

WONCANews

An International Forum for Family Doctors



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FROM THE WONCA PRESIDENT:

THE FINAL STRAIGHT

“Linked together by the strong bonds of community interest, the profession of medicine forms a remarkable world-unit in the progressive evolution of which there is a fuller hope for humanity than in any other direction”

William Osler. (1849-1919). In Aequanimitas

This is my final column as President of this remarkable organisation. In Singapore in July I will be handing over the mantle to my well-known successor, Professor Chris van Weel. It has been a long and exciting association with the organisation since I attended my first General Assembly and Council Meeting in Singapore in 1983.

It has indeed been a pleasure and honour to serve the organisation as its President. During these three years I have met remarkable family doctors across the Globe. In my April column I made mention of the impressive universality of family practice around the world and the ever pervasive quest to improve the standards and quality of health care. My visits to member organisations have taken me to all parts of the globe, where family medicine is alive and well, but regretfully not to as many undeveloped countries as I would have wished. Since Wonca's travel budget is limited, especially for expensive travels from South Africa, I often relied on support from countries being visited. This regretfully limited my visits to poorer regions.

This triennium edition of Wonca News is an exciting chronicle of the activities of the organisation during this period. Most of them are successes that have disseminated and consolidated the role of Wonca as a truly global representative organisation of academic, practicing family doctors. This success would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the President Elect, Regional Presidents, Members of the World and Regional Executive committees, and all the convenors, chairpersons and members of the Wonca's committees, working parties, task forces, interest groups and individuals. These structures and activities were ably and overwhelmingly supported and guided by the CEO and Secretariat. I salute and thank them all for their continuing support of Wonca and its mission. Many of the activities of these structures are reported in this edition of Wonca News.

The organisation now has 112 member organisations in 93 countries, with 5 new members likely to be confirmed in July. These are all listed in this newsletter. The promise of numerous new members within the next year is eagerly awaited. The only continent not colonised is Antarctica!

We have also been particularly encouraged in the last three years by closer collaboration with WHO. Activities have included further consolidation of the use of International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC-2), membership of the Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD), participation on the WHO Initiative on Social Determinants of Health, and support for the WHO Framework on Tobacco Control

While many of the activities of Wonca are at committee level 'behind closed doors' the real face of Wonca is the host of activities organised between World Congresses within the Wonca Regions. These have included numerous Regional and National Congresses, teacher training workshops, quality assurance programmes, CPD Programmes, research programmes and publications.

The Wonca website, Global Family Doctor, continues to offer an excellent site of news and educational material. The most successful product is 'Journal Alerts'. The team of reviewers led by Professor Wes Fabb review over 4000 articles a month to produce the email alerts that have been acclaimed internationally as the most effective method used by many practitioners to keep up to date with the medical literature. Professor Fabb retires in July from his position as Medical Editor. His tenacity, industry and dedication to this website are applauded with appreciation.

Reform of our bylaws has continued, to streamline and enable the organisation to be more effective, to adapt and react to changing circumstances with greater ease while still maintaining a stable and consistent infrastructure. Major changes to be considered during the next triennium include important and needy amendments to encourage greater gender equity within the organisation. These changes are to be welcomed if the organisation is to remain relevant in a changing World. The Bylaws committee have done an excellent job to transform the bylaws and regulations.

I must pay a personal tribute to Dr Marc Rivo who has been the editor of Wonca News since 2001. His enthusiasm and editorial style have been awe-inspiring, and he has always had a 'nose' for news likely to maintain the interest of Wonca members. I thank him

for his dedication, and gentle nudges, usually via my wife, to encourage me to submit my column on time.

I believe that Wonca has concluded another successful chapter in its development as a global organisation, but as the organisation grows and its influence spreads it will require a much larger 'head-office'. At present this large World organisation relies on the magnificent contribution of only three full-time employed staff! All other office bearers, (including the President!) are volunteers with only expenses covered. I believe that if the President and possibly others are to fulfil their global roles effectively, this issue would have to be examined. Without the generous assistance of my University, I would not have been able to discharge my duties.

My final contribution would not be complete without a tribute to my wife, Louise. She continues to be a great pillar of strength in my life. Her generous support for my activities, (and frequent absences), during this Wonca triennium and during my association with the organisation over nearly 25 years is deeply appreciated. Her courage and perseverance during the nine months of her recent grave illness have been an inspiration to me and my family. Thank you Louise!

Professor Bruce Sparks, M.D.
World President of Wonca

FROM THE CEO'S DESK:

THE 2004-2007 TRIENNIUM IN REVIEW

It has been a good triennium for Wonca. These three years saw Wonca growing further in terms of geographical representation and in its contacts with other NGOs, academic institutions, The World Health Organisation and industry. There were also significant steps taken to consolidate and standardize Wonca's many operational requirements.

The Wonca Secretariat

The Wonca World Secretariat continues to function with the same number of staff and in the same office adjacent to the premises of the College of Family Physicians, Singapore.

The Secretariat may be need to move for space reasons in the coming triennium. During the past triennium, the Secretariat has successfully instituted the following measures to streamline the operational aspects of the Organisation.

Revision of Member Organisations' Dues

Following the Orlando Wonca World Council's acceptance of the Executive's recommendations to have a more structured policy for calculating the membership dues of Wonca Member Organizations (MOs), these dues are now categorized into four broad groups based on the GDP per capita of the country from World Bank figures with the following discounts applicable to the amount of dues payable: by the four categories

- A) MOs with GDP per capita above the world's average GDP per capita pay the full MO dues, i.e., 0% discount.
- B) MOs between the world average and 50% of that average receive a 33% discount on the dues payable.
- C) MOs with GDP per capita of less than 50% of world average receive a 50% discount.
- D) MOs in countries with GDP per capita of less than 75% of the world average receive a 75% discount.

These rates have been in effect since January 2005.

Revision of Direct Members Dues

Following the Orlando Wonca World Council's acceptance of the Executive's recommendations to have a more structured policy for Direct Member Dues, new applicants now pay a once off processing fee of US\$40 and an annual membership dues of US\$25 per year, or \$75 for three years. In addition to these, regional dues where applicable are added. Currently, the additional dues are applied only to the European and Asia Pacific Regions. These rates have been in effect from January 2005.

ICPC-2

In December 2003, Wonca received the good news that the WHO-FIC Network of the WHO Collaborating Centre had accepted ICPC into the Family of Classification (FIC) as a related classification to be used for health information registration in Primary Care.

This membership of the WHO-FIC resulted in greater interest in ICPC globally and enquiries were received by the Wonca Secretariat on the purchase of national rights for the exclusive use of ICPC by several countries. Wonca Executive then established a formula for the calculation of national licences for ICPC based on the GDP and GDP per capita of the country. To date five national licences for ICPC have been purchased from Wonca by the governments of Belgium, Norway, Switzerland, Finland and the Portuguese Association of General Practitioners. Wonca reached an agreement with Oxford University Press that would return the publishing rights for the English version of ICPC back to Wonca. Several countries have expressed interest in the English language version of ICPC.

Disaster response

The Wonca Secretariat made immediately following the Indian Ocean Tsunami in December 2004, an appeal for help to all member organizations globally via e-mails. We received prompt and positive responses from individuals and member organizations informing the Secretariat of the many ways help was being extended. The Dutch College together with the University of Nijmegen collected a total of US\$24,000 for the victims of the disaster. These were later given to the Sri Lanka College to help rebuild the homes of fishermen whose seaside homes were completely destroyed.

In another natural disaster, individual family doctors from some countries like Switzerland, Canada, United Kingdom and France responded by traveling to Northern Pakistan following the earthquake to help with medical relief work. Some of them received their contacts through the Wonca World Secretariat.



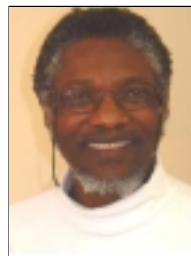
Wonca CEO Alfred and Yiau Leng Loh and their daughter, Abigail, with the Japanese Geisha at the 2005 Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Kyoto

The Wonca Executive Committee

During this triennium, the Wonca Executive Committee continued to meet as a Full Executive annually with the Core Executive (President, President-Elect, Honorary Treasurer and CEO) meeting at around the sixth month between Full Executive Meetings. This pattern of Executive Meetings was introduced during the 2001 – 2003 Triennium and continued into this triennium to save on cost of travel and accommodation.



The 2004 – 07 Wonca Executive and accompanying family at Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Kyoto. From left to right, Rich Roberts, Abra Fransch, Ruth and Dan Ostergaard, Yvonne Chung, Igor Svab, Susan Boland, Teresa Dominguez del Omo, Geoff Martin, Michael Boland, Abigail Loh, Marc Rivo, Shatendra Gupta, Yiau Leng Loh, Javier Dominguez del Omo, Bruce Sparks, Swee Swan and Goh Lee Gan, and Alfred Loh.



Khaya Mfenyana, elected May 2006 as Wonca Africa Region President following the resignation of Abra Fransch, who served with great distinction in the role from May 2001 to May 2006

Wonca's Membership Growth

Wonca's rapid growth has continued throughout this past triennium (see Feature Story on Membership). Today, Wonca represents 112 member organizations from 93 countries. This includes 12 Associate Member Organizations and 10 Organizations in Collaborative Relations. This is exciting growth for a relatively young organization of 35 years. When we started in 1972, there were only 18 founding member organizations. As

recently as 1994 we had only 50 member organizations. Wonca had 27 new member organizations joining in the previous triennium and another 12 in this current triennium. Wonca member organizations now cover every continent on the globe and exist in countries representing 85% of the world's population. We continue to receive interest from family doctor organizations in the Middle East and it is likely that a new Wonca Region will be created for that part of the globe soon.

The Wonca Executive accepted a recommendation by the Wonca Americas Region to change its name to the Wonca North America Region to better reflect the developments that have taken place in Wonca in that part of the world with the new Iberoamericana-CIMF Region.

Wonca's New Working Parties

Wonca Working Party on Mental Health

The Wonca Special Interest Group on Neurology and Psychiatry was formed in 2004. In the past few years the SIG has been very active in the area of educational forums, development of stakeholder relations, contribution to literature and research and especially in collaboration with WHO on the Integration of Mental Health into Primary Care. In response to and in appreciation for all the good work done by the SIG, Wonca Executive at its meeting in Buenos Aires in October 2006, agreed to upgrade the SIG to the status of a Wonca Working Party. The newly named Wonca Working Party on Mental Health is currently one of the most active working parties and works very closely with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse of WHO.

Wonca Working Party on Education

At the Wonca Executive Meeting in Kyoto in 2005, Prof 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 core business for each of the member organisations of Wonca, and given the increase in interest at an international and regional level in education for family medicine.

The Core Executive Meeting in February 2006 approved the proposed mission, terms of reference, possible membership and initial activities submitted by Dr Kidd after which the Working Party on Education be

established. 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.

Better gender balance in Wonca

This issue was discussed at length at the Core Executive Meeting in Singapore in February 2005. Core Executive agreed that there needed to be increased female representation and gender balance in Wonca. The Meeting agreed that there was a need for a focused discussion and further input from the Wonca Working Party on Women and Family Medicine (WWPWFM), 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. Wonca Executive has since received two documents from the WWPWFM entitled "The HER (Hamilton Equity Statement)" and "Wonca's Ten Steps towards Gender Equity". At the Buenos Aires Full Executive Meeting in October 2006, it was resolved that Wonca Executive approve the establishment of a group to address issues of gender equity chaired by the President and will include appropriate representatives from the Executive Committee, Bylaws Committee and the WWPWFM. This work will start soon in the new triennium

The Wonca Website

At the Wonca Executive Meeting in St Augustine, Florida in November 2004, it was decided by Executive, following the decision to terminate the partnership with MediWorld, that an attempt be made to keep the website going by committing funds from Wonca itself. The World Council also agreed this to then. By January 2005, Wonca had assumed full control of its website (www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com) and had installed its own server housed within Dolphin IT in Melbourne, Australia.

With the funding secured by having five pharmaceutical multinationals as Wonca Global Sponsors and with the website's infrastructure properly constituted, GFD has in the period of this triennium grown from strength to strength. The website has now become the 'image of Wonca' to the outside world and during the triennium significant changes and progress have been made.

WHO and Wonca Collaborations

Wonca's status as an NGO in Collaborative Relations with WHO has just been renewed. Currently Wonca has several areas of collaboration with the world body (see Health and Health System News article), which we hope will increase in the years ahead.

At the recently concluded 60th WHO General Assembly in May 2007, attended by Prof Michael Kidd and the CEO, new inroads and networking have been achieved that should pave the way for closer collaboration between the two world bodies.

Wonca Finance

Wonca has had a good financial period for the triennium 2004 - 2006. A significant part of this healthier financial state at the end of the triennium had been contributed by two important factors, namely:

- 1) The wisdom of World Council in agreeing to drastically reduce the budget allocations to Executive and the Regions and a similar tightening of budget of the various sub-groups of Wonca Committees, Working Parties and Task Forces at the last World Council in Orlando in 2004; and
- 2) The step taken by Wonca to engage industry in an ethical manner through the Wonca Global Sponsorships, satellite symposia and educational projects in collaboration with the Wonca Website.

This dual approach of prudent budgeting for expenditure at all times and a willingness to engage in new revenue generating ventures which do not infringe on the ethical code of Wonca, will be needed to ensure that the Organization continues to build up its assets and eventually accumulate a financial reserve of one year's fiscal need.

Dr Alfred Loh

Chief Executive Officer
World Organization of Family Doctors

FROM THE EDITOR:

CHRONICLING WONCA'S JOURNEY

"Civilization is a movement and not a condition, a voyage and not a harbor".

Arnold Toynbee

This combined June to August 2007 issue of Wonca News records the journey of our Wonca family and global community during the 2004 to 2007 triennium following the 17th Wonca World Conference in Orlando, Florida, USA in October 2004.

In their President's and CEO column, Bruce Sparks and Alfred Loh reflect on their personal highlights during Wonca's latest triennium, and which are chronicled in this special Triennium Issue. Both cited Wonca's continual membership growth as one of Wonca's most significant achievements this triennium. As Warren Heffron, Wonca's Membership Chair reports, Wonca has grown to 117 member organizations from 95 countries, and with applications ready for review during the Singapore Wonca Executive Committee meeting, may grow to 117 countries from 95 countries by the end of the Singapore Wonca Council meeting.

Wonca is the sum total of its component organizational parts – its Regions, member organizations and its interest groups. This issue of Wonca News reports on some of the milestones reported by Wonca's regions and working parties, on key developments in health and health systems, on important resources for the family doctor, and on individual family doctors who contributed to Wonca's success around the world.

It is important to acknowledge that many; many other vitally important and historic events took place in addition to that which is recorded in this triennium issue. In reality, each of Wonca's Member Organizations has filled their publications during the past triennium with important contributions to world health and to Wonca's mission. During this past triennium, individual contributions of almost 2,000 direct members and the more than 160,000 family doctors Wonca represents helped meet people's health needs around the world. Please continue to send me your stories so that Wonca News may record our most accurate and comprehensive global picture of Wonca's journey in the upcoming triennium.

While a new story remains to be told of our future travels, this special issue of Wonca News is proof that we have much to remember, celebrate and honor during our collective journey this past triennium.

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FEATURE STORIES

WONCA'S DRAMATIC MEMBERSHIP GROWTH CONTINUES

Wonca continued to grow dramatically during the past triennium and throughout the first decade of the 21st century. We continue to receive enquiries about membership as well as completed applications. At the beginning of the current triennium we had a total of 100 Member Organizations from 83 different countries. By the end of the last Executive meeting in Buenos Aires our membership had increased to 112 Member Organizations from 93 countries. This includes 12 Associate Member Organizations and 10 Organizations in Collaborative Relations. The Regional breakdown is as follows:

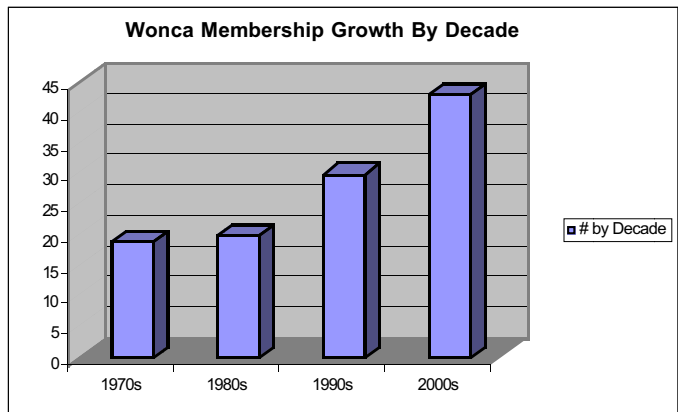
Wonca Africa	6 member organizations
Wonca North America	5 member organizations
Wonca Asia Pacific	19 member organizations
Wonca Europe	42 member organizations
Wonca Middle East South Asia	13 member organizations
Wonca Iberoamericana - CIMF	17 member organizations

During the upcoming Wonca Executive Committee meeting, applications from four new member organizations will be reviewed. If the new candidate organizations are approved, than Wonca will have 117 Member Organizations representing 96 different countries at the end of our World Council meeting in Singapore.



Warren Heffron,
 Wonca Membership
 Committee Chair

The 21st century represents an exciting period of growth for a relatively young organization. When Wonca was established in 1972, only 18 charter member organizations existed. As recently as 1994, only 50 Member Organizations comprised Wonca. a little more than a decade, that number has more than doubled. In the 2001 to 2004 Triennium, 27 new Member Organizations joined Wonca. In this current triennium, another 16 new Member Organizations have joined. We also have 1986 Direct (ie, individual) members from 91 countries.



With continued enquiries from organizations that are interested in applying for membership, Wonca can expect continued growth. During the past three years, the Wonca Membership Committee was comprised of the following members who served with distinction: Liliana Arias Castillo (Colombia), Mattie Obazee (Nigeria), Maarten Klomp (Netherlands), Sugito Wonodirekso (Indonesia), and Pratap Prasad (Nepal). The Committee was ably guided and supported by Wonca CEO Dr. Alfred Loh and Administrative Manager, Ms. Yvonne Chung.

Warren Heffron M.D.
Chair, Wonca Membership Committee

Wonca Member Organizations as of June 2006

Date joined Wonca	Country	Name of Organization	Mbr* type	Wonca Region
1-Jan-73	AUSTRALIA	The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners	F	ASIA PACIFIC
1-Jan-73	CANADA	The College of Family Physicians of Canada	F	NORTH AMERICA
1-Jan-73	ISRAEL	Israel Association of Family Physicians	F	EUROPEAN
1-Jan-73	NETHERLANDS	Dutch College of General Practitioners / Nederlands Huisartsen Genootschap NHG	F	EUROPEAN
1-Jan-73	NEW ZEALAND	Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners	F	ASIA PACIFIC
1-Jan-73	PAKISTAN	College of Family Medicine Pakistan	F	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
1-Jan-73	PHILIPPINES	Philippine Academy of Family Physicians	F	ASIA PACIFIC
1-Jan-73	SINGAPORE	College of Family Physicians, Singapore	F	ASIA PACIFIC
1-Jan-73	UNITED KINGDOM	Royal College of General Practitioners	F	EUROPEAN
1-Jan-73	USA	American Academy of Family Physicians	F	NORTH AMERICA
1-Jan-75	MALAYSIA	Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia Akademi Kedokteran Keluarga Malaysia	F	ASIA PACIFIC
1-Jan-76	NORWAY	Norwegian College of General Practitioners Norsk Forening for Allmenmedisin, NFA	F	EUROPEAN
8-Jan-76	DENMARK	Danish College of General Practitioners Dansk Selskab for Almen Medicin DSAM	F	EUROPEAN
2-Jun-76	ZIMBABWE	The College of Primary Care Physicians of Zimbabwe	F	AFRICA
6-Sep-77	SWEDEN	Swedish Association of General Practice Svensk forening for allmanmedicin, SFAM	F	EUROPEAN
8-Nov-77	FRANCE	La Société Française Médecine Générale SFMG	F	EUROPEAN
12-May-78	HONG KONG	The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians	F	ASIA PACIFIC
12-May-78	SRI LANKA	College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka	F	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
5-Aug-80	ICELAND	The Icelandic College of Family Physicians	F	EUROPEAN
3-Oct-80	NIGERIA	Association of General and Private Medical Practitioners of Nigeria	F	AFRICA
29-Aug-81	SOUTH AFRICA	South African Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care	F	AFRICA
29-Aug-81	USA	Society of Teachers of Family Medicine	F	NORTH AMERICA
1-Jan-82	GERMANY	Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Allgemeinmedizin und Familienmedizin DEGAM/ German Society of General Practice/Family Medicine	F	EUROPEAN
14-Aug-82	INDIA	Indian Academy of General Practice	F	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA

Date joined Wonca	Country	Name of Organization	Mbr* type	Wonca Region
14-Aug-82	INDONESIA	The Indonesian Association of Family Physicians Perhimpunan Dokter Keluarga Indonesia	F	ASIA PACIFIC
21-May-83	KOREA	The Korean Academy of Family Medicine	F	ASIA PACIFIC
2-Jun-84	FINLAND	Finnish Association for General Practice Suomen Yleislaaketieteen Yhdistys	F	EUROPEAN
28-Mar-85	JAPAN	The Japanese Academy of Primary Care Physicians	F	ASIA PACIFIC
28-Mar-85	PORTUGAL	Portuguese Association of General Practitioners Associacao Portuguesa dos Medicos de Clinica Geral	F	EUROPEAN
28-Mar-85	THAILAND	The General Practitioners/ Family Physicians Association, Thailand	F	ASIA PACIFIC
14-Sep-85	IRELAND	The Irish College of General Practitioners	F	EUROPEAN
30-May-86	USA	American Board of Family Medicine	A	NORTH AMERICA
3-Sep-87	BANGLADESH	Bangladesh College of General Practitioners	F	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
2-May-88	TAIWAN	Chinese Taipei Association of Family Medicine	F	ASIA PACIFIC
1-Oct-88	SPAIN	Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine, SEMFYC	F	EUROPEAN
3-Oct-88	GREECE	Greek Association of General Practitioners ELEGIA	F	EUROPEAN
1-May-89	MALTA	Malta College of Family Doctors	F	EUROPEAN
11-May-89	ITALY	International Society of Doctors for the Environment ISDE Scientific Office	C	COLLABORATIVE
14-Aug-91	ITALY	Centro Studi e Ricerche in Medicina Generale CSerMEG	F	EUROPEAN
1-Jan-92	BELGIUM	European Academy of Teachers in General Practice	EURACT	C COLLABORATIVE
1-Jan-92	NETHERLANDS	European General Practice Research Network EGPRN	C	COLLABORATIVE
7-May-92	MACAU	Associacao dos Medicos de Clinica Geral de Macau Macau Association of General Practitioners	F	ASIA PACIFIC
17-May-92	JAMAICA	The Caribbean College of Family Physicians	C	COLLABORATIVE
9-May-93	CZECH REPUBLIC	Czech Society of General Practice	F	EUROPEAN
9-May-93	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Slovak Society of General/Family Practice	A	EUROPEAN
9-May-93	SLOVENIA	Slovenian Family Medicine Society	F	EUROPEAN
21-Jun-93	FIJI	Fiji College of General Practitioners	F	ASIA PACIFIC
24-May-94	ANDORRA	Andorran Society of Primary Care Doctors Associacio Andorrana de Metges D'Atencio Primaria	F	EUROPEAN
24-May-94	SAUDI ARABIA	Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine	F	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
11-May-95	PHILIPPINES	Foundation for Family Medicine Educators, Inc	A	ASIA PACIFIC
11-May-95	SWITZERLAND	Swiss Society of General Medicine SSMG/SGAM	F	EUROPEAN
10-Aug-95	CHINA	Chinese Society of General Practice	F	ASIA PACIFIC
29-Sep-95	FRANCE	College National des Generalistes Enseignants CNGE	F	EUROPEAN
11-May-96	ESTONIA	Estonian Society of Family Doctors	F	EUROPEAN
28-Jun-96	POLAND	Kolegium Lekarzy Rodzinnych w Polsce College of Family Physicians in Poland	F	EUROPEAN
16-Dec-96	AUSTRIA	Austrian Society of General Practice/Family Medicine Osterreichische Gesellschaft fur Allgemein und Familienmedizin	F	EUROPEAN

Date joined Wonca	Country	Name of Organization	Mbr* type	Wonca Region
16-Dec-96	PAKISTAN	Pakistan Society of Family Physicians, Lahore	A	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
22-Jun-97	NEPAL	General Practitioners' Association of Nepal	F	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
27-Jun-97	LITHUANIA	College of General Practitioners of Lithuania	F	EUROPEAN
16-Oct-97	CROATIA	Croatian Association of Family Medicine	F	EUROPEAN
16-Oct-97	USA	North American Primary Care Research Group, NAPCRG	C	COLLABORATIVE
1-Jan-98	NIGERIA	Faculty of Family Medicine, National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria	A	AFRICA
22-May-98	ROMANIA	Romanian National Society of General Practice/ Family Medicine	F	EUROPEAN
1-Jun-98	BELGIUM	Belgian Society of General Practitioners/Family Physicians	F	EUROPEAN
7-Jun-98	MONGOLIA	Mongolian Association of Family Doctors	F	ASIA PACIFIC
7-Feb-99	UKRAINE	Ukrainian Association of Family Medicine	F	EUROPEAN
28-Jun-99	GHANA	West African College of Physicians Ghana Chapter Faculty of Family Medicine	F	AFRICA
5-Oct-99	ITALY	Italian Academy of Family Physicians Associazione Italiana Medici di Famiglia (AIMEF)	A	EUROPEAN
1-Feb-00	AUSTRALIA	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine	A	ASIA PACIFIC
8-Nov-01	CYPRUS	Cyprus Medical Association of General Practitioners Ltd	F	EUROPEAN
8-Nov-01	HUNGARY	International Association of Agricultural Medicine & Rural Health	C	COLLABORATIVE
6-Jun-02	ARGENTINA	Argentine Federation of Family and General Medicine Federación Argentina de Medicina Familiar y General (FAMFyG)	F	IBEROAMERICANA
6-Jun-02	BOLIVIA	Sociedad Boliviana de Medicina Familiar Bolivian Society of Family Medicine	F	IBEROAMERICANA
6-Jun-02	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Association of Family Medicine Specialists and Residents of Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska	F	EUROPEAN
6-Jun-02	BRAZIL	Brazilian Society of Family and Community Medicine Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina de Família e Comunidade (SBMFC)	F	IBEROAMERICANA
6-Jun-02	CHILE	Scientific Society of Familiar and General Medicine of Chile Sociedad Científica de Medicina Familiar y General de Chile	F	IBEROAMERICANA
6-Jun-02	COLOMBIA	Colombian Society of Family Medicine Sociedad Colombiana de Medicina Familiar SOCMEF	F	IBEROAMERICANA
6-Jun-02	ECUADOR	Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Medicina Familiar (SEMF)	F	IBEROAMERICANA
6-Jun-02	MEXICO	Colegio Mexicano de Medicina Familiar A.C. Mexican College of Family Medicine	F	IBEROAMERICANA
6-Jun-02	PANAMA	Asociación Panamena de Medicina Familiar	F	IBEROAMERICANA
6-Jun-02	PERU	Peruvian Society of Family Medicine & Integral and Management Health / Sociedad Peruana de Medicina Familiar, Integral y Gestión en Salud	F	IBEROAMERICANA

Date joined Wonca	Country	Name of Organization	Mbr* type	Wonca Region
6-Jun-02	URUGUAY	Sociedad Uruguaya de Medicos de Familia (SUMEFAM) Uruguayan Society of Family Medicine	F	IBEROAMERICANA
6-Jun-02	VENEZUELA	Sociedad Venezolana de Medicina Familiar	F	IBEROAMERICANA
1-Jan-03	KYRGYZSTAN	Association of Family Group Practices, (FGPA) Kyrgyzstan	F	EUROPEAN
12-Apr-03	BRAZIL	Brazilian Society of Family Medicine / Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina de Familia (SOBRAMFA)	C	COLLABORATIVE
12-Apr-03	KAZAKHSTAN	Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians	F	EUROPEAN
12-Apr-03	LEBANON	The Lebanese Society of Family Medicine	F	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
12-Apr-03	TURKEY	Turkish Association of Family Physicians (TAHUD)	F	EUROPEAN
1-Jan-04	BANGLADESH	The Bangladesh Academy of Family Physicians	A	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
1-Jan-04	KENYA	Kenya Association of Family Physicians	F	AFRICA
1-Jan-04	KENYA	Institute of Family Medicine of Kenya Trust	C	COLLABORATIVE
17-Apr-04	BAHRAIN	Bahrain Family Physicians Association	F	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
17-Apr-04	BELARUS	The Belarussian Association of General Practitioners (BAVOP)	C	COLLABORATIVE
17-Apr-04	GEORGIA	Georgia Family Medicine Association	F	EUROPEAN
17-Apr-04	JORDAN	Jordan Society of Family Medicine (JSFM)	F	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
1-Jun-04	ITALY	Scientific Interdisciplinary Association of Both Family and Community Medicine (AsSIMeFaC)	F	EUROPEAN
12-Oct-04	COSTA RICA	Costa Rican Association of Specialists in Family and Community Medicine/Asociacion Costarricense de Especialistas en Familiar y Comunitaria	F	IBEROAMERICANA
12-Oct-04	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Dominican Republic Society of Family Medicine / Sociedad Dominicana de Medicina Familiar	F	IBEROAMERICANA
12-Oct-04	PARAGUAY	Paraguayan Society of Family Medicine / Sociedad Paraguaya De Medicina Familiar	F	IBEROAMERICANA
1-Jan-05	LATVIA	Rural Family Doctors Association of Latvia	A	EUROPEAN
10-May-05	EL SALVADOR	Salvadorean Family Physicians Association / Asociacion de Medicina Familiar de El Salvador	F	IBEROAMERICANA
12-May-05	VIETNAM	Vietnam Association of Family Physicians	F	ASIA PACIFIC
27-May-05	IRAQ	Iraqi Family Physicians Society	F	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
27-May-05	MYANMAR	General Practitioners' Society, Myanmar	F	ASIA PACIFIC
19-Dec-05	LUXEMBOURG	Société Scientifique Luxembourgeoise de Médecine Générale Luxemburgish Scientific Society for General Practice	F	EUROPEAN
18-Feb-06	NETHERLANDS	The Network: Towards Unity for Health	C	COLLABORATIVE
18-Feb-06	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	Emirates Medical Association, The Family Medicine Section PO Box 6600	F	MIDDLE EAST SOUTH ASIA
10-Oct-06	CANADA	The Section of Teachers & Section of Researchers, CFPC	A	NORTH AMERICA
10-Oct-06	CUBA	Cuban Society of Family Medicine/ Sociedad Cubana de Medicina Familiar	F	IBEROAMERICANA

Date joined Wonca	Country	Name of Organization	Mbr* type	Wonca Region
10-Oct-06	NICARAGUA	Asociacion Nicaraguense de Medicina Familiar	F	IBEROAMERICANA
10-Oct-06	ROMANIA	National Centre for Studies in Family Medicine	A	EUROPEAN
10-Oct-06	SERBIA	Serbian Medical Association/ Section of General Practice	F	EUROPEAN

*Membership Status: F = Full, A = Associate, C = Organization in Collaborative Relations

Readers Find Great Value in Global Family Doctor - Wonca Online

What a great survey response. Doctors and other health professionals from 69 countries answered our request for feedback on the Global Family Doctor website. Most were doctors, but nurses and other health professionals also responded. Most responses came from the USA and Australia, followed by New Zealand and Canada. We were delighted to receive responses from so many countries around the globe.

The full list of countries in alphabetical order: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, China, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, Fiji, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Nevis, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Venezuela, Uruguay, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America.

The main reason for visiting

Global Family Doctor was Journal Alerts (90%). Other reasons included conference information, Wonca information, and other medical information. The survey indicates that 37% of users visit Global Family Doctor daily, 55% weekly. Survey results showed that 85% said Global Family Doctor usually or always gave them what they needed.

Journal Alerts were rated valuable or very valuable by 94% of the readers. The Chronic Respiratory Diseases series was rated valuable or very valuable by 42% of readers and another 31% of some value. The Educational Resource Centre was rated valuable or very valuable by 43% of readers, and 32% of some value

Information presented in other than English was rated especially valuable. Of those from Spanish speaking countries, 82% rated Journal Alerts in Spanish as valuable or very valuable. Of those from Portuguese speaking countries, 85% said POEMs in Portuguese were valuable or very valuable. If credits for online CME were available at Global Family Doctor, 32% said they would use them regularly, and another 40% occasionally.

Two recommendations were repeated a number of times: 1) archiving and organizing published articles for easy search and retrieval, and 2) translating the journal alerts into other languages.

Here are just a sampling of the feedback we received from the

reader survey:

- “Unlike most other collections of articles in medical journals around the world, Global Family Doctor emphasizes the needs of GPs and family doctors.”
- “As with anyone, my time is precious. The Journal Alerts however often bring to my attention items that I might not otherwise look up, yet they are still very relevant.”
- “Unlike most other collections of articles in medical journals around the world, Global Family Doctor emphasizes the needs of family doctors.”
- “Staying up-to date about family practice research when I am always ages behind with all the journals, so the Journal Alerts with the easy link to the articles are helpful.”
- From a practice nurse: “I read the Journal Alerts each day for my General Practitioner and let him know what articles are available.”
- “Thanks to the Editors - please note that many doctors in poor countries of the world are reading Global Family Doctor because it is useful and free.”
- “I am receiving information from Journal Alerts which is evidence-based and illustrated very well.”
- “I use this information with my resident and students to prepare actual lecture clubs.”

Wes Fabb
 Jim Vause
 Stephen Wilkinson
 Linda French
 Global Family Doctor Medical Editors

WONCA'S WORKING PARTIES

Wonca International Classification Committee

The Wonca International Classification Committee (WICC) is the longest standing Committee of Wonca, established along with Wonca at the World Conference in Medlbourne in 1972. WICC's main task is to develop relevant classification for General/Family Practice around the world.

The International Classification of Family Medicine (ICFM) was jointly developed by WHO and the Wonca Classification Committee by 1986. It was edited by Dr Henk Lamberts and Dr Maurice Woods after WHO decided not to endorse the classification and was published by Oxford University Press in a new agreement that gave OUP the exclusive publishing rights to the printed version in the English language. It was published as the International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC) under the auspices of Wonca.

In December 2003, Wonca received the good news that the WHO-Family of International Classifications (FIC) Network of the WHO Collaborating Centres had endorsed ICPC as a member of the WHO-FIC. They had concluded that the ICPC fulfilled the requirements for membership as being a well developed, well used and well maintained product. ICPC was hence accepted into the Family of International Classifications as a classification to be used for health information registration in Primary Care around the world.

This membership of the WHO-FIC resulted in greater interest in ICPC globally and enquiries began to be received by the Wonca Secretariat

on the purchase of national rights for the exclusive use of ICPC by certain countries. The Wonca Executive, based on the GDP and GDP per capita of the country, then established a formula for the calculation of national licenses for ICPC. As of 2006, ICPC has been translated into 17 languages globally (Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, French, Greek, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Azeri, Serbian, Finnish, Swedish and Turkish).



WICC Chair Niels and Inga Bentzen and fellow WICC members relax after their meeting during the Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Kyoto to enjoy dinner - Japanese style

As of end 2006, two national licenses for ICPC have been purchased from Wonca by the governments of Belgian and Norway. In addition, the Portuguese Association of General Practitioners has purchased a national license. Several countries has expressed interest in the English language version of ICPC. However, with the publishing rights residing with OUP, Wonca was unable to make the licenses available to these countries.

The Wonca Executive, in 2004, endorsed a proposal to re-acquire the publishing rights of the English language version of ICPC back from OUP. After several communications via email between the Wonca CEO and OUP, an agreement was reached in that OUP would return the publishing rights back to Wonca. This agreement was finalized in January 2007. Henceforth, this will allow the use of the ICPC-2e

electronic version of in a large number of the English speaking countries that are members of Wonca, as the book form of the classification could now be produced in its entirety or as a manual in English.

Whilst it is likely that the national Ministries of Health of most countries will be the agencies keen to acquire the national licenses for ICPC-2e, it may be a financially rewarding and a good move if the Member Organisations of Wonca in these countries take the initiative of acquiring the national license for themselves. To encourage this, Wonca Executive has agreed that Wonca Member Organisations be given a 20% rebate on the national licensing fee. The ICPC-2e is a Wonca product and should, therefore, be used to benefit Wonca Member Organisations, their family doctors and all those who care for our patients around the world.

In 2003, WICC published the Wonca Dictionary of General/Family Practice, the first international, comprehensive dictionary for family doctors. The Wonca Dictionary of General/Family Practice may be purchased through the Wonca website: www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com, and select 'publications'.

Professor Niels Bentzen
Chair, Wonca International
Classification Committee
Niels.bentzen@medisin.ntnu.no

Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice

The 7th Wonca World Rural Health Conference was held in Seattle, Washington, USA from September 8-13, 2006, and a post-conference was held in Anchorage and Talkeetna, Alaska, USA from September 14-16. The Seattle

portion of the conference was divided into a section on education, policy and research for rural practice and a second section of continuing medical education for clinical aspects of rural practice.

Since Seattle and the University of Washington School of Medicine are the home of the WWAMI medical education program (WWAMI stands for Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho), we established the conference theme of “Transforming Rural Practice Through Education”. Over 200 family physicians from more than 20 countries attended the Seattle meetings, and 40 of the physicians went on to the Alaska sessions. In keeping with the cultural themes of prior Rural Wonca meetings, the opening ceremonies included traditional dances by Native Americans and a ceremonial blessing by a Native elder.



Yakima Native American Dance Club members performing traditional dances during the opening session of the 7th Wonca World Rural Health Conference

The opening plenary was oriented toward overarching issues that impact rural family medicine. Plenary sessions for the next two days focused on addressing worldwide shortages of rural family physicians and creating new, rurally leaning medical schools:

- “Attracting Future Rural Practitioners to Health Care: The Experience on Two Continents” by Roger Strasser, MD, Northern Ontario Medical School
- “The Disturbing Evidence From the U.S.” by Robert Bowman, MD, University of Nebraska
- “An African Perspective” by Ian Couper, MD, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa
- “The European Story - Networks” by Christos Lionis, MD, Department of Social Medicine, University of Crete
- “The Asian Experience” by Fortunato Cristobal, MD, Zamboanga Medical School, Phillipines
- “The Australian Experience” by Paul Worley, MBBS, Flinders University Rural Clinical School, Adelaide, Australia
- “The Canadian Experience” by James Rourke, MD, Dean of Medicine Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada

Following the policy, education, and research portion of the conference, the guests attended two days of clinical continuing medical education as part of the 36th annual Family Practice Update at the University of

Washington. At the conclusion of the CME program, forty physicians and guests traveled to Alaska for an outstanding “post-conference” that included tours of the Alaska Native Medical Center, the Sunshine Clinic (a rural community health center), and a stay at the Talkeetna Lodge, near Denali National Park.

Overall, the meetings were successful and were enjoyed by the rural family doctors who attended. The next Rural Wonca World Conference is being planned for Nigeria in 2008.

Tom E. Norris, MD
Chair, Host Organizing Committee

James Rourke, MD
Chair, Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice

Wonca Working Party on Women in Family Medicine

In August 2006, twenty-five leading women physicians from 16 countries and all six Wonca regions (Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Nepal, Nigeria, Netherlands Antilles, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, United States of America and Venezuela) met at McMaster University, Hamilton and Canada. They were all members of the Wonca Working Party on Women and Family Medicine (WWPWFM), who came together to further discussion on how to achieve and maintain gender equity within the World Organisation of Family Doctors (Wonca).

The WWPWF group carefully formulated the Hamilton Equity Recommendations - The HER Statement, a policy statement on gender equity, which is the historic record signed by the 25 participants on August 24, 2006.

The WWPWF urges the general practice/family medicine organizations of the world that are constituted as the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians (Wonca) to adopt the following fundamental recommendations regarding gender equity:

1. Enshrine the principle of gender equity within Wonca governance by amending the Wonca bylaws and Regulations, as proposed by the WWPWF.
2. Implement gender equity in all activities of Wonca, in particular the scientific programs of its triennial, regional, and rural meetings.

3. Promulgate the pivotal role of gender as a key determinant of health.
4. Promote the equitable inclusion and advancement of women general practitioners/family physicians in Wonca.

The HER Statement has been widely circulated by the 25 signatories to their home organizations, and it has already been adopted by some countries family medicine/general practice organizations. The HER Statement is available in English and Spanish.



The 25 participants of the WWPWFM in Hamilton:
 Back Row: Linda French, USA; Nandani de Silva, Sri Lanka; Anne D Atai-Omoruto, Republic of Uganda; Ruth Stewart, Australia; Sarah Strasser, Canada; Barbara Lent, Canada; May Cohen, Canada; Kate Anteyi, Nigeria; Elizabeth Garrett, USA; Zorayda Leopando, Philippines; Pakistan; Somjit Prueksaritanond, Thailand; Sheila Dunn, Canada; Marie Andrades, Pakistan; Lucy Candib, USA; Suzana Alvear, Ecuador;

First row: Sue Smith, Nepal; Jan Coles, Australia; Cheryl Levitt, Canada; Flor Ledesma, Venezuela; Dorothy Pietersz-Janga, Neth. Antilles; Liliana Arias-Castillo, Colombia; Marlene Joseph, Antigua and Barbuda; Ilse Hellemann, Austria; Kymm Feldman, Canada; Michelle Howard, Canada.

The Hamilton gathering participants deliberated carefully regarding the wording of the HER Statement. The operative words were chosen to explicitly recommend that the gender equity standard within Wonca now be set at least as high as the minimal standards that have already been enshrined in the major international instruments concerning gender equity and the affirmative advancement of women and girl children in all spheres of human development.

These international instruments, which include the Beijing Platform and the UN Millennium Development Goals, are not merely pious inspirational and desirable aspirations for attainment at some point in the future. Rather, they are now internationally acknowledged - in such contexts as the UNDP, the WHO, the World Bank and the community of international organizations concerned with human progress of which they and Wonca are part - to reflect an *urgent imperative* for concrete implementation. These minimal international

standards for gender equity and the advancement of women are now also widely understood to be the single most important cross-cutting strategy for overall human progress and beneficial development.

The HER Statement participants are therefore calling on the Wonca Executive and Council to endorse the HER Statement and to take all necessary steps to promptly enshrine and implement these minimal standards of affirmative and equitable participation and advancement of qualified women physicians in Wonca.

The working party's website (www.womenandfamilymedicine.com) contains the complete rendering in English and Spanish of the Hamilton Equity Recommendations - The HER Statement - as well as detailed information about the group's activities.

During the past triennium, the WWPWFM published a monograph series that provides evidence, documentation, reports, and media coverage about the barriers facing women family physicians. The monograph series contains the following chapters: Women in Organizational Medicine; Women Family Physicians In The Doctor-Patient Relationship; Women Family Doctors Caring For Themselves And Their Families; Women In Training (Medical School And Post-Graduate Training); Women In Practice; and Women in Academia. Excerpts of each chapter were published in the bimonthly issues of Wonca News beginning with the October 2006 issue. The complete monograph series is available on www.womenandfamilymedicine.com.

Cheryl Levitt MBCh
 Barbara Lent MD
 Lucy Candib MD
 Michelle Howard MSc
 Wonca Working Party on Women and Family Medicine

Wonca Working Party on Mental Health

A proposal to establish the Wonca Working Party on Mental Health (formerly the Special Interest Group on Psychiatry and Neurology) was approved by the Wonca Executive during its October 2006 meeting in Buenos Aires. The Wonca Working Party on Mental Health (WWPMH) will serve as a focus for the development of mental health issues for Wonca worldwide. This Working Party provides the opportunity for the discipline of Primary Care Mental Health to become a priority for Wonca and the Wonca family, especially as mental health issues have a major impact on our day-to-day care of our patients.

The mission and vision of the Working Party on Mental Health is to improve mental health care around the world by providing a universal gold standard of care for mental health through empowerment of primary care and in collaboration with all interested stakeholders.



WWPMH members (from left to right), Henk Parmentier, Laura Pougé, Gabriel Ivbijaro, and Lucja Kolkiewicz presenting at the World Psychiatry Conference in Istanbul, Turkey in July 2006

Current objectives are to:

- Promote standards of excellence in the primary care management of mental health, consistent with patient and professional values and with reference to evidence based health care;
- Promote the concept of mental health & well-being;
- Develop and promote mental health research in primary care and the primary care - mental health interface
- Hold scientific meetings, which may include sessions and workshops, to present original papers and to address broader educational issues through discussion, training and debate during Wonca Regional and World conferences;
- Promote and develop patient information about mental health issues;
- Develop and promote appropriate literature for primary care professionals using a variety of resources, including Wonca Online;
- Promote the discipline of primary care mental health world-wide through collaborative working within Wonca, NGO's, government organisations, patient groups & other medical colleges;
- Address the issue of stigma associated with mental health conditions.

We plan to undertake the following activities:

- Guideline development and scientific presentations on mental health issues
- Advice to Wonca and its member organizations on mental health issues
- Participation in Wonca activities and conferences
- Working with WHO to develop a resource book on the integration of mental health into primary care
- Provision of a regular Working Party newsletter and educational materials
- Supporting the mental health curriculum in primary care education
- Organising regular online Primary Care Mental Health Grand Rounds

- Developing and supporting postgraduate accreditation programmes for General Practitioners with a special interest in mental health

The WWPMH is soliciting representation from individuals interested in improving mental health standards from our member Colleges and all Wonca regions. If you would like to support or contribute to this Working Party please register your interest by contacting me.

Dr Gabriel Ivbijaro
 Chair, Working Party on Mental Health
 gabriel.ivbijaro@gmail.com

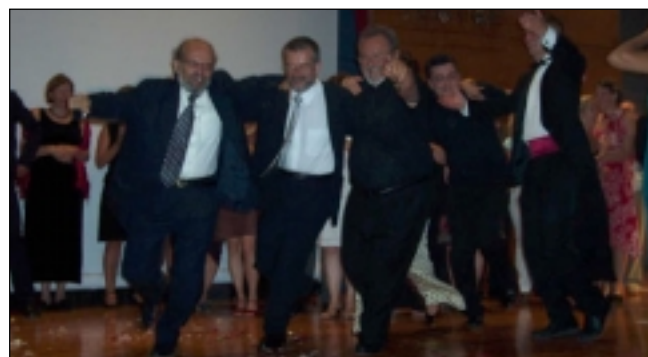
REGIONAL NEWS

WONCA TRIENNIUM REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Wonca's six regions were active during the past triennium. The following are some of the regional highlights since the 17th World Wonca Conference in Orlando.

Wonca Europe Regional Conference - Greece, September 2005

More than 2,000 attended the 11th Annual Wonca Europe Regional Conference. The Conference was organized on the island of Kos, the homeland of Hippocrates, who was the founder of rational medicine. The overall theme of the Conference, was "From Hippocrates to the Human Genome: The Past, Present and Future of General Practice/Family Medicine."



Wonca Europe family doctors celebrate Greek style in Kos

The climax of the Conference was the pageant and Hippocratic Oath taking during the closing ceremony held at the Asclepion, the site where Hippocrates practiced and taught his pupils in ancient Greece.

Iberoamericana-CIMF Family Medicine Summit - Chile, October 2005

Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF organized its second Summit that took place in Santiago de Chile in October 4-5, 2005. The Summit continued the process of “sensitization” of decision makers from the region towards the development of Family Medicine, initiated in the first Summit held in Seville in May, 2002. This meeting was chaired by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Chile and with the presence of several ministers and deputy ministers of the Region, the President of Wonca, the President elect and the CEO, high officers of PAHO/WHO and Barbara Starfield as a keynote speaker. Participants included more than 200 Iberoamerican policy makers, primary care academicians and representatives and delegates of the national associations of the Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF

After two hard working days, participants agreed upon a document containing 10 recommendations to foster family medicine and primary care as the central level of health care systems in Latin America. The 10 recommendations were signed under the “Compromisos de Santiago de Chile”.



At the Cumbre Iberoamericana de Medicina Familiar - Iberoamerican Summit on Family Medicine in Santiago, Chile. From left to right: Bruce Sparks (Wonca President), Adolfo Rubinstein (Wonca Iberoamericana-CIMF Regional President), Pedro Garcia Aspillaga (Minister of Health of Chile), Oscar Fernandez (Chair of the Summit), Hernan Montenegro (Chief of the Unit of Health Services, PAHO/WHO)

This Report represents a major advance for family medicine in Latin America. Starting from a very weak position, family physicians constitute much less than

50% of the physician supply in most countries. The financing and organization of health services work against rather than for primary care principles. Given that situation, the “Compromisos de Santiago de Chile” represent consensus, commitment (“compromisos”) and promises to place primary care in a central role in order to enhance the effectiveness, equity and efficiency of health services.

Wonca Americas Region Council Meeting - Canada, December 2005

On December 8, 2005, the Wonca Americas Region Council met in Vancouver, British Columbia in conjunction with the College of Family Physicians of Canada’s Annual Family Medicine Forum. Attendees included Doctors Warren Heffron (President, Americas Region), Alain Pavilanus (President, College of Family Physicians of Canada), Cal Gutkin (CEO, CFPC), Francine Lemire and John Maxted (Staff, CFPC), Dr Alverston Bailey (Caribbean College of Family Physicians), Larry Fields (President, American Academy of Family Physicians), Perry Dickinson (President, North American Primary Care Research Group), William Mygdal (President, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine) and Mr Roger Sherwood (CEO, STFM).

Doctors Alfred Loh (CEO), Chris Van Weel (President Elect), Richard Roberts (Treasurer) and Dan Ostergaard (Chair, Bylaws Committee) represented the Wonca World Executive. Attendees also included Doctors Cheryl Levitt (CoChair - Wonca Working Party Women and Family Medicine), and Edwina Yen (Pan American Health Organization).

The Council agreed to recommend to Wonca Executive that the name “Wonca North America Region” replace the “Wonca Americas Region” to better reflect the region that now has member organizations from the United States, Canada and the non-Spanish speaking Caribbean Islands.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Conference - Japan May, 2005

This was the largest Wonca regional conference ever for the Asia-Pacific Region with over 2300 registrants, including a large overseas delegation from 50 countries as far as Europe and the Americas. The Conference was graced by the presence of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino of Japan at the Official Opening of the Conference, a significant development for Family Medicine in Japan.



Host Organizing Committees from the Asia-Pacific Regional and Singapore meet in Kyoto. From left to right: Miss Jace Phang (CFPS Secretariat, Singapore), Dr Chng Woei (Singapore HOC 2007 Committee), A/Prof Goh Lee Gan (Asia Pacific Regional President), Dr Tan Sze Wee (Singapore HOC 2007 Committee), Dr Tsukasa Tsuda (Chairperson, HOC Wonca Kyoto 2005), Dr Makoto Komatasu (Honorary Chairperson, HOC Wonca Kyoto 2005), Miss Mariko Sunaba (Conference Organiser, Wonca Kyoto 2005)

The Conference was also the venue for Wonca to announce to its members the release of the International Primary Airways Group (IPAG) Handbook with members of the international press attending the press release and during which all conference delegates at the event were given free copies of the Handbook.

The Regional Council Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Region as well as a meeting of the Wonca International Classification Committee took place a day before the Conference to take advantage of the presence of representatives from the various Wonca Member Organizations in the Region. A full Wonca Executive Meeting was also held three days prior to the Conference date and some Members of Executive were able to stay on after the meeting to represent Wonca at the various official functions of the Conference. An invitational post conference workshop was also held for delegates from the Asia-Pacific Region.

The Middle-East South Asia Regional Conference - Sri Lanka, November 2005

This was the second MESA Regional Conference to be hosted by the Sri Lanka College of General Practitioners. About 300 registrants attended from the various member countries of MESA and as far as England, Australia and New Zealand. The Regional President and the CEO represented Wonca World.

At the Opening Ceremony, the CEO presented a cheque of US \$24,000 (equivalent to 2.4 million Sri Lanka Rupees) to the Sri Lanka College on behalf of the University of Nijmegen and the Dutch College in aid of the Tsunami Relief Fund. This fund was set up by the Sri Lanka College to help rebuild the lives of those affected by the disaster.

A large contingent from India attended the Conference. Discussions were held between the Regional President, the CEO and these delegates on how best to have India's family doctors and its organizations more involved in Wonca.

Professor Khaya Mfenyana Named Africa Regional President - May 2006

Professor Khaya Mfenyana was elected as President of the Africa Region following the resignation of Abra Fransch, who served with great distinction as Africa Region President from 2001. Dr Fransch moved from Zimbabwe to Australia and was no longer able to continue to serve in the role. Professor Khaya (pronounced KY-A) Mfenyana will serve the remainder of the three-year term as Regional President

Professor Mfenyana, a member of the South Africa Academy of Family Practice, is a humble and jovial man with grassroots origins in the Transkei who has risen to numerous leadership positions in academia, practice and his profession. Khaya is Founder and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Transkei, Director of several primary care clinics in the area, and President of FAMEC, the Consortium of Departments of Family Medicine in South Africa. He also has a leadership role in the East African Project, a major Wonca collaborative project to improve family medicine education, practice and health care delivery in East Africa. He was a Kellogg Foundation Fellow and was on the Executive Committee of The Network - Towards Unity for Health.

Three Year FaMEC Africa Project Meeting - Uganda, June 2006

The leadership of the Family Medicine Education Consortium (FaMEC) project met in Kampala, Uganda from 15th-16th June 2006 to inaugurate the FaMEC Africa project and introduce it to the participating countries and institutions. The main purpose of the FaMEC Project is to develop and strengthen training in Family Medicine/Primary Health Care in Southern and Eastern Africa, in order to contribute to the realisation of quality and equitable health care in the region. The countries involved in the project are: South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda.



A happy group of hard-working colleagues representing 8 countries in East and Southern Africa

The project duration is three years, through April 2009. Four major results are expected in a period of 3 years: 1) A definition of the concept of Family Medicine within an African context including the vision and strategy for implementation; 2) The development of strategies that are necessary to obtain more horizontal integration of vertical programmes involving the community; 3) The formation of a strong, high quality Family Medicine training programme through sharing of experiences and resources with the participating institutions; and 4) The creation of a Family Medicine education consortium for Africa, with clearly identified membership and links to organisations with complementary missions.

The Flemish Inter-university Council approved a three year, 310,000 EU grant to foster newly developing programs of family medicine in East Africa through the FaMEC Africa Project. This represents the culmination of synergistic efforts among a variety of collaborators under the leadership of Ghent University's Department

of Family Medicine and Primary Health Care together with the family medicine departments of the Universities of Louvain, Antwerp and Brussels (the Flemish Consortium ICHO).

The meeting was attended by representatives from 7 Departments of Family Medicine in South Africa (Walter Sisulu University, Stellenbosch University, University of Pretoria, University of Limpopo, University of Free State, University of Cape Town, University of Witwatersrand), Makerere and Mbarara Universities in Uganda, University of Goma in DRC, Moi University in Kenya, Ghent University in Belgium, Ghets, Inter-University Council for East Africa, FaMEC Regional Coordinators for Southern and Eastern Africa, and President of Wonca Africa.

Support is provided through the Global Health Through Education Training and Service, Department of Family Medicine and Primary Health Care, Ghent University, Belgium. Envisaged links are with the Wonca Africa Region, the Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Towards Unity for Health (TUFH), and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

12th Wonca Europe Regional Conference - Italy, August 2006

A total of 3,414 family doctors and other participants from Europe and 64 different countries around the world attended the 12th Wonca Europe Regional Conference, held August 24-27 in Florence, Italy. It is one of the best results in the history of Wonca. The attendance during the sessions was very high, and the delegates filled the conference with an enthusiastic atmosphere.

Florence was certainly a perfect venue for the conference theme, "Towards a Medical Renaissance: Bridging the Gap Between Biology and the Humanities". A total of 1292 abstracts were presented or shared, perhaps one of the biggest results in the history of Wonca international conferences. The conference was organized in 6 topics each one with a key note and a main workshop in the plenary room. These were: Research, Education, Biology and Humanities, Quality, Risk and Safety and Caring for the World. The participants left the conference with the correct impression that General Practice/Family Medicine is a very dynamic branch of medicine and that so many family doctors are contributing new ideas and significant advances to medicine, health systems and people's health.

The Florence Conference was an interesting occasion to start a discussion between the Research Working

Party, chaired by Walter Rosser, and EGPRN, the network that is part of the Wonca European Executive dealing with research. During the conference, a one-day meeting was dedicated to the Wonca Research Working Party. Two subsequent workshops showed what has already been done and what is possible to do in the future. Particular attention was paid to the building of research capability mostly in developing countries.



Thanks to the Organizing Committee, from left to right: Giorgio Visentin, Sergio Bernabé, Chris Van Weel, Pino Parisi, Guido Danti, Roberto Della Vedova, Massimo Tombesi, Tiziana Galopin.

During the Wonca Europe Regional Conference in Florence in August, President Igor Svab presented Sam Everington with the Wonca-Europe Excellence in Health Care: the 5 Star Doctor Award.

Known by “Dr. Sam” in his local community at Bromley-by-Bow in London. Sam has been working for more than 20 years as a GP principal in a health centre used by the United Kingdom government as a model for “Health Living Centers”. Bromley-by-Bow is one of the most deprived areas in the country with multiple social problems. The Health Living Centers pioneer a new approach to health care, integrating general practitioners and other health professionals with community projects - linking health with education and enterprise, environment with training and family support - serving as a focus for the energy and ability for the local community and helping regenerate the area. The health center is an art gallery, community centre, public park, a café, a nursery, a community cinema and a GP practice all rolled into one. The centre is a unique partnership between the private, public and voluntary sector. The health centre reflects the ethnicity of its locality, with four out of 10 patients form the Bengali community Dr. Sam believes in a holistic health approach, that you cannot separate patient health from their environment, employment, housing, education and mental well being.

Exec Approves Wonca North America Region Name - October 2006

Wonca Executive approved the new name of the Wonca North America Region to replace the Wonca Americas Region to better reflect the region that now has member organizations from the United States, Canada and the non-Spanish speaking Caribbean Islands. The newly named Wonca North America Region will also help distinguish this region from the recently established sixth Wonca region, Iberoamericana-CIMF, which includes member organizations from Central and South America.

Iberoamericana-CIMF’s Regional - Argentina, October 2006

More than 2300 delegates from 30 countries inaugurated the First Wonca CIMF Iberoamericana Regional Congress of Family Medicine, October 11-14, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. All the region was represented with delegates from: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Republica Dominicana, Uruguay, Venezuela and Argentina. At the same time, delegates from Denmark, USA, Australia, Canada, Japan, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Lebanon, Israel, Holland and Singapore were present in our country to be witnesses of a wonderful Congress.



Host Organizing Committee Chair Sergio Solmesky offers a toast during the evening gala, accompanied by Iberoamericana-CIMF President Adolfo Rubinstein (right) and Wonca World President-elect Chris van Weel (left)

The theme “Building a Primary Care Centered Health System, the Role of the Family Physician”, was explored by the opening plenary panel of Dr. Barbara Starfield, who lectured on the Global Imperatives for Primary Care, followed by Prof. Chris van Weel, who explained the Worldwide Challenges for Family Medicine, and finally the Minister of Health of Argentina, Dr. Gines González García, who described prominent aspects about Primary Care in Argentina.

**Asia Pacific Research Workshop:
Thailand, November 2006**

This research workshop held in Bangkok on 7 November 2006 was a follow-up of the Wonca Kingston Conference recommendations in March 2003 on “Improving Health Globally and the Need for Primary Care Research”. Following the Kingston Conference, Asia Pacific took the momentum to organize a research meeting in Phuket, Thailand in July 2004 and in Genting, Malaysia in February 2005 to initiate the Research Network of the Asia Pacific.



Left to Right: Asia Pacific Research Meeting participants: (Standing from left to right) Professor Goh Lee Gan, Professor Chris vanWeel, Professor Michael Kidd, Dr Daniel M Thuraiapah, (sitting) Professor Justin Bielby, Professor Somjit Prueksaritanond, Dr Zailinawati Abu Hassan.

The title of the workshop was “Research networks in Asia Pacific region, where are we and how do we go from here?” Professor Goh Lee Gan, the Regional President for WONCA Asia Pacific, served as chair. He was also a speaker (from Singapore). The other speakers were: Professor Somjit Prueksaritanond (Thailand), Dr Zailinawati Abu Hassan (Malaysia), Professor Justin Bielby (Australia) and Professor Chris van Weel (Netherlands). This was followed by a lively discussion. This cross-borders workshop provided a variety of discussions, research proposals and recommendations to strengthen the research network.

**Asia Pacific Regional Conference
- Thailand, November 2006**

The 15th Wonca Asia Pacific Regional Conference was held for the first time in Bangkok, Thailand from November 5-9. The General Practitioners/ Family Physicians Association, Thailand and the Royal College of Family Physicians of Thailand hosted the conference.

The theme of this meeting was “Happy and Healthy Family”. The plenary speakers and meeting participants discussed how family doctors, along with physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, public health personnel and all health-care workers, can work closely together properly treat illness, prevent and control diseases, and promote health for all. The meeting provided many 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.

**HEALTH AND HEALTH
SYSTEM NEWS**

**WONCA ATTENDS THE
WORLD HEALTH
ASSEMBLY**

Wonca is recognised as one of over 180 “Nongovernmental Organisations” in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO)” and is the recognised Nongovernmental Organisation for family medicine. This is valued recognition of the importance to global health of family medicine and the recognised role of Wonca. In

this role Wonca can advocate for primary care and for the role of family doctors in ensuring strong primary medical care in each of the countries of the world.

The WHO is the authority on international health within the United Nations’ system. Its Director-General leads the WHO. WHO experts produce health guidelines and standards, and assist countries to address public health issues. Through the WHO, governments can jointly address global and regional and local health problems and work together to improve the well-being of the people of the world.

The World Health Assembly is the annual meeting of the representatives of the 193 countries and two associate members that make up the membership of the WHO. Each national delegation usually includes that nation’s Minister for Health and other senior government members and senior Health Department bureaucrats. The assembly meets each year to set policy for the WHO, to approve the WHO budget and, every five years, to appoint the Director-General. The 34-member Executive Board that is elected by the Assembly supports the work of the World Health Assembly. There are also six regional committees which focus on health matters of a regional nature. Non-government organisations in official relations with the WHO, including Wonca, are invited to attend the annual World Health Assembly as observers.

The World Health Assembly is held in the main United Nations assembly hall in the Palace of Nations in Geneva. The hall is enormous. The delegations from each of the 192 member nations are situated at tables on the main floor. Representatives from other organisations and the media sit in the tiers of balconies.

This year's World Health Assembly was the first smoke free assembly in the 60-year history of the WHO. This was a welcome although very overdue initiative.

Each of the offices within the WHO has a booth in the public areas of the Palace of Nations and WHO staff members are present during the Assembly to discuss the important programs of the organisation.

A new Director General

Dr Margaret Chan was appointed as the new WHO Director General four months ago, following the sudden death of her predecessor Dr Lee Jong-Wook at the time of the World Health Assembly in 2006. Attendees and the world's media were eager to hear the address of the new Director General and her leadership plans for the coming years. Dr Chan's address was full of optimism and determination.



Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director General

The main focus of Dr Chan's address was on Primary Health Care. This is a refocus in direction for the WHO and could be welcome news for primary care and family medicine and lead to significant changes to benefit the health care of many of the world's most at risk populations.

Dr Chan outlined her six-item agenda for the future with a focus on health development, health security, strengthening health systems, using evidence to define strategies and measure results, managing partnerships to get the best results in each country, and improving the performance of the WHO. Dr Chan reminded delegates that the very first WHO World Health Assembly, in 1948, agreed on six priorities for international action: sexually transmitted disease, malaria, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, environmental sanitation, and nutrition. If you replace sexually transmitted diseases with HIV/AIDS, these are now the health-related Millennium Development Goals. Dr Chan also reminded delegates of how much as changed since 1948 with the change of disease burden especially due to HIV/AIDS and the impact of chronic diseases which now impose their greatest burden in low- and middle-income countries.

2008 will be the 60th anniversary of the WHO and the 30th anniversary of the Declaration of Alma Ata. The big news for Wonca Member Organisations from the Director General's address is her intention to have primary health care as the focus on the 2008 World Health Report and also as the theme for World Health Day in 2008. Dr Chan spoke about her intention to place renewed emphasis on primary health care as an approach to strengthening health systems. She spoke about the need for integrated service delivery to support universal access to health care. She spoke about a commitment to equity being central to the value system of primary health care. She spoke about the need for the WHO's horizontal and vertical programs to work better together. She advised that several countries will be holding international and regional conferences to share their experiences with primary health care. She spoke about the WHO looking at the reality of health systems and services already in existence, including the traditional medicine of many parts of the world.

This focus on primary health care is a welcome announcement from the Director General. Although there was no mention of how primary medical care, and specifically family medicine and general practice, might fit into the plans of the WHO, it is clear that Wonca and our member organisations will have a role to play and that it is possible that joint initiatives between Wonca and the WHO will have the opportunity to be included in the showcase of the 2008 WHO World Health Report.

The Secretary General also spoke about the need for reliable health data and statistics as the foundation of health policies, strategies, evaluation and monitoring, and as the foundation for sound health information for the general public. She spoke about wishing to have the WHO help countries make maximum use of advances in information technology.

The Secretary General identified the health of two populations as indicators of the overall performance of the WHO: the people of Africa and women. She advised that Africa's health ministers, under the leadership of the African Union, have approved the continent's first overarching health strategy. The strategy acknowledges that Africa will not experience economic growth until the burden of infectious diseases is reduced, and that there is an urgent need to strengthen health systems to deliver essential health interventions to those in need. The strategy also emphasizes the need to revitalize the primary health care approach, and calls for a minimum package of core interventions that can be made available to all.

The Secretary General also spoke about the need to provide opportunities to women to improve their economic status with an expectation that health-promoting behaviours will follow. The WHO will look at evidence of the impact of microfinancing schemes on women's health and will conduct an inventory of initiatives that affect the health of girls and women throughout the life course. All programs of the WHO will be asked to collect and report data disaggregated by sex.

The Secretary General also stated that she looks forward to the findings and recommendations of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health, which will be made available next year, and which will also be a feature of the Wonca 2007 World Council meeting. The report is expected to provide the WHO with a better idea of what needs to be done to promote equal access to health services for all people, irrespective of gender or social or economic backgrounds.

I spend so much time outlining the Secretary General's address because this is what will drive so much of the work of the WHO over the coming years of her tenure. Wonca and our member organisations need to be aware of the focus of the WHO and the opportunities to work with the WHO at a global, regional and national level to support access to strong systems of primary health care for all people in the world.

The World Health Assembly Agenda

The agenda of topics discussed (and more importantly the resolutions passed) at the Assembly was broad and much is of interest to the core business of Wonca and our member nations. I have outlined many of the topics of

interest to family medicine below. The lists provide detail of the breadth of the work of the WHO.

The formal agenda included resolutions on:

- Avian and pandemic influenza, including an update on the past year and the need for sharing of influenza viruses and sequence data, and the need for sharing stockpiles of antiviral treatments
- Smallpox eradication and whether or not to destroy variola virus stocks
- Control of leishmaniasis
- Mechanisms for management of potential risks to eradication of poliomyelitis
- The fight against malaria including the establishment of Malaria Day
- Progress and long term planning in tuberculosis control
- Evidence-based strategies and interventions to reduce alcohol-related harm
- Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and implementation of a global strategy
- An action plan for promotion and integrated disease prevention in oral health
- Work towards universal coverage of maternal, newborn and child health interventions
- Health promotion in a globalised world
- A draft strategy on integrating gender analysis and actions into the work of the WHO
- A draft global plan of action for workers' health
- Emergency care systems as a part of health systems
- The need to strengthen health information systems
- WHO's role and responsibilities in health research
- Progress in the rational use of medicines

- The need to support development of better medicines for children
- A focus on health technologies

There were also progress reports on resolutions passed at previous World Health Assemblies including:

- Improving the containment of antimicrobial resistance
- Implementation of recommendations of the World report on violence and health
- Promotion of road safety and traffic injury prevention
- Disability prevention, management and rehabilitation
- Cervical cancer prevention and control
- Sustaining the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders
- Strengthening active and healthy ageing
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Reducing global measles mortality

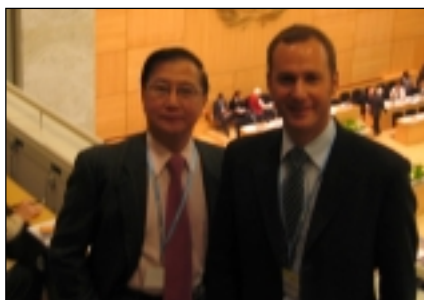
And there were specific technical briefings held on a number of topics including:

- International health security and the implementation of International Health Regulations
- Health and migration
- WHO Global Action Plan against Cancer: prevent, cure, care, management
- 20th Anniversary of the Safe Motherhood Initiative
- Health protection from climate change

It was impossible to be across the discussion on each topic. However each morning the papers for discussion that day are distributed in hard copy. A full report from the WHO on the World Health Assembly and its resolutions is available at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2007/wha60/en/index.html>

Wonca at the 2007 World Health Assembly

CEO, Dr Alfred Loh, and Wonca Liaison Person to the WHO, Professor Michael Kidd, represented Wonca at this year's World Health Assembly.



Alfred Loh and Michael Kidd at the World Health Assembly

Meetings were held with WHO staff involved in joint initiatives and programs with Wonca including:

- Discussions on the future development of Wonca's classification system, ICPC and its integration with the WHO Family of Classifications, were held with Dr Bedirhan Ustun, Coordinator of Classification and Terminology with the WHO, and Dr Robert Jakob, Medical Officer for Measurement and Health Information Systems.
- Discussions on Wonca's role in aged care and chronic disease management were held with Dr Alexandre Kalache, Coordinator of the WHO Ageing Program with the Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion Section and a speaker at the 2007 Wonca World Conference.
- Discussions on Wonca's work with the WHO on a number of mental health projects around the world were held with Dr Benedetto Saraceno, Director of the WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance

Abuse, and Dr Michelle Funk, Coordinator of Mental Health Policy and Service Development. The chair of the Wonca Mental Health Working Party, Dr Gabriel Ivbijaro, also attended this meeting.

- Discussions with members of the WHO Office for Patient Safety on ways that Wonca can assist the expansion of the work of the World Patient Safety Alliance to include a focus on safety in primary care as well as tertiary care.
- Discussions with representatives of the World Medical Association (WMA) on building future closer linkages between Wonca and the WMA and ways our two organisations can work together to promote high quality primary medical care.

Michael Kidd
Wonca Liaison Person to the WHO

Wonca Continues Active Collaboration With WHO

Wonca received notification from the WHO that its Non-Governmental Organization status with the WHO has been renewed for another three years. Wonca completed another triennium of active collaboration with the WHO. Wonca participated in meetings of WHO governing bodies as observers, including the WHO Executive Board Meetings and World Health Assemblies (see following article). Wonca collaborations with WHO include the following areas:

Present and on-going activities include:

- 1 The Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD) – a WHO Initiative in

which Wonca is a founding member to address the increasing burden of respiratory problems globally.

- 2 The WHO International Advisory Group for the Revision of ICD-10 Mental and Behavioural Disorders – a Wonca representative, Dr Michael Klinkman (delete - Dr Gabriel Ivbijaro) from the Wonca Working party on Mental Health, sits in the Group to provide the primary health care perspective.
- 3 The International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC-2), a Wonca product, is a member of the WHO Family of International Classification (FIC) - Members of the Wonca International Classification Committee are in discussions with the WHO to map the ICPC to the other classifications in the WHO FIC
- 4 WHO Initiative on Social Determinants of Health - Wonca has Dr Jan de Maeseneer as representative and member of the Knowledge Network of Health Systems in this Initiative.
- 5 WHO Framework on Tobacco Control - Wonca is supporting WHO with on-going work in raising global awareness and development of educational tools for clinical practice via its Task Force on Tobacco Cessation.
- 6 The Patient at the Centre of Care Initiative of the Western Pacific Region of WHO has the Wonca CEO as a member of the Reference Group to give advice on the Initiative.

Past activities include:

1. The Wonca Guidebook: "Improving Health Systems: The Contribution of Family Medicine". This very much sought after book was produced in collaboration with WHO in 2001. The Wonca Guidebook has been disseminated to key stakeholders that could influence

health system reform and Family medicine development in some 100 countries, including WHO Geneva, WHO regional offices, Wonca Member organizations, various academic institutions and international organizations. The Guidebook has been or is being translated into Greek, Turkish, Korean, Thai and Lao with expressions of interest received to translate the Guidebook into Chinese, Arabic, French, Russian, Mongolian, Spanish, Japanese and Portuguese

2. Wonca invited senior WHO officers to present plenary sessions at Wonca World Conferences, including Dr Tim Evans, Assistant Director-General for Evidence and Information on Policy, at the Wonca World Conference, in Orlando in October 2004; and Dr Shigeru Omi, Regional Director WPRO, at the Wonca Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Kyoto, May 2005. Dr Shigeru Omi, will also be a speaker at the Wonca World Conference, Singapore in July 2007

Alfred Loh
 Chief Executive Officer
 World Organization of Family Doctors

Editor's Note – Article to be submitted on “Wonca Attends the World Health Assembly Meeting.”

MEMBER AND ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

WES FABB RETIRES AS GFD MEDICAL EDITOR: JIM VAUSE ASSUMES ROLE

Wes Fabb has been Medical Editor since the inception of Global Family Doctor in 2001. Stephen Wilkinson joined him in 2004, Jim Vause in 2005, and Linda French in 2007. Between them they scan the contents pages of over 170 family medicine, general and specialist online journals and medical news services for articles relevant to family doctors. Over 4,000 article titles are scanned each month. Interesting articles describing clinical, epidemiological and health services research are summarized into items in Journal Watch, and reviews of topics relevant to family doctors are featured in Clinical Reviews. Summaries are posted within days of publication. The purpose of this service is to enable busy clinicians to keep right up-to-date with minimal time and effort.

Stephen is a GP in Melbourne and a Medical Educator with the Joint University Centre for Education and Training for General Practice (JUCETGP) and regional coordinator for two regions of metropolitan Melbourne for the Victorian Metropolitan Alliance (VMA), an Australian GP Training Provider.



Professor Stephen Wilkinson

Linda French, a family doctor born in the United States who attended medical school in Chile, joined Global Family Doctor as medical editor in 2007. Linda is Professor and Chair of Family Medicine at the University of Toledo College of Medicine.



Dr Linda French

Professor Jim Vause is a kiwi, being New Zealand born and bred with a family tree that stretches back to the very days when the nation was born in the early 1200's with settlement from Polynesia. He began his medical work in rural general practice in the southern south island of NZ, a place his ancestors settled many many moons ago. As a bright eyed young doctor the excitement of rural practice was very attracting, however the arrival of two sons led to his family's settlement in the Top of the South Island at Blenheim, from where Jim became progressively more involved in the work of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners culminating in becoming President in 2003. It was through the College that Jim became involved in WONCA and the GFD work that has aligned well with his personal interest in evidenced-based medicine and application to practice.



Professor Jim Vause

While no longer RNZCGP President, Jim serves on various national health committees for workforce, screening and quality in addition to a governance role for his province's Primary Care Organisation. Jim still manages to work about half time in his 4-doctor practice which his wife, Ruth, manages. Ruth is also a board member for their local District Health Board.

Jim Vause has been appointed Medical Editor to replace Wes Fabb who will retire from GFD in July.

For Wes and his wife Marian, their "elusive retirement" will finally arrive and mark the end of a remarkable family physician's career that has been a part of Wonca's journey since its establishment in Melbourne, Australia in 1972.



Marian and Wes Fabb at their seaside home at Inverloch, on the south coast of mainland Australia

Professor Wes Fabb was born in 1930, graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1955, and after two years of residency and 14 years in family practice in rural Victoria, became the first Chief Examiner of

the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Editor of Australian Family Physician and Director of the Check Program of self assessment.

In 1972, Wes was part of a host organizing committee for the Fifth World Conference on General Practice in Melbourne, Australia. This is generally considered the first Wonca World Conference, where the Constitution and Bylaws establishing Wonca were adopted.

In 1973, Wes was appointed Director of Education of the College's vocational training programme, the Family Medicine Programme. During the 1970's Wes became active on Wonca's Executive Committee, serving as Honorary Secretary/Treasurer.

In 1981, Wes established for the Wonca Executive a Secretariat to support the organization in the offices of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in Melbourne, Victoria. From an initial workload of one-half day per week, Wes expanded the Secretariat as Wonca's workload grew during the 1980s and 1990s.

From 1993 to 1997, Wes moved the Secretariat to Hong Kong, where he was appointed Professor of Family Medicine at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

In 1997 he returned to Melbourne to give full-time attention to Wonca as its Chief Executive Officer. In 2001, after 20 years at its helm, Wes retired as Wonca's CEO, only to lead the development of Global Family Doctor - Wonca Online until his true retirement in July, 2007.

Wes and his wife Marian, who for 20 years was Administrative Officer

of Wonca, have six children, nine grandchildren and a great grandson. Most of the time they live at their seaside home at Inverloch on the south coast of Victoria, Australia.

IFPCRN MARKS SIX YEARS OF OPERATION: ELECTS NEW CHAIR

The International Federation of Primary Care Research Networks was organized under Wonca's Committee on Research at the meeting in Durban, South Africa, in 2001. It was established with the mission to support research for primary health care for the benefit of patients by: the mutual support of research networks; the exchange of ideas and methodologies; advocacy for the quality of research in primary care; capacity building; policy and advocacy initiatives; and doing collaborative research.

John Beasley, MD, (USA) was selected as the founding chair of the IFPCRN. The IFPCRN established a list server (with special thanks to Wes Fabb) and now has 153 users. Francisco Gomez-Clavelina (Mexico) developed the web site www.ifpcrn.org which is also accessible through www.globalfamilydoctor.com. Mary Stone and Jim Bobula (USA) helped develop and maintain the database which now lists 153 members representing 53 networks from 45 different countries. Dr. Gomez-Clavelina also took responsibility for publishing our newsletter - also available at www.ifpcrn.org.



John Beasley, Founding Chair IFPCRN 2001-2007



Francisco Gomez-Clavelina, Chair IPPCRN 2007-2010

To facilitate governance and communications we developed a regional structure and were most pleased to have volunteers step forward to assume the roles of Regional Representatives. These are: Victor Inem (Africa), Cindy C.K. Lam (Far East), Christos Lionis and Danica Rotar (Europe), Donna Manca (North America), Waris Qidwai (South Asia) and Francisco Gomez-Clavelina (Ibero America).

In May, 2007, Francisco Gomez-Clavelina from Mexico was elected new chair. The IFPCRN holds formal meetings and presents at most Wonca conferences, including Wonca World, Wonca Europe, North American Primary Care Research Group and other venues as resources permit.

CHRIS VAN WEEL AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS NETHERLANDS AWARD

Wonca President-elect Chris van Weel was bestowed in Nijmegen, The Netherlands, by the Mayor of the city on behalf of her Majesty the Queen, "The Officer of the Order of Oranje Nassau" because of contributions to family medicine/ primary care. This special national honor was given in recognition of his University of Nijmegen research program in 'evidence based clinical practice', his development of the University network of family practices in the Nijmegen region, and for his international family medicine leadership through Wonca.



Wonca President-elect Chris van Weel receiving the Officer of the Order of Oranje Nassau

The award ceremony also brought additional recognition to Toine Lagro, who as a family doctor has a special Chair on Gender in Illness and Health(care), received an Officership. In her case, the role of Wonca and her contribution to the Wonca Working Party on Women in Family Medicine, was mentioned.

WONCA GLOBAL FAMILY DOCTORS OF THE MONTH

The "Global Family Doctor of the Month" Award is an award to honour family doctors who give 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 receives a letter of congratulations from the Wonca CEO; an Award certificate signed by the President of Wonca and the CEO of Wonca suitable for framing and a complete office diagnostic set from Welch Allyn. Submission Requirements: Nominations with supporting documentation are sent to the Wonca CEO in Singapore.

Walter Rosser - Wonca Global Family Doctor for January, 2007

Dr Rosser was born in Ottawa, Canada. He is known for his research, his commitment to building capacity for primary care research, and for his international work.



Dr Walter W. Rosser, Canada

He was Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine respectively in the universities of Ottawa, McMaster, Toronto, and since 2002, at Queen's University in Kingston. In each department, he built research capacity and served as a model for faculty members, residents, and students looking to become primary care researchers. Overlying all of this was his work in the political arena provincially, nationally, and internationally, always with the agenda of furthering the cause of family medicine through capacity building. Internationally, he has spoken, written textbooks and taught worldwide on primary care topics and evidence-based medicine.

Wonca Global Family Doctor for December 2006



Prof Kanu Gopal Bala Bangladesh

Professor Kanu Gopal Bala, MBBS, FCPS, FCGP, PhD, was born in Gopalganj, Bangladesh on 31 December 1953.

He is currently President of The Bangladesh Academy of Family Physicians, and Professor and Medical Director of the Bangladesh Institute of Family Medicine & Research, University of Science & Technology Chittagong. Professor Bala is very much involved in the development of the art and science of Family Medicine in Bangladesh and has been a key person in the

development of Family Medicine education in the country where he has had a number of roles:

- Played a significant role in the establishment of The College of General Practitioners of Bangladesh [BCGP], The Bangladesh Academy of Family Physicians, and Bangladesh Institute of Family Medicine & Research.
- Developed the Prospectus, Course & Curriculum of the “Fellow of College of General Practitioners [FCGP].
- Served as Organizer and Founder Editor-in-Chief on Family Medicine journals, including the ‘Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Journal’ and the ‘BCGP Annals’.
- Developed the Prospectus, Course & Curriculum of the ‘Family Medicine Diploma [FMD]’ course.
- Introduced the 2 Step Education Policy for Bangladesh.

Author of “The Basis of Family Medicine”, a book written for students of FMD and MD.

Isabelita Morales Samaniego - Wonca Global Family Doctor for June 2006

Dr Isabelita Morales Samaniego was born in Binan Laguna, Philippines. She is a graduate of family medicine residency training from the Philippine General Hospital, holds a masters of Occupational Health from the UP College of Public Health.



Dr Isabelita Morales Samaniego, Philippines

Since 1978, Dr Samaniego has been in community based family practice. Her patients include several generations of families in the community and a string from industries. Since 2000, Dr Samaniego has been Chairman of the Department of Family Medicine at the Ospital ng Maynila. Dr Samaniego currently serves as the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians Laguna Chapter Coordinator of the Family Based DOTS Program and CME Advisor, and nationally as the Chair of the Specialty Board. She is also the Assistant Editor of the Filipino Physicians Journal.

Tomlin Paul - Wonca Global Family Doctor for May 2006

Dr Tomlin Paul was born in the small village of Morne Diablo in Trinidad and Tobago in the southern Caribbean. After studying for his medical degree at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, he went on to further his studies in community health and in 1986 graduated with a Master of Public Health. He has been working in Jamaica since, as a family physician, teacher, researcher and volunteer.



Dr Tomlin Paul, Trinidad and Tobago

Dr Paul’s heart has remained in the community over the years. He has been a teacher of community health for the past 20 years and for the last 3 years has been responsible for coordinating the undergraduate programme in his Department at the University of the West Indies. He teaches family medicine and primary care to medical students and coordinates a rural experience where students gain first hand experience in

managing and treating common problems in the community.

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.



Dr Fons Sips, The Netherlands

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. From 1993 to 1995, Dr Sips served as President of the Societas Internationalis Medicinae Generalis (SIMG). He used his position to integrate SIMG into WONCA Europe. From 1995 to 2000, he served as Editor in Chief of The European Journal of General Practice. 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.

Luis Izquierdo Mora: Wonca Global Family Doctor for February 2006

Dr Luis Izquierdo Mora was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. He is a beloved teacher responsible for many innovations in the field of medical education in Puerto Rico. Dr. Izquierdo-Mora is the only physician who has been certified in four different specialties in Puerto Rico up to now: emergency, geriatrics, family, 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 than 500 family physicians are his intellectual and emotional children.



Dr Luis Izquierdo Mora, Puerto Rico

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), Residency in Emergency Medicine (1985), Fellowship in Gerontology (1988), Residency in Primary Medicine and Medical Management for the San Juan Bautista Medical Center in 2001.

Sugito Wonodirekso: Wonca Global Family Doctor of the Month for January 2006

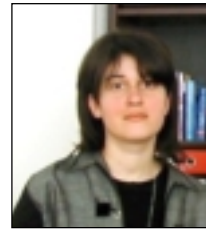
Dr Sugito Wonodirekso is an active general practitioner and an active member of the Association of Indonesian Family Physicians since 1986. He is currently holds a number of positions. These include Head of the Department of Histology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Indonesia; Secretary for the Postgraduate Program on Reproductive Medicine; Secretary for the Human Reproduction Study Group; Undergraduate Student Counselor; Chief Editor for the Indonesian Journal of Family Medicine; Member of the Editorial board of Asia Pacific Journal of Family Medicine; Member for the Indonesian Society of Menopause; and Chief of the Educational Division of the Indonesian College of Family Physicians.



Dr Sugito Wonodirekso, Indonesia

Dr Wonodirekso has made significant contributions to the development of the Family Medicine Healthcare System (FMHS) in Indonesia. He has helped the implementation of FMHS in closed communities such as Pertamina (the health care division of the Main Indonesia Petroleum Company). Pertamina applies FMHS and has published guidance books and leaflets on Standard Operating Procedures in patient management.

Tamar Gabunia: Wonca Global Family Doctor for December 2005



Dr Tamar Gabunia, Georgia

Dr. Tamar Gabunia re-trained as a family physician for the new primary care system and has been actively involved in the development of Health Care Reform in the Republic of Georgia. She is currently the Chief Family Physician and Director of the National Family Medicine Training Center in Tbilisi. She is responsible for all family physicians continuing education and retraining programs in the country under the supervision of National Institute of Health.

Dr. Gabunia is one of the founders of the Georgia Family Medicine Association and a founder and Chair of the Georgia Family Physician’s Trainers Association. This Association greatly contributed to the development of academic foundations for Family Medicine in Georgia. Under her guidance and leadership, training manuals for the re-training of PHC physicians and assessment methodology for the state licensing exam in Family Medicine were developed.

Leela De A Karunaratne: Wonca Global Family Doctor for November 2005

Dr. Leela De A Karunaratne was born in 1930 in Sri Lanka. She has provided holistic family care up to four generations and also wielded a great deal of responsibility both socially and medically in the town es.



Dr Leela De A Karunaratne, Sri Lanka

Dr Karunaratne served the College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka as President from 1989 - 1991. She was one of the pioneers of postgraduate education in Family Medicine at the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine Sri Lanka. She was Professor of Family Medicine and Chair of the Department of Community Medicine and Family Medicine at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura where she developed a model Family Practice Centre for practice, teaching and research in Family Medicine.

Dr Karunaratne has been active in Wonca for two decades. She was plenary speaker at the 11th Wonca World Conference in 1986 and again at the 13th World Conference held in Vancouver, Canada in 1992. She participated at the historic WHO-Wonca meeting held in 1994 in Ontario, Canada which led the adoption of the 1995 World Health Assembly resolution recognizing the central role of family doctors in health systems and in meeting people's health needs. She served as Chairperson of the Scientific Committee for the 2002 Wonca-MESA Regional Conference 2002 and was plenary speaker during its 2005 conference.

Alan Pugh: Wonca Global Family Doctor for September 2005

Doctor Alan Pugh graduated from The University of Cape Town in 1954 keen to work in a rural African setting where doctors are needed the most. He moved to Harare, Zimbabwe (then Salisbury, Rhodesia), where he met and married Jill, an English nurse and his constant companion. After obtaining a public health doctorate, Dr Pugh joined the Government Provincial Health Department and became Minister of Health with responsibility for all aspects of

health care in the Matabeland Province.



Dr Alan Pugh, South Africa

His PMOH department worked with the community to maintain control of endemic diseases such as TB, leprosy, malaria and waterborne infections even in very difficult and dangerous times when some hospitals and clinics had to close and WHO pulled out for political reasons.

Damilya Nugmanova: Wonca Global Family Doctor for August 2005

Professor Damilya Nugmanova is a well-recognised leader within Kazakhstan of efforts to improve the primary health care system through organization, training, and implementation of Family Medicine. She has been head of the Family Medicine Faculty of the Almaty Postgraduate Institute for Physicians for nine years.



Professor Damilya Nugmanova, Kazakhstan

She has been instrumental in the retraining of hundreds of primary care pediatricians, internists, and others, and in developing health reform strategies and action plans at both oblast and national levels. She is currently the President of the Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians which works to promote the interest of primary care physicians, holds training and continuing medical education, organizes population education

efforts, and develops and provides materials for primary care physicians to use in the education of patients.

Calvin Lucas Wilson: Wonca Global Doctor for July 2005

Dr. Wilson started his career in the Denver Colorado area as a private practicing family doctor and has been a long-standing member of the faculty at the University of Colorado. He has been evaluated as an excellent teacher and innovator in family medicine education, He has been a recipient of the prestigious Gabe Smilkstein international educator award of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine.



Dr Calvin Lucas Wilson, United States

He left the University of Colorado for nearly 10 years to start a new family medicine residency at Hospital Vozandes in Quito, Ecuador. His work clearly has impacted family medicine in Ecuador and some of his work has been exported to other South and Central American countries. After about 10 years he turned leadership of the program over to Ecuadorian physicians and it has continued to thrive. He spent 5 years in Jordan developing new educational programs with an emphasis on training GP's into family physicians, continuing education and retraining of other specialists into family doctors. In addition to these large projects he has done educational consulting and teaching in developing family medicine and Iraq, Kyrgyzstan and is currently involved in a project in West Africa.

Cynthia Haq: Wonca Global Doctor for January 2005

Cynthia Haq is Professor of Family Medicine and Population Health Sciences, and Director of the Global Health Program at the University of Wisconsin (UW) Medical School. Early in her career she served as the medical director for a rural health center in Kasangati, Uganda, where she learned the importance of community based primary health care. Subsequently she served as a Fulbright Scholar at the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan, where she worked with Dr. John Bryant and colleagues to establish the first family medicine post-graduate training program in Pakistan. This program is now considered one of the leading family medicine training programs in South Asia.



Dr Cynthia Haq, United States

As the Director of Medical Student Education for the UW Department of Family Medicine, she directed an International Health Fellowship Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense involving four U.S. universities and eight universities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Dr. Haq served as a consultant to the World Health Organization and World Organization of Family Doctors, to co-author the book, *Improving Health Systems: the Contribution of Family Medicine*, published in 2002. This book is being used to help nations and medical schools to strengthen their medical education and health systems based on a strong foundation of community based primary health care.

Vale Eric McNair

We remember fondly Eric McNair who was such a regular attendee at Wonca conferences. He died recently after a long illness. He worked most of his professional life in general practice in Zimbabwe, and retired to England some years ago. He was a Founder Member and great supporter of the College of Primary Care Physicians of Zimbabwe.



Dr Eric McNair (left) with Wonca President, Professor Bruce Sparks, and Past President, Dr Michael Boland

Wonca President Professor Bruce Sparks said of him “Eric will always be remembered for his ‘style’, his gentlemanly manner, his wry smile and his love for the English language. I had the pleasure of seeing him in consultation with a patient while visiting Bulawayo for a College examination. I was highly impressed by his tremendous rapport and patient-centredness. He epitomized for me everything that a caring family doctor should be. It was a pleasure and an honour to have known him. It was particularly pleasant for me to confer upon him Honorary Life Membership of Wonca in Orlando in October 2004.”

He was a staunch supporter of Wonca’s activities, and for many years was the representative on Wonca World Council of the College of Primary Care Physicians of Zimbabwe.

At Wonca conferences Eric was a frequent visitor to the Wonca booth. We enjoyed having daily conversations with him.

His devoted spouse, Ursula, whose loving and supportive

attitude to Eric was always noticed and appreciated, regularly accompanied him and Eric’s reciprocal concern for her was always present. We extend to her our heartfelt sympathy.

Vale Eric - we shall always remember you.

Wes Fabb
Medical Editor
Global Family Doctor - Wonca Online

RESOURCES FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR

TRIENNium GLOBAL HEALTH REPORTS AND INITIATIVES

A number of key global reports were published during the 2004 to 2007 triennium. These are among the most important for Wonca member organizations and family doctors.

WHO Report on Health and Millennium Development Goals

Building up and strengthening health systems is vital if more progress is to be made towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the World Health Organization (WHO) said in this new report. Unless urgent investments are made in health systems, particularly in health personnel and sustainable financing, current rates of progress will not be sufficient to meet most of the Goals.

The key health related MDGs are to:

1. To strengthen health systems and ensure they are equitable.
2. To ensure that health is prioritized within overall development and economic

policies.

3. To develop health strategies that respond to the diverse and evolving needs of countries.
4. To mobilize needed resources for health in poor countries.
5. To improve the quality of health data.

Three out of eight goals, eight of the 18 targets, and 18 of the 48 indicators are directly related to health. Of the 18 quantitative indicators for monitoring progress towards the eight MDGs, 17 are monitored by the World Health Organization in collaboration with UNICEF, UNAIDS and UNFPA.

The full report may be downloaded from the WHO at: http://www.who.int/mdg/measuring_progress/en/

WHO Global Commission on Social Determinants of Health

The WHO has launched an international commission to address the profound inequity in peoples' health within and between countries that arises from the circumstances in which people live and work. Social determinants of health include poverty, social exclusion, inappropriate housing, shortcomings in early childhood development, unsafe employment conditions, and lack of quality health systems. The three year Commission, comprising leading global experts on health, education, housing and economics, will recommend the best ways to address health's social determinants and break the "poverty equals ill-health" cycle. Further information on the Commission may be found on the WHO website at: www.who.int/social_determinants/en/

The World Health Report 2006 - Working Together for Health

The WHO 2006 Report contains

an expert assessment of the current crisis in the global health workforce and ambitious proposals to tackle it over the next ten years, starting immediately. The report reveals an estimated shortage of almost 4.3 million doctors, midwives, nurses and support workers worldwide. The shortage is most severe in the poorest countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where health workers are most needed. Focusing on all stages of the health workers' career lifespan from entry to health training, to job recruitment through to retirement, the report lays out a ten-year action plan in which countries can build their health workforces, with the support of global partners.

The full WHO report may be downloaded at <http://www.who.int/whr/2006/en/index.html>. Copies of this publication can be ordered from: bookorders@who.int

UNAIDS 2006 Report on the Global AIDS epidemic

The 2006 Report on the global AIDS epidemic, prepared by UNAIDS and its cosponsoring agencies, is the most comprehensive report on the response to AIDS ever compiled. Utilizing data from 126 countries and more than 30 civil society organizations, the UNAIDS report assessed country progress toward the six global targets set in the UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by 189 UN Member States in 2001. The 2005 targets are based on the goal of halting and reversing the global epidemic by 2015. Progress toward those goals was measured against an agreed set of indicators of action developed by UNAIDS in consultation with member states and civil society. The 2006 UN Report indicates that the AIDS epidemic appears to be slowing down globally. An estimated 38.6 million are living with HIV worldwide. In 2005, an

estimated 4.1 million were newly infected and 2.8 million died of AIDS. While the epidemic's toll remains massive, experts find reasons for optimism, as well as guidance for how to improve the AIDS response.

The full report may be downloaded in English, French, Russian and Spanish at: www.unaids.org/en/HIV_data/2006GlobalReport/default.asp

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

The WHO's 2005 World Health Report 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.

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 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

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 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. 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/>

Tobacco Related Deaths May Exceed One Billion in the 21st Century

According to the second edition of the 2006 Tobacco Atlas, one billion men and 250 million women people currently smoke worldwide. Approximately 650 million people who are alive today, half of all current smokers, will eventually die

because of tobacco use. Tobacco use was responsible for 100 million deaths worldwide during the 20th century. Tobacco kills 5 million people every year, which amounts to nearly 14,000 tobacco-related deaths per day. If current trends continue, the death toll could easily reach 1 billion this century. The Tobacco Atlas states that approximately 300 million lives could be saved over the next 50 years if global smoking rates could be cut in half.

The Tobacco Atlas may be ordered online or free PDF files may be downloaded at www.cancer.org/docroot/AA/content/AA_2_5_9x_Tobacco_Atlas.asp An interactive online version is available at the Global Tobacco Research Network, Johns Hopkins site, <http://www.tobaccoresearch.net/atlas.htm> For those requesting discounted or free copies, such as for distribution in developing countries, contact: international@cancer.org.

Lifting the Smoke-screen - 10 Reasons for a Smoke-free Europe

A 2006 report was released in the European Parliament entitled Lifting the Smoke-screen - 10 Reasons for a Smoke-free Europe. Professor Konrad Jamrozik of the University of Queensland made estimated that more than 79,000 adults die each year as a result of passive smoking in the 25 countries of the EU. A total of just over 19,000 of the deaths are among non-smokers.

The report, Lifting the Smoke-screen - 10 Reasons for a Smoke-free Europe, may be downloaded on <http://www.ersnet.org/ers/default.aspx?id=4577>

WHO Avian Influenza Website

The WHO offers a comprehensive website on avian influenza with situation updates, fact sheets, frequently asked questions, and regularly updated disease outbreak news. Highlights of the situation in an affected area are included. Documents and interview articles available online include WHO outbreak communications guidelines, best practices for communicating with the public during an outbreak, and communicating pandemic risk to the public. The Department of Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response (CSR) is the WHO agency concerned with infectious diseases. Recent guidelines, recommendations and descriptions of different topics related to avian influenza are also available at: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en

WHO Report Calls for Greater Global Focus on Chronic Diseases

Chronic diseases kill about 17 million people worldwide each year, most of them in developing countries, according to the WHO report, "Preventing Chronic Disease: A Vital Investment". Chronic disease will claim more than 350 million lives in the next 10 years, and cause millions more to suffer. Yet, the global community is not responding to the need for urgent action.

The WHO Report proposes a number of solutions. These include using patient information systems to coordinate long term care, training primary health care workers in chronic disease management and supporting patient self-management of chronic diseases. The WHO report is available at www.who.int/chp/chronic_disease_report./en

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. A joint task force of primary care physicians and respiratory specialists has prepared the IPAG Handbook document. 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 has taken 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.

The IPAG Handbook may be downloaded from www.globalfamilydoctor.com. 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)

Improving Health Systems: the Contribution of Family Medicine - The Wonca Guidebook

Recognizing the fundamental importance of primary health care and family doctors in all health systems, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization of Family Doctors

(Wonca) produced a guidebook, *Improving Health Systems: the Contribution of Family Medicine*, that was published in 2002. The guidebook is intended to help countries establish or strengthen family medicine.

The guidebook is the result of many years of collaboration between the WHO and Wonca. As early as 1963 an expert committee of the WHO emphasized the need for family doctors in every country. In 1978 the Alma Ata conference on Primary Health Care urged all governments to establish PHC as a vehicle to provide health for all. Family medicine/general practice post-graduate training programs began in Europe and North America in the late 60s. In 1993 representatives of WHO and Wonca began meeting to identify common goals and strategies for strengthening medical education, family medicine and PHC delivery; and the guidebook emerged from this process.

The guidebook was prepared by co-authors Charles Boelen, Cynthia Haq, Vincent Hunt, Marc Rivo and Edward Shahady, with guidance from a steering committee sponsored by the WHO and Wonca. More than seventy individuals from six continents contributed to describe the similarities and differences in family medicine in different regions of the world.

The book is divided into five chapters. Chapter 1 describes the features of responsive and sustainable health care systems and the critical importance of balancing conflicting priorities among those who contribute to health care. Chapter 2 describes the enormous challenges facing health systems and the importance of PHC. Chapter 3 explains how family doctors can make significant contributions to PHC. It describes the attributes of

family doctors, their roles and responsibilities, and the quality and cost-effectiveness of their work. Chapter 4 outlines the continuum of training for family doctors that begins in medical school, extends through specialty training, and is sustained through a process of continuing medical education. Chapter 5 calls for unified efforts among policy-makers, health managers, health professionals, academic institutions, and community representatives to create a supportive environment for family practice. This environment is sustained through dedicated leadership, institutional commitment, strategic policy development, and appropriate resources. A Resource Directory lists key organizations and contacts to assist those interested in considering development of family medicine programs.

The Wonca-WHO Guidebook has been widely distributed, discussed and debated. It has been discussed at Wonca executive and regional meetings throughout the world. More than 2000 copies of the Wonca-WHO Guidebook have been distributed to Wonca member organizations and to WHO regional offices.

The Wonca-WHO guidebook may be ordered from Ms. Yvonne Chung, Administrative Manager, World Organization of Family Doctors (Wonca), by emailing admin@wonca.com.sg. It costs \$US 10 for Wonca members, \$15 for non-members. In the future the guidebook will be available on the Wonca website at <http://www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com>. Those interested in translating the Wonca-WHO Guidebook into their country's language may also contact Yvonne Chung for additional information and directions to complete an agreement with Wonca.

GLOBAL MEETINGS FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR

WONCA WORLD AND REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALENDAR

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 : renawong@pacificworld.com
 enquiry@wonca2007.com
 registration@wonca2007.com
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 : 17-20 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
Web : www.cnge.fr

8th Wonca Rural Health Conference, Nigeria 2008

Host : National Post-Graduate Medical College of Nigeria
Theme : Frontline Medicine – From Natural Disasters to Daily Care
Date : 20th – 23rd February 2008
Venue : Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria
Contact : Dr Ndifreke Udonwa
 Chair Local Organizing Committee
 C/O Office of C.M.A.C
 University of Calabar
 Teaching Hospital,
 GPO Box 147, Calabar
 54001, Cross River State,
 Nigeria.
Tel : 234 (0) 803 341 6810
Fax : 234 (0) 87 232 053
Email : nudonwa@yahoo.com

Wonca Europe Regional Conference, Basel, Switzerland 2009

Host : Swiss Society of General Medicine SSMG/SGAM
Theme : The Fascination of Complexity - Dealing with Individuals in a Field of Uncertainty
Date : 16 - 19 September 2009
Venue : Congress Center Basel, Switzerland
Contact : Dr Bruno Kissling
 Chair Host Organizing Committee
 Swiss Society of General Medicine SSMG/SGAM
 Elfenuweg 6, CH-3006 Bern
 Switzerland
Tel : 0041 352 48 50
Fax : 0041 352 28 84
Email : bruno.kissling@hin.ch
Web : www.woncaeurope2009.org

19th Wonca World Conference, Cancun 2010

Host : Mexican College of Family Medicine
Theme : Millennium Develop Goals: The Contribution of Family Medicine

Date : 19-23 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: jdo14@hotmail.com

MEMBER ORGANIZATION AND RELATED MEETINGS

4th AAFP International Family Medicine Development Workshop Tucson, 2007

Date: September 13-15, 2007
Location: Tucson, Arizona
Venue: Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites
Chair: Edward J. Shahady, MD
Contact: Rebecca Janssen
Email: rjanssen@aaafp.org
Web: www.aaafp.org/intl/workshop2007

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Annual Scientific Assembly, Chicago, 2007

Date: October 3-7, 2007
Venue: Chicago, Illinois
Contact: AAFP
 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway
 Leawood, Kansas
 66211-2672, USA
Tel: 1 913 906 6000
Fax: 1 913 906 6075
Email: international@aaafp.org
Web: http://www.aaafp.org

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners 50th Annual Scientific Conference, Sydney, Australia 2007

Date: 4-7 October 2007
Venue: Sydney, Australia
Web: www.racgp.org.au

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<http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com>

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Clinical Reviews – outstanding review articles for family doctors on a variety of topics

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Disease Alerts – the latest disease outbreaks from WHO and CDC

Travel Alerts – advice for you to give to your traveling patients

Online CME – interactive programs, some with CME credits

Clinical Nutrition Updates – a new topic is presented every three weeks

POEMs – Patient-Oriented Evidence that Matters – a new POEM is posted twice a week

POEMs em Portugues – a new one is posted twice a week

eMedicine – a weekly clinical case for you to solve, with a visual cue: photo, ECG, radiograph

EBMsources – an appraisal of two evidence based medicine websites is posted every month

Cutting Edge – an interesting series about the latest medical hypotheses, posted weekly

Educational Resource Centre – a repository of educational materials for family doctors

Research – the latest on Wonca's research activities, and opportunities for research

Conference updates – details of Wonca and other conferences

Publications – details of Wonca publications and Wonca News

Wonca Websites – addresses of Member Organization and other Wonca websites

Global Resource Directory – where you can record you international projects, and view others

Medical Mirth – humor with a medical angle to lighten your day

Quotable Quotes – quotes you can use, many with a medical slant

Latest News – of coming meetings, conferences and events

Patient education – resources you can use to inform your patients

About Wonca – details of the Wonca organization, office bearers and Direct Members

Wonca Groups – details of Wonca's committees and working groups

Information – Notice Board, Letters to the Editor, Doctor of the Month, list servers, mailing lists

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