

In 2002, a new statement on the Definition of General Practice/Family Medicine and its core competencies was published to inform policy makers, funding organisations and other outside the field about 'the essential role of Family Medicine within health systems at both national and pan-European levels'. The interrelation of core competencies, implementation areas and fundamental features characterizes the discipline and underline the complexity of the speciality. This complex relationship of core competencies should guide and influence the agendas for teaching, research and quality assurance in GP/FM in Europe.

WONCA Europe's research network, the European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN), was asked to develop and define a European Research Agenda for General Practice/Primary Health Care, starting from the 2002 Definition of GP/FM. The research agenda should define the evidence base of the Definition of GP/FM, point out research needs and evidence gaps as well indicate what is of imminent importance for countries with low capacity or limited resources for research in general practice.

You can also find this document on the website of EGPRN (<http://www.egprn.org>).

The authors as well as EGPRN and WONCA Europe appreciate your comments and feedback on this draft. Please address your comments to Prof. Eva Hummers Pradier (Hummers-Pradier.Eva@mh-hannover.de) before Dec. 31, 2008, so they can be considered in the next version.

We would like to thank you in advance for your commitment and kind attention to this document!

Yours sincerely,

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committee of the Research Agenda