



2nd Invitational
Meeting of European
Colleges and
Associations

10th to 12th June 2011

Lisbon – Portugal



Dear President,
Dear Colleague,

Currently in Europe, General Practice/Family Medicine (GP/FM) has reached a highly relevant position in the social and health context of developed societies. Our specialty emerged as a decisive factor for the future sustainability of different health systems. Therefore, it has to maintain its recognition and strength. WONCA Europe, as the biggest and most structured WONCA Region, has a significant role to assure this. Based on the work of National Organizations, Networks, Groups in Collaboration and Special Interest Groups, WONCA Europe will continue to increase the european health standards through the improvement of GP/FM.

Last year in Malaga, during the WONCA Europe Council Meeting and the Open Meeting, we had the chance to discuss some issues that are crucial for the future of our Organization. Our President, Tony Mathie, asked for new ideas for next years' Wonca Europe Policy. *What vision should we share for the next five years? How should WONCA Europe be related with the Special Interest Groups? How can we celebrate WONCA Europe 20th anniversary?* These are only some matters that were raised there.

The National Colleges and Associations, members of WONCA Europe, are naturally involved in this discussion. Council Meetings with tight agendas don't allow enough space and time to debate deeper issues related to WONCA Europe structure and organization. Because of this, the Portuguese Association of General Practitioners (APMCG) offers the opportunity to host an informal meeting. The suggestion was

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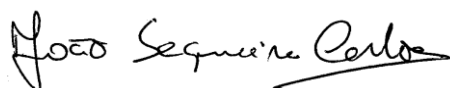
accepted by WONCA Europe Executive Board, which supports the event and will also participate on it.

As we did in 2008, we are organizing the informal meeting in Lisbon, in June 2011. This meeting is open to every European Colleges and Associations, member of WONCA Europe, and is hosted by the Portuguese Association of General Practitioners with the institutional support of WONCA Europe. We invite each organization to send one or two members that are motivated and interested in international and organizational issues. The idea is to debate those issues pending from Malaga, although we are open to receive suggestions and other topics for discussion. Accordingly to the contributions we are eager to receive, we expect to send a more detailed agenda as soon as possible.

The plan is to arrive on Friday 10th of June and have an informal get together by 5 pm to begin our meeting. For Saturday 11th of June we are planning a full day meeting with group work and plenary sessions. On Sunday 12th of June we expect to close the meeting at noon. We will be pleased to support for the appointed delegates the expenses with accommodation for two nights and meals. The participants only need to pay their travel expenses.

Collaboration and cooperative work between National Organizations can decisively improve the role of WONCA Europe in the development of GP/FM in this decade. I truly expect you share this idea with me and consider participating in WONCA Europe Spring Meeting 2011 in Portugal.

We are looking forward to meet you in Lisbon.



João Sequeira Carlos
President APMCG