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European General Practice Research Network and its Mission for Strong Research in Primary Health Care

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Session 7: Teaching methods

Session 8: Feedback

Session 9: Designing the programme

Session 10: Assessment

Session 11: Plans for practical implementation

Implementation strategy:

This course is one of a planned series of implementation courses to be run in different European countries, which will be organized by EURACT. Courses will be organized in a different country each year.

For subsequent courses teams of trainers from neighbouring countries are invited to participate in the course. This will prepare them to use the basic structure of the course in future in their own country, adapting it to the country-specific requirements for the teaching process and level of development of family medicine teaching. Participants should also be connected with a teaching institution to ensure the sustainability of the project in the longer term. On completion of the course groups of participants should be able to provide teacher-training courses to GP teachers in their own country. At the end of the course each team of trainers will have to develop a training program for teachers in their own country. The exchange of information and teaching programs between participant countries

will ensure wider a dissemination of the skills and knowledge acquired during the course.

Expected outputs:

- A continuing series of courses;
- Teaching materials for teacher training;
- Teaching modules, adapted to individual states;
- A number of cascaded in-country courses
- A network of teachers and tutors;
- Publications in journals.

General information:

lfilipe@oninet.pt

□ **The course fee** is 400 € for direct participants, reduced to 350 € for current EURACT members and will include also the course materials.

□ **Application.** Applicants should send their registration form with proof of bank transfer no later than **31 March, 2006** to the address:

Dr. Luís Filipe Gomes
Cabeço do Mocho, Bloco 7, 2º D, 8500-834
Portimão, Portugal

or by fax: +351 282 913 762

Francesco Carelli
on behalf of EURACT Council

European General Practice Research Network and its Mission for Strong Research in Primary Health Care

At the end of this year's summer, Florence was not only an important historical and tourist city but also a meeting point for all those who do their every effort for a modern and high quality treatment of patients in general and family practice. The WONCA Europe conference, which took place from August 27 to August 30, joined the leaders of important associations and over 2500 practitioners. This year's meeting was distinctive for its different organisation of lectures and presentations. Special attention was paid to research in general practice. We have heard that everyday practical issues should inspire researchers. Often the heavy work load of general practitioners hinder research and make GPs less productive in the research field. Especially aspects like co-morbidity, polypragmasy, variety of cultural background of patients, participation of patients in treatment, commitment to treatment and support of dying patients and their family should be subject to more thorough research.

The European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN) was present at the WONCA meet-

ing with various symposiums and lectures. Prof. Christos Lionis led a symposium on differences in research capacity for general practice in Europe. International connections allow general practitioners to obtain knowledge on the latest recommendations for good clinical practice. National insurance systems, however, restrict finances, thus obstructing high quality work. Practitioners in many countries do not have the opportunity to participate in clinical research. Many countries still lack research institutes that would carry out research in primary care. This is a striking paradox, given the fact that the majority of health problems are dealt with in primary health care. The same message was heard in the workshop on practice based research networks, chaired by Prof. Paul Van Royen. There is need for more infrastructure and organisational solutions for the development of research in primary care. Collaboration and networking can support this process. "But first of all we need more primary health care workers and GPs who recognize the challenges and

opportunities, and are well motivated to take it up”, was said in this workshop. Every GP should learn to develop (research) questions. Anyhow, the way GPs are working in their practice, by critical reflection, looking at the context, defining goals, is very similar to the way GP researchers are working.

In his lectures Dr. Francesco Del Zotti stressed the importance of epidemiological research of disease risks in general practice. He suggested paying more attention to research of family disease risk as well as studies of patients’ understanding of health, in which the family plays an important role.

The workshop ‘Qualitative Research in Family Medicine’, which was led by Prof. Paul van Royen, Lieve Peremans and Danica Rotar Pavlič, was well visited. Qualitative research is more and more established in the field of general practice. Yet, many ‘quantitative’ researchers are not aware of the complications and long duration of a good qualitative study. The workshop presented the advantages and disadvantages of this type of research, various methodological approaches, ways of formulating the core research issue, data gathering techniques and suggestions for data analysis. The participants were then divided in small groups and tried to find those issues that emerge in practical work with patients that could be researched by qualitative methodology.

House calls were a traditional duty of a family physician. In the last decade, the number of home

visits has decreased in many European countries. The importance of house calls and the differences between countries across Europe were addressed in a special workshop dedicated to this topic. The results of the international study on house calls carried out by EGPRN a few years ago, were presented.

Two EGPRN lady representatives took part in the symposium on the role of female general practitioners in Europe. Although a growing number of female practitioners are present in medicine, this is a frequent topic in magazines and newspapers. There are not many studies analysing possible dissimilarities between the work of practitioners and women practitioners. The participants of the symposium suggested carrying out a pilot study by the next WONCA congress, which will be held in Paris in 2007, on the basis of which it will be easier to discuss the so-called feminisation of medicine. Furthermore, the EGPRN spring meeting 2007 in Nijmegen will be dedicated to the theme ‘Gender in family medicine’ as well (www.hag.unimaas.nl/egprnmeeting). If you are interested in primary care research we invite you to join the upcoming EGPRN meetings and present your work there. Or visit our web site at www.egprn.org.

*Danica Rotar Pavlič, MD. PhD
Hon. Secretary of EGPRN*