

WONCA News

An International Forum for Family Doctors



Contents

From the President: Nurturing Tomorrow's Family Doctors: in Malaysia and around the world	2
Del Presidente: Educar a Médicos de Familia del futuro: en Malasia y en todo el mundo	3
From the CEO's desk: June 2014	5
Policy Bite with Amanda Howe : Integrated care	6
Fragments de Política: La atención integrada	7
Rural Round up: the importance of training in rural areas.	8
REGIONAL NEWS	10
WHO East Mediterranean region meeting on Workers' Health	
Polaris – WONCA's newest Young Doctor Movement	
COMING CONFERENCES	12
WONCA Europe coming to Lisbon next month	
WONCA South Asia Chennai conference	
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	14
Cancer and Palliative Care workshop at WONCA Lisbon	
WONCA SIG on complexity news	
RESOURCES	15
PEARLS	
RCGP publishes ultimate guide for GP training	
WHO Report - Health for the world's adolescents	
From Puerto Rico: The specialty of the Family Physician video	
FEATURED DOCTORS	17
Prof João Sequeira CARLOS - Portugal	
Dr Henry LAWSON - Ghana	
CONFERENCES	20
WORLD FAMILY DOCTOR DAY 2014 SUPPLEMENT	22
WONCA President's message on World Family Doctor Day	
World Family Doctor Day activities	

World Organization of Family Doctors
www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com

WONCA President

Prof Michael Kidd AM
Faculty of Health Sciences, Flinders University
GPO Box 2100, Adelaide SA 5001, Australia
Tel: +61 8 8201 3909
Fax: +61 8 8201 3905
Mob: +61 414 573 065
Email: President@WONCA.net
Twitter @WONCApresident
LinkedIn WONCA president
Facebook Michael Kidd - WONCA president

WONCA Chief Executive Officer

Dr Garth Manning

WONCA World Secretariat

World Organization of Family Doctors
12A-05 Chartered Square Building,
152 North Sathon Road,
Silom, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500, THAILAND
Phone: +66 2 637 9010
Fax: +66 2 637 9011
Email: admin@WONCA.net

President-Elect

Prof Amanda Howe (United Kingdom)

Executive Member at Large & Honorary Treasurer

Dr Donald Li (Hong Kong, China)

Executive Member at Large & WHO Liaison Person

Dr Luisa Pettigrew (United Kingdom)

Executive Member at Large

Dr Karen Flegg (Australia)

Regional President, WONCA Africa

Dr Matie Obazee (Nigeria)

Regional President, WONCA Asia Pacific

Prof Jungkwon Lee (South Korea)

Regional President, WONCA East Mediterranean

Dr Mohammed Tarawneh (Jordan)

Regional President, WONCA Europe

Prof Job FM Metsemakers (Netherlands)

Regional President, WONCA Iberoamericana-CIMF

A/Prof Inez Padula (Brazil)

Regional President, WONCA North America

Prof Ruth Wilson (Canada)

Regional President, WONCA South Asia

Prof Pratap Prasad (Nepal)

Young Doctor Representative

Dr Raman Kumar (India)

Editor, WONCA News & Editorial Office

Dr Karen M Flegg
PO Box 6023
Griffith ACT 2603 Australia
Email editor@WONCA.net



From the President: Nurturing Tomorrow's Family Doctors: in Malaysia and around the world

Malaysia, like many other nations, has a strong focus on strengthening primary health care through a family practice model in order to ensure that health care is available to all people. Family doctors are recognized as specialists in Malaysia and postgraduate training is provided through the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia and local universities.

I was recently in the Malaysian city of Kuching in Sarawak, on the mystical island of Borneo, and met family doctor Maila Mustapha. Dr Maila invited me to visit her family medicine team at the Klinik Kesihatan Jalan Masjid. Dr Maila and her colleagues provide comprehensive primary care to over 1000 patients each day at their busy clinic in central Kuching.



Photo: Dr Maila Mustapha consulting at the Klinik Kesihatan Jalan Masjid, supported by practice nurse Jennifer, in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

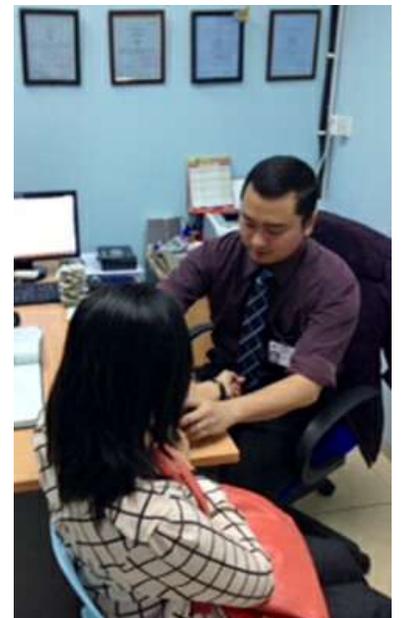
Like Dr Maila, as family doctors we all work hard, and many of us work under difficult conditions. Sometimes the resources that we need to do our job are not available. Sometimes the hours we work and the demands on our time can be arduous. Our resilience can be tested regularly, and there are times when we may feel unappreciated. This is why WONCA has established World Family Doctor Day, held on May 19 each year, to acknowledge and celebrate the important work carried out by every family doctor in every country of the world, and to thank you for the great work you do.

It has been wonderful over the past month to see the World Family Doctor Day activities

underway all around the world, celebrating the contributions family doctors make to the lives of our individual patients and their families and to the health and wellbeing of our communities.

The Malaysian Government has recently established a network of 1 Malaysia community clinics designed to provide basic medical services for people with common health problems such as fever, injuries and respiratory infections, and management of chronic health problems like diabetes and hypertension. Based in local communities, and originally run by nurses and medical assistants, many of these clinics are now being led by family doctors, as the government recognizes the greater value of family medicine teams led by a family doctor. The 1 Malaysia clinics also act as referral points into more comprehensive primary care clinics, like the one led by Dr Maila.

Photo: Trainee doctor, Dr Haizul Amri Dzulkafli, consulting at the 1 Malaysia Clinic in Malihah in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia (with thanks to Dr Lenny who posed as a patient in these photos)



As well as meeting the primary care needs of her local community, Dr Maila's clinic in Kuching is involved in training the next generation of family doctors by offering placements to medical students and supervision of junior doctors who are training to become specialists in family medicine.

WONCA is made up of seven regions covering all the nations of the world. There have been strong movements for young and future family doctors for several years in our regions in Europe, South America, South Asia and the

Asia Pacific. The past year has seen new movements launched by keen young family doctors in our Africa and Middle East regions, and on May 19 we saw the launch of our newest movement, the Polaris Movement, in North America and the Caribbean. There are now WONCA young family doctor movements in all seven regions of the world, and I encourage all young family doctors to join the activities of the movement in their part of the world. Needless to say there is a strong social media presence established by each movement to enable rapid communication and sharing of ideas and knowledge.

On World Family Doctor Day this year I was in Geneva leading WONCA's small delegation to the World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO). The World Health Assembly is an annual meeting of the world's health ministers who come together to set the agenda for the WHO for the coming year. This is an opportunity for WONCA to ensure that the voice of family medicine is being heard in global health policy development and in the roll out of global health programs in each region of the world. And with World Family Doctor Day occurring during the meeting, it was a great opportunity to promote the role of family doctors to our political leaders.

WONCA joined with colleagues from other global medical organisations in supporting resolutions at the World Health Assembly on strengthening the role of health systems in addressing violence, in particular violence against women and girls, and children, and in

a call to ensure that palliative care and essential pain medications are available in every community. These are two areas where we have important roles as family doctors, and WONCA working party members were instrumental in crafting the statements to the Assembly, that are available on our website.

[Palliative care statement](#)
[Family Violence statement](#)

Following the World Health Assembly I travelled to Kuching to join our colleagues at the 2014 WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference. This successful regional conference was hosted by the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia, and was organised by Dr Mohammad Husni Jamal and his talented team.

At the conference I delivered the Wes Fabb Oration, paying tribute to WONCA's first CEO, Dr Wesley Fabb, and his remarkable contribution over many years to the development and strengthening of family medicine around the world. The theme of the conference was Nurturing Tomorrow's Family Doctors and this was a very fitting title for an oration honoring Wes, who devoted his career to nurturing tomorrow's family doctors and whose enduring legacy continues today. You can [read the oration online](#).

Michael Kidd
President
World Organization of Family Doctors
(WONCA)

Del Presidente: Educar a Médicos de Familia del futuro: en Malasia y en todo el mundo

Malasia, al igual que muchos otros países, está centrada de forma sólida en el fortalecimiento de la atención primaria de salud a través de un modelo de medicina familiar, con el fin de garantizar que la atención médica esté disponible para todas las personas. Los médicos de familia son reconocidos como especialistas en la formación de postgrado de Malasia y se ofrece a través de la Academia de Médicos de Familia de Malasia y las universidades locales.

Estuve hace poco en la ciudad malasia de Kuching, en Sarawak, en la isla mística de Borneo, y conocí a la médica de familia Maila Mustapha. La Dra. Maila me invitó a visitar a su equipo de medicina familiar en la Klinik

Kesihatan Jalan Masjid. La Dra. Maila y sus colegas proporcionan atención primaria integral a más de 1.000 pacientes cada día en su ajetreada clínica en el centro de Kuching.

Al igual que la Dra. Maila, como médicos de familia, todos trabajamos duro y muchos de nosotros trabajamos además en condiciones difíciles. A veces, los recursos que necesitamos para hacer nuestro trabajo no están disponibles. A veces, las horas que trabajamos y las exigencias de dedicación de tiempo pueden ser arduas. Nuestra capacidad de resistencia puede ponerse a prueba con regularidad y hay momentos en los que nos sentimos poco valorados. Esta es la razón por la que WONCA ha establecido el Día Mundial

del Médico de Familia, que se celebra el 19 de mayo de cada año, para reconocer y homenajear la importante labor llevada a cabo por todos los médicos de familia en todos los países del mundo, y daros las gracias por el gran trabajo que hacéis.

Ha sido maravilloso ver durante el mes pasado las actividades en curso en todo el mundo por el Día Mundial del Médico de Familia, homenajear las contribuciones que los médicos de familia hacen a la vida de nuestros pacientes y sus familias y a la salud y el bienestar de nuestras comunidades.



Foto: La consulta de la Dra. Mustapha Maila en la Klinik Kesihatan Jalan Masjid, con el apoyo de la enfermera titulada Jennifer, en Kuching, Sarawak, Malasia.

El Gobierno de Malasia ha establecido recientemente una red de clínicas comunitarias Malasia 1, diseñadas para proporcionar servicios médicos básicos para las personas con problemas de salud comunes como fiebre, heridas e infecciones respiratorias, y la gestión de problemas de salud crónicos como la diabetes y la hipertensión. Situadas en las comunidades locales, y originalmente a cargo de enfermeras y asistentes médicos, muchas de estas clínicas están siendo lideradas por los médicos de familia, ya que el gobierno reconoce el mayor valor de los equipos de medicina familiar dirigidos por un médico de familia. Las clínicas Malasia 1 también actúan como puntos de referencia para las más integrales de atención primaria, como la dirigida por la Dra. Maila.

Además de satisfacer las necesidades de atención primaria de su comunidad local, la clínica de la Dra. Maila en Kuching está implicada en la formación de la próxima generación de médicos de familia, ofreciendo puestos para estudiantes de medicina y supervisión a los médicos jóvenes que se preparan para convertirse en especialistas en medicina de familia.

WONCA se compone de siete regiones que

cubren todos los países del mundo. Ha habido fuertes movimientos de jóvenes y futuros médicos de familia durante varios años en nuestras regiones en Europa, América del Sur, Asia del Sur y Asia Pacífico. El año pasado se produjeron nuevos movimientos lanzados por los médicos de familia jóvenes interesados por nuestras regiones de África y Oriente Medio, y el 19 de mayo se produjo el lanzamiento de nuestro nuevo movimiento, el Movimiento Polaris, de América del Norte y el Caribe. En la actualidad hay movimientos de medicina de familia joven de WONCA en las siete regiones del mundo, y animo a todos los médicos de familia jóvenes a unirse a las actividades del movimiento de su región. No hace falta decir que hay una fuerte presencia consolidada en los medios sociales para cada movimiento, lo que permite una rápida comunicación y el intercambio de ideas y conocimientos.

Foto: La consulta del médico residente Dr. Haizul Amri Dzulkafli, en la Clínica Malasia 1 de Malihah, en Kuching, Sarawak, Malasia (con mi agradecimiento a la Dra. Lenny, que se hizo pasar por paciente en estas fotos).



El Día Mundial del Médico de Familia de este año estuvo en Ginebra liderando una pequeña delegación de WONCA en la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS). La Asamblea Mundial de la Salud es una reunión anual de los ministros de salud del mundo, que se reúnen para establecer la agenda de la OMS para el año siguiente. Esta es una oportunidad para WONCA para asegurar que la voz de la medicina de familia está siendo escuchada en el desarrollo global de las políticas de salud y en el despliegue de los programas globales de salud en cada región del mundo. Y el Día Mundial del Médico de Familia que se celebró durante la reunión, fue una gran oportunidad para apoyar la labor de los médicos de familia con nuestros líderes políticos.

WONCA se unió a colegas de otras organizaciones médicas mundiales en el apoyo a las resoluciones de la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud sobre el fortalecimiento

del papel de los sistemas de salud en abordar la violencia, en particular la violencia contra las mujeres y las niñas y niños, y en una llamada para asegurarse de que los cuidados paliativos y los medicamentos esenciales para el dolor estén disponibles en todas las comunidades. Estas son dos áreas en las que tenemos un papel importante como médicos de familia y los miembros del grupo de trabajo de WONCA fueron fundamentales en la elaboración de las declaraciones a la Asamblea, que están disponibles:

[Palliative care statement](#)
[Family Violence statement](#)

Después de la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud viajé a Kuching para unirme a nuestros colegas de la Conferencia Regional Asia-Pacífico de WONCA 2014. Esta exitosa conferencia regional fue organizada por la Academia de Médicos de Familia de Malasia y por el Dr. Mohammad Hosni Jamal y su talentoso equipo.

En la conferencia pronuncié el Discurso a Wes

Fabb, rindiendo homenaje al primer presidente ejecutivo de WONCA, el Dr. Wesley Fabb, y su notable contribución a lo largo de muchos años por el desarrollo y fortalecimiento de la medicina de familia en todo el mundo. El tema de la conferencia fue Educando a Médicos de Familia del mañana, que era un título muy apropiado para un discurso en honor a Wes, quien dedicó su carrera a formar a médicos de familia del mañana y cuyo legado perdurable continúa hoy. [Puedes leer el discurso.](#)

Michael Kidd
 Presidente
 Organización Mundial de Médicos de Familia (WONCA)

Traducción: Eva Tudela, Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine (semFYC) Director

From the CEO's desk: June 2014

Hello again



Another busy month for WONCA, with the three main highlights for this month of Family Doctor Day, the World Health Assembly in Geneva and the WONCA Asia Pacific Region

conference in Kuching Malaysia.

[World Family Doctor Day](#)

As I have mentioned here before, World Family Doctor Day – 19th May - was first declared by the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) in 2010 and it has become a day to highlight the role and contribution of family doctors in health care systems around the world. The event has gained momentum globally each year and it is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the central role of our specialty in the delivery of personal, comprehensive and continuing health care for all of our patients. It's also a chance to celebrate the progress being made in family medicine and the special contributions of family doctors all around the world.

We asked you to let us know of your activities for the day...and you didn't disappoint! We had more reports than ever from all around the world, and they're still coming in. [Click here](#) to

read some of the many interesting and inspiring reports from both our Member Organizations and also from individuals and other organizations.

[World Health Assembly](#)

Each year WONCA sends a delegation to the World Health Assembly in Geneva to make sure that WONCA – and the voice of family medicine generally – is heard loud and clear. This year the delegation consisted of our President (Professor Michael Kidd) our President-elect (Professor Amanda Howe), our WONCA-WHO Liaison (Dr Luisa Pettigrew) and me. We had a very busy series of meetings, wonderfully coordinated by Luisa, which gave us a chance to meet the many – and increasing – WHO staff members and departments with whom we collaborate. Luisa will report more fully, but we know from previous surveys how much importance our Member Organizations place on our liaison with WHO and it is refreshing to note that WHO is ever-more-mindful of WONCA and the huge assistance we can give each other in our individual endeavours. We also meet up with other organizations, including World Medical Association (WMA) and International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA), and this year we also made some useful contacts with the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the International

Association of Patient Organizations (IAPO), and we will continue discussions with them to see how we might work together more closely in the future.

Whilst at WHA, WONCA joined forces with other organizations to develop two statements for presentation to the assembly. One – a joint communiqué with WMA and IFMSA – was on the subject of palliative care, endorsing a WHO resolution on the strengthening of palliative care as a component of integrated treatment throughout the life course. The second was also with WMA and IFMSA, joined this time by the Medical Women International Association (MWIA), calling for support of the WHO activities to combat domestic/family violence through multi-sectoral approaches. You can read both statements online -

[Palliative care statement](#)

[Family Violence statement](#)

WONCA Asia Pacific

From Geneva it was a quick getaway for Michael and I as we flew to Kuching in Malaysia, to take part in the WONCA Asia Pacific regional conference. A really excellent programme of plenaries and workshops and seminars had been organized and my thanks to Dr Husni Jamal, Chair of the HOC, and Dr Daniel Thurraiappah, President of the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia

and to all their colleagues for the wonderful hospitality. Thanks too to Professor JK Lee, President of WONCA Asia Pacific, and his Executive for their hard work and support.

The Junior Doctor Movement in Asia Pacific is called The Rajakumar Movement (TRM) in recognition of Dr Rajakumar, a previous President of WONCA. In Kuching a new Chair of TRM was formally appointed, so many congratulations to Dr Shin Yoshida of Japan who has taken over from Dr Naomi Harris of Australia. He has wonderful energy and enthusiasm – ably demonstrated on the stage at the conference dinner! – and we wish him well for the coming years.

And that's about all for this month. In June we will be looking forward to the WONCA Europe regional conference, from 2nd to 5th July in Lisbon, and to the Vasco da Gama pre-conference. Slightly further ahead we will be looking forward to the WONCA South Asia regional conference in Chennai on 16th and 17th August. Until then...

Dr Garth Manning
CEO

Policy Bite with Amanda Howe : Integrated care – a role for family medicine

When the WONCA team attended the World Health Assembly in May, we noticed two key phrases being used again and again - 'universal health coverage' and 'people-centred integrated care'. This should be music to our ears, as we know that family medicine is



the medical speciality which trains us to care for all aspects of our patients' needs in a way that relates to their own ideas, concerns and expectations. But WHO does not mean this in the context of the individual alone – their plea is for integrated services, working across providers and different sectors so that comprehensive services for health education, prevention, acute and chronic care are made accessible to all. They propose four key mechanisms –

better health literacy, which means that people have the knowledge, skills and resources to make the best use of their health and health care; better co-ordination of care; greater accountability for services to the needs of people, including poor and marginalised communities; and clearer prioritisation, including conscious consideration of how to make care equitable.

The definitions of both terms are already in WHO material, and need to be remembered by all those of us who advocate on behalf of family medicine, because our governments and ministries will probably be using these terms when they address health service reforms in our countries.

Universal coverage is defined as:
"Ensuring that all people have access to needed promotive, preventive, curative and

rehabilitative health services, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship”.

Integrated care is:

"The management and delivery of health services such that people receive a continuum of health promotion, disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment, disease-management, rehabilitation and palliative care services, through the different levels and sites of care within the health system, and according to their needs throughout the life course.”

And people-centred means:

“An approach to care that consciously adopts individuals’, families’, and communities’ perspectives as participants in and beneficiaries of trusted health systems, that respond to their needs and preferences in humane and holistic ways. People-centered

care also requires that people have the education and support they need to make decisions and participate in their own care. It is organized around the health needs and expectations of people rather than diseases.”

We need to show our decision makers that embedding family medicine as the main medical resource for communities is a key part of achieving these goals. WONCA is constantly looking for evidence and examples of how FM in different countries is improving the integration of care – please feel free to send us any evaluations you have that can help us to demonstrate this.

email to amanda.howe@wonca.net

Amanda Howe
WONCA President Elect

Fragmentos de Política: La atención integrada - una labor para la medicina de familia

Cuando el equipo de WONCA asistió a la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud, en mayo, pusimos atención en dos expresiones clave que se utilizan una y otra vez: "cobertura universal de salud" y "cuidado integral centrado en las personas". Esto debería ser música para nuestros oídos, pues sabemos que la medicina familiar es la especialidad médica que nos forma para que cuidemos de todos los aspectos de las necesidades de nuestros pacientes, de manera que se vean identificados con sus propias ideas, preocupaciones y expectativas.

Pero la OMS no quiere expresar esto en el contexto del individuo solo: su llamamiento es a favor de unos servicios integrados, que trabajen a través de los proveedores y los distintos sectores para que los servicios integrales por la educación sanitaria, la prevención, la atención aguda y crónica se hagan accesibles para todos. Proponen cuatro mecanismos clave: una mejor educación en salud, lo que significa que las personas tengan los conocimientos, habilidades y recursos para hacer el mejor uso de su salud y de la atención sanitaria; una mejor coordinación de la atención; mayor responsabilidad de los servicios hacia las necesidades de las personas, incluidas las comunidades pobres y marginadas; y el establecimiento de

prioridades más claras, incluida la consideración consciente de cómo ofrecer una atención equitativa.

Las definiciones de ambos términos ya se encuentran en los materiales de la OMS y es necesario que sean recordados por todos los que abogan en favor de la medicina de familia, ya que nuestros gobiernos y ministerios, probablemente utilizarán estos términos cuando aborden reformas en los servicios de salud de nuestros países.

La cobertura universal se define como:

"Garantizar que todas las personas tengan acceso a los servicios de promoción, prevención, curación y rehabilitación de salud necesarios, con una calidad suficiente para ser eficaces, al tiempo que se garantiza que el uso de estos servicios no expone al usuario a dificultades financieras".

La atención integral es:

"La gestión y prestación de los servicios de salud de forma que las personas reciban de manera continua acciones de promoción de la salud, servicios de prevención de enfermedades, de diagnóstico, de tratamiento, de manejo de enfermedades, de rehabilitación y de cuidados paliativos, a través de los

diferentes niveles y lugares de atención dentro del sistema de salud y de acuerdo a sus necesidades a lo largo del curso de su vida".

Y centrados en las personas mediante:

"Una aproximación a la atención que adopta conscientemente a los individuos, las familias y las perspectivas de las comunidades como participantes y beneficiarios de sistemas de salud de confianza, que responden a sus necesidades y preferencias de manera humana y holística. La atención centrada en las personas también requiere que las personas tengan la educación y el apoyo que necesitan para tomar decisiones y participar en su propio cuidado. Se organiza en torno a las necesidades de salud y las expectativas de la gente, en vez de en torno a las enfermedades".

Tenemos que mostrar a nuestros

responsables de las decisiones que la incorporación de la medicina de familia como el principal recurso médico para las comunidades es una parte fundamental para lograr estos objetivos. WONCA está constantemente buscando evidencias y ejemplos de cómo la medicina de familia de los diferentes países está mejorando la integración de la atención: por favor, no dudes en enviarnos evaluaciones que tengas y que nos puedan ayudar a demostrarlo.

Amanda Howe

Traducción: Eva Tudela, Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine (semFYC) Director

Rural Round up: the importance of training in rural areas.



Jo Scott-Jones of New Zealand writes.

The recent Rural Health Conference in Gramado gave us time to reflect on a number of important issues facing rural communities across

the world – along with the pressures of climate change, population growth and increasing burdens of chronic disease the “perfect storm” is compounded by the continued problem of access to the quality medical services.

New Zealand began life as a rural nation, and our national identity takes pride in our ‘can-do’ approach to life. It is a fundamental human right that people living in all regions have access to high quality health services, perhaps especially in regions at distance from main population centres, regions that are often the backbone of a country’s economic wealth, and centre of leisure activities (1).

Having a healthy, engaged and well educated health workforce is important to the wellbeing of all communities. Attracting health professionals to live and work in rural areas is

an international problem familiar to all WONCA members (2).

It may be a little confusing why this is a problem for those of us that have made this lifestyle choice, but it may be more prevalent in areas where there is a high demand, especially on after hours care, low reward and professional isolation and where family and social issues put pressure on rural providers (3).

In New Zealand year after year GP workforce surveys have detailed the on-going problems of recruitment and retention into rural practice (4-6), and the shortage of providers in rural areas continues, with over 25% of practices currently seeking full time GPs and Nurses (Rural General Practice Network unpublished data 2014.)

The medical workforce is the best studied example of a need that is widely reported to affect rural nurses, pharmacists, midwives, dentists and physiotherapists (7).

New Zealand needs 50% of its medical graduates to choose General Practice as a career, currently only 29% have a “strong interest” in doing so at the end of the medical degree offered by Auckland University, (8) and

it is unclear how many NZ graduates actually become GPs and even less is known about how many of them to choose rural practice.

We do know that currently only 9.2% of doctors working in rural areas are NZ trained, and only 16.4% of NZ trained GPs choose to work in rural areas (9). We do know that as a proportion of the workforce the number of GPs is falling compared to specialists (10).

Rural workforce statistics show that the average age of rural General Practitioners continues to age and these communities rely heavily on international medical graduates to provide services. This leads to a continuing need for recruitment as we are failing to “grow our own” health workforce (9).

If we are to “grow our own” workforce it is very clear from international studies that choosing students with rural interests and backgrounds, exposing undergraduates to positive training experiences in rural areas, and providing well supported career pathways in rural practice increases the intention of medical students to work in rural communities once they graduate (2, 11).

We know that the career decisions of students and young professionals in the future will be affected by the way health career choices are viewed by society, available financial incentives, appropriate professional development and career opportunities, the availability of locums, a good quality of life ability to achieve balance, and the lifestyle choices of their spouses and family needs (2).

Many of us involved in education will be aware of the idea of “constructive alignment” of intended learning outcomes – what we hope to achieve – and the assessment and learning activities that are planned. The same theory applies to issues that face us in our rural communities.

We want to see an improvement in the health outcomes for rural communities, “Health for All Rural People”, we need our governments, colleges and colleagues to be measuring these outcomes – because of it is not measured it won’t be changed – and then we need our recruitment and retention and service delivery model thinking to be focused on achieving these outcomes.

This may seem bigger than Ben Hur but from what we do know it is clear that in order to meet the needs of our current and future

population, in order to achieve equity and fairness or health outcomes for rural communities, in order to support and further develop the economic health of our rural sector, government needs to further support and expand initiatives that that increase exposure of training health professionals to positive rural experiences.

Dr Jo Scott-Jones

References:

1. Ministry for Primary Industries : Rural Communities 2014 [09/05/2014]. Available from: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/agriculture/rural-communities>.
2. WHO. Increasing access to health workers in remote and rural areas through improved retention: global policy recommendations. Geneva: World Health Organisation, 2010.
3. Burton J. Rural Health Care In New Zealand. Wellington: Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, 1999.
4. London M. New Zealand Annual Rural Workforce Survey 2000. Christchurch: Centre For Rural Health; 2001.
5. Mel Pande M, Fretter J, Stenson A, Webber C, Turner J. Royal New Zealand College Of General Practitioners Workforce Survey 2005 part 3: General Practitioners In Urban and Rural New Zealand. 2006.
6. The New Zealand Medical Workforce 2007. New Zealand Medical Council; 2008.
7. Health Workforce Development: An Overview. In: Health Mo, editor. Wellington, New Zealand 2006.
8. Poole P, Bourke D, Shulruf B. Increasing medical student interest in general practice in New Zealand: where to from here? The New Zealand medical journal. 2010;123(1315):12.
9. Garces-Ozanne A, Yow A, Audas R. Rural practice and retention in New Zealand: an examination of New Zealand-trained and foreign-trained doctors. The New Zealand Medical Journal (Online). 2011;124(1330):14-23.
10. Medical Council of New Zealand: The New Zealand Medical Workforce in 2012 Wellington, New Zealand 2013.
11. Walker JH, DeWitt DE, Pallant JF, CE. C. Rural origin plus a rural clinical school placement is a significant predictor of medical students’ intentions to practice rurally: a multi-university study. Rural and Remote Health. 2012;12(1908):Online.
12. Farry P, Hill D, Isobel Martin I. What would attract general practice trainees into rural practice in New Zealand? NZMJ. 2002;115(1161).
13. Worley P, Strasser R, D. P. Can medical students learn specialist disciplines based in rural practice: lessons from students’ self reported experience and competence. Rural and Remote Health. 2004;4(338):Online.
14. Ministry of Health: Voluntary Bonding Scheme Wellington, New Zealand 2014 [09/05/2014]. Available from: <http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/health-workforce/voluntary-bonding-scheme>.
15. Rural Health Interprofessional Immersion Programme Wellington, New Zealand 2014 [09/05/2014]. Available from: <http://www.rhiip.ac.nz/>.
16. University of Otago: Rural Medical Immersion Programme Otago University, New Zealand 2014 [09/05/2014]. Available from: <http://rmip.otago.ac.nz/>.
17. P Poole, W Bagg, B O’Connor, A Dare, J McKimm, K Meredith, et al. The Northland Regional-Rural program (Pukawakawa): broadening medical undergraduate learning in New Zealand. Rural and Remote Health. 2010;10(1254):Online

REGIONAL NEWS

WHO East Mediterranean region meeting on Workers' Health



Photo: Prof Al Nasir (middle) with the WHO regional advisor, Dr Said Aranaout (on the Right)

Prof Faisal Al Nasir of Bahrain recently attended the WHO East Mediterranean region consultation meeting on Workers' Health on behalf of the WONCA. The meeting was held in The Islamic Republic of Iran and the hosts made every effort to make the participant stay comfortable and memorable.

As a result of this meeting the Semnan Declaration, Caring for all working people, was agreed – it is a consensus statement of the International Consultation on Interventions, Indicators and Service Delivery for Workers' Health organized by WHO/EMRO, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and Semnan University of Medical Sciences, in collaboration with ILO, WONCA, and ICOH.

Reporting on his participation Prof Al Nasir participated as follows:

Photo: Prof Al Nasir (red tie) with the group at the consultation meeting in Semnan.



1. Delivered a speech in the opening ceremony that was attended by top officials and international experts beside the Semnan Governor, President of Semnan University, deputy of minister of health and the WHO representative in Iran. In this speech he delivered a message from the WONCA President, Prof Michael Kidd (see below) and he invited the Iranian Family Physicians to be active members of the WONCA EMR.
2. Chaired the second session of this international consultation meeting
3. Presented a talk in the second session of the first day on the role of the family physician in the migrant and workers' health.
4. Spoke in the closing ceremony (during the presence of the director of international affairs of ministry of health) again about the importance of family medicine and the importance and that the WONCA EMR is looking forward for the Iran to be involved actively with them.

He reports that "During the remaining sessions and days of the gathering, I was very much involved in the discussion focusing mainly on the discipline of Family Medicine and the role of Family Physicians. I talked in person with several officials in the ministry of health (the deputy minister), Semnan University (the president and vice president) about the importance of the Iranian family physicians being part of WONCA."

By the end of this consultation, the role of Family Medicine and of WONCA in Workers' Health has been made clearer to the experts and also to the Iranian participants.

WONCA President's message to the meeting

I bring greetings and best wishes from the president and members of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA). We hope this is a successful meeting and look forward to hearing about the outcomes.

WONCA recognises that worker's health is an important component of our work as family doctors in each of our countries.

WONCA greatly values our ongoing partnership with the World Health Organization, and especially with Ivan, in strengthening worker's health.

WONCA also recognises the global challenge to improve the health and productivity of workers by increasing the number and capacity of health professionals who can assist in the prevention and management of work-related health problems.

WONCA is committed to working with our member organisations in each country, and with our global partners, to address the gaps in clinical services, research, and policies for the health and safety of workers and to better integrate occupational health into the primary care setting, to the benefit of workers and their families in all nations.

Prof Faisal Al Nasir
On behalf of WONCA EMR

Polaris – WONCA's newest Young Doctor Movement

North America region young doctors.

Since its inception, WONCA has promoted various supportive environments for junior family medicine or general practice physicians. Such backing became even more evident with the introduction of regional young doctors' movements (YDM), the first being the Vasco da Gama Movement in 2005. Since then, each region has slowly but surely adopted its own version of the YDM – all regions except North America.

Several barriers, including strong national family physician academies, large distances, and limited knowledge of WONCA's existence, stood in the way of such a movement in this part of the world. Initial interest after the 2010 WONCA World Conference in Cancun generated momentum for a North American YDM; however, the aforementioned barriers proved too formidable at the time.

At the 2013 WONCA World Conference in Prague, a renewed energy and desire for a North American YDM emerged. Furthermore, the timing for such a Movement proved perfect, secondary to continued global interconnectivity and the need for improved healthcare systems – among many other factors. The generation of physicians entering

the profession today reached maturity in an increasingly globalized world where junior physicians more than ever want to "think globally and act locally."

With key support from the Caribbean, American, and Canadian professional family physician associations as well as the WONCA North America Regional President, Dr Ruth Wilson, the region will launch its WONCA North America YDM in a strategic manner on May 19 – World Family Doctor Day.

The Movement's formal name is Polaris, representing the brightest stellar body in the celestial sky seen by all those within the Northern Hemisphere. This star has served to lead travelers and seafarers during their journeys for centuries.

As generation gives way to generation, it is our hope that the Polaris and all YDMs together can help guide the profession forward into a bright future.

Kyle Hoedebecke, MD and John Parks, MD

for more information contact Kyle;

khoedebecke@gmail.com

Polaris – North America region Young Doctors' Movement

COMING CONFERENCES



WONCA Europe coming to Lisbon next month

WONCA Europe is being held in Lisbon from July 2-5 .



João Sequeira Carlos is a Family Physician and president of the Portuguese Association of General Practice/Family

Medicine (APMGF). He is the Host Organising Committee Chair for the WONCA Europe conference being held in Lisbon in July 2014. He is also this month's featured doctor. The WONCA Editor asked him "What you expect for Lisbon WONCA Europe Conference?"

WONCA Europe gave APMGF the opportunity to organize the 2014 WONCA Europe Conference. We are combining the committee's expertise with Lisbon sights and traditions in setting an outstanding program.

From Portuguese history we learnt that in moments of difficulty, Portuguese people react with action promoting further development. We feel stronger these days and we are very confident that we have organized a memorable conference. As in the time of Portuguese discoveries, old navigators discovered new ways to travel around the world: now we are ready to challenge our colleagues to develop new routes for General Practice and Family Medicine.

We have registered colleagues from almost 70 countries representing all WONCA World Regions. We received about 2000 abstracts helping us to create a robust scientific program related to four main areas: innovation in primary care, the new generation of family

doctors, personalized and comprehensive care, and knowledge management.

Since the old times of maritime discoveries Lisbon is a symbol of global thinking. Under the motto "New Routes for General Practice and Family Medicine" APMGF is preparing a conference to explore new trends of our specialty. We want to celebrate the role of each family physician in health systems.

See you in Lisbon!

Read more about João Carlos - featured doctor, elsewhere in this newsletter

[WONCA Europe Lisbon conference website](#)

NEW online interviews.

About the conference

[Job Metsemakers](#) President WONCA Europe

[Isabel Pereira dos Santos](#) President of the Scientific Committee

Who are the invited speakers?

[Joana Carneiro](#)

[Carl Rudebeck](#)

[Margaret McCartney](#)

.....and WONCA Leaders

[Richard Roberts](#)

[Michael Kidd \(WONCA President\)](#)

Two workshops

[WONCA Working Party on Ethics - Manfred Maier](#)

[WONCA Working Party on the Environment- Grant Blashki](#)

WONCA South Asia Chennai conference early bird registration closes soon



Early bird registration for South Asia conference in August closes on June 30.

WONCA South Asia Region conference 2014 is jointly organized by a consortium of GP organisations - the IMACGP, AFPI & FFPAI for the first time in the history of family medicine specialty in India. The organising committee is privileged to invite all Indian and international delegates to this mega event.

We look forward to receive you in the historic city of Chennai India. In addition to a robust and rich scientific programme in family medicine, we promise the traditional warmth and hospitality of India, culinary delights of the acclaimed Indian food and a pageant of colours from the rich Indian culture.

KEY INFORMATION

Date: August 16-17, 2014

Venue: Hotel Green Park, Chennai, India

Theme: Hope, healing and healthy nation through family medicine

Conference website:

www.woncasar2014.com

Contact person: Dr KM Abul Hasan

drkmabulhasan@yahoo.com

Jointly organized by:

IMA CGP (Indian Medical Association College of General Practitioners)

AFPI (Academy of Family Physicians of India)

FFPAI (Federation of Family Physician's Associations of India)

A message from the chief patron of the IMACGP, Prof Arulraj

Dear Colleagues,

Warm greetings from IMACGP, India. The WONCA South Asia Region conference is being organised at Chennai, India on 16 & 17 of August, 2014, jointly with the FFPAI & AFPI

All efforts are on to make the conference memorable and successful academically. The real success is your active participation. Encourage young Family Doctors to present Free Papers and Posters – a discount registration rate is available for young doctors and students.

The conference brochure is available online. Online registration is available - early bird registration closes 30 June 2014.

Accommodation at a subsidised cost is organised at the venue itself. For groups nearby budget hotels are in hand. Pre and post conference tours are available.

The organising Secretary Dr Abul Hasan is at your call round the clock.

Waiting to receive you all at Chennai, the Great Traditional city of Chennai, India.

Best wishes

Prof S Arulraj

Invitation to WONCA Africa 2015 regional conference being held in Ghana

On behalf of the Host Organizing Committee, I humbly invite you to the peaceful city of Accra, Ghana for the 4th WONCA Africa Regional Conference.

We expect that this conference will provide the platform to boost the development of Family Medicine in Ghana and the African continent to another level. With an apt theme “Sustainable Development Goals for the Health of Africa”, we are confident that this is an excellent opportunity for you to update your knowledge and skills for your practice and contribute to the development of the African Family Physician. We need to hear what is going on in other parts of Africa and build consensus on how to advance Family Medicine in our respective countries by sharing information and human resource.



Accra is currently considered as the gateway to West Africa. We assure you of a novel experience in nature and wildlife, forts and castles, culture and heritage; amazing waterfalls, historic sites, resorts and beaches; and excellent hotels.

Come and join us at WONCA Accra 2015 and in typical Ghanaian hospitality we say ‘Akwaaba’.

Dr Henry Lawson
Host Organising Committee chair

Read more about Dr Henry Lawson - featured doctor elsewhere in this newsletter

[WONCA Africa 2015 conference website](#)



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Cancer and Palliative Care workshop at WONCA Lisbon

Dear members of the WONCA Special Interest Group (SIG) on Cancer and Palliative Care (and other interested colleagues)

We are happy to announce a symposium we will conduct during the next WONCA Europe Conference in Lisbon. In the preliminary program our symposium is scheduled on Thursday morning, 3 July: 9.00-10.30

The symposium will cover the following topics:

Latest evidence in early diagnosis, screening and survivorship

1. Screening and primary care (David Weller, United Kingdom)
 - New challenges, new tests – how can primary care respond to a changing landscape in cancer screening?

- International differences in the role of primary care in cancer screening
- How can family doctors and primary care teams improve uptake and informed choice in cancer screening?

2. Early cancer diagnosis in primary care (Peter Vedsted, Denmark)
 - Diagnostic intervals in primary care – are they too long?

- International differences in diagnosing colorectal cancer
- Do prolonged cancer diagnostic intervals lead to worse patient outcomes?
- Tips for reducing diagnostic intervals in your patients

3. After diagnosis: issues for the family doctor (Annette Berendsen, Netherlands)
 - Do patients with cancer keep seeing their GP?

- One of your patients has been diagnosed with cancer. What next? What should be your role as a GP?
- Substitution of follow-up care from secondary to primary care: what are the possibilities and conditions?

The talks will be a combination of recent research with 'practical tips' for family doctors. At the conclusion of the talks, we will have an interactive discussion.

The symposium will include a 5 to 10 minute 'SIG Business' component, in which we

explain the aims of the WONCA Cancer & Palliative Care SIG, and ask for suggestions about the SIG.

If your colleagues are interested please forward this email to them. If they want to become a member of our SIG they can [visit the website](#) and join us.

We hope to see you in Lisbon!

Kind regards
David Weller, convenor
Annette Berendsen, co-convenor

WONCA SIG on complexity news

Over the last two years the WONCA SIG on complexity has conducted several introductory and advanced workshops at various WONCA meetings. These workshops have attracted many interested people from around the globe, spreading the ideas for thinking and acting in an interconnected way at practice and community levels.

At the forthcoming WONCA Europe conference in Lisbon we will continue with these approaches conducting a workshop entitled "*Multimorbidity – a systems approach*" (July, 4 - 09:00 - 10:30). Following the workshop we invite interested people to attend a short group meeting to explore "the way forward".

Other activities happen more quietly in the background, in particular networking with many other groups interested in systems and complexity sciences in the health professions, the latest at the Geneva Health Forum in April.

Members of the WONCA SIG on complexity are members of the organising committee for the [1st International Conference on Systems and Complexity in Health](#) which will be held at Georgetown University in Washington in November 2014.

Joachim P Sturmborg, convenor

RESOURCES

PEARLS

PEARLS by the Cochrane Collaboration are back. Loaded this month ...

[414 Self-help therapies of some benefit in anxiety disorders](#)

[413 Flexible sigmoidoscopy & faecal occult blood testing reduce colorectal cancer mortality](#)

[412 Small benefit from cognitive behavioural therapies for fibromyalgia](#)

[411 Remote and web 2.0 interventions effective for promoting physical activity](#)

[410 Psychosocial interventions effective for smoking cessation in pregnancy](#)

[409 No clear benefit from active chest compression-decompression compared with standard manual CPR](#)

[408 Simple treatments effective for bedwetting in children](#)

[407 Fluoride varnishes prevent dental caries in children and adolescents](#)

[406 Diet and exercise effective for weight reduction after childbirth](#)

[405 Interventions to promote pre-op informed consent effective](#)

RCGP publishes ultimate guide for GP training and beyond

The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), UK is about to publish [The Good GP Training Guide](#), the ultimate guide to GP training and beyond. It's a must-read for all GP trainees and newly qualified GPs, offering an accessible Lonely Planet-style guide to the GP training process and what to expect once qualified.

It provides pragmatic advice and tips on all stages of training, covering hospital rotations, general practice training in the community, the transition to becoming an independent

practitioner, and the various methods of assessment employed by the RCGP.

The guide will be available from late May but pre-orders are being accepted. [Full details can be found online.](#)

Discount for WONCA members

WONCA members can get a 10% discount when purchasing copies of this resource online. Input discount code WGPTG10 when prompted during checkout.

Launch of WHO Report - Health for the world's adolescents

What must we do to improve and maintain the health of the world's one billion adolescents?

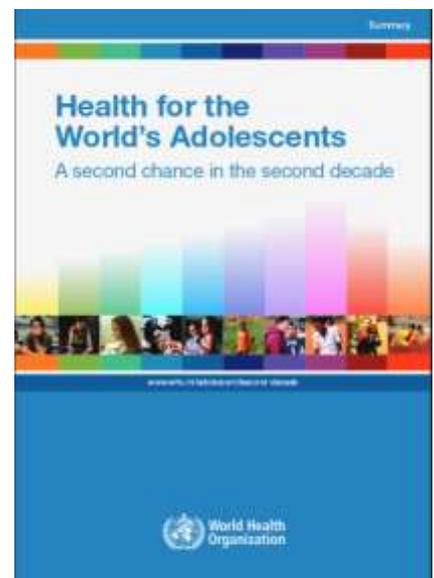
Health for the world's adolescents World Health Organization (WHO) report was launched on 14th May and addresses this question across the broad range of health needs of people ages 10–19 years.

<http://www.who.int/adolescent/second-decade>

It is a dynamic, multimedia, online report which has drawn on expertise from an range of stakeholders, including from WONCA through the [responses WONCA members provided to the WHO survey](#) on adolescent's health last year.

This report describes why adolescents need specific attention, distinct from children and adults. It presents a global overview of adolescents' health and health-related behaviours, including the latest data and trends, and discusses the determinants that influence their health and behaviours. It features adolescents' own perspectives on their health needs.

[Download report summary](#)



From Puerto Rico: The specialty of the Family Physician video

The Puerto Rico Academy of Family Physicians made a video in the year 2000 explaining the specialties of Family Physicians. The video received awards and was acknowledged in Puerto Rico, and the U.S.A., and other countries.

Once again, The Puerto Rico Academy of Family Physicians decided, in 2013, to design a newer video to continue raising awareness and growing the family physician community.

We present a commercial format for television/movie theater that is 30 seconds long and another format for offices and other activities that is four minutes long. The commercial format is in English / Spanish and the other format is in Spanish with English

Subtitles. With this video we can spread information about our specialty with the people.

The video was filmed by a company dedicated to producing videos and all the people that are starring in the video are actual patients, residents, and family physicians.

It is our greatest pleasure to experience, for the second time, the making of the video and share it around the world.

Dra. Marina Almenas
Past President, Puerto Rico Academy of Family Physicians

FEATURED DOCTOR

Prof João Sequeira CARLOS

Portugal - WONCA Europe conference chair

João Carlos is a Family Physician and president of the Portuguese Association of General Practice/Family Medicine. He is the Host Organising Committee Chair for the WONCA Europe conference being held in Lisbon in July 2014.

(Photo acknowledgement: Cortesia revista less/ Paolo Lima)

What work are you doing currently?

As every family physician in the world I work a lot! Taking care of our patients with compassion, empathy and knowledge is a complex task moreover if you are deeply committed to this mission. The patients are my priority. I'm always there for them and even after daily consultations I keep linked with my patients by e-mail. I love to be a family physician and currently I'm the head of the General Practice / Family Medicine (GP/FM) Department of Hospital da Luz, a private hospital in Lisbon, founded in 2006. Hospital managers were very innovative with the idea of organizing a GP/FM practice inside a hospital. Today its sustained success has proven the importance of GP/FM not only in the community, but also within a big hospital. Besides my position in Hospital da Luz, I also work as a family physician in GP/FM department of UCS, the Health Care Clinic of TAP, the Portuguese Airline Company.

A family physician is very experienced in managing complexity and that gave me the ability to combine two components of my professional life – clinical activity and the work in Portuguese Association of General Practice/Family Medicine (APMGF). In the small time left after consultations I try to find space for APMGF. Sometimes that's the art of the impossible but I always quote a Portuguese saying – “who runs for pleasure doesn't get tired”!

What are your interests in work and outside work?

Being simultaneously involved in clinical setting and in APMGF, the organization that represents GP/FM in Portugal as a

professional association and as a scientific society, gives me a broad vision of the

health system where I practice. And that also helps to better understand my patients' needs and expectations. So my interests as a family physician are directly related with this systemic perspective.

I have special interest in the patient/doctor relationship, chronic disease management, health services organisation, family interventions, primary health care research, integration of care, GP/FM education and training, information and communications technology, health promotion and disease prevention. That's my magical cluster of interests that moves me every day in my work. But the core is always the moment when I meet my patients.

Outside of my work I try to improve everyday my talent of being a dedicated husband and father. I'm lucky to have a very close family. It's a challenge to keep it strong and united with the essential support of my wife, also a family physician. Our three wonderful children demand a lot of energy but give us double the pleasure, with love. Spending quality time with them is my main activity outside work. Together we swim, play football and walk. We also share as much as we can travelling through Portugal and abroad. To relax I really like to find some time to read, listen to music and to write.

How do you see the importance of APMGF at national and international level?

The Portuguese Association of General Practice/Family Medicine was founded in 1983 and in thirty years has come to be considered to be the one of the most influent factors in Primary Health Care (PHC) development in Portugal. We are very proud of it and that gives us more responsibility to properly manage the organization. Since the beginning, APMGF has had an international scope being involved with SIMG and WONCA. Portugal



was always represented in international meetings and conferences.

In 1994, we organized in Portugal (Estoril) a memorable joint meeting between SIMG and WONCA, few months before the establishment of WONCA Europe. That was a symbolic milestone in our early years and an expression of the work APMGF was doing in international cooperation.

At national level colleagues involved in APMGF were the leaders in the process of PHC reform, which had the political starting point in 2005. Today even facing some constraints of the National Health System has a renewed PHC with GP/FM leading an innovative model of practices covering more than half of Portuguese population.

At the same time, APMGF was once again very active at an international level. In 2004, it helped to create a Junior Doctors Network inside WONCA Europe, named later on the Vasco da Gama Movement (VdGM). I was personally involved - being the president of VdGM until 2009, when I was appointed to assume APMGF presidency. I've a great team in the board of directors, some of them representing the new generation of family physicians.

What do you expect for Lisbon WONCA Europe Conference?

WONCA Europe gave APMGF the opportunity to organize the 2014 WONCA Europe

Conference. We are combining the committee's expertise with Lisbon sights and traditions in setting an outstanding program.

From Portuguese history we learnt that in moments of difficulty, Portuguese people react with action promoting further development. We feel stronger these days and we are very confident that we have organized a memorable conference. As in the time of Portuguese discoveries, old navigators discovered new ways to travel around the world: now we are ready to challenge our colleagues to develop new routes for General Practice and Family Medicine.

We have registered colleagues from almost 70 countries representing all WONCA World Regions. We received about 2000 abstracts helping us to create a robust scientific program related to four main areas: innovation in primary care, the new generation of family doctors, personalized and comprehensive care, and knowledge management.

Since the old times of maritime discoveries Lisbon is a symbol of global thinking. Under the motto "New Routes for General Practice and Family Medicine" APMGF is preparing a conference to explore new trends of our specialty. We want to celebrate the role of each family physician in health systems.

See you in Lisbon!

Dr Henry LAWSON

Ghana - WONCA Africa conference chair



Photo: Henry representing Ghana at the 2013 WONCA World Council in Prague.

What do you currently do?

I am the Chairman for the Ghana Chapter of the Faculty of Family Medicine, West African College of Physicians.

I am also the President-elect of the WONCA Africa region (2013 – 2016 triennium) and the Chair of the Host Organising Committee of the next WONCA Africa Regional Conference which will be held in my city – Accra, Ghana - in February 2015. The Faculty is the only Ghanaian Member Organisation of WONCA.

I have been at the forefront of Family Medicine training in Ghana. At the postgraduate level, I am a trainer and examiner for both the West African College of Physicians and the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons. The two colleges collaborate copiously to advance the cause of Family Medicine in Ghana.

My work at the training centre involves teaching ward rounds; supervision of seminars, tutorials and journals club meetings; mortality conferences; supervision of proposal writing and dissertations; and mentoring of residents. In addition we have recently begun surgical training in office procedures at the centre.

At the undergraduate level, I co-authored the first undergraduate curriculum in the country's premier medical school. This curriculum is being implemented in stages and fully operational with the new collegiate system of the University of Ghana in August this year. I am also involved in local and international research projects with other Family Physicians across the globe – Belgium, South Africa etc. I am also an active member of the WONCA Working Party on Research.

What is the situation of Family Medicine in Ghana?

Family Medicine training began in Ghana as far back as 1998 however the growth has been slow. We have currently graduated six fellows (Family Physicians) and we have over forty residents in various levels of training. We use the term General Practitioner for doctors who have not had postgraduate training and Family Physicians for those who have had training. All together we need to train 500 new family physicians over the next five years. Currently there are three accredited training centres in Ghana.

Photo: a "train the trainer" workshop facilitated by Henry

What is the future in Ghana?

Our plan is to implement the new modular curriculum for training Family Physicians. This novel method will retain medical officers in district hospitals whilst training in contrast to the conventional method where medical officers have to move the training centre. This way, more family physicians can be trained whilst still providing the needed services at the district hospitals. We however need to raise the funding for this process. We are looking for partners to collaborate in our 'special interest training programme' for Family Physicians in areas such as women's health, geriatric care and adolescent health.

We are also looking forward to more general practitioners coming to register with the new Society of Family Physicians of Ghana (SOFPOG) which seeks to unite academic and non-academic family doctors which will be registered under WONCA before the year ends. We need all of them on board to promote the training process since they can act as trainers and preceptors in the district and community hospitals. The Director General of the Ghana Health Service is giving us his utmost support in this endeavour.

We are also looking forward to supporting other African countries to introduce Family Medicine training. We have recently commenced talks with Cote D'Ivoire and Benin Republic (all French-speaking nations) with great promise!



WONCA CONFERENCES 2014

July 2 – 5, 2014	WONCA Europe Region Conference	Lisbon PORTUGAL	New Routes for General Practice and Family Medicine http://www.WONCAeurope2014.org/
August 16-17, 2014	WONCA South Asia Region conference	Chennai, INDIA	Hope healing and healthy nation through family medicine. www.woncasar2014.com

See [WONCA website conference page](#) for updates.

WONCA CONFERENCES 2015

February 13-14, 2015	WONCA South Asia Region conference	Dhaka, BANGLADESH	For more information on these conferences as it comes to hand go to the WONCA website conference page :
February 18-21, 2015	WONCA Africa region conference	Accra, GHANA	
March 5-8, 2015	WONCA Asia Pacific Region Conference	Taipei, TAIWAN	
April 15-18, 2015	WONCA World Rural Health conference	Dubrovnik, CROATIA	
October 22-25, 2015	WONCA Europe Region conference	Istanbul, TURKEY	

WONCA Direct Members enjoy *lower* conference registration fees. To join WONCA go to:
<http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/AboutWONCA/Membership1.aspx>

Membership for
Individuals and
Organizations



WONCA ENDORSED EVENTS

For more information on WONCA endorsed events go to
<http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/Conferences/WONCAEndorsedEvents.aspx>

April

28-30

2015

Mental Health for All

Lille, France

MEMBER ORGANIZATION EVENTS

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

June 09-20 2014	Toronto International Program in Strengthening Family Medicine & Primary Care 
	Toronto, Canada
June 12-14 2014	XXXIV Congreso de la semFYC 
	Gran Canaria, Spain
June 21-22 2014	Fiji College of General Practitioners conference 
	Sigatoka, Fiji
June 28-28 2014	Kenya Association of Family Physicians Annual Meeting 
	Nairobi, Kenya
July 25-27 2014	RNZCGP conference for general practice 
	Christchurch, New Zealand
September 01-02 2014	EFPC 2014 Bi-annual conference 
	Barcelona, Spain
September 23-27 2014	EURACT - International course in Bled 
	Bled, Slovenia
October 02-04 2014	RCGP annual primary care conference 
	Liverpool, United Kingdom
October 09-11 2014	RACGP GP '14 conference 
	Adelaide, Australia
October 21-25 2014	AAFP annual scientific assembly 
	Washington DC, USA
November 13-15 2014	Family Medicine Forum / Forum en médecine familiale 
	Québec, Canada
November 19-23 2014	The Network: Towards Unity for Health conference 
	Fortaleza, Brazil

WORLD FAMILY DOCTOR DAY 2014 SUPPLEMENT

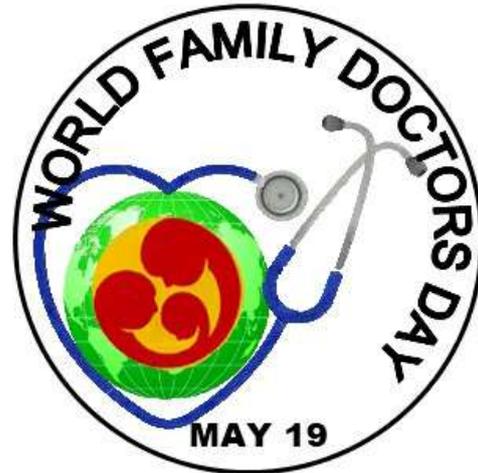
The first *World Family Doctor Day* was celebrated on 19 May 2010. It has been taken up with enthusiasm around the world and has given us a chance to celebrate what we do to provide recognition to family doctors, to highlight important issues and the work we perform in supporting health care for all people in our local communities, our nations and around the world.

WONCA declared World Family Doctor Day in Cancun, Mexico in 2010.

We have much to celebrate as governments around the world have really begun to realise the value of our specialty. In some countries there is work to do, and celebrating *World Family Doctor Day* will open up many opportunities to highlight the important contributions of family doctors.

This day creates an atmosphere of global solidarity among family doctors and it will be a

positive and visible contribution of WONCA's leadership and contribution to family medicine.



WONCA President's message on World Family Doctor Day 2014

May 19 is World Family Doctor Day.

On this day WONCA joins with our member organisations in 130 countries to celebrate the important work carried out by family doctors all around the world.

WONCA represents over 500,000 family doctors based in all regions of the world. The 500,000 family doctors represented by WONCA together have over 2 billion consultations each year with their patients.

But we need to do more. We need to work to ensure that every family doctor, every GP, every primary care doctor, joins us in our commitment to deliver high quality primary care to our patients and communities. We need to expand our commitment to the education and training of family doctors and quality care and primary care research to all nations of the world. And we need to work with the World Health Organization and our other global partners to ensure the continuing support for strong family medicine to ensure the delivery of quality primary health care and

universal health coverage in every community in every country.

Over the past year I have had the opportunity to visit many dedicated family doctors in their communities in rural and urban areas and to talk about the challenges they face in ensuring the health and well-being of their patients.

(Photo: WONCA president, Michael Kidd, with enthusiastic family medicine trainees in Brazil, 2013)

As family doctors we all work hard. I know that many of you work under very difficult conditions, that the resources that you need to do your job are often not available, that the hours you work and the demands on your time can be arduous, that your resilience is tested regularly. And I know that many of you often feel unappreciated. And don't often hear the words thank you. This is why WONCA has established World Family Doctor Day, held on May 19 each year, to acknowledge the important work that you do.

So today, on behalf of the two billion people around the world who benefited from your care and support over the past year I say thank you. Thank you for your commitment to being a great family doctor. And thank you all for the important work that you do every day providing excellent health care to the people

who trust you for their medical care and advice.

Michael Kidd,
President, World Organization of Family
Doctors (WONCA)

Mensaje del Presidente de WONCA en el Día Mundial del Médico de Familia

El 19 de mayo es el Día Mundial del Médico de la Familia.

En este día, WONCA se une a nuestras organizaciones miembro en 130 países para celebrar la importante labor que llevan a cabo los médicos de familia de todo el mundo.

WONCA representa a más de 500.000 médicos de familia de todas las regiones del mundo. Los 500.000 médicos de familia representados por WONCA, suman en su conjunto más de dos mil millones de consultas a pacientes anualmente.

Pero tenemos que hacer más. Tenemos que trabajar para asegurar que cada médico de familia, cada médico general, cada médico de atención primaria, se une a nosotros en nuestro compromiso de ofrecer una atención primaria de alta calidad a nuestros pacientes y comunidades. Tenemos que ampliar nuestro compromiso con la educación y la formación de los médicos de familia, con la atención de calidad y la investigación en atención primaria en todos los países del mundo. Y tenemos que trabajar con la Organización Mundial de la Salud y otros socios mundiales para asegurar el apoyo continuado a una medicina de familia fuerte, que asegure la prestación de una atención primaria de salud y una calidad de la cobertura universal de salud en todas las comunidades de todos los países.

Durante el último año he tenido la oportunidad de visitar a muchos médicos de familia en sus comunidades, en las zonas rurales y urbanas, y hablar de los desafíos a los que se enfrentan para garantizar la salud y el bienestar de sus pacientes.

Foto: El Presidente de WONCA, Michael Kidd, con los entusiastas alumnos de medicina de familia en Brasil, 2013.

Como médicos de familia todos trabajamos duro. Sé que muchos de vosotros trabajáis en condiciones muy difíciles, que a menudo, los recursos que necesitáis para hacer vuestro trabajo no están disponibles, que las horas de trabajo y la exigencia sobre vuestro tiempo pueden ser arduas, que vuestra capacidad de resistencia se pone a prueba con regularidad. Y sé que muchos de vosotros os sentís a menudo poco valorados. Y que no soléis escuchar palabras de agradecimiento. Esta es la razón por la que WONCA ha establecido el Día Mundial del Médico de Familia, que se celebra el 19 de mayo de cada año, para reconocer el trabajo importante que hacéis.

Así que hoy, en nombre de los 2 mil millones de personas de todo el mundo que se han beneficiado de tu cuidado y apoyo a lo largo del pasado año, te digo gracias. Gracias por tu compromiso de ser un gran médico de familia. Y gracias a todos por el trabajo importante que hacéis cada día al proporcionar una excelente atención médica a las personas que confían en vosotros para su atención médica y su asesoramiento.

Michael Kidd
Presidente de la Organización
Mundial de Médicos de Familia (WONCA)

Traducción: Eva Tudela, Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine (semFYC) Director

World Family Doctor Day activities

May 19, 2014

This year World Family Doctor day (FDD) has been celebrated by more people in more countries. We have been overwhelmed by the number of activities notified to us. Our enormous gratitude to all who have contributed, whether as individuals and on behalf of organization. Our apologies if we could not include your favourite photograph or your personal story. It is clear that World Family Doctor Day has become a major event on the calendar of family doctors worldwide.

Other items can be loaded onto the FDD Facebook page [Go to the Facebook page](#) or alternatively shared them with colleagues on the WONCA Forum.

[To register for the WONCA discussion forum](#)

[To login if you are registered already.](#)

Some of the 2014 activities that WONCA News has found out about are listed below.

WONCA East Mediterranean region

Dr Mohammed Tarawneh, WONCA East Mediterranean region president has written to the regional office of the WHO asking that "is part of our collaboration and in accordance with that I would like to ask for your support in communicating with the EMRO countries to encourage celebrating this important event through their family medicine societies".

Dr Ala Alwan, Regional Director of WHO has replied with a message available in English, Arabic and French:

It is with great pleasure that the World Health Organization (WHO) joins the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) and Member States in celebrating World Family Doctor's Day. I would like to take the opportunity to underscore the importance of family practice programmes for delivering quality primary health care and accelerating progress towards universal health coverage in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. read more in [English](#), [Arabic](#) and [French](#)

Dr Tarawneh notes that nearly all countries in this region have held celebrations - see under country activities or other activities below.

WONCA North America region

The North America region has announced that the launch of its new Young Doctors' movement will be on Family Doctor Day. The movement is to be called POLARIS. [Find out more.](#)

Activities submitted by WONCA Member Organizations

Member organizations in the following countries have submitted activities. Reports are found below.

Australia	Caribbean	Iraq	Philippines	Spain
Bangladesh	Chile	Jordan	Romania	South Africa
Bolivia	China	Kenya	Serbia	Taiwan
Brazil	Egypt	Luxembourg	Slovakia	United Kingdom
Canada	India	Pakistan	Slovenia	USA

Other Activities

Some other interesting celebrations about which we have been notified are also listed at the end of this supplement. These were submitted by the following:

Australia GP Supervisors	China- Sino US Center	China Medical Tribune
China- Medical Doctors Assoc	Ecuador	Finland- University of Turku
Ghana	Kuwait	Macedonia
Mozambique	Pakistan – Medical Assoc	Qatar
Saudi Arabia		

WONCA Member Organizations

Australia

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners(RACGP)



The RACGP's message to its member GPs

GPs are the key to good health for you and your family. May 19 is World Family Doctors' Day. Join the RACGP in celebrating the impressive work carried out by GPs nation-wide to ensure the health of every Australian remains a priority.

The RACGP will be celebrating World Family Doctors' Day in a number of ways; from events to social media! Stay tuned for more information on how you can get involved in these celebrations. In the meantime, raise awareness of the important work you do and download the RACGP's World Family Doctor Day poster and display it in your practice for all your patients to see.

Get involved on the day! [Download the poster](#) and remember to take a picture of how you are celebrating World Family Doctors' Day and post it on our Facebook page or tweet @RACGP.

World Family Doctor Day is an initiative of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), a not-for-profit organization that represents 126 member organisations – including the RACGP – in 102 countries. WONCA's mission is to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world through a set of defined values, including respect for universal human rights including gender equity, and by fostering high standards of care in general practice/family medicine.

To find out more about World Family Doctors' Day, visit the WONCA website



Bangladesh

Bangladesh Academy of Family Physicians

The Bangladesh Academy of Family Physicians has decided to observe the World Family Doctors Day 2014 in a gorgeous fashion. We chalked out a two day programme as below:

A. 19 May 2014 - Family Physicians gathering and rally. Seminar on 'Management of chest pain in family practice'

B. 30 May 2014 - Discussion on WFDD. Seminar on 'Management of common psychiatric problem in family practice'

The Bangladesh Academy has also produced a newsletter with one full page promoting Family Doctor Day to its members. [See newsletter here.](#)

Bolivia



Sociedad boliviana de medicina familiar

Actividades:

- publicacion en medios de comunicacion y redes sociales de la salutacion.
- entrega de sellos personales a los medicos de familia.
- botones con el logo mundial a los medicos de familia para que los luzcan en sus mandiles.
- gran cena de celebracion.

Brazil

Brazilian Society of Family and Community Medicine (SBMFC)

The Brazilian Society of Family and Community Medicine (SBMFC in Portuguese) will celebrate our day launching an App for cell phones and tablets. The App was developed to improve the communication between family doctors and offer interesting tools to primary health care workers in Brazil.

The App can be found at the following link: <http://SBMFC.mobapp.at>

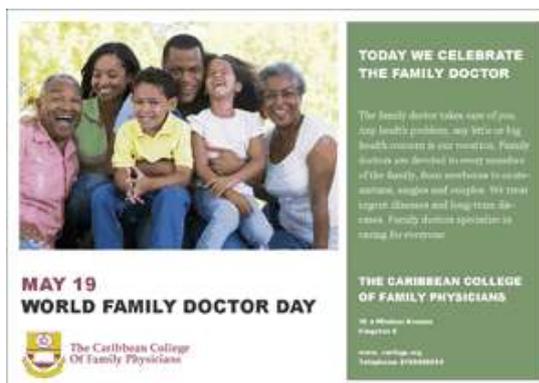
Canada

College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)

The CFPC will acknowledge the event with a website banner and link to the WONCA site. We'll also send a message out through Twitter and Dr Francine Lemire (CEO) will promote it through her next available CEO video blog.

Caribbean countries

Caribbean College of Family Physicians (CCFP)



This year CCFP tried to have a coordinated activity across the region- simple but hopefully effective in spreading the message of family medicine and the family doctor:

1) Jamaica had designed a flyer which they distributed in their offices and put up in strategic places- they shared it with the rest of the College. Andy, our Regional President who is an IT buff, tweaked it and modified it to make it more acceptable in the other islands where the ethnic mix is a bit different from Jamaica and so we have a product that we can in each island modify to suit or

even in each practice. All the islands have the template and our members will be using it accordingly

2) The flyers will also be published in local newspapers that weekend.

3) Selected newspapers will hopefully be interviewing some of our doctors and articles will be generated over the weekend and on the day itself. Our President is preparing a Press Release for CANA- Caribbean News Agency about WWFDDay.

4) There will also be interviews on radio stations and TV stations; and we hope as well to get feedback from patients - giving their opinions about their family doctors (not naming names because we are not allowed to advertise) but giving their reasons for choosing us (paying fee-for-service) rather than attending the free public clinics

5) A new Chapter of CCFP will be launched on the evening of May 19-in TOBAGO, the sister isle to Trinidad <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tobago> the members are 80 % young family docs- keen and committed- we will be sending you photos in due course. Prof Ruth Wilson has been informed as WONCA President North America region and she plans to send special greetings.

Chile

Sociedad Científica de Medicina Familiar y General de Chile

En nuestro país tendremos los siguientes eventos:

- El viernes 16-mayo se realizará una celebración local en el Depto. De Atención Primaria y Salud Familiar de la Universidad de Chile, en el contexto del Programa de formación de especialistas en Medicina Familiar.

- El lunes 19 de Mayo a las 11:00 horas AM el Ministerio de Salud de Chile realizara por primera vez en la historia de nuestro país una actividad de conmemoración y celebración de este día. Asistirán importantes autoridades de Gobierno, representantes del gremio y por supuesto nosotros como Sociedad Científica de Medicina Familiar de Chile, a la cual representare yo oficialmente. Será un evento transmitido por la prensa nacional.

- Ese mismo lunes 19-mayo nuestra Sociedad ha organizado una cena a las 21hrs en la que están invitados a participar todos los socios como una actividad de camaradería para celebrar juntos este importante día.

China

Hong Kong College of Family Physicians

The launching ceremony of the TV series "*My Family Doctor*" in Hong Kong was launched 16th May 2014 as part of the celebrations of Family Doctor Day see also other activities from China including those promoted in the China Medical [Tribune](#).



Egypt

Egyptian Family Medicine Association(EFMA)

Our celebrating plan for the 19th of May will be a workshop titled "Acute upper respiratory tract infections in family practice" in collaboration between EFMA, Family medicine department of Menfiya University & Menofiya Directorate of Health.

It will be held late this month on the 26/5/2014. More information to come.

India



Academy of Family Physicians of India

The Academy of Family Physicians of India has planned to officially release a booklet "Family Medicine Career Development Guide 2014" on World Family Doctors Day 19th May 2014 in New Delhi India.

Iraq

Iraqi Family Physicians Society

Iraq FM society will celebrate the World family doctor day in different places in Iraq. Many messages appear on the website of the Society.

Dear Colleagues Hope all is well As you know, that World Health Organization (WHO), appointed 19th May every year as the World Family Doctor day, WONCA World celebrates this day since 2010 through all its member organizations in the world in the way each member accommodated him, We encourage all of you to celebrate this great day , which highlights on this specialty Reminding , that we as WONCA EMR had addressed a letter to WHO RD to encourage member states in the EMRO to facilitate this day celebration I include the Logo of this day"

Mohammed Tarawneh, MD, WONCA EMR President and Professor Abdul Munem Al Dabbagh, Chair Iraqi Board Of CM & FM FROM: Dr Sameen Siddiqi, Director, Health System Development TO: All WRs and Desk Officers

We have been informed by Dr Mohamed Tarawneh, EMR President of the World Organization for Family Doctors (WONCA) that the Family Doctors day will be celebrated on 19 May 2014. This is an annual event which has been celebrated since 19 May 2010. It is an opportunity to highlight the importance of the role that family doctors have in supporting health care for all people in local communities, nations and around the world.

Family practice is one of the important programmes for delivering quality primary care and accelerating the progress towards universal health coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Accordingly, please find enclosed RD's message prepared for this occasion highlighting the importance of implementing family practice programmes in the EMR countries. The message is in all three official languages, Arabic, English and French. The purpose of this e-mail is to request you to kindly share the enclosed message with the minister of health in your country of assignment, inviting His Excellency to encourage the interested stakeholders involved in family medicine like academia, medical associations, and health care providers institutes/organizations to celebrate this event as a means of emphasizing the importance family practice in achieving universal health coverage.

See the [Society website](#) for these and more messages - available in English and Arabic.

Jordan

Jordanian Society of Family Medicine (JSFM)



Many different activities have taken place in the north of the country and in Amman.

The activities took place on the May 19th, World Family Doctor Day, involving some members of the JSFM and other colleagues in family medicine and community medicine from Ministry of Health.

The MOH, in Jordan, celebrate this occasion by Medical days for local communities. The Director of the Amman Health directorate represented the Minister of Health on this day.

In one activity, about 700 people from the local community in the city of Rusaifah, 20 km from Amman, were seen and physically examined by family doctors in collaboration with "ZAIN" one of the mobile communication companies in Jordan

Kenya

The Kenya Association of Family Physicians (KAFP)

This far, we have been successful in putting up an article and is scheduled to appear in The Standard Newspaper on Wednesday 14th, 2014. We are still engaging the media stations to give coverage to our event, which in our case (and kindly note this) we are going to observe on by conducting a medical camp exercise on Sunday May 18th, 2014. This was agreed upon, so as not to impede on our other planned commitment and schedules. The event, will take place at Kilimani Primary School. In addition to the above and in a bid to ensure that we are abreast on issues that are of interest to us, we have the Editorial Committee that has worked hard and prepared our first Edition of [KAFP Newsletter](#) - April 2014. Please find attached a copy of the same. We look forward to sharing the same on quarterly basis. Once again, you are invited to share your thoughts with us.

Luxembourg

SSLMG

Dear colleagues,
In Luxembourg we made a poster for GPs (photo at right) to put in their practices and Romain Stein, the president of CMG (cercle des médecins generalists/ our political representative) gives a radio and TV interview.

The text of the poster says:
*the general practitioner
general practice is for everyone
the doctor for the whole family*



Pakistan

College of Family Medicine Pakistan

1. Will celebrate World Family Doctors Day like previous family doctors days by holding seminar or with theme “*put patients first – back general practice*”
2. Articles in newspaper highlighting importance of Family Medicine in Primary Health Care.
3. Message from various Social, Medical and Important persons.
4. Program on T.V.

Philippines

Philippine Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP)

This is the fourth year the PAFP have celebrated FDD. Activities this year are shown in the [photographic report attached](#).



1. cardiovascular and nerve conduction screening
2. comprehensive geriatric assessment:
3. “let’s go physical exercise” (Photo left)
4. flu immunization
5. advocacy on smoking cessation
6. family doctors reunited - fun games and lunch with our families followed after the advocacy
7. thanksgiving mass
8. motorcade around metro Manila (Photo right)
9. medical mission
10. lay fora

Romania

National Society of Family Medicine (SNMF)

SNMF has the great idea that WONCA could create a toolbox for FDD. This way, the WFDD Campaign would have a greater impact since it uses the same logo, the same slogan, the same images, a certain template for the press release, templates for a special letter to the Ministries of Health in the countries, even an open letter from the World WONCA President to all MOH in the world, a common template for the .ppt used in the campaign, maybe a short movie (1’30”)... Each country that chooses to do the campaign should register to download and put some briefings of their personalized campaign, pictures, personalized movies and so on, maybe a blog for the Campaign...



A Facebook page has been established - check it out and 'like' it [here](#).

[Read full report](#) from Romania including quotes from the Health Minister, the Society leaders and from WONCA president, Michael Kidd.

Serbia

Serbian medical society, section of general medicine

Dear colleagues, family doctors

Due to state of emergency in our country, the Republic of Serbia, where disastrous floods have endangered numerous human lives and destroyed thousands of houses, family doctors have celebrated their day together with their people in refugee centers, where the people from the flooded areas are sheltered.

We wish a happy World Family Doctors Day to all our colleagues throughout the world.

Family doctors, Serbian Medical Society

Slovakia

SSVLD

We celebrated WFDD 16-17 May with a congress (poster at right) for GPs in Žilina in north Slovakia. Present were ministry of health officials, president of the Slovak medical association, president of Slovak medical chamber, director of WHO in Slovakia etc...



Slovenia

Slovene Family Medicine Society

The Family Doctor Day will be celebrated in Slovenia in 2014, as it will be in many countries all over the world. As every country strives to find its own, original and specific way of celebration, we have planned activities which are the contemporary reflection of the family physician's situation and status in Slovenia.

The current conditions in our healthcare demand, according to FPs, the exposure of challenges, which our family physicians are facing on a daily basis. Several attempts have been made to capture the attention of the policy-makers in order to start constructive dialogue on the topic of primary care. As the patient should be the center of care of a family physician, there are issues to be solved in order to offer the patient the highest quality of care.

- The administrative tasks are overwhelming and demanding to the point, where the quality time with the patient can be (and often is) threatened. We find this unacceptable.
- The financing of primary care is still inadequate.

- In Slovenia, family physicians are also responsible for health care in the homes for the elderly and in similar facilities.
- The rate of unemployment among the young doctors in Slovenia is controversial. While, in order to meet the European average, Slovenia is lacking at least 500 family physicians, over 200 doctors are registered as unemployed.

Therefore, we decided to invite the media to a press conference in our Domus Medica on the Family Doctor Day, May 19, at 11:00 a. m., and to share our views. Three young doctors, specialist of family medicine, Igor Mužević, Tanja Petkovič and Miha Lukač, will share their views on the first three topics, while the employment policy issue will be presented by Mihael Demšar, MD, family physician, the Head on the Primary Care Committee of Medical Chamber of Slovenia. The conference will be moderated by Nena Kopčavar Guček, a full time family physician herself, who is also in charge of PR for the Slovene Family Physician Association and is a member of the Primary Care Committee.

Meanwhile, all Slovenian family physicians will join in on making this day special. Identical white T-shirts, specially designed for this occasion, will be worn on May 19 by all members of Slovene Family Physician Association. It features the stethoscope in a shape of a heart and a logo "We, family physicians, take care of you". (see photo) This, we feel is our mission and we feel compelled and will strive to accomplish it in the best possible way.

**ZDRAVNIKI
DRUŽINSKE MEDICINE
SKRBIMO ZA VAS**



Spain

SemFYC

The [World Family Doctor Day letter by Michael Kidd](#) to his colleagues from all over the world was translated and published yesterday on our website. Some Spanish media published some parts of the letter. You can see it through this link: [Ver noticias](#)

South Africa

We as Family Doctors in South Africa would also want to contribute to promoting the role of Family Doctors in the delivery of primary care to communities. We have adapted the World Family Doctors' day button conceptualised by Jenny and Patti Sapina of the Philippines, and will distribute it together with Dr Manning's letter to all our members and encourage them to hand it out to their patients on the 19th of May.

We will also promote the day in our News4U electronic publication, our website, Facebook page and LinkedIn profile.

We will also distribute the flyer to our Sponsor/Stakeholders that are involved in the healthcare space.

Maybe we can organise something more substantial in 2015 as the concept gains momentum in South Africa.

WORLD FAMILY DOCTORS DAY
MAY 19

HUG YOUR DOCTOR TODAY!

Treated in all areas of medicine, your family doctor can diagnose and treat the full range of problems you can typically suffer from. They know how to care for you and, if necessary, when to bring in another specialist you can trust.

Family doctors are experts in prevention, treating most acute illnesses and helping people effectively manage chronic medical problems. They are at the centre of your care, coordinating and guiding you through what can be a very confusing and fragmented health care system. Regular visits to a family doctor have even been shown to lower the overall costs of health care and to improve the health of people.

Family doctors practice everywhere that communities live. They are the backbone of the community health system and are trained to take care of most health care needs, regardless of age or gender.

Most importantly, your family doctor is trained to provide comprehensive care through all the stages of your life. They take care of the physical, mental and emotional health of both their patients and their patients' families and they know your family's health history and how it can affect you.

My family doctor is:
Telephone:
Address:

Taiwan

Chinese Taipei Association of Family Medicine

We have had a huge big celebration event for 519 World Family Doctor Day this year.

We will hold a premiere and press conference for the film entitled 'A day of Family Doctor' on

May 18. The theme of press conference is "Family Doctor caring for generations", aiming to emphasize the role of family physicians and their contributions in promoting health of people. Our President Prof Tai-Yuan Chiu also plans to use video to talk to WONCA President Prof. Kidd on line in the press conference on May 18.

We have contacted and organized the whole family medicine training programs and medical associations in Taiwan to join us to hold a press conference in their district on May 19. Attached the poster of this year for you.



United Kingdom

Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)

Dr Maureen Baker, Chair of the RCGP has written to all GPs in the RCGP weekly update.

Dear colleague,
Next Monday marks the annual World Family Doctors Day.

This was an initiative started by WONCA, and this year it coincides with the first day of the Sixty-Seventh World Health Assembly in Geneva. This is an important day for our profession and we have much to celebrate about the vital role that family medicine plays.

World Family Doctors Day commemorates the work of family doctors around the world and this year has been a good one for family medicine globally. Through our own international work we have been able to see continued development and improvements to the teaching of family medicine and delivery in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Egypt, Oman, Dubai, Brunei and Malta where we have been able to accredit examinations.

We have worked with colleagues in China to deliver recommendations for their primary care curriculum and supported GPs through Study Tours, which we are also planning to use to support doctors from Iraq in the near future. We continue to work in Sierra Leone to develop family medicine and the community health workforce.

We are also celebrating the achievements of our College members around the UK, including those of you who have undertaken voluntary placements in Uganda, trekked to the North Pole to raise money for charity, and all who have won Faculty scholarships and prizes for their work and research.

We should seize World Family Doctors Day as an opportunity to celebrate the work we do, day in day out, which helps billions of people every day across the globe. I am proud to be part of such a strong and dynamic profession.



United States of America (USA)

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)

Below is our press release about the day. In addition, we have encouraged our Family Medicine Interests Groups across the USA to participate ([more](#)).

Lastly, we plan social media announcements on Twitter and Facebook on May 19. There is already a bit of buzz on social media which very exciting! Thank you for all you do-- and *Happy World Family Doctor Day!*

World Family Doctor Day Press release from AAFP

World Family Doctor Day, held every year on May 19, is a day to highlight the role and contributions of family doctors in health care systems around the world.

The first World Family Doctor Day was declared by the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) in 2010. It has gained momentum globally each year, with activities, meetings, and celebrations planned to:

- *Bring attention to the contributions of family doctors globally;*
- *Recognize family doctors;*
- *Increase the morale of family doctors, and;*
- *Highlight important issues relating to family doctors and the work they perform in supporting health care for people around the world.*

The comprehensiveness of family medicine makes it the ideal specialty for a career that includes global health. From Egypt to Kenya, New Zealand to Taiwan, see how the world celebrated World Family Doctor day last year. ([link](#))

Planning an event on your campus? The AAFP has [global health resources](#) your FMIG can use to host an event for World Family Doctor Day.

North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians



Attached is our greeting for World Family Doctor Day, from the North Carolina Family Medicine Day hosted by the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians on May 17

Go to Youtube to view message
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLAWLedrM-Q&feature=em-share_video_user

Other Activities

For Individuals

Dr Tadao Okada, from Japan, has created a Facebook page where individuals can post and share your stories, pictures, facts that celebrate and highlight the role and contribution of family doctors in health care systems around the world. Search for a Facebook page called *World Family Doctor Day : May 19* [Go to the Facebook page](#)

The WONCA Forum has a discussion area to add your individual story as well.

[To register for the WONCA discussion forum](#)

[To login if you are registered already.](#)

Australia - GP Supervisors

GPSA is the national representative for GP Supervisors. In Australia, GP Supervisors are family doctors but they are also responsible for providing quality training to Australia's next generation of family doctors. This includes training for GP Registrars, junior doctors and medical students. In recognition and support for World Family Doctor day, we have planned some promotional activities. These include:

- [Press release](#) highlighting the important role that family doctors play to provide Australians with front-line primary care and the vital role that GP Supervisors play to nurture the next generation of family doctors
- Website banner and page capturing quotes and feedback from our members about what they love about being family doctors and training the next generation of family doctors.
- Social media promotion to encourage our members to tell us what they love about being family doctors and training aspiring family doctors.

Please check out our website for more about GPSA - www.gpsupervisorsaustralia.org.au

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of World Family Doctor day!

China Medical Tribune promotion

The *China Medical Tribune*(CMT) is the most influential medical newspaper with the highest circulation and readership in China. The editor has notified of activities which have been held or will be held in China to celebrate the World Family Doctor Day.

1. In order to celebrating the World Family Doctor Day, we make a special column to report what activities had been organized by other medical workers around the world in 2013. And we wish our report could encourage Chinese general practitioner to join the celebration this year.
2. General Practice Weekly also organized an activity on new media such as micro message , micro blog to collect photos and opinions about the World Family Doctor Day from family doctors , general practitioner and other readers. The theme of the activity is '*make family doctors' dreams come true*', and our slogan is '*Making it Happen!*'
3. There are also some other activities that held in our country: the first drama about family doctor named '51 Keys' is going to play in Shanghai on May 19th and May 20th. Keynote speeches on 'My Dream of General Medicine' will be given in the campus of Chinese Capital Medical University and a show about community clinical skills will be jointly hosted by Chinese Medical Doctor Association , general medical training center of Chinese Ministry of Health and Chinese Capital Medical University on May 19th.



Chinese Medical Doctors' Association- General practitioners sub association

A "My Dream of General Practice" themed activity was held on May 19, 2014 at the Capital Medical University in Beijing to celebrate the World Family Doctor Day. The activity was co-hosted by the Chinese Medical Doctor Association's General Practitioner's Sub-Association, the School of General Practice and Continuing Education of the Capital Medical University. More than 100 participants were present, including officials from the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China, leadership of the Chinese Medical Doctor Association, Chinese Medical Doctor Association's General

Practitioner's Sub-Association, Chinese Community Health Association and Capital Medical University as well as GP representatives from different provinces.

Messages from 103 general practitioners in 16 provinces were collected, expressing their aspiration and wishes for the future of general practice. Honorary Treasurer of WONCA D. Donald K T Li also sent his message to our activity. [see full report attached](#)

China Sino US Center for Family Medicine Training

In May 2011, Shanghai Health Bureau approved Tongji university to establish Sino-US Center for Family Medicine Training and Cooperation of Shanghai City.

The Center has selected 29 family doctors from Shanghai to take a 3-week training of family medicine teacher in University of Nebraska Medical Center which is the close cooperation partner of the Sino-US Center. The Center send wishes to family medicine doctors who work hard in the Community Health Service Center on World Family Doctor Day, to make them aware them of their own festival and built up their sense of achievement and duty for dedicating themselves to the family medicine.

Ecuador

Saludos desde Ecuador.

Feliz día mundial del médico de familia.

Una imagen con la que tratamos de difundir el mensaje de unidad de los Médicos Familiares, en los tiempos por los que estamos atravesando de cohesión como gremio. Creado por los Residentes del Postgrado de Medicina Familiar de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador y el Hospital Vozandes Quito.

“Yo hago lo que usted no puede y usted hace lo que yo no puedo. Juntos podemos hacer grandes cosas” Madre Teresa de Calcuta

un abrazo fraterno.

Finland - University of Turku



In Turku, Finland, our family medicine teachers, decided to gather together after an exceptionally warm working day, which we happened to have 19th May 2014. In the kitchen of our department we had a nice celebration; and as you see, we took care of the future generation of family doctors as well. We decided to make this celebration to be a tradition in the coming years. Family medicine has power!



Ghana

(Photos next page)

Dr Rodriguez C Yamile has been working in Ghana for the past 13 years. Currently working at St Theresa Catholic Hospital Nandom Upper West Region. A rural area in Ghana. For the Family Doctor Day celebration on 19 May 2014, we prepared a comprehensive outreach with the objective to

provide free Antenatal and Maternal Care at the one of remote villages near Burkina Faso border called Filmuo. Activities done include: Consultation, Obstetric and Gynecological ultrasonography scanning, checking Hemoglobin levels, sickling status, Antenatal Services and Health talk.



Kuwait

The Kuwait family doctors celebration announcement for this day (note there are another three pages to this announcement pictured at right)



Macedonia

ZLOMSM Macedonian general practice doctors are going to celebrate the World Family Doctor's Day for the first time this year.

According to legislative changes given by Macedonian Health Insurance Fund, GP's will become family doctors starting from 2015. Because of that, almost all of promotional materials for the Day are dedicated to the family doctor.

Because of the unpretentious budget and still unconfirmed participation of all participants, our association of GPs - Family Medicine (ZLOMSM) decided as this was our first year celebrating family doctor day, to make a simple statement solely for the purpose of increasing awareness among the Macedonian population and relevant institutions about the role and importance of the family doctor in society.

The slogan of the day is *"Family doctor- hub of the health care system"*

The event will take place on the square in downtown Macedonia's capital Skopje. Main activities of the day that we will implement are to measure blood pressure of citizens and determine the body mass index, followed by recommendations for health and general condition.



Saudi Arabia



KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA- MINISTRY OF NATIONAL GUARD
HEALTH AFFAIRS- KING ABDULAZIZ MEDICAL CITY, CENTRAL REGION
FAMILY MEDICINE AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

We are the family medicine department, King Abdul Aziz medical city, Health Affairs Ministry of National Guard , Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As you are the international web site for family medicine doctor; we would like to share with you the World Family Doctor Day that we will celebrate with the rest of our colleagues in the world next Monday. It will be the first time we celebrate it, but not the last. You can find the event poster and the event celebration program attached.

We will appreciate and have the honor sharing our activity in your site.

**FAMILY DOCTOR DAY – MAY 19
PLAN NOW FOR 2015**