

# WONCA News

An International Forum for Family Doctors



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## WONCA GLOBAL SPONSORS



## FROM THE WONCA PRESIDENT:

### WORLD HEALTH DAY 2006 - A CELEBRATION OR A GLOBAL CRISES

*“The global population is growing, but the number of health workers is stagnating or even falling in many of the places where they are needed most. Across the developing world, health workers face economic hardship, deteriorating infrastructure and social unrest. In many countries, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has also destroyed the health and lives of health workers”*

Dr LEE Jong-wook  
WHO Director-General  
7 April 2006

The programme for World Health Day this year was billed as an opportunity to celebrate the remarkable contribution to human health and development made by health workers globally. The festivities began with a conference in Washington, DC on 4th April organised by PAHO and WHO, culminating on the 7th, World Health Day itself, which was devoted to the health workforce crisis. On this day around the globe hundreds of organizations drew attention to the global health workforce crisis.

And a crisis it is! The serious shortage of health workers was emphasised in the recently published WHO World Health Report 2006 - Working together for Health which stressed how essential life-saving interventions such as childhood immunisation, safe pregnancy, and access to treatment for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis were being impaired by this crisis. It stated, “This shortage, combined with a lack of training and knowledge, is also a major obstacle for health systems as they attempt to respond effectively to chronic diseases, avian influenza and other health challenges”. More than four million additional doctors, nurses, midwives, managers and public health workers are urgently needed to fill the gap in 57 countries, 36 of which are in sub-Saharan Africa, which has 11% of the world’s population and 24% of the global burden of disease but only 3% of the world’s health workers. Every country needs to improve the way it plans for, educates and employs the doctors, nurses and support staff who make up the health workforce and provide them with better working conditions, the report concludes. Solutions to this global crisis must be worked out at local, national and international levels, and must involve governments, the United Nations,

health professionals, non-governmental organisations and community leaders.

While WHO stresses that the impact of the shortage of health workers in general is greatest in countries overwhelmed by poverty and disease, where these health workers are needed most, there is a relative shortage of family doctors even in well-resourced developed countries. In the February edition of Wonca News, reference was made to a research report from the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners which indicates that there is a major shortage of GPs trained in that country, necessitating recruitment of foreign trained doctors. What is even more worrying was that the rapidly diminishing and aging GP population could produce a major crisis within 5 years, since it appears that a third of GPs would have left practice by then. Reports from Canada indicate that more than 4 million of the country’s population cannot find a family physician to care for them. They are short of some 3000 family physicians and in 2004 they estimated that a further 1400 family doctors would retire in the following two years. Sixty percent of those in practice have a workload of more than 75 hours per week. People who don’t have a family doctor have no personal physician to look after most of their medical problems or to coordinate their care. Many other developed countries have well established planning programmes.

### Why is it happening?

Obviously, each country has its own precipitating factors for the crisis. Are medical schools training insufficient physicians of all types, possibly due to enrolment cutbacks? Fewer graduates are selecting family practice as their first career choice. In many countries, the differential rewards for primary care doctors, and those graduating with increased debt loads see greater opportunity to overcome their financial burdens by entering specialist practice. During my recent visit to Nigeria, it was clear that the population did not value the generalist but felt that ‘specialist was best’!

Doctors from poorer countries can easily be attracted by the market forces of lucrative salary packages offered by developed countries, but since it is a global problem one would hope that this migration can be curbed in some way. Our young students and graduates in Africa are continually bombarded by recruiting agencies from developed countries, offering them lucrative salaries to work in areas unattractive to their own graduates. Tim Evans, WHO Assistant Director-General Evidence and

Information for Policy in his message for World Health Day, reports that, "some developed countries have put policies in place to stop active recruitment of health workers from severely understaffed countries. Some developing countries have revised their pay scales and introduced non-monetary incentives to retain their workforce and deploy them in rural areas".

**What is to be done?**

From my studies of the global situation and readings around the topic I am convinced of the urgency and importance of physician human resource research, to determine the demographics of our family doctor populations and the trends likely to affect the future of the discipline, and then to plan for the future! If the process has not yet begun in a country, I would recommend that Member Organisations of Wonca initiate such surveys in their countries. This is made all the more urgent since it takes at least seven to twelve years of medical school and residency to train a family doctor. So decisions made today will only impact on the delivery of health care more than a decade from now.

A colleague and I have initiated such base-line research in South Africa, but I fear we may already be too late. Trends may only become apparent after repeating surveys over a number of years. I am happy to share our protocols and survey methods with member organisations who wish to embark on similar studies. I believe the matter is urgent! We need to understand the status and nature of our existing practitioners. We need to plan how to recruit and retain new family doctors in our health care systems. We need to develop appropriate evidence-based training

programmes, which indicate the richness and diversity of the discipline, and engender self worth. We need to lobby for equity in the market for family doctors. We need to do a lot of hard work.....! We need to save our discipline.....!

**Professor Bruce Sparks**  
 President  
 World Organization of Family Doctors

**FROM THE CEO'S DESK:**

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FEBRUARY WONCA CORE EXECUTIVE MEETING**

A Wonca Core Executive Meeting was held in Singapore from 16th - 18th February 2006 to cover issues that needed Executive attention in the period between the last Full Executive Meeting in Kyoto in May 2005 and the next one in Buenos Aires in October 2006. Present for the meeting were the Wonca World President, President-Elect and Honorary Treasurer with the Wonca CEO and the Administrative Manager in attendance. Prior to this, the Wonca Bylaws and Regulations Committee held its two-day meeting also in Singapore. Following that, Drs Geoff Martin and Dan Ostergaard, who are Members of Executive, stayed to attend the Core Executive Meeting.

Some of the key issues covered by the Core Executive Meeting included :

**Role of Honorary Treasurer**

As part of the process of restructuring Wonca along corporate lines, Wonca Executive has had

several discussions on how best to institutionalize the role of the Honorary Treasurer and the Finance Committee within the Organisation. In their extensive discussions, Core Executive felt that the Honorary Treasurer's role was not to micro-manage the finances of Wonca, nor to hinder the financial functions of the CEO. Rather, the Honorary Treasurer and the Finance Committee were to act as a sounding board and to be part of a larger group with which the CEO could consult and share ideas.

Core Executive also suggested the need for a more explicit and structured process of financial reporting and circulation and that quarterly financial reports from the Secretariat could be submitted to the Honorary Treasurer and Finance Committee member for their comments. This proposed procedure would involve the Finance Committee Members as well as the Wonca regional treasurers (where they existed) or the person performing the treasurer's duties.

**Proposal for a Wonca Working Party on Education**

At the last Wonca Executive Meeting in Kyoto, Dr Michael Kidd was requested to look into the possible re-establishment of a Wonca Working Party on Education. Executive felt this to be important given that education is a core business for each of the member organisations of Wonca, and given the increase in interest at an international and regional level in family medicine education.

Core Executive discussed at length the proposed mission, terms of reference, possible membership and proposed initial activities submitted by Dr Kidd. It was decided that the Working Party on Education be established with the following :

**Mission:**

The Wonca Working Party on Education will support high quality education, training, assessment and continuing professional development in general practice / family medicine for medical students, doctors in training, and established general practitioners and family doctors

**Terms of reference:**

1. Support quality education, training, assessment and continuing professional development in general practice / family medicine.
2. Support the setting and maintainance of standards for education, training, assessment and continuing professional development in general practice / family medicine both nationally and internationally.
3. Develop education, training, assessment and continuing professional development policy for Wonca.
4. Provide links to education, training, assessment and continuing professional development resources and people for the member organisations of Wonca.
5. Support high quality education at Wonca conferences by acting as a resource, if invited, for Host Organising Committees of Wonca World and Regional conferences.
6. Act as a resource on education, training, assessment and continuing professional development for the Wonca Executive, World Council and Regional Councils.

**Membership of the Working Party:**

This will include a Chair appointed by Wonca World Council, a representative from each Wonca Region, appointed by the respective Wonca Regional Councils, and perhaps a small number of

international experts in medical education in family medicine / general practice.

**Planned Initial Activities:**

1. Survey of member organisations of education, training, assessment and continuing professional development resources and education standards and policies which can be freely shared with other member organizations.
2. Establish listserver with GlobalFamilyDoctor on education, training, assessment and continuing professional development in general practice / family medicine and invite member organisations and Wonca Direct Members to sign up.
3. Invite Wonca Direct Members to join a web-based register of external experts in aspects of education, training, assessment and continuing professional development in general practice / family medicine, which can be used by member organisations and universities seeking support for examinations, course development, training and standards development.
4. Meetings of working party members to be held in 2006, in conjunction with a Wonca Regional Conference and also in 2007 in conjunction with the Wonca World Conference in Singapore.

**Contract Document Between Wonca World and Member Organization Hosting a Wonca Conference**

This issue, which had been on the agenda over several Executive Meetings, was finally settled at this Core Executive Meeting with all amendments suggested during past

meetings incorporated into the final document. Core Executive decided that the final version of the Conference Agreement shall be sent to all bidders as part of the package of documents on 'Information on Bidding for a Wonca Conference'.

On a procedural level, the Agreement shall be signed before the bid takes place on the understanding that should the bid be successful, the terms and conditions as set out in the Agreement shall be binding. On an operational level, the final version of the contract would be the basis from which the CEO could negotiate with the bidder if the bidder did not accept in full the conference contract as it was presented.

**Regional Issues**

1. Wonca Region Africa.

Dr Abra Fransch has tendered her resignation as Regional President of Wonca Africa as she had emigrated from Zimbabwe to Australia. The Wonca Executive noted with much appreciation Dr Fransch's significant contributions to her region and to Wonca as Africa Region President. An official call was made to all Member Organizations in Wonca Region Africa for nominations for a Regional President. Two candidates have been nominated by Member Organisations of the region. The election is now in progress.

In the absence of a report from the Regional President, Prof Sparks reported that there had been some exciting developments in Family Medicine in East Africa. The consortium FAMEC (South Africa), and the medical faculties of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, with input from GHETS (Global Health through Education Training and Service), together with the departments of

family medicine of the Flemish universities have been successful in obtaining a grant of Euro 310,000 for a project to develop family medicine in Southern and Eastern Africa. This development is good for the future of Family Medicine / General Practice in the East Africa Region.

## 2. Wonca Americas

At a meeting of representatives of Member Organisations of Wonca Americas Region held in Vancouver in December 2005, it was decided that a name change be made for the region from Wonca Americas to Wonca North America to better reflect the developments that have taken place in Wonca in that part of the world. With the new Iberoamericana-CIMF Region now in place, the Americas Regional Council recommended that it was no longer appropriate to use the name Wonca Americas.

The Core Executive agreed to the change to Wonca North America, which now needs the endorsement of the Full Executive at the Buenos Aires Full Executive Meeting.

## Better Gender Balance in Wonca

Dr Cheryl Levitt, Chair of the Wonca Working Party on Women and Family Medicine, in a meeting in Vancouver in December 2005 with the Wonca CEO, drew attention to the fact that women were not well represented in the Wonca Executive, Council and its various sub-agencies. This issue was discussed at length at the Core Executive Meeting.

Core Executive agreed that there needed to be increased female representation and gender balance in Wonca. The Meeting agreed that there was need for focused discussions and further input from the Working Party on Women and Family Medicine, and also from Wonca Member Organizations. Core Executive also felt that it was necessary to make changes in the Wonca's Bylaws and Regulations on gender balance to encourage the change. There will be a specific item on gender balance on the agenda of the Full Executive Committee Meeting at its next meeting in Buenos Aires in October 2006.

**Dr Alfred Loh**  
Chief Executive Officer  
World Organization of Family Doctors

## FROM THE EDITOR:

### MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND WONCA'S CONFERENCES!

Do not wait to finalize your travel plans to attend one or more of Wonca's upcoming four world and regional conferences taking place during the summer and fall! All are featured in this April issue of Wonca News.

Wonca's Rural Health Working Party is proud to host the 7th World Rural Health Conference in Seattle, Washington and Anchorage, Alaska from September 8-15, 2006. The Seattle portion of the meeting (Sept 8-13) will include two linked major conferences, one dedicated to rural health scientific, health policy, and medical education and the other to continuing clinical education for rural physicians. Participants will then be able to travel to the majestic Alaska wilderness to ponder actual rural health systems and the surrounding natural beauty at Talkeetna Lodge near Denali National Park.

The 7th Wonca World Rural Health Conference is sandwiched between three similarly exciting Wonca Regional Conferences held in three similarly magnificent cities and countries. Before the World Rural Health Conference, the 12th Wonca Europe Regional Conference will be held in Florence, Italy on August 27-30, 2006. Following the World Rural Health Conference, the 1st Iberoamerican Wonca-CIMF Regional Congress will be held in Buenos Aires from October 11-14, 2006 and the 15th Wonca Asia Pacific Regional Conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from November 5-9, 2006.

These four Wonca world and regional conferences lead up to the

18th Wonca World Conference to be held July 24-27, 2007 in Singapore, also home of the Wonca World Secretariat. This triennial Wonca World Conference traditionally is the largest global gathering of the Wonca family every three years and a wonderful way to reunite with old friends and meet new family doctors.

So, using this April issue of Wonca News and with a bit of advanced planning, you can finalize your travel itinerary to attend all four Wonca conference in 3 continents over the next 6 months and then register to come to Singapore for the 18th Wonca World Conference in July 2007 to reunite with all those family doctors you just met! Think about it !!

**Marc L. Rivo, M.D, M.P.H.**

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## FEATURE STORIES

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### REGISTER FOR THE 7TH WONCA WORLD RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE - ANCHORAGE SEPTEMBER 8-13

It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of the Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice, the University of Washington School of Medicine's Department of Family Medicine and WWAMI program, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and our State Academies, to invite you to participate in the exciting experience of the 7th WONCA World Rural Health Conference. This meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington, USA from September 8-13, 2006.

Since Seattle and the University of Washington School of Medicine are the home of the WWAMI medical education program (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho), we have established the conference theme of Transforming Rural Practice Through Education. Education plays many roles for rural physicians. From preparing them to practice, to offering opportunities to teach in their practices, education permeates our lives

and is very important for rural physicians. The thirty-five year old WWAMI program allows the University of Washington School of Medicine to serve as the medical school for five states that comprise 27% of the land mass of the US, yet contain only 3% of the population- this is truly a rural region, and decentralized community based medical education is at the heart of the WWAMI program. Much of our educational process is dependant on the participation of community based volunteer faculty physicians located throughout our area- education and practice are inextricably tied to each other.

The Seattle portion of the meeting will include two linked major conferences, one dedicated to the scientific, health policy, and medical education aspects of global rural health, and the other dedicated to continuing clinical education for rural physicians. Our international program and scientific committee is looking forward to developing a comprehensive program of posters and presentations that will be both stimulating and interesting.

More information on our fascinating city can be found at the website of the Seattle Convention and Visitors Bureau. In addition to a very strong scientific and clinical educational program, we will provide a cultural and social experience that will be very enjoyable. We will focus the cultural program on the native peoples of the Northwest and Alaska. Our social functions will create an opportunity for you to meet other rural physicians from around the world, have some fun, and get to know our region better.

Seattle is the largest city in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. Founded in 1869, the City of Seattle is located in the State of Washington on Puget Sound, 113 miles (182 km) from the U.S.-Canadian border. It is a beautiful multi-cultural metropolis located between Puget Sound and the Cascade Mountains, interspersed with large lakes. The city is rich in history and has long served as a major port and as the gateway to the Northwest and Alaska. Surrounded by mountains and water, the greater Seattle area features picture-perfect views and abundant recreational opportunities year-round. Room blocks will be reserved for conference attendees. Additionally, economical room and board packages will be available in dormitory facilities on the University of Washington campus near the conference venues. Cuisine in the Seattle area is famous for fresh seafood, local farm produce, and other Northwest specialties. The areas cultural diversity has produced a wide variety of ethnic restaurants.

Following the Seattle conferences, we are very pleased to offer a post-conference session to consider actual rural health systems at Talkeetna Lodge near Denali National Park in Alaska. The Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge offers the premier lodge experience with spectacular views of Mount McKinley (Denali as it is known locally), Denali National Park and the Alaska Range. The Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge is Alaska Native owned and operated, offering a resort style setting with unique and awe-inspiring Denali and Alaska Range views that are simply unmatched. Located just outside the heart of Talkeetna, it is easy to treat yourself to the many local activities, including favorites like flightseeing - where you can even land on a glacier in Denali National Park.

Registration, educational and scientific program information, accommodations and sightseeing for both the main and post-conference may be found at [www.ruralwonca2006.org](http://www.ruralwonca2006.org).

We hope that you will plan to join us and be part of our exciting program.

**Tom E. Norris, MD**  
Chair, Organizing Committee  
[tnorris@u.washington.edu](mailto:tnorris@u.washington.edu)

## Wonca Continues to Grow

At the Wonca Executive meeting in Singapore in February two new members were added to the Wonca membership list. This brings us now to 107 organisations in 90 countries.

The Emirates Medical Association-Family Medicine Society has 52 members and represents family doctors throughout all the Emirates. Their headquarters is in Dubai and they are an active and growing organization. New members from the Arab region has been a high priority for Wonca and there are other organizations from this part of the world which are eligible for membership. As we grow in this region the Executive has been interested in the creation of a new Arab region within Wonca.

The Network / TUFH (Towards Unity for Health) has a long history of networking among its members and externally with organizations such as the WHO and its regional organizations. TUFH / The Network has enjoyed collaborative success and renown primarily among academic circles. It is also an organization of

organizations and has some 140 member organizations. The majority are medical schools with an interest in problem based, student and community oriented medical education. This ability has just been enhanced as the Network was accepted as a member in collaborative relations of Wonca.

The Network and Wonca have already enjoyed some collaborative relationships. In 2001 when TUFH was a program in the WHO the Network and Wonca officers met in Durban, South Africa with Dr Charles Boehlen to plan for continuation of the program after his retirement. This directly led to the Network assuming leadership in this role and continuation of this important program and an addition to the name of the Network.

Both organizations have already had cooperative efforts in the advancement of primary care and student centered medical education in East Africa and multiple countries in Southern Africa. This collaboration is currently leading to the establishment of some departments of family medicine and collaborative teaching programs. Several physicians are active members of both organizations and this has helped bring the two organizations closer to work together.

This new relationship should help both organizations work more effectively through collaboration on programs for education for health in the future. This also opens up new opportunities for communication through linkages through each other's web sites and new projects in which we all work together for common goals.

**Warren Heffron, MD**  
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**List of Member Organizations of Wonca**

The following is a list of Wonca’s Member Organizations by country of origin. Member organizations may join in three categories: Full (F), Associate (A) and Organization in Collaborative Relations (C). The following also lists the date they joined Wonca and their Region.

Country	Member Organization	Mbr typ	Date joined	Region
ANDORRA	Andorran Society of Primary Care Doctors Associació Andorrana de Metges D’Atencio Primaria	F	24-May-94	EUROPEAN
ARGENTINA	Argentine Federation of Family and General Medicine Federación Argentina de Medicina Familiar y General (FAMFyG)	F	6-Jun-02	IBEROAMERICANA
AUSTRALIA	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine	A	1-Feb-00	ASIA PACIFIC
	The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners	F	1-Jan-73	ASIA PACIFIC
AUSTRIA	Austrian Society of General Practice/Family Medicine Osterreichische Gesellschaft fur Allgemein und Familienmedizin	F	16-Dec-96	EUROPEAN
BAHRAIN	Bahrain Family Physicians Association	F	17-Apr-04	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
BANGLADESH	The Bangladesh Academy of Family Physicians	A	1-Jan-04	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
BANGLADESH	The College of General Practitioners of Bangladesh	F	3-Sep-87	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
BELARUS	The Belarussian Association of General Practitioners (BAVOP)	C	17-Apr-04	COLLABORATIVE
BELGIUM	Belgian Society of General Practitioners/Family Physicians	F	1-Jun-98	EUROPEAN
	European Academy of Teachers in General Practice EURACT	C	1-Jan-92	COLLABORATIVE
BOLIVIA	Sociedad Boliviana de Medicina Familiar	F	6-Jun-02	IBEROAMERICANA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Bolivian Society of Family Medicine Association of Family Medicine Specialists and Residents of Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska	F	6-Jun-02	EUROPEAN
BRAZIL	Brazilian Society of Family Medicine / Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina Familia (SOBRAMFA)	C	12-Apr-03	COLLABORATIVE
	Brazilian Society of Family and Community Medicine	F	6-Jun-02	IBEROAMERICANA
	Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina de Familia e Comunidade (SBMFC)			
CANADA	The College of Family Physicians of Canada	F	1-Jan-73	AMERICAS
CHILE	Scientific Society of Familiar and General Medicine of Chile	F	6-Jun-02	IBEROAMERICANA
	Sociedad Cientifica de Medicina Familiar y General de Chile			
CHINA	Chinese Society of General Practice	F	10-Aug-95	ASIA PACIFIC
COLOMBIA	Colombian Society of Family Medicine Sociedad Colombiana de Medicina Familiar SOCMEF	F	6-Jun-02	IBEROAMERICANA
COSTA RICA	Costa Rican Association of Specialists in Family and Community Medicine/Asociacion Costarriencense de Especialistas en Familiar y Comunitaria	F	12-Oct-04	IBEROAMERICANA



Country	Member Organization	Mbr typ	Date joined	Region
CROATIA	Croatian Association of Family Medicine	F	16-Oct-97	EUROPEAN
CYPRUS	The Cyprus Medical Association for Primary Care	F	8-Nov-01	EUROPEAN
CZECH REPUBLIC	Society of General Practice	F	9-May-93	EUROPEAN
DENMARK	Danish College of General Practitioners	F	8-Jan-76	EUROPEAN
	Dansk Selskab for Almen Medicin DSAM			
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Dominican Republic Society of Family Medicine /Sociedad Dominicana de Medicina Familiar	F	12-Oct-04	IBEROAMERICANA
ECUADOR	Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Medicina Familiar (SEMF)	F	6-Jun-02	IBEROAMERICANA
EL SALVADOR	Salvadorean Family Physicians Association / Asociacion de Medicina Familiar de El Salvador	F	10-May-05	IBEROAMERICANA
ESTONIA	Estonian Society of Family Doctors	F	11-May-96	EUROPEAN
FIJI	Fiji College of General Practitioners	F	24-May-94	ASIA PACIFIC
FINLAND	Finnish Association for General Practice Suomen Yleislaaketieteen Yhdistys	F	2-Jun-84	EUROPEAN
FRANCE	College National des Generalistes Enseignants CNGE	F	29-Sep-95	EUROPEAN
	La Société Française Médecine Générale SFMG	F	8-Nov-77	EUROPEAN
GEORGIA	Georgia Family Medicine Association	F	17-Apr-04	EUROPEAN
GERMANY	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Allgemeinmedizin und Familienmedizin DEGAM/ German Society of General Practice/Family Medicine	F	1-Jan-82	EUROPEAN
GHANA	West African College of Physicians Ghana Chapter Faculty of Family Medicine	F	28-Jun-99	AFRICA
GREECE	Greek Association of General Practitioners ELEGEIA	F	3-Oct-88	EUROPEAN
HONG KONG	The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians	F	12-May-78	ASIA PACIFIC
HUNGARY	International Association of Agricultural Medicine & Rural Health	C	8-Nov-01	COLLABORATIVE
ICELAND	The Icelandic College of Family Physicians	F	5-Aug-80	EUROPEAN
INDIA	Indian Academy of General Practice	F	14-Aug-82	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
INDONESIA	The Indonesian Association of Family Physicians Perhimpunan Dokter Keluarga Indonesia	F	14-Aug-82	ASIA PACIFIC
IRAQ	Iraqi Family Physicians Society	F	27-May-05	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
IRELAND	The Irish College of General Practitioner	F	14-Sep-85	EUROPEAN
ISRAEL	Israel Association of Family Physicians	F	1-Jan-73	EUROPEAN
ITALY	Scientific Interdisciplinary Association of Both Family and Community Medicine (AsSIMeFaC)	F	1-Jun-04	EUROPEAN
	Italian Academy of Family Physicians Associazione Italiana Medici di Famiglia (AIMEF)	A	5-Oct-99	EUROPEAN
	Centro Studi e Ricerche in Medicina Generale CSerMEG	F	14-Aug-91	EUROPEAN
	International Society of Doctors for the Environment ISDE Scientific Office	C	11-May-89	COLLABORATIVE
JAMAICA	The Caribbean College of Family Physicians	C	17-May-92	COLLABORATIVE
JAPAN	The Japanese Academy of Primary Care Physicians	F	28-Mar-85	ASIA PACIFIC

Country	Member Organization	Mbr typ	Date joined	Region
JORDAN	Jordan Society of Family Medicine (JSFM)	F	17-Apr-04	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
KAZAKHSTAN	Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians	F	12-Apr-03	EUROPEAN
KENYA	Institute of Family Medicine of Kenya Trust	C	1-Jan-04	COLLABORATIVE
	Kenya Association of Family Physicians	F	1-Jan-04	AFRICA
KOREA	The Korean Academy of Family Medicine	F	21-May-83	ASIA PACIFIC
KYRGYZSTAN	Association of Family Group Practices, (FGPA) Kyrgyzstan	F	1-Jan-03	EUROPEAN
LATVIA	Rural Family Doctors Association of Latvia	A	1-Jan-05	EUROPEAN
LEBANON	The Lebanese Society of Family Medicine	F	12-Apr-03	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
LITHUANIA	College of General Practitioners of Lithuania	F	27-Jun-97	EUROPEAN
LUXEMBOURG	Société Scientifique Luxembourgeoise de Médecine Générale Luxemburgish Scientific Society for General Practice	F	19-Dec-05	EUROPEAN
MACAU	Associação dos Médicos de Clínica Geral de Macau Macau Association of General Practitioners	F	7-May-92	ASIA PACIFIC
MALAYSIA	Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia Akademi Kedokteran Keluarga Malaysia	F	1-Jan-75	ASIA PACIFIC
MALTA	Malta College of Family Doctors	F	1-May-89	EUROPEAN
MEXICO	Colegio Mexicano de Medicina Familiar A.C. Mexican College of Family Medicine	F	6-Jun-02	IBEROAMERICANA
MONGOLIA	Mongolian Association of Family Doctors	F	7-Jun-98	ASIA PACIFIC
MYANMAR	General Practitioner's Society, Myanmar	F	27-May-05	ASIA PACIFIC
NEPAL	General Practitioners' Association of Nepal GPAN	F	22-Jun-97	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
NETHERLANDS	European General Practice Research Network EGPRN	C	1-Jan-92	COLLABORATIVE
	Nederlands Huisartsen Genootschap NHG Dutch College of General Practitioners	F	1-Jan-73	EUROPEAN
	Network: Towards Unity for Health	C	16-Feb-06	COLLABORATIVE
NEW ZEALAND	Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners	F	1-Jan-73	ASIA PACIFIC
NIGERIA	Faculty of GMP/FM National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria	A	1-Jan-98	AFRICA
	Association of General and Private Medical Practitioners of Nigeria	F	3-Oct-80	AFRICA
NORWAY	Norwegian College of General Practitioners Norsk Selskap for Allmenmedisin, NSAM	F	1-Jan-76	EUROPEAN
PAKISTAN	Pakistan Society of Family Physicians, Lahore	A	16-Dec-96	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
	College of Family Medicine Pakistan	F	1-Jan-73	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
PANAMA	Asociación Panamena de Medicina Familiar	F	6-Jun-02	IBEROAMERICANA
PARAGUAY	Paraguayan Society of Family Medicine / Sociedad Paraguaya De Medicina Familiar	F	12-Oct-04	IBEROAMERICANA
PERU	Peruvian Society of Family Medicine and Integral Health Sociedad Peruana de Medicina Familiar, Integral y Gestión en Salud	F	6-Jun-02	IBEROAMERICANA

Country	Member Organization	Mbr typ	Date joined	Region
PHILIPPINES	Philippine Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Foundation	A	11-May-95	ASIA PACIFIC
	Philippine Academy of Family Physicians	F	1-Jan-73	ASIA PACIFIC
POLAND	Kolegium Lekarzy Rodzinnych w Polsce College of Family Physicians in Poland	F	28-Jun-96	EUROPEAN
PORTUGAL	Associação Portuguesa dos Médicos de Clínica Geral Portuguese Association of General Practitioners	F	28-Mar-85	EUROPEAN
ROMANIA	Romanian National Society of General Practice/ Family Medicine	F	22-May-98	EUROPEAN
SAUDI ARABIA	Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine	F	24-May-94	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
SINGAPORE	College of Family Physicians, Singapore	F	1-Jan-73	ASIA PACIFIC
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Slovak Society of General/Family Practice	A	9-May-93	EUROPEAN
SLOVENIA	Slovenian Family Medicine Society Slovenian Medical Association	F	9-May-93	EUROPEAN
SOUTH AFRICA	South African Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care	F	29-Aug-81	AFRICA
SPAIN	Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine, SEMFYC	F	1-Oct-88	EUROPEAN
SRI LANKA	College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka	F	12-May-78	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
SWEDEN	Swedish Association of General Practice Svensk Förening för Allmänmedicin, SFAM	F	6-Sep-77	EUROPEAN
SWITZERLAND	Swiss Society of General Medicine SSMG/SGAM	F	11-May-95	EUROPEAN
TAIWAN	Chinese Taipei Association of Family Medicine	F	2-May-88	ASIA PACIFIC
THAILAND	The General Practitioners/Family Physicians Association, Thailand	F	28-Mar-85	ASIA PACIFIC
TURKEY	Turkish Association of Family Physicians (TAHUD)	F	12-Apr-03	EUROPEAN
UKRAINE	Ukrainian Association of Family Medicine	F	7-Feb-99	EUROPEAN
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	Emirates Medical Association-Family Medicine	F	16-Feb-06	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
UNITED KINGDOM	Royal College of General Practitioners	F	1-Jan-73	EUROPEAN
URUGUAY	Sociedad Uruguaya de Médicos de Familia (SUMEFAM) Uruguayan Society of Family Medicine	F	6-Jun-02	IBEROAMERICANA
USA	American Academy of Family Physicians	F	1-Jan-73	AMERICAS
	Society of Teachers of Family Medicine	F	29-Aug-81	AMERICAS
	American Board of Family Medicine	A	30-May-86	AMERICAS
	North American Primary Care Research Group, NAPCRG	C	16-Oct-97	COLLABORATIVE
VENEZUELA	Sociedad Venezolana de Medicina Familiar	F	6-Jun-02	IBEROAMERICANA
VIETNAM	Vietnam Association of Family Physicians	F	12-May-05	ASIA PACIFIC
ZIMBABWE	The College of Primary Care Physicians of Zimbabwe	F	2-Jun-76	AFRICA

Note: Membership type F=Full, A=Associate, C=Organization in Collaborative Relations

## WONCA REGIONAL NEWS

### WONCA EUROPE REGION TO CONVEIN IN FLORENCE - AUGUST 27-30

It is our pleasure to invite you to the 12th Wonca Europe Regional Conference that will be held in Florence, Italy on August 27-30, 2006. The aim of the organizing committee is to prepare in Florence 2006 an event to be remembered as one of the most important offered by WONCA Europe to its members and all those caring for General Practice/Family Medicine.

WONCA Europe has more than 30 member organizations and represents more than 45,000 family physicians in Europe. The society is the academic and scientific society of general practitioners in Europe. The aim of the society is to improve standards of care in General Practice/Family Medicine; stimulate networking among GPs with an interest in professional development, research, education and quality improvement.

The conference theme "Towards a Medical Renaissance: Bridging the Gap Between Biology and Humanities" seeks to bridge the gap between biology and the humanities. Illness, disease and sickness, three words full of meanings for one very specific human biological condition, to be understood, needs to be observed from many different points of view. That is precisely the exciting underlying thread of the 12th WONCA Europe Conference; a thread that will conduct participants through six main topics: 1) biology and humanities, 2) caring for the world, 3) family practice research ,

4) quality, 5) education, and 6) risk and safety.

These themes will allow doctors, while easily surfing through their preferred conference sessions presenting, discussing and facing their own everyday real problems, to be exposed to new ideas, state of art knowledge and reliable guidelines. Every moment of the conference will be an occasion to "think globally" in a rigorous scientific manner and to "act back locally" in a highly professional way.

Each one of these topics will have a dedicated chairman that will follow the works during the three days of the conference and will summarize the State of the Art in the last plenary session. So participants may follow the lectures and sessions of their main interest but, before leaving the conference, will be informed about what of relevance has been told in all the other ones. Everyone will be able to bring back home a clear idea about the important ideas which emerged during the ongoing process of the conference.

With such relevant philosophical and scientific inheritance, with its beautiful Mediterranean climate, good and healthy food, and great shopping, Florence is the ideal place for the 12th Conference of WONCA Europe ESGP/FM. Florence is one of the most beloved cities in the world, an open sky museum famous worldwide. In the fifteenth-century Florence, a self-governed, independent city-state with a population of 60,000 became with its writers, painters, architects and philosophers the cradle of Renaissance culture; Renaissance shifted mankind into the centre of the known cosmos and man became its measure.

Since the thirteenth century travelers praised the warmth and

comfort of Florentine hospitality. The tradition is carried on today by a highly organized service totalling more than 350 hotels and pensions of different categories, able to accommodate more than 20,000 guests. Most hotels are in the city centre near the Congress Centre Fortezza da Basso. Special rates have been negotiated for congress participants.

To register and for additional information, please contact us via phone (39 055 50351), email (info@woncaeurope2006.org) or the web (www.woncaeurope2006.org)

We surely want you to have a marvelous stay and no doubt Florence will be able to marvel you; but we do not want for you only a beautiful show. We would like you to go back home pleased by the certainty to have lived a very exciting and scientifically relevant experience in being where important topics, for general practitioners from all over Europe and the Mediterranean area, were stated and discussed.

We strongly want Florence 2006 to become another important step for all GPs attending, on the way toward a thriving General Practice both for Italy and Europe. We are lucky enough to have at our disposal Leonardo's land: the best place to build a new Renaissance for Family Medicine.

**Dr. Giorgio Visentin**  
Chairman, Organizing Committee

**Dr. Massimo Tombesi**  
Chairman, Scientific Committee

**Professor Igor Svab**  
President, Wonca Europe

**Professor Chris van Weel**  
President-elect, Wonca World

**1st Wonca Iberoamerican-CIMF Regional Conference to Meet in Buenos Aires - October 11-14**

It is a great honour for me to announce the 1st Iberoamerican Wonca-CIMF Regional Congress that will be held in Buenos Aires from October 11th to October 14th, 2006. The whole city is getting ready to welcome the family physician community for four days.

We have prepared an extensive scientific program with plenary sessions, round table discussions, workshops, and satellite symposia. Also, participants will have a chance to get new and updated information, participate in expert debates and breakfast sessions, scientific presentations, skill assessment stations and the option to take the specialist certification exam. In addition to the opportunity of enjoying the meeting with peers and friends from around the world, several social and tourist activities have been scheduled. More than forty eminent personalities from well-known academic institutions will be among the guests. They will include most family medicine's areas of interest.

Buenos Aires, the city of Borges, Cortazar, Maradona and Gardel and capital of the Argentine Republic, is a city of culture, fashion, gastronomy, art and music. It is also known as the city of tango, good beef and soccer. Before or after the Congress, you will be able to visit some of the top tourist spots in Argentina, such as the Iguazu Falls, Bariloche and the Patagonia glaciers.

We are getting ready for your visit. We want you to enjoy a warm stop in our city and to get the most out of this high-level scientific conference that will contribute to the development of better

professionals and a healthier population.

To learn more about our exciting conference and to register, please visit our website at: [www.woncacimfcongreso2006.com/](http://www.woncacimfcongreso2006.com/)

We are looking forward to seeing you all in October 2006.

Greetings,  
**Dr. Sergio Solmesky MD**  
 Chairman  
[famfyg@aamf.org.ar](mailto:famfyg@aamf.org.ar)

**El Primer Congreso Regional de Wonca-CIMF Iberoamericano Realizara en Buenos Aires de 11 al 14 de Octubre**

Como coordinador del Comité Científico es para mi un gran honor invitarlos anunciar el I Congreso Regional de Wonca-CIMF Iberoamericano que realizaremos en Buenos Aires del 11 al 14 de Octubre de 2006 e introducirlos en lo que será sin lugar a dudas un evento académico formidable. Estamos orgullosos de estar preparando un programa científico tan diverso e interesante, las posibilidades de formación son muy variadas y se encuentran distribuidas a través de ejes temáticos dominados por los principios de nuestra especialidad.

En este sentido encontrarán desde simposios, mesas redondas, talleres, cursos, presentación de trabajos orales y posters, hasta una serie de novedosas actividades como las sesiones de video, las actualizaciones en medicina centrada en el paciente, y los talleres interactivos.

Nuestros invitados extranjeros prometen entregarnos unas plenarias colmadas de conocimientos y reflexiones que puedan ser de utilidad para la

práctica de la Medicina Familiar en toda Iberoamérica. Se hará especial énfasis en temas que reflejen los distintos roles que hoy ocupa el Medico de Familia y que pueden favorecer la construcción de un sistema de salud centrado en la Atención Primaria.

Esperamos sinceramente que este congreso sea una gran oportunidad para compartir experiencias y ampliar nuestros horizontes, encontrar viejos amigos o hacer nuevos, y escuchar novedosas investigaciones e ideas que puedan servir para mejorar la salud de nuestros pacientes, así son los Congresos de Wonca.

Estamos sorprendidos por la cantidad de propuestas de actividades recibidas hasta el momento, provenientes de toda Iberoamerica. Si todavía no han enviado las suyas, también los invito a ser parte de este Congreso mediante el envío de sus trabajos científicos. Navegando en este sitio encontraran la información necesaria para hacerlo.

Finalmente me gustaría aprovechar la oportunidad para agradecerles a todos los miembros del Comité Científico por su colaboración y por el trabajo que realizan día a día.

**Dr. Ezequiel López**  
 Coordinador del Comité Científico  
[famfyg@aamf.org.ar](mailto:famfyg@aamf.org.ar)

**Come to Bangkok for the Asia Pacific Regional Conference - November 5-9**

The 15th Wonca Asia Pacific Regional Conference will be held for the first time in Bangkok, Thailand during 5-9 November, 2006. The conference will be hosted by the General Practitioners/ Family Physicians Association, Thailand and

the Royal College of Family Physicians of Thailand, under the auspices of the World Organization of Family Doctors (Wonca - World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians).

The theme of this meeting is “Happy and Healthy Family”. We, the family doctors, along with physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, public health personnel and all health-care workers, have to work closely together for taking proper care of the illness, prevent and control diseases, and promote health for all. These are challenging goals for us to achieve in an era with a rapid growth of new technology, industrialization, and population mobility.

The meeting will provide us opportunities to bring together family doctor teams in urban and rural areas, sharing their experiences and learning from experts as well as fostering partnerships in the region.

Thailand has been the site of numerous international meetings, and Bangkok is the gateway of the region. The country’s rich heritages, beautiful scenic seaside and mountain views as well as our unique Thai hospitality will make your visit truly memorable.

For further information and to register to attend, please visit our conference website at [www.wonca2006.org](http://www.wonca2006.org)

We look forward to welcoming you to Bangkok in 2006.

Sawasdee.

**Kachit Choopanya, MD., MPH. & TM.**  
Chairperson of the Organizing Committee

**Prasong Tuchinda, MD.**  
Honorary Chairperson

## HEALTH AND HEALTH SYSTEM NEWS

### WHO LAUNCHES GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES

On March 28, 2006, the WHO Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD) was launched in Beijing. This global voluntary alliance of 41 national and international organizations in collaboration with WHO works on the prevention and treatment of the chronic respiratory diseases that have a large impact on populations around the world. “The goal of GARD,” said Professor Jean Bousquet, GARD chairman, “is to reduce the global burden of CRD. We shall raise awareness on CRD and help to implement best practices, according to existing guidelines. As the prevalence and global burden of CRD are expected to increase considerably in the near future, it is clear that immediate action is greatly needed and the cost for inaction is unacceptable”.

Wonca, as a founding member of GARD, was present in Beijing where it was decided that during the first years of the program priority would be given to asthma, allergy and in particular chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The choice of Beijing for the GARD launch had everything to do with the fact that about a third of the people dying each year of COPD, are from China.

Currently, more than 1 billion people in the world suffer from Chronic Respiratory Diseases (CRD), such as asthma, respiratory allergies, COPD and other lung diseases. Common risk factors associated with CRD include tobacco smoking, indoor and outdoor air pollution, allergens and occupational exposure. CRD was responsible for 4 million premature deaths in 2005. At present, COPD is the fifth leading cause of death worldwide. CRD affects roughly one sixth of the global population and represents an enormous human suffering and causing a huge socio-economic burden.

“To conquer CRD, we need a global coordinated effort for the surveillance, prevention and control of these diseases” explained Dr. Jong Wook Lee, WHO Director-General. “We shall mobilize more resources, in order to step up global efforts to prevent and control CRD, to make the right to breathe a reality for all,” explained Dr. Nikolai Khaltsev, responsible for CRD at WHO.

#### Global Estimates of the Prevalence of Some Chronic Respiratory Diseases

CRD	Year of Estimate	Prevalence	Source
Asthma	2004	300 million	Masoli et al, GINA, 2004
COPD	2000	340 million	World Health Report 2002
Allergic Rhinitis	1992-2005	>350 million	European Community Respiratory Health Survey (ECRHS), International Study of Allergy, Asthma in Children
	2006	> 50 million	(ISAAC)
Other CRD*			World Health Reports

\* including occupational lung diseases and secondary pulmonary hypertension

Following the launch of the WHO –GARD, Wonca organised a GARD-Primary Care Forum for Chinese Family Physicians, which was well attended. Presentations were given by Dr Michael Boland (Past President Wonca), Prof Jean Bousquet (Co-Chair of GARD), Prof Nan-Shan Zhong (President Chinese Medical Association), Prof C Y He, Dr William Dolen and Prof Chris van Weel (President-Elect Wonca). Their presentations were followed by lively discussions. This may signify how timely this meeting was and how strong Chinese family physicians think about their role in the prevention and early treatment of COPD. A tea break and lunch provided to delegates of the GARD-Primary Care Forum for Chinese Family Physicians was hosted by Wonca.



At the GARD launch in Beijing, from left to right: Dr Donald Li (Immediate Past President, College of Family Physicians, Hong Kong ), Dr Nikolai Kaltaev (WHO), Prof Jean Bousquet (Co-Chair GARD), Prof Chris van Weel (Wonca President-Elect), Dr Alfred Loh (CEO Wonca), Prof Ronald Dahl (Co-Chair GARD), Dr. Michael Boland (Past President, Wonca)

In addition, Prof Chris van Weel , Prof Goh Lee Gan (Wonca Asia Pacific Regional President), Dr Alfred Loh (CEO Wonca) and Dr Donald Li (Immediate Past President, College of Family Physicians, Hong Kong) met the current leadership of the Chinese Society of General Practice to discuss future collaborations between the Chinese Society and Wonca. Due to Dr Donald Li's leadership, the event served well to strengthen further Wonca's collaboration with China.

For further information, visit WHO GARD at [www.who.int/respiratory/gard/en](http://www.who.int/respiratory/gard/en)

## Wonca Psychiatry & Neurology SIG Meets With WHO Reps in Abu Dhabi

The Wonca Psychiatry and Neurology Special Interest Group (SIG) continues to promote cooperation among family doctors world wide in the area of mental health. The group met at the First International Annual Primary Health Care Conference in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi on 21st January 2006 with the WHO Mental Health and Substance Abuse Representative, Michelle Funk, and Wonca CEO Dr Alfred Loh. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss WHO recommendations on the integration of mental health into primary care.

A spectrum of worldwide representatives attended including Prof Meng-Chi Lee, Wonca SIG (Taiwan), Dr A Abyad, Wonca SIG (UAE), Dr Abdalla D Al-Khatami, Wonca SIG (Saudi Arabia), Dr Ishmael Din Abdel Bagi, Wonca (Qatar), Dr Tawfik A.M. Khoja, Wonca SIG (Saudi Arabia), Dr Jill Benson, Wonca SIG (Australia), Dr Fuad Antun, Wonca SIG (Lebanon), Dr Eleni Palazidou, Wonca SIG (Interface Representative UK), Dr Saeed Bin Ishaq, Ministry of Health (UAE), Dr Fawzi A Amin, Asst. Undersecretary for Training and Planning (Saudi Arabia), Dr Lucja Kolkiewicz, Wonca SIG (Interface Representative UK), Dr Mohammed G Al-Ali, (Red Crescent), Dr Henk Parmentier, Wonca SIG (UK) and Dr Gabriel Ivbijaro Convenor of Wonca SIG in Psychiatry & Neurology.

Dr Ivbijaro welcomed those present and extended special thanks to Dr Alfred Loh and Michelle Funk from the WHO. He stated that the aim of meeting was to seek a collective agreement to integrate mental health in primary care. He distributed a draft paper entitled

'WHO Recommendations On Integration of Mental Health Into Primary Care' and invited comments. He also distributed copies of the Mental Health Policy and Service Guidance Package resources.



Wonca Psychiatry & Neurology SIG participants at WHO in Abu Dhabi for meeting with the WHO Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program



Speakers from the Wonca SIG in Psychiatry & Neurology in Abu Dhabi (from left to right) Dr Jill Benson (Australia), Dr Gabriel Ivbijaro (Convenor), Prof Meng-Chi Lee (Taiwan), Dr Alfred Loh CEO Wonca, Dr Lucja Kolkiewicz (UK), Dr Henk Parmentier (UK), Dr Eleni Palazidou (UK)

Dr Loh thanked Dr Gabriel Ivbijaro as Convenor and members of the Wonca SIG in Psychiatry and Neurology for the work they have done in achieving one of Wonca's key objectives in mental health. He also noted that any document that will emerge from the WHO / Wonca SIG co-operation in order to be meaningful to Wonca's 200,000 members worldwide, needs to be very practical and user-friendly with

a stepped care approach that is consistent with family/general practice. He offered the Global Family Doctor website as a repository for the final document, commenting that this website is accessible to 70% of the Wonca membership and currently receives 45,000 -50,000 visits a month.

The meeting participants shared their local experiences and reaffirmed the principles of Wonca and the SIG in Psychiatry & Neurology. Those present agreed on a workstream and series of next steps. Minutes of meeting will to be sent to participants for confirmation before final circulation to the Wonca SIG in Psychiatry & Neurology. A 2006 Declaration by the Wonca SIG in Psychiatry & Neurology will be drafted and circulated to all group members for their input and comment. A draft template will be sent by the Convenor to all SIG members and to Wonca member organizations to elicit examples of best practices for primary care and mental health integration in each of their countries. These examples will form the basis for the development of a joint WHO/Wonca document on the integration of mental health into primary care. The Wonca SIG will establish a list server on the Wonca website. Michelle Funk and the Wonca SIG Convenor are to meet to review the feedback from members and Wonca member organizations in order for a draft WHO / Wonca policy document to be produced for final comments from Wonca SIG members before ratification by Wonca Executive and Council.

Anybody interested in joining the Wonca SIG in Psychiatry & Neurology at this time of exciting development is welcome to contact Dr Gabriel Ivbijaro, Convenor at [gabriel.ivbijaro@gmail.com](mailto:gabriel.ivbijaro@gmail.com).

**MEMBER AND ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS**

**LUIS IZQUIERDO MORA – WONCA GLOBAL FAMILY DOCTOR FOR FEBRUARY 2006**

Dr Luis Izquierdo Mora was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. He is a distinguished follower of Galen, a rounded and well balanced spirit, a jovial personality, a beloved teacher responsible for many innovations in the field of medical education in Puerto Rico and the publication of monthly magazines for both the Academy of Family Physicians and the Academy of Geriatric Medicine.

Dr Izquierdo-Mora is the only physician who has been certified in four different specialties in Puerto Rico up to now: emergency, geriatrics, family medicine, and public health. He has served and teaches in four schools of medicine and supervised medicine residents and fellows here and some from schools in the United States. Much of this 44 year work with no less than 3,200 students has been "ad-honorem". More then 500 family physicians are his intellectual and emotional children. He has designed more than a thousand seminars for primary physicians to help them in the interaction with the patients and their needs.

Dr Izquierdo-Mora founded the Counsel of Medical Education, Institute of Continuous Medical Education of the Puerto Rico Association of Medicine, five programs of Residency in Family Medicine (first one in 1974), a Residency in Emergency Medicine (1985), a Fellowship in Gerontology (1988), and a Residency in Primary



Medicine and Medical Management for the San Juan Bautista Medical Center in 2001.



Dr Luis Izquierdo Mora - Wonca Global Family Doctor for February 2006

Dr. Izquierdo-Mora has written and published numerous texts including, *The Social Responsibility of the Physician in Puerto Rico* (1969), *Family Medicine and Medical Services* (1990), *Seminal Documents in Family Medicine* (1997), *Medicine in Puerto Rico: 1493-1998* (1998) and *Let's Practice Preventive Medicine to Enter the New Millennium* (1999).

In addition, Dr. Izquierdo-Mora has contributed much to community service. Since 1959 he has given health care to the poor and the medically uninsured without ever refusing services to a patient who could not pay. In 1967, he authored a resolution for the creation of a Medical Cooperative (Medicoop). He has organized more than 1000 multifaceted health clinics and educative talks to people of limited economic resources. He is an active member in civic, religious, sport and community organizations serving health goals. He is author of a seminal document with 17 annexes regarding the role of Academic Health Centers in delivering key health's services to the community up to the year 2020. He wrote, in 2002, a core document on Mental Health as the First Health Concern in Puerto Rico. In 2003, he published a document on The Four Principal Constituents of Health: Physical, Mental, Social, Spiritual.

Dr Izquierdo-Mora has served in numerous national leadership roles. He was elected Senator in the Puerto Rican Legislature from 1973 to 1977. During that time, he sponsored the creation of the Center for the Victims of Rape and the first Residency in Family Medicine. He served as Secretary of Health from 1985-1988. During that time, created Volunteers in Action for Expanding Health Services, directed the sixth health reform transforming the municipal diagnostic clinics in Family Health Centers and promoted the first world study of the prevalence of HIV/AIDS together with state epidemiologist, Dr John V. Rullán. He served as Assessor to the President of Society of the Physicians, the Medical Society of Puerto Rico, and the Academy of Family Doctor's of Puerto Rico.

For his leadership, he received the Doctor of the Year of the Academy of Family Physicians. He also received the "Dr Pedro Iturbe" Award for the development of family medicine in his country by the Ibero-American Center of Family Medicine. Dr Izquierdo-Mora is a deserving winner of the Global Family Doctor of the Month for February 2006.

**Fons Sips: Wonca Global Family Doctor for April 2006**

Dr Fons Sips was born in Heerlen, The Netherlands, in 1940. He studied Medicine and Psychology at the Radboud University, Nijmegen. In 1971, he started a practice as general practitioner/family physician in Vught, a small town in the Southern part of the Netherlands. He continued to work in the same practice until the end of his medical career, in May 2006.

From 1971 until today Dr Sips contributed consistently and continuously to the professional and academic development of General

Practice/Family Medicine in the Netherlands and abroad. In 1975, he was one of the first GPs to receive medical students in his practice. He did so until 1981. In that year he received his PhD. The title of his thesis was "Changes in Birth Control: Observations in a Medical Practice from 1973 until 1980". His supervisor was the late Prof. Frans JA Huygen. At that time the subject of his research was very relevant and a topic of societal debate.

Through the years Dr Sips combined his practice with activities related to the positioning of general practice as a medical profession and academic discipline.



Dr Fons Sips: Wonca Global Family Doctor for March 2006

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr Sips served in numerous leadership roles. From 1983 to 1990 he served as a member of the Taskforce of the Dutch Association of General Practitioners, assigned to define the content of the profession and tasks of the GP. From 1987 to 1993, he served as member of the board of the Dutch College of General Practitioners, responsible for the development of evidence based practice guidelines. This project contributed highly to the scientific level of daily practice and still has a major impact on the quality of daily practice. Moreover, the development of this type of guidelines ('standards') served as a model in a number of other countries. As a result of this, Wonca World Conference in 1993 in The Hague was dedicated to the policy of development and implementation of scientific guidelines.

From 1993 to 1995, Dr Sips served as President of the Societas Internationalis Medicinae Generalis (SIMG). He used his position to integrate this largely Eastern European Society into WONCA Europe. The treaty was signed in Strassbourg, in the Assembly Hall of the European Parliament, in 1995. This new structure has been a facilitator for the reorientation and rebuilding of primary care in a number of countries which had recently joined the European Union, such as Spain and Italy. From 1995 to 2000, he served as Editor in Chief of The European Journal of General Practice. This new journal created opportunities for the aforementioned countries to publish their scientific endeavours. From 1997 to 2004, he was a Senior Staff member of the Training Programme of GPs, Department of General Practice of Maastricht University. In 2004, he was initiator of the Junior Doctor Programme at the WONCA Europe Regional Conference in Amsterdam. This Programme developed into the Vasco da Gama movement, and presented itself at the WONCA Conference in Kos (Greece) in 2006.

Among his many honors, Dr Sips is Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners (UK), Distinguished member of the Dutch College of General Practitioners, and Fellow of the World Organization of Family Doctors (Wonca).

*(Editor's Note; The "Global Family Doctor of the Month" Award is an award to encourage philanthropy among primary care practitioners and to honour doctors giving their time and expertise to their global colleagues and their patients. The award is given to doctors who are recognised by their colleagues as having contributed significantly to the community in which they work*

*by way of their practice, community involvement, charity work or other humanitarian acts.*

Each Award winner is given a letter of congratulations from the Wonca CEO, an award certificate and a complete office diagnostic set from Welch Allyn worth approximately \$400.

Submission Requirements include:

1. Title and Full Name of nominee.
2. Photo of nominee. The winner and his/her photo would be featured on Wonca's website [www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com](http://www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com)
3. Postal address of nominee.
4. Reasons for nomination for the Award.
5. Brief resume or CV of the nominee
6. Any other relevant information that would assist Wonca in the selection process.

Please submit nominations for this monthly Award to Dr Alfred Loh, CEO of Wonca at the Wonca Secretariat via email to [admin@wonca.com.sg](mailto:admin@wonca.com.sg)

### **Ethics Special Interest Group Explores Challenges to Professional Attitudes**

Wonca's Special Interest Group (SIG) on Ethics explored "Challenges for our professional attitudes - everyday conflicts" during the September 2005 Wonca Europe Regional Conference meeting in Kos Island, Greece. Organized by Ethics SIG Chair Manfred Maier, the plenary session attracted more than 150 participants. An opening introduction by Manfred compared and contrasted the developments in medical sciences with its unchanged ethical principles for almost 2.500 years.

Each subsequent presentation focused on a given topic and provoked many questions which not all could be answered in the time available. Iona Yaphe presented an interesting and funny video on a doctor-patient communication, where the doctor very badly reacted to the unjustified demands of a patient. Steinar Westin focused on the consequences of new guidelines for cholesterol and hypertension which would label 90% of the population over 55 as patients. Miky Weingarten developed several situations in which the autonomy of the patient as a main ethical principle would reach its limits. Ilse Hellemann outlined the new legislation in Austria for elderly people in nursing homes, illustrated the discrepancy between their needs and proper care. Ilse focused on the problem of medicalisation due to this new legislation. Ilkka Kunamo reviewed the ethical aspects in the development of clinical guidelines and identified ethical principles being challenged due to the implementation of one or more guidelines. Last, Dimitrius Karanasius presented different aspects in the relationship between physicians, in particular general practitioners, and pharmaceutical companies. His final conclusion was that before a judgment, the economic and political- professional situation of the physicians' workforce in a particular country should be considered.

Finally, Jan Heyrman summarized his impressions of the plenary. He concluded that it would be very important to confront young medical students with ethical dilemmas. He suggested that GPs with their experience should contribute to the teaching activities of medical schools on medical ethics. This topic should not be left to pure ethicists or theologians and also not be left to gynecologists, transplant surgeons and other consultants.

Approximately 40 people attended the “Workshop on Ethical Challenges” later on the same day. After a short presentation of the Wonca SIG on Ethical Issues in General Practice by M.Maier the participants agreed to present ethically difficult situations from among their recent clinical encounters; among them, 2 or 3 would then be selected by open vote to be discussed in detail. The following situations were presented:

- \* A Somalia refugee which denied a medically necessary Cesarean section (USA)
- \* When should a patient being billed (The Netherlands)
- \* An eating disorder in a child -

- whom should it be told (Scotland)
- \* A contraceptive pill for a 14 year old girl (Ireland)
- \* The sleepy husband - a sexually aggressive man receives unknowingly sleeping pills from his wife who suffers from metastatic carcinoma of her breast. He visits the family GP and complains about his sleepiness (Italy)
- \* Is the prescription of drugs for hair loss in a man justified? (The Netherlands)
- \* Protection of patient data and medical information is endangered by centralised patient data monitoring (Belgium)

- \* Justification of diagnostic tests for suspected heart disease in a young patient (Spain)
- \* Management of a patient with dyspnea who is addicted to tobacco and refuses to receive treatment in the hospital (Slovenia)
- \* A 14 year old girl who reports to have been sexually abused since the age of 2 by 10 male family members (The Netherlands)

At next years European Region Conference in Florence (August 27-30, 2006), similar activities of the Ethics SIG are planned. For further information, please contact Manfred Maier at: [manfred.maier@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:manfred.maier@meduniwien.ac.at).

## RESOURCES FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR

### TO TRAVEL HOPEFULLY: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY CHARLES BRIDGES-WEBB

Charles Bridges-Webb spent his early childhood as the son of a country doctor, and then grew up in Melbourne. He did medicine at the University of Melbourne, and from 1960 spent 15 years as a country general practitioner in Traralgon in Gippsland. He became an active member of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and commenced general practice research, which he liked to call “organised curiosity”.

Through this he became a member of Wonca’s International Classification Committee at its inception in 1972 served as Chairman from 1991-1999. He was

appointed as Foundation Professor of Community Medicine at the University of Sydney in 1975, where he also did some writing and teaching on the history and philosophy of medicine.

Charles was intent on exploring and living life to the full, and that meant having many interests. He enjoys a wonderful marriage and found a growing family and their activities enriching. A huge garden has always been a constant source of exercise and relaxation, supplemented in earlier years by cricket and refereeing soccer. He has read widely, particularly about history and philosophy. He became increasingly involved with church activities as an elder, and an interest in art grew. He explored his family history and wrote about it. He took early retirement in 1994 and ceased clinical practice, but is still involved in some research activities.

This is an account of the personal and professional life of a

quiet, conservative general practitioner and academic with a wide range of interests. It describes his life of traveling hopefully and organising his curiosity to try to find meaning in all that he experienced. It encompasses a broad scope, from country practice to international committees, from gardening to medical research, from family life to philosophical quest. There is little drama but much personal satisfaction in interaction with many different people.

For further information, contact Charles Bridges-Webb at [cbridges@mail.usyd.edu.au](mailto:cbridges@mail.usyd.edu.au)

*(Editor’s Note: To purchase a copy of this book, use the following title, author and publisher: To Travel Hopefully: an Autobiography by Charles Bridges-Webb. Melbourne, Sid Harta Publishers, 2005. 468 pp, \$A29.95. ISBN 1-921030-26-7)*

**WONCA CONFERENCES 2006 – 2011 AT A GLANCE**

 Information correct as of January 2006.  
 May be subject to change.

 See Wonca Website [www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com](http://www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com) for updates

<b>2006</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Theme</b>
27 – 30 Aug	European Regional Conference	Florence ITALY	Towards Medical Renaissance: Bridging the Gap Between Biology and the Humanities
8 – 15 Sept	7th Rural Health Conference	Seattle Washington 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
<b>2007</b>			
24 – 27 July	<b>18th WONCA World Conference</b>	<b>SINGAPORE</b>	<b>Genomics and Family Medicine</b>
17 – 21 Oct	European Regional Conference	Paris FRANCE	Re-Thinking Primary Care in the European Context: A New Challenge for General Practice
<b>2008</b>			
1 – 5 Oct	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Melbourne AUSTRALIA	Theme to be confirmed
<b>2009</b>			
5 – 8 June	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Hong Kong	Building Bridges
<b>2010</b>			
26 – 30 May	19 <sup>th</sup> WONCA World Conference	Cancun MEXICO	Millennium Development Goals: The Contribution of Family Medicine
<b>2011</b>			
February 2011	Asia Pacific Regional Conference	Cebu PHILIPPINES	Paradigms of Family Medicine: Bridging Old Traditions with New Concepts

**GLOBAL MEETINGS FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR****WONCA WORLD AND REGIONAL  
CONFERENCE CALENDAR****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.woncaeurope2006.org>

**Wonca 7th Rural Health Conference, Seattle-Anchorage  
2006**

Host: Wonca Rural Health Working Party  
Theme: Transforming Rural Practice Through Education  
Date: 8-15 September, 2006  
Venue: 8 -10 September – Wonca Rural Conference  
University of Washington campus  
11-13 September, 34th Annual Advances in  
Family Practice  
University of Washington campus  
13-15 September, Post Conference  
Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Contact: Tom E Norris, MD  
Chair, Host Organizing Committee  
Department of Family Medicine  
University of Washington School of Medicine  
Box 356390  
Seattle, WA 98195-6390, USA  
Fax: 206-543-3101  
Email: [tnorris@u.washington.edu](mailto:tnorris@u.washington.edu)  
Web: <http://www.ruralwonca2006.org/>

**Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF Region, Buenos Aires, 2006**

Host: Federacion Argentina De Medicina Familiar y  
General  
Theme: Pursing 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 5079  
Email: [famfyg@aamf.org.ar](mailto:famfyg@aamf.org.ar)  
Web: [www.famfyg.org.ar](http://www.famfyg.org.ar)

**15th Wonca Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Bangkok  
2006**

Host: General Practitioners/Family Physicians  
Association of Thailand  
College of Family Physicians of Thailand  
Theme: Happy and Healthy Family  
Date: 5-9 November, 2006  
Venue: The Royal Golden Jubilee Building  
Contact: Dr Kachit Choopanya, Chairman, Host  
Organizing Committee  
11th Floor, Royal Golden Jubilee Building  
2 Soi Soonvijai, New Petchaburi Road  
Bangkok, Thailand 10320  
Tel: 66(0) 2716 6651  
Fax: 66(0) 2716 6653  
Web: [www.wonca2006.org](http://www.wonca2006.org)

**18th Wonca World Conference, Singapore 2007**

Host: College of Family Physicians, Singapore  
Theme: Genomics and Family Medicine  
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](mailto:contact@cfps.org.sg)  
Web: [www.wonca2007.com](http://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 Deux Communes  
 94300 Vincennes, France  
 Tel: 33-153 669 180  
 Email: [cnge@cnge.fr](mailto:cnge@cnge.fr)  
 Web: [www.cnge.fr](http://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: [javier.dominguez@unfpa.org.mx](mailto:javier.dominguez@unfpa.org.mx)

**MEMBER ORGANIZATION AND RELATED MEETINGS**

**8° Congresso de Medicina de Família e Comunidade (8th Brazilian Meeting of Family and Community Medicine), Sao Paulo 2006**

Theme: Comprehensive Health Care in Brazil: The Contribution of Family and Community Medicine - Making Medical Practice More Relevant to People's Needs  
 Host: Brazilian Society of Family and Community Medicine  
 Date: 15-18 June 2006  
 Venue: São Paulo, Brazil  
 Host: Brazilian Society of Family and Community Medicine  
 Contact: Rua Marquês de Itu, 408 Cj 34/35  
 Vila Buarque  
 São Paulo - SP  
 Brazil - Cep: 01223-000  
 Phone: 55 11 83636868  
 Fax: 55 11 33613089  
 Email: [sbmfc@sbmfc.org.br](mailto:sbmfc@sbmfc.org.br)  
 Web: [www.sbmfc.org.br/congresso2006](http://www.sbmfc.org.br/congresso2006)

**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](mailto:secretariat2006@cancer.org)  
 Web: <http://www.2006conferences.org/>

**American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Annual Scientific Assembly, Washington, DC 2006**

Date: 27 Sept - 1 October, 2006  
 Venue: Washington DC Convention Center  
 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](mailto:international@aafp.org)  
 Web: <http://www.aafp.org>

**The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners  
48th Annual Scientific Conference, Brisbane 2006**

Date: 5-8 Oct, 2006  
Theme: Be the Future  
Venue: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre  
Contact: Michaela Fox  
Email: michaela.fox@racgp.org.au  
Web: <http://www.racgp.org.au/asc2006/>

**International Society for Quality in Health Care  
23rd International Conference, London 2006**

Date: 22-25 October, 2006  
Venue: London, United Kingdom  
Contact: ISQua Secretariat  
212 Clarendon Street  
East Melbourne 3002 AUSTRALIA  
Phone: +61 3 9417 6971 ..  
Fax: +61 3 9417 6851  
Email: [isqua@isqua.org](mailto:isqua@isqua.org)  
Web: <http://www.isqua.org>

**College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)  
Family Medicine Forum, Manitoba 2006**

Date: November 2 - 4, 2006  
Venue: Quebec City Convention Centre  
Quebec City, Quebec  
Contact: Joanne Langevin; Meetings Manager  
Cheryl Selig, Registration Coordinator  
2630 Skymark Avenue  
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4W 5A4  
Tel: (905) 629-0900 / 1-800-387-6197  
Fax: (905) 629-0893  
Email: [info@cfpc.ca](mailto:info@cfpc.ca)  
Web: [www.cfpc.ca](http://www.cfpc.ca)



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**7<sup>th</sup> WONCA Rural Health Conference  
2006**  
*Transforming Rural Practice  
Through Education*

September 8-15, 2006  
Seattle, WA, USA

[www.ruralwonca2006.org](http://www.ruralwonca2006.org) [www.ruralwonca2006.com](http://www.ruralwonca2006.com)  
[www.ruralwonca2006.net](http://www.ruralwonca2006.net)

WONCA Rural Conference  
September 8-10, 2006  
University of Washington campus

Clinical Conference  
September 11-13, 2006  
*34<sup>th</sup> Annual Advances in Family Practice and Primary Care*  
University of Washington campus

Post Conference  
September 13-15, 2006  
*Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge — Anchorage, Alaska*







**WONCA**

Asia Pacific Regional Conference  
November 5-9, 2006 BANGKOK, THAILAND

**Wonca**

## 'Happy and Healthy Family'

### Highlight Topics

ADHD and Autistic  
Adolescent Brain  
Childhood Asthma vs COPD in Adult  
Chronic Nutrition Related Diseases  
Ethic and Moral in Practices  
New Influenza Pandemic  
Palliative Care  
Stem Cell Transplantation  
Violence Against Women  
and more ...

### Invited Speakers

Alfred WT Loh	Meechai Viravaidya
Bruce LW Sparks	Pensri Pichaisanith
Chris van Weel	Prawase Wasi
Donald Li	Somsak Lohlekha
Goh Lee Gan	Thep Himathongkam
Micheal Kidd	and more ...



### Call for Abstract(s)

Submission online is also welcome at <http://www.wonca2006.org>  
Abstract for oral and poster **DEADLINE: JUNE 15, 2006**

### Social Events

Join the Opening and Closing ceremonies. Experience the world class spectacular performance and having private party along the river and enjoy the national flower floating ceremony (Loy Krathong)

**Registration** On-line Registration is also provided on our official website [www.wonca2006.org](http://www.wonca2006.org)

Category	Early Registration <small>Before June 30, 2006</small>	Late Registration <small>June 30 - October 15, 2006</small>	Onsite Registration <small>After October 15, 2006</small>
Wonca Members	USD 300	USD 350	USD 400
Regular Participants	USD 350	USD 400	USD 450
Students and Trainees*	USD 100	USD 120	USD 150
Accompany Persons		USD 100	

\* The Registration in this category is needed to verify their status. The verification document including the participants' supervisor' signature is requested.

#### ORGANIZED BY

The Royal College of Family Physicians of Thailand  
The General Practitioners/ Family Physicians Association, Thailand  
Bangkok Metropolitan Administration

#### CORRESPONDENCE

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Bangkok, Thailand 10110 Tel/Fax: 662 714 2656  
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