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TO: ADFM Members

FROM: Elissa J Palmer MD FAAFP
ADFM Representative to WONCA
(WONCA-World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians - short name World Organization of Family Doctors)

DATE: February 18, 2024

RE: Annual Report on Activities for 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to be the representative from ADFM to WONCA. We are demonstrating interest on the world stage about the important role of family medicine departments in the education of medical students and residents, future family medicine physicians.

My representation to WONCA has been as follows:

- 1) Attendance, WONCA Europe - June 2023 (Brussels, Belgium), in person
- 2) ADFM Official Observer at the Meeting of WONCA Council 2023
WONCA World Conference October 22, 23, 24, 2023 (Sydney, Australia), virtual attendance
(planned in person –cancelled due to medical emergency)

Dr. Viviana Martinez-Bianchi, director of health equity and associate professor in the Duke Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, will serve as President-elect from 2023-2025 and then will serve as President from 2025-2027.

WONCA's relationship with WHO was strengthened, leading to official recognition as a Non-State Actor (organizations and individuals that are not affiliated with, directed by, or funded through the government). The Secretariat has worked on the project of development of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) Minds, an interactive educational material and Learning Management System, were highlighted, indicating potential for further online training programs aligning with WONCA's focus on innovation and education. Membership dues increased.

A report (as excerpted from minutes) was given on the three primary goal areas identified during strategic planning sessions. The first goal, "Advancing Family Medicine," aims to boost research, innovation, and knowledge creation within the field. It also emphasizes better communication and collaboration among various WONCA groups through digital technology. This goal seeks to bolster global development in general practice and family medicine while setting clear standards for the specialty.

The second goal, "Creating One Unified Voice," focuses on promoting WONCA's messages and highlighting family doctors' distinctive contributions to global health. It underscores the importance of maintaining robust relationships with key healthcare organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), and strives for leadership in sustainability practices as a green organization.

Lastly, "Transforming WONCA" centers on fostering inclusivity within the organization to ensure diverse viewpoints are heard. It includes enhancing internal governance and management through leadership programs and improved procedures. Financial stability, compliance with obligations, and risk mitigation are fundamental considerations.

The Young Doctors Group continues to foster professional growth for young doctors through the establishment of liaisons in working parties and special interest group executives, aligning with WONCA.

The Director of the Division of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) at WHO, who joined the WONCA Council explained that the priority defined by the WHO Director General for this term is to make NCDs an area of focus, which falls in line with the WONCA mission. A's organizational policies.

3) Participant, listserve - WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice

Global rural health issues for practice and academic situations seeking solutions are discussed on a list serve similar to the ADFM list serve.

4) Participant, listserve –WONCA North America Region-redrafting organizational structure, exploring expanded Executive Board, some interest to consider a WONCA-branded regional meeting, consider outreach to academic members

Planned upcoming participation in WONCA:

-----Attendance, WONCA Europe- September 2024 (Dublin, Ireland), in person

-----ADFM Official Observer at the Meeting of WONCA Council 2025

WONCA World Conference September 2025 (Lisbon, Portugal). In person

-----Continue listserve – Global Rural Practice and North America Region