of the person, the family, the community and their culture;
2. attitudinal: based on the doctor's professional capabilities, values and ethics, and

- Scientific: adopting a critical and research based approach to practice and maintaining this through continuing learning and quality improvement.

Switzerland is working intensively with the European Definition as the basis of all its programs, including medical student, post-graduate and continuing professional development.

Ueli Grüninger, the CEO of the Swiss College of Family Medicine, created the beautiful Wonca Tree that I presented in Orlando at the Wonca World Council Meeting.



The interrelation of the core competencies, implementation areas and background features, characterises the discipline and underlines the complexity of the specialty.

It is this complex interrelationship of core competencies that should guide and be reflected in the development of related agenda's for teaching, research and quality improvement. The European Definition will help promote and develop our discipline in order to achieve and maintain high standards of education, training, research and clinical practice for the benefit of individual patients and communities.

The full text of the European Definition may be downloaded at: <http://www.woncaeurope.org/Publications.htm>

Dr med Bruno Kissling
 Wonca Council Member
 Swiss Society of General Medicine
 kissling@primary-care.ch

WONCA CONFERENCES 2005 – 2010 AT A GLANCE

 Information correct as at June 2005.
 May be subject to change.

 See Wonca Website www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com for updates

2005	Region	Venue	Theme
3 – 7 Sept	European Regional Conference	Kos Island GREECE	From Hippocrates to the Human Genome: The Past, Present and Future of General Practice/Family Medicine
12 – 16 Oct	Middle East South Asia Regional Conference	Colombo SRI LANKA	Family Physician in Health Care – The Way Forward
8 – 11 Dec	Americas Regional Conference	Vancouver CANADA	Preparing For Tomorrow
2006			
27 – 30 Aug	European Regional Conference	Florence ITALY	Towards Medical Renaissance
8 – 12 Sept and 14 – 15 Sept	World Rural Health Conference Post Conference	Seattle Washington USA Alaska USA	Transforming Rural Practice Through Education
11 – 14 Oct	Iberoamericana - CIMF Regional Conference	Buenos Aires ARGENTINA	Pursuing Equity and Efficiency in Healthcare: the Role of the Family Doctor
5 – 9 Nov	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Bangkok THAILAND	Happy and Healthy Family
2007			
24 – 27 July	18th WONCA	SINGAPORE World Conference	Human Genomics and its Impact on Family Physicians
17 – 21 Oct	European Regional Conference	Paris FRANCE	Re-Thinking Primary Care in the European Context: A New Challenge for General Practice
2008			
1 – 5 Oct	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Melbourne AUSTRALIA	Theme to be confirmed
2009			
5 – 8 June	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Hong Kong	Building Bridges
2010			
26 – 30 May	19 th WONCA World Conference	Cancun MEXICO	Millennium Development Goals: The Contribution of Family Medicine

GLOBAL MEETINGS FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR

WONCA WORLD AND REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Kos Island 2005

Host: Greek Association of General Practitioners
 Theme: From Hippocrates to the Human Genome: The Past, Present and Future of General Practice/Family Medicine
 Date: 3-7 September, 2005
 Venue: Island of Kos, Greece
 Contact: The Greek Association of GPs (Elegeia) Mr. Raoul Merkouris 21, N.Kountourioti Str.(5th floor) 54625-Thessaloniki Greece
 Tel: 30 2310 550048, +30 2310 539995
 Fax: 30 2310 539995
 Email: elegeia@woncaeuropa2005.org
 Web: <http://www.woncaeuropa2005.org>

Wonca Americas Region/Family Medicine Forum 2005, Vancouver, 2005

Host: College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)
 Theme: Preparing for Tomorrow
 Date: 8-11 December, 2005
 Venue: Vancouver Exhibition and Convention Centre Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
 Contact: Joanne Langevin, Meetings Manager Cheryl Selig, Registration Coordinator 2630 Avenue Skymark Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4W 5A4
 Tel: 905 629 0900/1-800-387-6197
 Fax: 905 629 0893
 Email: info@cfpc.ca
 Web: www.cfpc.ca

Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Florence 2006

Host: CSERMEG
 Theme: Towards Medical Renaissance
 Date: 27-30 August, 2006
 Venue: Florence, Italy
 Contact: OICsrl Viale Matteotti 7 50121 Florence, Italy
 Tel: +39 0555 0351
 Fax: +39 0555 001912
 Email: wonca2006@oic.it
 Web: <http://www.woncaeuropa2006.org>

Wonca 7th Rural Health Conference, Seattle-Anchorage 2006

Host: Wonca Rural Health Working Party
 Theme: Transforming Rural Practice Through Education
 Date: 8-15 Sept, 2006
 Venue: 8-12 Sept, Wonca Rural Conference University of Washington campus 13-15 Sept, 34th Annual Advances in Family Practice University of Washington campus Sept 14-15, Post Conference Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge Anchorage, Alaska

Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF Region, Buenos Aires, 2006

Host: Federacion Argentina De Medicina Familiar y General
 Theme: Pursuing Equity and Efficiency in Healthcare: The Role of the Family Doctor
 Date: 11-14 October, 2006
 Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Buenos Aires
 Contact: Federacion Argentina De Medicina Familiar y General
 Tel: 54 11 4958 5071
 Email: aamf@lvd.com.ar
 Web: www.aamf.org.ar

15th Wonca Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Bangkok 2006

Host: General Practitioners/Family Physicians Assoc, Thailand
College of Family Physicians, Singapore
Theme: Happy and Healthy Family
Date: 5-9 November, 2006
Venue: Sofitel Central Plaza and Bangkok Convention Centre
Contact: Dr Kachit Choopanya, Chairman,
Host Organizing Committee
10th Floor, Royal Golden Jubilee Building
2 Soi Soonvijai
New Petchaburi Road
Bangkok, Thailand 10320
Tel: 66(0) 2716 6651
Fax: 66(0) 2716 6651
Web: www.thaifammed.org

18th Wonca World Conference, Singapore 2007

Host: College of Family Physicians, Singapore
Theme: Human Genomics and its Impact on Family Physicians
Date: 24-27 July, 2007
Venue: Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre
Contact: Dr Tan See Leng, Chairman,
Host Organizing Committee
College of Family Physicians, Singapore
College of Medicine Building
16 College Road #01-02
Singapore 169854
Tel: 65 6223 0606
Fax: 65 6222 0204
Email: contact@cfps.org.sg
Web: www.wonca2007.com

Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Paris, 2007

Host: French National College of Teachers in General Practice
Theme: Rethinking Primary Care in the European Context
Date: 17-21 October, 2007
Venue: Palais des Congres
Paris, France
Contact: French National College of Teachers in General Practice
6 rue des 2 communes
94300 Vincennes
Tel: 33-153 669 180
Email: cnge@cnge.fr
Web: www.cnge.fr

19th Wonca World Conference, Cancun 2010

Host: Mexican College of Family Medicine
Theme: Millennium Develop Goals:
The Contribution of Family Medicine
Date: 26-30 May, 2010
Venue: Cancun Conventions and Exhibition Center,
Cancun Mexico
Contact: Mexican College of Family Medicine
Anahuac #60
Colonia Roma Sur
06760 Mexico, D.F.
Tel: 52-55 5574
Fax: 52-55 5387
Email: javierdominguez14@hotmail.com

MEMBER ORGANIZATION AND RELATED MEETINGS

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practice Conference, Christchurch 2005

Theme: New Horizons: Celebrate the Art of General Practice
 Date: 14-16 July, 2005
 Venue: Christchurch Convention Centre
 Contact: www.rnzcp.org.nz/conferences

Association of Health Care Professionals (AHCP) 16th Conference, London 2005

Theme: Advances in Family Medicine/General Practice
 Date: 20-23 August, 2005
 Venue: London, England, UK.
 Contact: Secretariat, AHCP
 P. O Box 18265
 London EC2A 3TT
 England, UK
 Tel: 44 20 7749 7243
 Fax: 44 20 7739 8683
 Email: info@ahcp.org.uk

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Annual Scientific Assembly, San Francisco 2005

Date: 28 Sept - 2 Oct, 2005
 Venue: San Francisco, California
 Contact: AAFP
 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway
 Leawood, Kansas 66211-2672, USA
 Tel: 1 913 906 6000
 Fax: 1 913 906 6075
 Email: international@aafp.org
 Web: <http://www.aafp.org>

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners 48th Annual Scientific Conference, Darwin, Australia 2005

Date: 29 Sept - 2 Oct, 2005
 Theme: Unity and Care
 Venue: Holiday Inn Esplanade Darwin
 Contact: Tania Ormiston
 Phone: (613) 8699 0427
 Email: tania.ormiston@racgp.org.au
 Web: www.racgp.org.au

International Society for Quality in Health Care 22nd International Conference, Vancouver 2005

Date: 25-28 Oct, 2005
 Venue: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
 Contact: ISQua Secretariat
 212 Clarendon Street
 East Melbourne 3002 AUSTRALIA
 Phone: +61 3 9417 6971
 Fax: +61 3 9417 6851
 Email: isqua@isqua.org
 Web: <http://www.isqua.org>

Network: Toward Unity for Health International Conference

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 2005

Date: 12-17 Nov, 2005
 Theme: On Making Primary Health Care Work: Challenges for the Education and Practice of the Health Workforce
 Venue: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
 Contact: Ms. Yoka J.H. Cerfontaine
 P.O. Box 616
 6200 MD Maastricht
 The Netherlands
 Tel: 31-43-3885638/3881524
 Fax: 31-43-3885639
 Email: secretariat@network.unimaas.nl
 Web: <http://www.the-networktufh.org/conference/>

13th World Conference on Smoking or Health, Washington, DC 2006

Theme: Building Capacity for a Tobacco-Free World
 Date: 12-15 July, 2006
 Venue: Renaissance DC Hotel
 Washington, D.C., USA
 Contact: John Seffrin, PhD
 Chief Executive Officer
 American Cancer Society
 Email: secretariat2006@cancer.org
 Web: <http://www.2006conferences.org/>
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Towards Unity for Health and Family Medicine A working paper based on the proceedings of the Wonca-WHO Collaboration Meeting in Durban, South Africa, May 17-19 2001.	US\$ 5	US\$ 5	
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Wonca Europe 2005

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Hosted by: The Greek Association of General Practitioners

Website: www.woncaeurope2005.org

E-mail: elegeia@woncaeurope2005.org