

Report of the WONCA Europe 2018 Congress

The annual congress of WONCA Europe was held in Krakow from 23 to 27 May, with more than 2,500 delegates participating. The congress was divided into many parallel sessions, on specific topics of general practice, but also on many clinical topics. Keynotes, oral presentations, posters, workshops have shown a picture of clear growth in the quality of scientific work, where the young people of the Vasco de Gama Movement are now taking a leading role in European general medicine research.

Even Italy, thanks to the new generations, is marking an authoritative and appreciated presence, coming from the training schools in general medicine and from the Giotto movement, more and more active and qualified.

Another positive element was the quality and concreteness of the work of the Council of WONCA Europe, held before the congress every year. In addition to the organizational aspects, the central themes of the discipline were addressed, offering indications to member associations and European medicine.

Thanks to Anna Stavdal, the president of the Europe Region, who not only has put in place many initiatives, later highlighted, but has also enhanced the collaboration of the networks that are part of the organization: EQUIP, EURACT, EUROPREV, EGPRN. The Council has approved 6 fundamental statements that will be disseminated among the member associations and will have an impact in the scientific world.

Particularly important is the Position Paper on over-medicalization and quaternary prevention, which was prepared over the past year by a working group that was well represented at the international conference that the coordination WONCA Italy organized in Lecce last September, whose usefulness has been repeatedly noted for the purpose of drafting the final document. Overdiagnosis (and over-medicalization) is an emerging problem, which must be better known and for which new tools must be found to limit it. A very recent article by Italian oncologists (Del Maso et al., The impact of overdiagnosis on thyroid cancer epidemic in Italy, 1998-2012, Eur J Cancer 2018 May; 94: 6-15. Doi: 10.1016 / j.ejca .2018.01.083 Epub 2018 Mar 20) reports alarming data on thyroid cancer in our country that has been calculated to be overdiagnosed (and therefore of unnecessary treatments, often with sequelae) in 75% of diagnosed cases.

The other documents are about:

- the basic contents for the training of the family doctor (proposed by EURACT)
- an EQUIP position that invites not to use quality indicators as a tool for compensation incentives, because we risk focusing the attention of doctors only on some aspects of care (those incentivized), leaving out other equally important aspects
- a position in favor of the equity of care, which is not only universality but also the provision of care commensurate with the actual needs of patients
- a EUROPREV position on the action of family doctors in relation to the management of influenza
- WONCA rules regarding sponsorships of its initiatives.

The WONCA Italy Coordination will work to disseminate them in order to pursue their indications.

P.S. The texts of Council positions are being translated by WONCA Italy and will be published here as soon as they are available