EURIPA & Wonca
European Rural and Isolated Practitioners Association

Increasing access to health workers in remote and rural areas through improved retention
1st Core Expert Group Meeting

WHO Geneva 2009
Aims visit

• Introduce
  – Personal/Institute Rural Health UK
  – WONCA / Rural Working Party
  – EURIPA

• Give European Rural Health Perspective
• Personal experiences as fulltime family doctor, chair of EURIPA & member of Wonca Rural
• Forge links between WHO & Wonca/EURIPA
• The Way Forward
The Country Doctor
Honoré de Balzac (1799-1850)

• “..how comes it that he is still a country doctor?“
• "It is surprising to me, sir, that you, who possess real public spirit, should have made no effort to enlighten the Government, after accomplishing so much."
What is Rural Health

• The Six Pillars of Rural Health
  – Health care delivery
  – Public and population health
  – Occupational health
  – Community development
  – A healthy environment
  – A healthy rural economy
The Institute of Rural Health

• “To optimise the health and well-being of rural people and their communities”

www.irh.ac.uk
IRH: Key Objective Areas

- Research
- Education & Training
  - “Developing a workforce fit for purpose”
- Policy
Education and Training Policy
Horizontal and Vertical Approaches to Integrated Education

**HORIZONTAL INTEGRATION**

Doctors/ Nurses/ Physios/ OTs/ Dentists/ Pharmacists etc.

**VERTICAL INTEGRATION**

Retirement
CPD
Advanced professional training
Pre and post registration
Undergraduates (The Rural Campus)
School leavers and sixth forms
Education & Training

• Developing a workforce “fit for purpose”
• Building an academic base for rural practice
• Improving recruitment and retention in rural areas
• Horizontal & vertical integration of education
• Improving the status of Rural Health
• Improving the quality of rural health care
The Rural Campus

• An innovative approach designed to empower and improve local health services through working with neighbouring medical schools

• Developing a learning environment in a rural community for students and practitioners

• An innovative flexible learning experience for students and health care professionals using effective and relevant approaches for lifelong learning in rural areas
The Toolkit will

- be used by PCOs and other agencies involved in health & wellbeing
- identify specific rural health needs
- incorporate those needs into policy making at strategic level
Database of good practice in rural health and wellbeing:

Search Page

Search our database of Examples by selecting the criteria listed below, then clicking the Search button. When specifying a Date, you must select an Exact, Before or After instruction. By not selecting any criteria and clicking search, you can view the complete list of examples.
European Rural Facts

• Rural areas account for 80% to 90% of the European territory and about half of its population

• Agriculture:
  – about 45% of the European land area, but for more than 60% in farming economies such as Denmark, the Netherlands and Romania.
  – the area given to agriculture in European is declining & forestry increasing

European Citizen’s Panel 2008
European Rural Health

• “Better access to health services is also a priority for rural populations”. At present, access to health services differs greatly from one region to another.

• In general, across Europe, it can be seen that:
  – Rural dwellers generally have to travel longer distances than urban dwellers to access healthcare services (doctors and hospitals);
  – Rural dwellers have less choice and as a result, have less recourse to specialists. (Is this reflected by a poorer state of health?)
  – Rural populations tend to have a higher mortality rate than urban populations
  – Rural populations have lower incomes and poorer living conditions.
  – “The maintenance of public health services in rural areas is a public policy choice. However, medical service provision also depends on the number of doctors who want to work in rural areas.”

European Citizen’s Panel 2008
Threats to Rural Practice across Europe

- Poor understanding of rural issues
- The marginalisation of rural practice
- Centralisation of care ("Bigger is safer")
- Rural economic decline
- Threats to public services
- Climate change & economic recession
Wonca’s Mission

- The mission of **Wonca** is to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world through defining and promoting its values, and by fostering and maintaining high standards of care in general practice/family medicine by promoting personal, comprehensive and continuing care for the individual in the context of the family and the community, encouraging and supporting the development of academic organizations of general practitioners/family physicians, providing a forum for exchange of knowledge and information between member organizations of general practitioners/family physicians, and representing the educational, research and service provision activities of general practitioners/family physicians before other world organizations and forums concerned with health and medical care.
What does Wonca do?

- There are many ways in which Wonca has impact on the world of general practice/family medicine.
  - World Council, regions, committees and working groups
  - Relations with Other Bodies
  - World and Regional Conferences
  - Publications
  - Education
  - Research
  - Information
  - Wonca Website
    - www.globalfamilydoctor.com
WONCA WORKING PARTY ON RURAL PRACTICE

• Vision
  – *Health for all rural people around the world*

• Mission
  – *Improving rural health care around the world*
WONCA WORKING PARTY ON RURAL PRACTICE

• Objectives
  – To facilitate communication between and networking of rural general practitioners around the world both individually and through rural family doctors' organisations and interest groups
  – To represent rural family doctors within Wonca, to Wonca Council, Standing Committees, Working Parties and Member Organisations.
  – Through Wonca to liaise on rural health issues with the World Health Organisation and other relevant international bodies.
  – To collaborate with organisations of rural doctors
  – To address issues of importance to rural family doctors including developing effective
    – Rural health care systems with appropriate funding to meet community needs
    – Integration of the family doctor into primary health care approaches for rural health care delivery
    – Community participation including a multisectorial approach to health care and health promotion in rural communities
    – Strategies to improve the status and health of rural women around the world
    – Rural health workforce models.
    – Recruitment, retention and support strategies for rural practitioners.
    – Education and training for rural medical practice
    – Research in rural health and rural practice including building research and development partnerships involving individuals and organisations in different countries
WONCA WORKING PARTY ON RURAL PRACTICE

• Started in Vancouver 1993
• 20 members from all the regions
  – Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australasia/Pacific
• Conferences
  – China, Durban, Sarawak, Melbourne, Calgary, Santiago (Spain), Seattle, Kalabar (Nigeria),
• Contacts and links
  – National/regional groups, WHO, TUFH, IAAMRH,
WONCA WORKING PARTY ON RURAL PRACTICE

• Policies
  – Policy on Training for Rural General Practice: 1995
  – Policy on Quality and Effectiveness of Rural Health Care: 2003
  – Policy on Using IT to Improve Rural Health Care 2nd Edition: 2002
  – Policy on Female Family Physicians in Rural Practice 2nd Edition: 2003
  – Policy on Quality and Effectiveness of Rural Health Care

• Statements and Declarations
  – Health for all Rural People: THE DURBAN DECLARATION 1997
  – Women in Rural Family Medical Practice: Calgary Commitment:2000
  – A Code of Practice for the International Recruitment of Health Care Professionals: Melbourne Manifesto:2002

• HARP
  – Creating Unity for Action: An Action Plan for Rural Health Draft October
HARP: Health for All Rural People

Creating Unity for Action
An Action Plan for Rural Health

Draft - October 2003

World Organization of Family Doctors (Wonca)
Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice
EURIPA
The European Rural and Isolated Practitioner’s Association

Mission Statement:
“To ensure that all the rural and isolated populations in Europe have access to high quality health care irrespective of location, culture or resource”
What is EURIPA

- A European Network of Rural Practitioners
- A European Network which is
  - raising the profile and credibility of rural health issues
  - identifying and sharing good rural practice
  - establishing rural research
  - establishing rural health as a specific “discipline”
Achievements

• Profile for Rural and Rural Practice
• Network/Listserver
• European section of international journal
• Rural academic centres/ institutes across Europe
• Recognition as a Core Network within Wonca Europe
• Collaborative research projects
• Meetings/Conferences
  – WONCA: plenaries, workshops, stalls, AGMs etc..
  – Invitations to other conferences
• Growing membership
• Working groups
  • Research, Emergencies, Education and Training
Meetings/Conferences

• Rural Streams at WONCA Europe Conferences
  • eg. Vienna, Florence, Paris, Istanbul etc..
• Representation at Wonca World Rural Conferences
  • eg. Seattle, Melbourne etc
• Annual Executive Meetings
• Partners in organisation of World Rural Health Conferences
  • Santiago de Compostela 2003
  • Crete 2009
• European Rural Health Forum 2010: Majorca
• Others
  – IAAMRH Japan
  – Asia Pacific Rural Health Conference Borneo
  – National Rural Health Conferences (Hungary, Romania etc..)
SATERN
(Students And Teachers European Rural Network)

- Meeting 2005 in Greifswald (Prof. Hannich)
- Partners
  - Greifswald (Germany), Cardiff (Wales), Tromso (Norway) and Galway (Ireland).
- Meeting Cardiff 2007
- Exchange of students under Socrates Erasmus Programme
Rural Family Medicine/Primary Care: The Way Forward

- Improve the status / credibility of Rural Practice
- Horizontal and Vertical integration
  - Working + Education: A workforce “Fit for Purpose”
- Community focus (Building Social Capital)
- Ruralisation of Medical/Health Care
  - Education + training
  - Research
  - Engagement in Policy (Rural Proofing)
  - Targeted programmes in training, research.
- Rural Academic Centres
- Building of Networks
  - National/regional/International
• 2nd European setting for Wonca Rural Health Conference
• 3 day conference
  • Plenaries (International Speakers)
  • Workshops & Seminars
  • Rural research papers
• Pre conference meeting on Rural Medical Education
  • Future textbook on rural medical education
• Meetings with
  • EURIPA
  • WHO
  • ICOH (World Organization of Occupational Health Physicians)
• Italian International Centre for Rural Health