Anna Stavdal
Family doctor / GP
University teacher

President WONCA Europe
What is WONCA?

An acronym comprising the first 5 initials of the:

**World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners / Family Physicians**

The short name is World Organization of Family Doctors.

WONCA now used as a *trademark*.
North America: 38
Ibero-Americana: 17
Africa: 9
East Mediterranean: 9
Europe: 46
Asia Pacific: 19
South Asia: 9
47 member countries

120,000 family doctors

12 networks & SIGs
Our Goals

• Achieve universal coverage through family medicine in all of Europe.

• Advocate integrated care to be implemented horizontally in primary care and vertically between levels of health care.

• Support the development of an undergraduate curriculum with focus on FM and the specialty training in FM in all Europe.

• Strengthen the research base of GP/FM.

• Strengthen the development of quality work & patient safety.

• Attract new and future General Practitioners/ Family Physicians.
Wonca
World family doctors. Caring for people.
EUROPE
+ 6 SIGs
The European Definition of family medicine 2002

Specific problems solving skills

Comprehensive approach

Community orientation

Primary care management

Person-centred care

Holistic modelling

Clinical tasks
Communication with patients
Management of the practice

attitude

science

context
Annual Conference

4,000 participants from all over Europe
Family medicine and family medicine research—generalist approach or specialization?

Almost everybody will agree that during the last few decades we have witnessed a trend towards specialisation in many areas in the industry, in arts, in education, in sports, and in architecture. A similar development is seen in academia, and particularly in medicine and healthcare. Most obvious are the many specialties in large clinical disciplines such as internal medicine and surgery. In many medical specialties, sub-specialists or specialists or subspecialists are developing for single diseases such as diabetes, multiple sclerosis, headache or glaucoma are quite common. As an example, there are 12 departments of internal medicine at the University of Vienna, sub-specialised in manual therapy, which may support the development of a specific focus in daily clinical practice. Similarly, a specific interest or competence in particular areas such as diabetes, minor surgery, patients with drug addiction or with psychiatric diseases may support the likelihood of becoming a recognized 'specialist' in this area. This development may be followed by a self-selection of patients with that specific problem who consult the specialist (GP).

Likewise, in the field of family medicine research, national networks for specific topics such as for respiratory problems have developed. Internationally, special interest groups or working parties of the European Union have been founded to meet the interest of colleagues in these specific fields, such as cardiovascular medicine, gastroenterology, respiratory infections or diabetes (http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/). A parallel development is an increase in specialist journals in the area of family medicine and general practice. There are now primary care journals on respiratory medicine (http://www.respiration.com/), on diabetes, on internal medicine, on cardiology, on respiratory medicine, on cardiology, and on cardiovascular medicine in the United States.

Along these lines, some medical schools and universities have established primary care professions in the form of Bachelor of Science (BSc) in general practice. E-health, cardiology, diabetes, evidence-based medicine, and the Internet have opened up new areas of interest in general practice.
EJGP

Open access

90,000 full-text downloads in 2017

60% of the papers has been cited at least once

40% of the downloads come from European countries

60% of the citations come from European countries

Thank you Jelle Stoffers!
Building Our Future
Conferences, scholarships & exchange programmes
Advocacy

Statements & declarations, WHO/Europe, partnerships
ORGANISATIONS IN COLLABORATION

WONCA Europe becomes visible, more organisations wish to collaborate with us
Framework for collaboration according to bylaws
Reports from EFPC, UEMO, EMA and ECCO
WONCA Europe Future Plan 2016 - 2019

INTRODUCTION

The coverage of family doctors in the European region is still not universal. General Practice / Family Medicine (GP/FM) is yet not fully recognised or fledged in many countries: there is a wide range of diversity in understanding and practicing the specialty, and a need for strengthening its proper educational content, research and evidence base.

The current landscape of the European Region faces an increasing pool of challenges:

- Increasing socioeconomic inequality with severe implications for access to care and health outcomes.
- An ageing population with increased multimorbidity.
- Migration of patients and health personnel.
- A surge in the commercialisation in the demand and supply of health care.
- Growth in demand and supply for alternative medical services.
- Changes in patients’ behaviour due to easily available information communication technology.
- While prompt and accurate diagnosis and treatment are still critical challenges for primary health care, there is an increasing trend of overdiagnosis and overtreatment.
- New technology providing immense possibilities, but raising serious economic and ethical challenges.
- There is insufficient recruitment of health personnel, specifically in rural areas and in other contexts with limited resources.

A robust primary health care with the family doctor in key role is essential to meet these challenges.

OUR VISION & MISSION

Our vision is that everyone shall have timely access to a highly skilled family doctor throughout the course of life unconditionally.

Our mission is to lead the development of GP/FM discipline in the Region Europe by putting in action our core values: addressing the current challenges of health and health care in the European Region; and improving the ability of our organisation to react towards change in a prompt and appropriate way.

The WONCA Europe Definition of General Practice / Family Medicine is the core document for all our actions.

build
IDENTITY
increase
VISIBILITY
exert
INFLUENCE
Our Vision and Mission

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OUR FUTURE PLAN IN MOTION

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY
Synergies internally, visibility externally, influence

ENGAGEMENT WITH ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS
Strengthen our academic fundament, recruit & retain future leaders

WONCA EUROPE SCHOLARSHIP
Recruit & retain the leaders of the future

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Strengthen our conferences, build framework for the future

ICPC 3 CONSORTIUM

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION ( -> EU, - with UEMO)
NETWORKS

Increasing collaboration

Joint venture: Position paper on overdiagnosis & overtreatment

**EQuiP**: Quality indicators & data collection

**EUROPREV**: Influenza prevention

**EURACT**: European training requirements

**VDGM**: Increased bursaries
Dr Anna Stavdal, WONCA Europe president reports on recent WONCA Europe Council endorsements - two equity statements, the Overdiagnosis / Overtreatment position paper, and papers on Training Requirements for GP/FM, as well as Quality in family medicine.

The WONCA Europe Conference 2018 took place in Krakow, Poland, from 24-27 May, and concluded a busy and fruitful year for the region. Participants numbering 2,400, from 60 countries, participated in a conference with the core theme of “Quality, Efficiency, Equity”.

Equity statements

Leading up to the conference, EQuIP (the European network on Quality and Patient Safety) had already finalised a statement, which recognises equity as an essential dimension of quality of health care (the statement was endorsed by WONCA Europe). Promoting equity was also the focus of the conference Legacy Statement, and as expected, the theme resonated with the agenda of the WONCA Europe Council too, which met prior to the conference.

EQuIP Position Paper on Equity - a core dimension of Quality in Primary Care

Krakow 2018 Statement

Overdiagnosis/ Overtreatment position paper

During the Council Meeting, the position paper on Overdiagnosis / Overtreatment was adopted.
WONCA Europe -> WHO Europe Political influence

WONCA is an organisation in “official collaboration” with WHO

WONCA Europe Open Meeting: opportunity to discuss Public Health & Primary Care

A solid position in this collaboration, with WE president as focal point:
- Chair of Regional Director`s Adv Board to Almaty Primary Care center
- Member of Health Systems Foresight group
- Health system response to NCDs
- Expert meeting on the Economic Case for Primary Health Care
- International Conference Astana October 2018 (Alma Ata declaration anniversary)

Directly involvement in working out key documents for political decision making
The European Definition of family medicine 2002

- Specific problems solving skills
- Comprehensive approach
- Community orientation
- Primary care management
- Person-centred care
- Holistic modelling

Clinical tasks:
- Communication with patients
- Management of the practice

Attitude, Science, Context
WHO/Europe STATEMENTS

Speaking directly to European politicians and policy makers

THE URGENT CASE OF FAMILY MEDICINE

STATEMENT on session 5 (c): TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE HEALTH WORKFORCE IN THE WHO EUROPEAN REGION: FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

We welcome the framework for action for a sustainable health workforce in the WHO European Region, and acknowledge the focus on education as one of the strategic objectives that can accelerate progress towards achieving universal health coverage by providing the appropriate workforce. We also welcome the focus on the contextualised education that addresses the needs of the population, the accreditation of the educational institutions, and the monitoring and addressing the international mobility of health labour.

We would like to draw your attention to the educational needs of the professions related to family medicine / general practice.

The World Health Assembly WHA 60.12 Resolution (2009) urged member states: “(5) to train and retain adequate numbers of health workers, with appropriate skill mix, including primary health care nurses, midwives, allied health professionals and family physicians, able to work in a multidisciplinary context, in cooperation with non-professional community health workers in order to respond effectively to people’s health needs.”

Acknowledging that both undergraduate and postgraduate education is not meeting the needs of the future, and lacking adequate number of primary care health workers, we believe it is crucial to highlight the
CONTENT, example: The WE position paper on overdiagnosis and overtreatment

Process:
2017: NFGP (Nordic colleges) proposal to WE Council
2017: WE working group established
2018: Adopted by WE Council in Krakow 2018

WHY?
WE Future PLAN:
“Lead the development of family medicine in the region”

WHAT is the potential role of WONCA in the future in preventing overdiagnosis?
Harris Lygidakis from WONCA Europe delivers statement on overdiagnosis and overtreatment OD/OT to WHO Regional committee in Rome: OD/OT is a Public Health matter which must be addressed by member states #rc68rome #preventingoverdiagnosis @WoncaEurope @AStavdal
Political Influence?

Example:

Professional recognition of Family Medicine as a specialty in the EU region

Collaboration between UEMO and WONCA Europe

“European training requirements” - EURACT
Political Influence?
Example:

WHO/WONCA Joint venture: Meeting Copenhagen August 30/31 2018

Integrating public health and primary care services in the European Region

What are the emerging policy questions in relation to strengthening the integration of public health and primary care services at country level?
How can these questions best be answered to suit Member States’ practical needs?

The European definition of Family Medicine/General Practice- EURACT
Political influence?
Example:

Preconference in Almaty October 23rd/24th
Prior to the Global Conference on Primary Care in Astana
(Alma Ata Declaration 40th anniversary)

WE takes part in Panel on Education

Key questions:
Why is investing in the competencies of general medical practitioners a must do in the Region?
What does evidence and experience tell in terms of what can be done?
What challenges need to be overcome in the process to do so?

“European Training Requirements”- EURACT
Question:

WHAT WILL EURACT WANT TO SEE ON THE WONCA Europe AGENDA?
• Mission: achievement of high levels of quality and safety of care for patients in general practice in all European countries.

• Projects on development and evaluation with regard to Quality Improvement and Quality Management and Development.

Anna Stavdal
@ASTavdal

Harris Lygidakis from WONCA Europe delivers statement on overdiagnosis and overtreatment OD/OT to WHO Regional committee in Rome: OD/OT is a Public Health matter which must be addressed by member.states #rc68rome #preventingoverdiagnosis @WoncaEurope @ASTavdal
• Mission: provide a suitable setting in which to discuss and develop research in primary care; to foster and coordinate multinational studies, to exchange experiences and to develop a validated scientific basis for general practice.

• Promotes research excellence and supports researchers.

• Open for individual and institutional memberships.

• Official meetings held twice yearly.

• Published Research Agenda for General Practice.

www.egprn.org
• Mission: promoting general practice/family medicine as a discipline by learning and teaching.

• **Support for trainers** through a network of Educators, contribution to national activities and sponsorship for participating in courses.

• **Support for trainees** through the introduction to new learning methods, the adoption of a learner-orientated approach.

• Published the *Educational Agenda*.

• Provides **courses** for Trainers and Teachers such as the Assessment Course for Trainers in Family Medicine, and the courses for Trainers in General Practice/Family Medicine.
• The WONCA Europe network for new and future General Practitioners.

• Establishes a communication network and provides a forum, support and information for trainees and new GPs through access to WONCA Europe regional conferences and pre-conferences.

• Improving the quality of training programmes for general practice.

• Collaborating with national colleges and associations in general practice, and stimulating the formation of national representation of new and future GPs.

• Organises annual preconferences, adhoc conferences and exchange programmes.