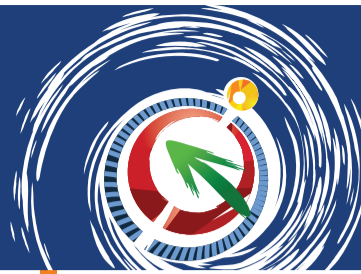


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News from the 19th WONCA EUROPE Conference, 2014 - LISBON - PORTUGAL

New Routes for General Practice and Family Medicine



New Routes for General Practice
and Family Medicine

19th WONCA
Europe
Conference

2-5 July • 2014 • LISBON • PORTUGAL



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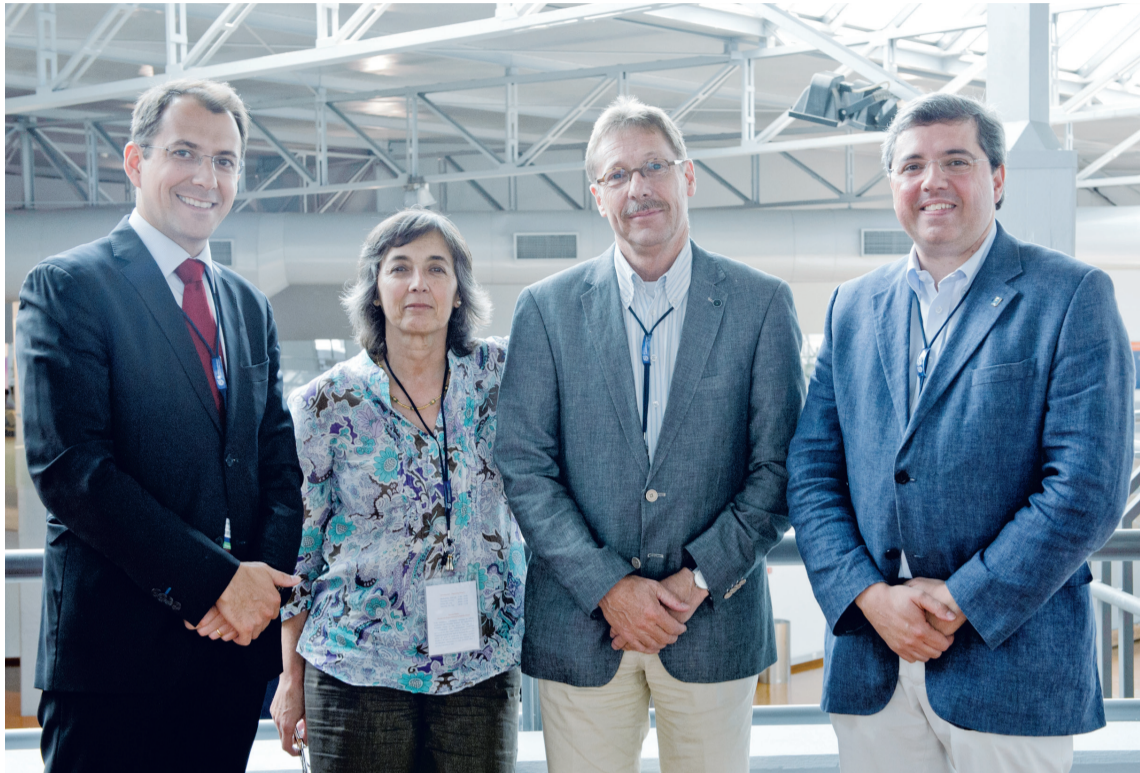


19th WONCA Europe Conference in retrospect:
Clearly a success!

“New Routes for General Practice and Family Medicine”

19th WONCA Europe Conference

2 – 5 July 2014 - Lisbon, Portugal



19th WONCA Europe Conference in retrospect:

Clearly a success!

With 3761 registered participants, 1203 young family doctors/GPs and 120 undergraduate students in attendance, the 19th WONCA Europe Conference is going to be remembered as a landmark event for European and World Family Medicine/General Practice, full of energy and collaborative spirit. The conference has offered a diverse and ground-breaking programme, looking in to the future and searching answers for pertinent questions that surround the activity of family doctors/general practitioners of very origin. During four days, the delegates were exposed to five brilliant keynote lectures, 202 sessions, 100 workshops and 445 oral presentations. In the poster exhibition area, a total of 1041 works could be studied and enjoyed to the fullest extent

“We are very happy with the final outcome of the 19th WONCA Europe Conference, in Lisbon”, admits João Sequeira Carlos, president of the event and of the Portuguese Association of General and Family Medicine (APMGF). In his words, the delegates found an interesting and stimulating scientific setting in Lisbon and were very much willing to share that outlook: “I must base my appreciation on the remarks of every colleague that came to speak to me, in the meeting rooms and corridors. All of them said they

were very happy with the conference, both with the social side of it and the technical/scientific component. They also mentioned that they were thankful for the opportunity we provided, in terms of learning activities and socio-professional interaction. All in all, it’s a very positive feeling of achievement!”.

To Isabel Pereira dos Santos, chair of the scientific committee, one of the most remarkable facts about this event is its demographics: “we had 1203 young family doctors/GPs with us (35% of all attendants), which

is fantastic. We are seeing an increasing participation of young family doctors/GPs in WONCA events, colleagues who have an active role in the conference activities. To this effect, the growth of the Vasco da Gama Movement was paramount. In Lisbon, this *youthful trend* became obvious and it is something that brings us a lot of satisfaction”. In addition, Isabel Pereira dos Santos believes that a good balance between scientific activities and professional interaction was attained: “people were very content with the science, but we could

also feel the joy of the delegates all around the informal spaces, where a relaxed atmosphere was always present. A relevant thing, since this kind of event is an excellent forum to share ideas and experiences”.

As chairman of the organizing committee and coordinator of the team that was responsible for developing the conference during the last four years, Alexandre Gouveia couldn’t be more pleased: “we have reached the final destination and crossed the line in to what has become – probably – the best General Practice/Family Medicine conference that we have organized in Portugal, as well as the most participated conference in that field”.

For Alexandre Gouveia, there is no doubt that “this conference is a landmark” and a “huge success” in the historical process of primary care development in Portugal, where so much has already been accomplished. “The 19th WONCA Europe Conference opens a new chapter in Family Medicine in Portugal. We are now much more grounded in high quality standards of training and

practice. It is a new beginning for Portuguese family doctors”.

The Lisbon conference also appealed to Michael Kidd, president of WONCA World, who assured «WONCA Daily» that rarely has he seen a more exciting atmosphere in Family Medicine happenings: “you just had to look around to find family doctors from all over the world and they were all working together, talking to each other and learning about how Family Medicine works in different countries. It’s just remarkable! I really congratulate everybody involved in organizing the conference, because they have all done a fantastic job”.

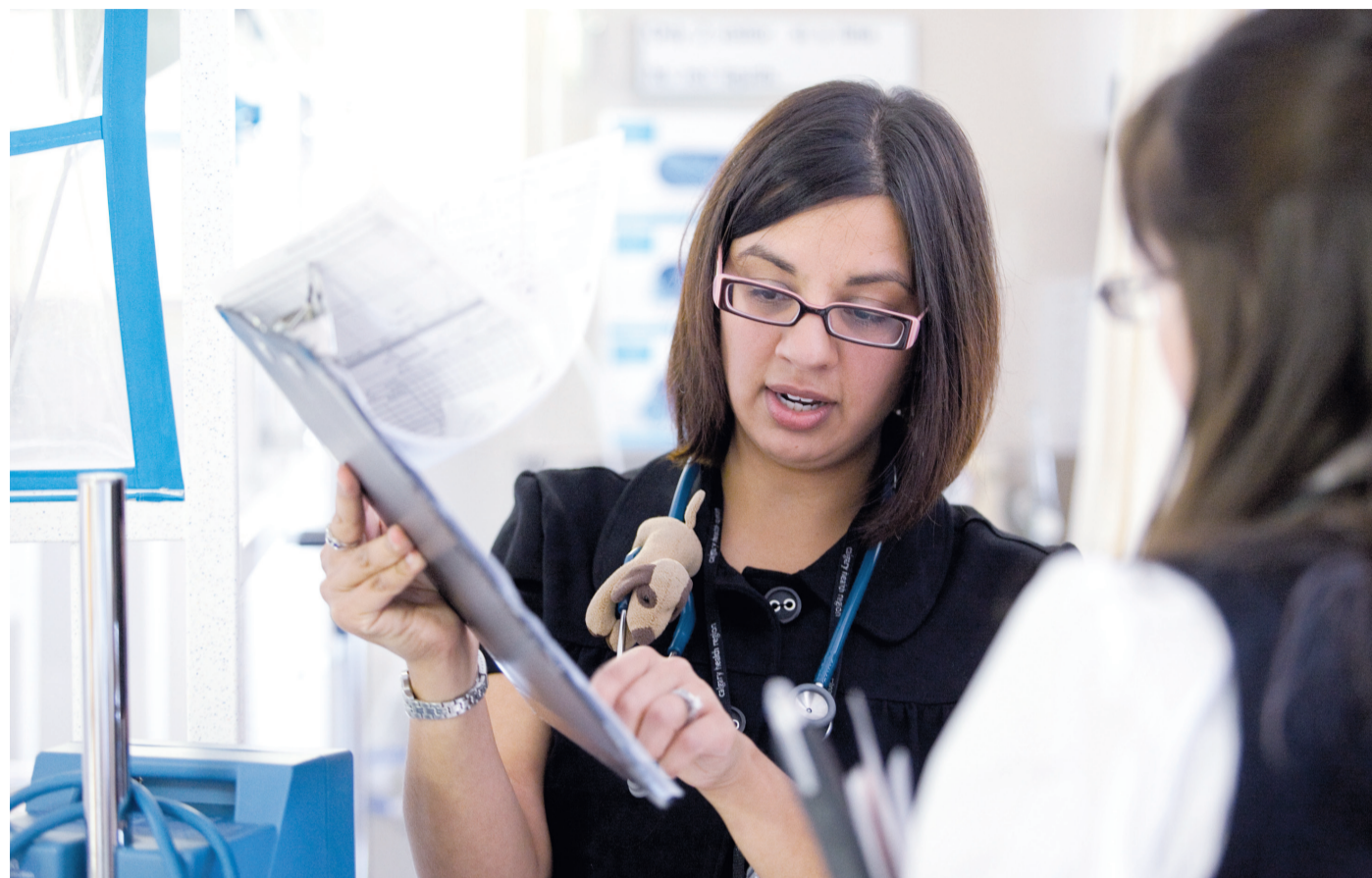
The superb atmosphere of the conference was equally noticed by Job Metsemakers, president of WONCA Europe: “the conference participants, on their way to the sessions, were always talking to each other, about what they have heard. I also got positive feedback and comments concerning the quality of the sessions. But the most important factor is that people did, in reality, listen to different opinions and were open to learn from each other”.



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Despite a significant progress in the development of General Practice/Family Medicine on an European level, there are still major differences in the way those developments were achieved in each country, as well as in the place family doctor/general practitioner occupy within health systems. These differences are also present in General Practice/Family Medicine education, both in basic training and in vocational training.

In 2002, a relevant step forward was given, when WONCA Europe published the European Definition of Family Medicine. In that document, the fundamental principles of the discipline were established (principles common to every country, despite the nature and the shape of the local health system), and so were the nuclear competences required for the practice of General Practice/Family Medicine.

EURACT (European Academy of Teachers in General Practice/Family Medicine) developed this set of ideas and, in 2005, produced its education agenda (EUPA), which is a draft curriculum based on core competences. This facilitates the creation of training programs that incorporate fundamental skills and opens the way to training harmonization of General Practice/Family Medicine across Europe.

Today, at 9h00 a.m., with Isabel Santos (Scientific Committee of the 19th WONCA Europe Conference) chairing, there will be a session dedicated to EUPA, with contributions from the president of EURACT (Janko Kersnik), Stefan Wilm (Germany), Francesco Carelli (Italy) and Jan Degryse (Belgium). Under the spotlight will be the role of EURACT's education agenda and its contribution for the strengthening process of General Practice/Family Medicine in all European countries.

Training

EURACT emphasizes the role of the education agenda in strengthening Family Medicine/General Practice

EURIPA

Workshop discusses profile of rural and remote areas' family doctors

The practice of General Practice/Family Medicine in rural and remote areas and its characterization will be the main subject of the workshop that the European Rural and Isolated Practitioners (EURIPA) network will organize today, between 09h00 a.m. and 10h30 a.m.. The workshop authors – José Manuel Lopez-Abuin (president of EURIPA), Simek Agnes, John Wynn-Jones e Christos Lionis (executive board and international advisory board members of EURIPA) – bring to mind that all over the world – in-

cluding Europe – the definition of the rural family doctors' profile has been under discussion for several years. Despite that, it hasn't been possible to reach a global agreement on the subject. The complexity of different settings, in association with the importance for patient centered care and social responsibility towards the local communities that they serve, determines the need for broaden skills, that prepare these family doctors to deal with health problems present in remote and isolated communities. José Manuel Lopez-Abuin

told «WONCA Daily» that currently “the indispensable skills and competences to practice in rural and isolated regions are under discussion. Also under discussion are issues like where, when and how should rural family doctors do their training”. The experts, so far, have come up with several possibilities, summarized in three highly important reference documents (International Declaration of Montevideo – 2013 – the Gramado Manifest – 2014 – and the Cairns Consensus – 2014), that should be incorporated in one single solution.



Foto: WHO/Christopher B

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“Special Moments”

