



08 May 2006

**To European National Colleges of General Practice**

Subject: Request for each WONCA Europe member country to nominate and financially support 2 delegates to VdGM preconference and/ or WONCA Europe conference 2006

Dear colleague,

Vasco da Gama movement is the WONCA Europe working group for young and future General Practitioners. The movement is the continuation of the work that was started during the first preconference meeting for junior doctors during the WONCA Europe conference in Amsterdam in 2004. VdGM closely collaborated with the Greek HOC to organise a successful preconference in Kos 2005.

The Vasco da Gama movement has recently revised the organizational structure and has an interim constitution functioning until the VdGM General Assembly at the WONCA-conference in Paris 2007.

VdGM has an Executive group of 10 delegates, a Europe council consisting of one representative per WONCA Europe member country, five theme groups and a web-based forum open to all eligible members.

VdGM's statement of Intent has been prioritized and VdGM is closely collaborating with HOC 2006 and EURACT to organize the 2006' preconference.

The VdGM preconference meeting will be held from 27-28 August 2006. The number of participants will be 50-70 GP-trainees and young doctors: 25-35 national delegates from WONCA Europe member countries and 25-35 Italian trainees and young doctors.

The themes of the preconference will be:

- a. Introduction to the "European definition of GP/FM"
- b. Comparison of the national vocational training programmes including the aspects of cultural differences.

The format of the preconference will be plenary sessions and workshops in small groups.

VdGM greatly acknowledges the help of EURACT teachers to facilitate this work, as they have been doing successfully at previous preconferences.

VdGM Executive group will organise 3 workshops during the main conference specifically catering to the interests of young and future GPs. The subjects will be:

1. General meeting of VdGM
2. personal development for starters
3. exploration of career development for young GPs

WONCA Europe Executive Board supports VdGM and HOC 2006 in their aim to recruit two delegates per WONCA Europe member country.

VdGM and HOC 2006 invite one delegate to participate in the pre- and main conference and another only for participating in the main conference. (Eligible by VdGM definition are GP-trainees and those in first five years after qualification as GP).

VdGM has suggested some (s)election criteria that you may find useful and in the attachment you will find further enrolment information.

Young GPs and GP-trainees usually do not have the financial means to pay the costs involved to participate in the pre- and/or main conference.

Therefore we specifically request and recommend the national colleges of WONCA Europe member countries to nominate and financially support these 2 delegates.

Registration for the *main conference* is 280 euros, if paid before June 15<sup>th</sup> at [www.woncaeurope2006.org](http://www.woncaeurope2006.org)

Registration for the *Preconference and main conference* will cost maximum 350 euros. After enrolment for the preconference and main conference you will be sent the exact details.

Please see the attached checklist enrolment for further details.

Please reply to VdGM as soon as possible,

Yours sincerely,

Igor Švab  
President  
Wonca Europe

Attachment:

- Suggested (s)election criteria
  - Checklist enrolment
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**Suggested (s)election criteria  
for recruiting national delegates to participate in VdGM preconference and/or WONCA  
Europe main conference**

Fluency of speech in English is mandatory

Eligible are those who are training to become GP or GP's in the first five years after qualification

Any of the following in random order may be useful:

1. demonstrable experience in executive functions
2. demonstrable scientific interest
3. demonstrable interest in international relationships
4. willingness to participate in executive or scientific activities
5. motivation for participating
6. plan of action to transfer experience to colleagues/ national board

One national delegate will be asked to represent their country in VdGM Europe council, meeting annually during the WONCA Europe main conference. As of 2007 the Executive members will be elected from the Europe council.

May we suggest you give preference to

- a. **new** candidates for participation in the preconference
  - b. **'VdGM-preconference-experienced'**- candidates for participation in the Europe council/ participation in main conference
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**Checklist enrolment  
for two representatives for the VdGM preconference 2006 and WONCA Europe  
conference, 27-30 August 2006**

1. **(s) elect two representative junior doctors**  
(GP-trainee or in first 5 years after qualification as GP)
  - a. **one for pre- and main conference**
  - b. **one for main conference and VdGM Europe council**  
(see suggested (s)electioncriteria)
  
2. **Confirm participation of the two representatives before 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2006**
  - a. **Send an email message confirming participation**  
stating: names, home addresses, country, e-mail addresses, who is attending the preconference and main conference and who is attending the main conference and will be the national representative for VdGM Europe council.  
  
**Please send email to [VDGM@HAG.unimaas.nl](mailto:VDGM@HAG.unimaas.nl)**
  
3. **Register two representatives on the conference website**
  - a. go to [www.woncaeurope2006.org](http://www.woncaeurope2006.org) for registration and payment for the *main conference participant*
  - b. **Please wait for further instructions which will be forwarded after you have enrolled the *preconference and main conference participant***
  
4. **Make travel arrangements for the two representatives 27 - 30 August 2006**
  
5. **Make arrangements for accommodation for the two representatives 27 - 30 August 2006**
  
6. **If anyone wishes to apply for scholarship to be able to attend the preconference and main conference, please read the instructions on [www.woncaeurope2006.org](http://www.woncaeurope2006.org)**

**Forward your request accompanied by a letter of recommendation by your national college to [VDGM@HAG.unimaas.nl](mailto:VDGM@HAG.unimaas.nl)**

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