



## E-Update

*Thursday, 2 May 2024*

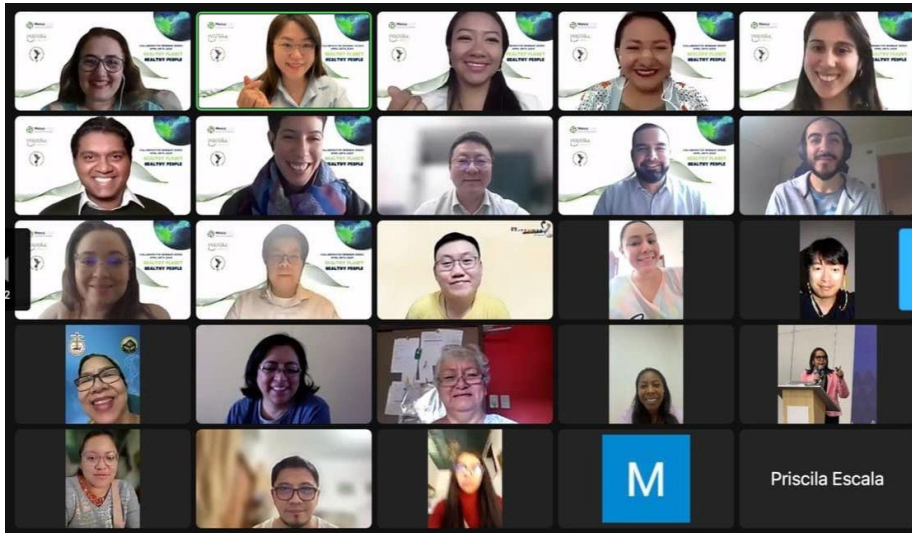
Dear WONCA family,  
As the first regional WONCA conference gets underway in Colombo, Sri Lanka, we are excited to share our 2023 Annual Report with you, hot off the press. Looking forward to World Family Doctor Day, 19 May, let's get ready to celebrate the tireless dedication and invaluable impact of family doctors around the globe.



## WONCA ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**NOW AVAILABLE:** The WONCA Annual Report for 2023 has just been published. Last year was marked by growth and significant achievements, the highlight of which was our world conference in Sydney.

**WHAT'S INSIDE:** This report includes the highlights and achievements of our Executive, Working Parties, Special Interest Groups, Young Doctors' Movements, Statutory Committees, and the WONCA global community over the past year. [Download the report here.](#)



## YDM-WP/SIG COLLABORATIVE WEBINAR SERIES 2023 - 2025

**RECORDING AVAILABLE:** The first webinar of the WONCA Young Doctors' Movement (YDM) - Working Parties/Special Interest Groups (WP/SIG) Collaborative Series took place on Sunday 24 April and is [now available to watch on YouTube](#). Healthy Planet, Healthy People was the title, and the excellent line-up of speakers discussed the origins of our climate crisis, sustainable healthcare practices, and the role of family doctors in planetary health.

**BREAKING THE LANGUAGE BARRIER:** Congratulations to the organisers for including non-English speakers and providing live interpretation in English, Spanish, and Mandarin. This was possibly a first for a WONCA webinar. Thanks to the live interpreters too.



## **WORLD FAMILY DOCTOR DAY: HEALTHY PLANET, HEALTHY PEOPLE!**

**PLANETARY HEALTH:** Planetary health is the concept that a healthy planet is essential for healthy people. Our well-being depends on the planet providing clean air, water, and food, a stable climate without excessive heat or extreme weather, protection from infectious and mosquito-borne diseases, and numerous medicines. All these necessities stem from maintaining a healthy global environment.

**THE ROLE OF FAMILY DOCTORS:** In 2019, the Working Party on Planetary Health published a [declaration calling for the family doctors of the world to act on planetary health](#). The first and most important action is to become better informed about the risks that climate change poses to health and then communicate them to patients and the wider community while providing information about ways to reduce these risks. Family doctors owe it to themselves, their patients, and future generations to reduce the growing risks we face from environmental threats.

**REDUCING EMISSIONS IN HEALTHCARE:** Primary care can significantly reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the global healthcare sector by focusing on disease prevention instead of managing chronic diseases, which requires more resources. We can guide patients toward making healthier lifestyle choices regarding their diet, exercise, and behaviour. Additionally, it's important to prescribe responsibly, particularly concerning antibiotics and metered aerosol inhalers. We can also enhance the eco-friendliness of our practices by implementing energy-saving measures and progressively adopting renewable energy sources.

## **OTHER NEWS**

**WHO LAUNCHES THE PATIENT SAFETY RIGHTS CHARTER:** The Charter articulates ten fundamental patient safety rights, which serve as a blueprint for countries to enhance healthcare practices and promote the rights of patients within the context of safety. Jose M Valderas, chair of WONCA Working Party in Quality & Safety [tells us more](#).

## **WONCA CONFERENCE UPDATES**

**WONCA South Asia Region Conference:** Colombo, Sri Lanka. May 3-5, 2024.  
[See the full program.](#)

**8th WONCA Africa Region Conference:** Nairobi, Kenya. June 5-8, 2024.  
Register for the [Afrifon Pre-Conference on Emergency Medicine](#).

**WONCA Asia Pacific Region Conference:** Singapore. August 21-24, 2024.  
[Early Bird Registration until July 1, 2024](#)

**Ubuntu 2024 - WONCA Rural Conference:** Cape Town, South Africa. September 10-13, 2024.  
[Registration and Bursary Information](#).

**WONCA Europe Conference:** Dublin, Ireland. September 25-28, 2024  
[20 June 2024 Early registration ends on 20 June](#).

**WONCA Iberoamericano - CIMF Conference:** Panama City, Panama. October 23-26, 2024.  
[The call for presentations is now open. Deadline 31 May 2024.](#)

**WONCA WORLD CONFERENCE:** Lisbon, Portugal. September 17-21, 2025.  
[Save the date!](#)

Stay tuned for the May edition of WONCA News next week.

All the best,

Diarmuid Hayes  
WONCA Communications Officer  
[communications@wonca.net](mailto:communications@wonca.net)



*Copyright © 2024 World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).