

**EGPRN report for the WONCA executive meeting in Istanbul, Jan. 2008-01-10**  
**Eva Hummers-Pradier, Vice-Chair of EGPRN**

EGPRN decided on a **new financial and management plan**, aiming at

- more professional working style,
- more technical support (website, electronic payment facilities and registration)
- organisational membership, an advisory board
- introduction conference fees and higher membership fees to finance the points above

**Continuing successful activities:**

- Pre-conference workshops (i.e. methods, scientific writing and presentation)
- Research courses (beginners level, increasingly intermediate or advanced) in cooperation with individual universities or societies/colleges), pooled materials
- Bigger meetings, mix of traditional workshop (feedback, mentoring, structured discussions) and conference style (keynotes, junior researcher/poster prize etc.)
- Very transparent procedures (abstract scoring incl. feedback on rejection, membership organisation with elected Nat Reps, their council being the decisive organism)
- Small-scale funding for research projects
- Coaching, managing, conducting (international) cooperative projects
- International networking, often informal, but EGPRN based
- Acting as partner or advisor in bigger grant proposals or projects (as an organisation)

**Research Agenda project (WONCA initiated and funded):**

A first outline of the European Research Agenda for GP had been discussed with and approved by Igor Svab at the EGPRN meeting in Nijmegen in May 2007.

A format outline was then developed at the EGPRN meeting in Vilnius in September.

Prior to the WONCA conference in Paris, there was a meeting of the research agenda working group, where we made substantial progress in and substantial progress was made in filling the scheme with content ( for details see attachment) and editing a (draft) manual on how to build up research capacity in GP (with focus on a policy level).

Another meeting of the working group will take place in Heidelberg right on Jan. 24-26<sup>th</sup> , and one in the context of the upcoming EGPRN meeting in Antalya.

We expect to have a draft research agenda to be presented and discussed at the WONCA meeting in Istanbul.

## **European Research Agenda for GP/FM**

Current state of GP research in Europe:

Materials from

- several key informant surveys and discussions (Lionis et al. 2003, Topsever et al. 2007, unpublished material),
- a two-dimensional content and methodology analysis of all abstracts published at EGPRN conferences 2001-2006 presented at EGPRN and WONCA meetings 2007 (Lange & Hummers-Pradier), (draft article to be finalized)
- systematic review of GP publications in Europe (Hakanson et al.2006)

These materials will now be triangulated with the European Definition of GP/FM

During the Paris meeting, we compiled

- essential components/draft manual for research and research capacity building (i.e. in a “developing county”) – this manual will be a spin-off product of the actual agenda
- an overview putting the 6 core competencies of the WONCA definition in relation to existing research results /key publications (stratified as health services research, clinical research, educational research) and research methods. Thus, research gaps and needs can be identified according to the 24 different fields of this cross tabulation.

### **Next steps:**

- Completing the cross tabulation table (the fields specific problem solving competence x Clinical research /x health services research yield the bulk of existing research results, requiring additional structure).
- Continuing with the triangulation with the definition (i.e. results from the analysis of abstracts and the key informant surveys on priorities) with regard to core competencies, but concerning the 11 characteristics.
- Editing the agenda as a structured text document, indicating for each competence (and characteristic):
  - Definition, MeSH terms, a search strategy
  - What is already known
  - What are the gaps
  - Suggested research topics and methodologies
  - Landmark studies and references (however no complete systematic literature list!)

Discussion with WONCA representatives, key experts and probably national colleges

### **Some preliminary messages:**

- There is very little research on the comprehensive and holistic approach, and little on community orientation
- Most of the seemingly clinical research is observational /descriptive
- Methods other than cross-sectional surveys or (more rarely) qualitative research are rarely applied
- Major gaps seem to concern clinical RCTs, instrumental research, longitudinal studies, comprehensive, holistic, community oriented primary care