



REPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY CARE RESPIRATORY GROUP (IPCRG) FOR THE WONCA EUROPE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (WESIGs)

1. Introduction

This short paper highlights the activities the IPCRG, one of the Wonca Special Interest Groups has undertaken over the last year, focusing on joint activities.

2. Board Members

Our board consists of the following persons:

President: Miguel Roman Rodriguez

Immediate Past President: John Haughney

Treasurer: Ron Tomlins

Co-optees: Osman Yusuf, Anders Ostrem and Niels Chavannes

3. Wonca Rural in Europe in 2009

Assoc Prof Jim Reid, our Wonca representative, ran a session on COPD at the Wonca Rural Meeting in Heraklion in 2009 at the invitation of the Chair, Assoc Prof Christos Lionis, who is also a member of the Hellenic Primary Care Respiratory Group, our Greek Member.

4. Publications in European languages

The IPCRG was mindful that it had limited publications available in languages other than English. It has started to address this. Now, its house Journal, the Primary Care Respiratory Journal, produces key articles in translation (for example http://www.thepcrj.org/journ/view_article.php?article_id=615 and http://www.thepcrj.org/journ/view_article.php?article_id=633) We have a new policy on translation of our five opinion sheets (http://www.theipcr.org/resources/opinion_sheets.php) on spirometry, theophylline, smoking cessation, palliative care in COPD and early diagnosis of COPD. These are now available in Greek, and recently, with the support of the European Lung Foundation, the smoking cessation opinion sheet is now available for Swiss healthcare professionals in German, Italian and French.

5. Wonca Europe - meetings

We believe we are developing a fruitful relationship with Wonca Europe. Dr Svein Henrichsen, Norway, has been our representative at Wonca Europe meetings and we have run sessions in Paris, Basel, and at the invitation of the Executive, we are running one in Malaga on Early Diagnosis of COPD. Members of our organisation in Spain are also running a session on sleep apnoea with SEMFYC.

6. Wonca Europe – collaborative research

To that end, we have launched The International Primary Care Respiratory Group's (IPCRG) Research Needs Statement 2010 that describes what we believe are the key questions that need answering if primary care is to optimise its support for patients with, or at risk of, common respiratory diseases and tobacco dependency. We hope the statement will be used by clinicians and patients campaigning for answers to relevant questions, to support researchers seeking funding to provide answers to these questions



and to inform funding bodies prioritising research agendas.

It would be helpful if Wonca Europe were to encourage its research networks to regard this statement as their framework for respiratory research over the next few years, and to ensure that the IPCRG is made aware of any related research findings that deserve wide dissemination. The first opportunity would be at our 2nd scientific meeting in Amsterdam 26 – 27 May 2011 and then at our next biennial conference in Europe: 25-28 April 2012 in Edinburgh. We have begun to make links directly with GRIN (respiratory infection network) through Dr Jochen Cals. We are also making links with the EGPRN - the research network; some of whom we have invited to attend our biennial conference in Toronto in addition to Assoc Prof Christos Lionis (see above) who is on the EGPRN Executive.

7. Future plans

We expect that this organic development of mutually supportive activities will continue. We will continue to offer summaries for publication in The European Journal of General Practice to provide updates on our activities.

8. Sponsor Policy

The IPCRG has had a sponsorship and endorsement policy since 2004 that it applies to all its activities. Both can be found on our website:
<http://www.theipcr.org/about/policies.php>

Assoc Prof J Reid
23 August 2010