



## vasco da gama movement

**Newsletter of the Vasco da Gama Movement  
Number 1**

**February 2005**

### **Who are we?**

The Vasco da Gama Movement (VdGM) is the WONCA Europe working group for young and future general practitioners. It was driven from the efforts of Amsterdam JDP delegates' committee and EURACT. The movement's aspiration is to create a network for GP/FM young trainees/junior doctors' representation. This is a new and exciting movement, setting out on a voyage of discovery to develop ideas for the discipline of general practice in the future.

### **Why is it called after Vasco da Gama?**

The movement's ideas were originated in Lisbon, the home port of Vasco da Gama. This ancient navigator set out on a similar voyage of discovery from Lisbon, and for this reason the movement is named after him. The VdGM will be formally launched at the Kos WONCA Europe conference in September 2005 where.

### **What are the objectives of the Vasco da Gama movement?**

Young doctors in the WONCA Europe region have established this movement to promote the discipline of general practice/family medicine through:

- a.** Providing a forum, support and information for trainees and young GPs through access to WONCA Europe regional conferences and pre-conferences.
- b.** Establishing a communication network between European trainees and young GPs and identifying their concerns, doubts and needs and helping to address them.
- c.** Improving the quality of training programmes for general practice by establishing a central information database on European programmes, and setting quality standards.
- d.** Writing and publishing newsletters concerning the movement for national colleges and associations.
- e.** Working with host organizing Committees in organising junior doctors pre-conference meetings held during WONCA Europe regional conferences.
- f.** Collaborating with national colleges and associations in general practice, and stimulating the formation of national representation of young and future GPs.
- g.** Collaboration with international organisations of general practice and the representation of the movement at international meetings.

**How is VdGM organised?**

The movement has a core group of National Delegates and will have an open forum for everyone who wants to cooperate in VdGM development. This forum will be based on the current e-group (WONCA EJD) from now on called VdGM Forum.

**What are the short term plans of the movement?**

In collaboration with the Greek host organising committee and the European Academy of Teachers (EURACT) we are organising a pre-conference meeting in Kos, Greece from 1 to 3 September 2005. Two delegates of each WONCA Europe Member Country (36 countries) and 20-30 Greek GP-trainees will be invited to the meeting. All national colleges will be asked for their support and to nominate two representatives to attend this pre-conference meeting. Three subjects will be discussed during this meeting: recruitment for the GP/FM career, educational agenda of GP/FM and VdGM introduction. During the WONCA Europe conference we are organising lectures and open meetings for all young and future GPs.

**Am I free to sign up VdGM Forum?**

Yes you are! All GP/FM trainees and young doctors worldwide, as well as other professionals who are interested are free to sign up. Please mail to [VdGM Forum-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VdGM_Forum_subscribe@yahoogroups.com) in order to apply for membership. Be part of this journey, be part of the GP/FM future!

**Members of the Vasco da Gama Movement Core Group:**

Birgit Pedersen, GP trainee, Denmark  
Dimitris Karanasios, GP, Greece  
Donata Kurpas, GP trainee, Poland  
Fatma Goksin Cihan, GP, Turkey  
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