

20 Years of WONCA Europe – Some History

In 1959, the Societas Internationalis Medicinae Generalis was founded in Vienna as the first European GP organisation. In 1972, WONCA was founded as the first global GP/FM society. In 1992, WONCA organised a first WONCA Europe congress in Barcelona, Spain.

In 1994, the “Group of 8” - being 4 members of WONCA and 4 members of SIMG decided in Estoril, Portugal to merge the 2 organisations into the European Society of General Practice / Family Medicine, and it was inaugurated in 1995 in Strasbourg, France, in the European Parliament.

Since then, 6 Presidents have led the organisation.



Frede Olesen (1995-98)



Chris van Weel (1998-2001)



Philip Evans (2001-04)



Igor Svab (2004-10)



Tony Mathie (2010-13)



Job Metsemakers (2013-16)

In 2001, some of the former Executive members gathered in Vienna. They called it Veteran's Day and a few pictures are on the website at <http://www.woncaeurope.org/content/veterans-day-2000-part-1>, <http://www.woncaeurope.org/content/veterans-day-2000-part-2>, <http://www.woncaeurope.org/content/veterans-day-2000-part-3>.

Nostalgia rules!

WONCA Europe's history is however by far and foremost ... in the abstracts of the thousands of contributors that research, teach, develop and apply quality measures, contemplate about prevention and/or rural medicine ... and think about the past, the present and the future. Not to mention the Special Interest Groups, working on the boundaries of our and other's speciality.

Wherever we go, someone took that path long before we did. The future reflects history.

Words awaken the spirit, examples inspire that same spirit. And that's what it is all about. WONCA spirit.