

To Tony Mathie  
President of WONCA Europe

Dear Tony,

again congratulation for your election as President of WONCA Europe, we're sure that under your leadership WONCA Europe will go on to get important results in developing and improving Family Medicine.

We would like to ask you to include a topic in the Agenda of the next Council that will be held in Malaga.

In 2006 on behalf of Italian delegation, we proposed to the European Council, to include into the European Definitions a 12<sup>th</sup> characteristic of General Practice / Family Medicine "*to promote patient empowerment and self-management education*". It was based on literature and on experiences performed most of all in the Unites States and few of them in Europe. EC decided not to decide at that moment, taking into account the suggestion when, in the future, the Definitions will be revised.

In the last four years many experiences have been performed in different Countries on patient empowerment to manage chronic conditions, some of them really complex and important. A brief incomplete list:

- Leonardo Project, Italy
- Diabetes Project Leuven, Belgium
- Ready to Act., Denmark
- Azalee 2, France
- Implementing a New Model of Primary Care Service Delivery, Canada
- Birmingham Ownhealth
- Raffello Project, Italy
- TERVA Project Finland

All the experiences showed good results of the models based on patients empowerment, improving patients and professionals satisfaction, adherence to guidelines and to treatments, and clinical outcomes.

All the cited experiences were performed into the setting of General Practice.

We want to renew the proposal asking the EC to consider patient empowerment and self-management education as an essential characteristics of general practice and to appoint a small Commission to include the appropriate statements into the definitions and also, after 8 years from its issuing, to do a rereading of the whole definitions.

Please, put our proposal in the next Council Agenda

Best wishes

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