

# EURACT

## MESSENGER



### Council Meeting Sarajevo, 8-10 October 2015



Jo Buchanan was elected for the post of new Euract President for the next 18 months.



## Family Medicine Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Vocational training in General Practice began in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H), one of the six federal republics in former Socialist Yugoslavia, in 1960 when the first program of specialization was established by professor Antun Vuletić at Andrija Štampar School of Public Health, School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia. This vocational training was among the first specialization programs in the world. During the time, primary health care (PHC) in former Yugoslavia was so fragmented that the intention to give more significance to General Practitioners (GPs) failed. GP specialization was very unpopular among medical doctors.

Professor of Social Medicine, Arif Smajkić, recognized that problem and tried to create a focus on Family Medicine (FM), establishing an experimental and teaching FM office at the Faculty of Medicine in Sarajevo, as a part of the curriculum of Social Medicine and Health System Organization. Those types of family medicine teaching clinics were established in Mostar and Banja Luka.

The Family Medicine Development Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Federation of BiH [FBIH] and Republika Srpska [RS]), led by Dr Geoffrey P. Hodgetts, was an initiative funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

that was sparked by a visit to Queen's University (Kingston, Canada) by the Dean of the Medical School in Sarajevo in 1995. The project involved establishing family medicine teaching centers in medical schools in: Banja Luka, Foča, Mostar, Sarajevo, Tuzla and Zenica.

It introduced family medicine into undergraduate curricula, established a three-year program of residency in family medicine, created departments of family medicine in all medical schools, helped with the process of establishing a professional college of family doctors, worked with ministries of health to establish supportive policies for these activities, and regularly provided continuing medical education programs for family practitioners during the 13 years of the project.

The project's ultimate goal was to establish, with the help of the local physicians and medical faculties, an effective family medicine educational infrastructure that would continue after the project was finished.

The Queen's Family Medicine Program, as well as programs of other international health aid agencies, introduced new concepts and approaches to health care that were challenging and at times difficult for individuals to incorporate into their understanding of what it meant to be a health care

consumer or provider.

At operational level, Family Medicine was established as a medical specialty and introduced into municipality health centers as the gatekeeper and provider of PHC services. Autonomous family medicine teams (comprising of a family physician and one or two family medicine nurses) were created, receiving fixed salaries financed by the Health Insurance Fund. At PHC level, users were given the right to choose their family physicians. Usually, family physicians have 1500 – 2500 registered patients, ages 6 and up. Since 2005, 765 family medicine clinics have been built or reconstructed.

Today, there are seven family medicine teaching centers in BiH (Sarajevo, Tuzla, Mostar, Zenica, Banja Luka, Foča and Bijeljina) where more than 1400 physicians have been educated either through residency program or professional additional training in family medicine.

**Undergraduate Education:** undergraduate students of medicine and nursing in five medical schools attend compulsory two-semester long courses in family medicine (Table 1).

**Vocational training** was established in 1999. It was a three-year program, consisting of 18 months of training in the Family Medicine Educational >>

>> Centre and 18 months of clinical rotations. Starting in 2014, the length of the program was increased to four years (24 months clinical rotations and 24 months of family medicine rotation in teaching centers). Before the final exam, all residents are required to present one individual research project, several audits in a group, to pass a practical exam, and to present a lecture on a specific topic based on evidence. Since 2001, 686 physicians completed their vocational training (279 in RS and 407 in FBiH).

**The Program of Additional Training** in Family Medicine (PAT) has an academic year-long curriculum with 21 units covering the whole spectrum of family physicians' and nurses' work. This is a

unique program organized for the education of working medical doctors and nurses as a team, with interactive teaching methods including outreach education at their working place. PAT has ensued in RS, but is still being organized in FBiH. In the period from 2002 to 2012, more than 1400 medical doctors and more than 2000 nurses finished PAT.

**CME/CPD** is mandatory by law in Bosnia and Herzegovina and family physicians to be licensed have to earn a certain number of CPD points. Family physicians in Bosnia and Herzegovina take part in numerous local and international CME/CPD events.

Following the accelerated and considerable development of family medicine in terms of the for-

mation of the family medicine departments at all medical schools, the introduction of the vocational training program and of the program of additional training, and the construction and renovation of numerous family medicine clinics, family medicine in Bosnia and Herzegovina is entering the phase of the health care quality improvement and undergoing the transition of the financing model and ownership.

Zaim Jatić

Faculty of Medicine, University of Sarajevo

Maja Račić

Faculty of Medicine, University of East Sarajevo

## References

1. Godwin M. Family Medicine Development Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina. *Can Fam Physician*. 1999; 45: 1098, 1100, 1103.
2. Racic M. Family Medicine Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina. *J Fam Med*. 2015;2(4): 1031.
3. Masic I, Skopljak A, Jatic Z. Comparative Review of Education Programs of Family Medicine (FM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Several Transition Countries. *Materia Socio-Medica*. 2014;26(6):411-418. doi:10.5455/msm.2014.26.411-418.
4. Masić I, Jatić Z, Zildžić M. [Thirty years of family medicine in B&H]. *MedArh*. 2007;61(1):65-7.

**Table 1 Undergraduate education at schools of medicine in Bosnia and Herzegovina, year 6**

School of Medicine	XI semester		Weeks	XII semester			Weeks	Total hours
	T	P		T	P	S		
Banja Luka	60	90	15	CR in FM offices 75h			3	225
Foča	30	30		30	30			120+4
Mostar				22	114	44	8	180
Sarajevo	45	75	4	CR in FM offices 90h			3	210
Tuzla	30	30	15	CR in FM offices 176h			4	236

T=theory, P= practical work, S=seminars, CR=clinical rotation

## Short reports of Task Forces

### Appraisal project in Copenhagen

The final meeting of the teachers' appraisal project (*Continuing Educational Development and Harmonisation of Expert Teachers in General Practice/Family Medicine in Europe through a systematic process of quality improvement*, No. 2013-1-PL1-LEO05-37537) group was held in Copenhagen on Saturday 7th November 2015. The products for the project have been delivered on time and the meeting was spent making plans for implementation and dissemination.

The products consist of the template for the appraisal of portfolios of teaching expertise, the handbooks for appraisers and appraisees and the e-portfolio where applicants can log their evidence. Official transfer of the products to EURACT will occur early in 2016.

EURACT will be ready to receive the first applicants soon after the transfer. It was decided that the ten representatives of the project partners who have designed the programme will act as appraisers initially. These appraisers will also act as mentors for the first 30 doctors who wish to complete the appraisal process. Training will be provided for appraisers at EURACT council meetings, in individual countries and at WONCA conferences.

The project partners described how they intended to promote the process in their countries to encourage participation. Factors that would encourage doctors to participate were explored and it was agreed that this would vary depending on the doctors' location.

Dissemination will occur through EURACT council members in the first instance, but in addition the engagement of WONCA Europe's networks and UEMO will be encouraged.

An evaluation tool will be produced to receive feedback, which tool will be used to refine the process. A goal was set of having 30 appraisals completed by June 2016.

Thanks are due to Adam Windak, Justin Allen and Igor Svab for the hard work that they put into developing the template over the summer of 2014. In addition thanks go to Kasia Dubas-Jakóbczyk and her team in Poland for the excellent and professional support that has been provided for this project without which it would not have been possible. We are delighted that one of the members of this team Viola Kijowska has agreed to continue to provide administrative support into 2016.

Jo Buchanan

UK, representative of EURACT in the project

### Appraisal project – training session for the Council

The appraisal project work is nearing completion with one final meeting of the project partners to be held in Copenhagen in November 2015. The e-portfolio is completed and will be passed over to EURACT at the end of the project. A training session was held for the EURACT Council members in Sarajevo, during which Adam Windak outlined the appraisal process. Time was then spent reviewing the process of appraising an application. Many council members requested log in with a view to starting to submit an application. Further training will be offered at the council meeting in spring 2016.

Jo Buchanan

UK, representative of EURACT in the project

## EURACT Organisation in Collaboration Membership

The EURACT Council in Sarajevo on the 10th October 2015 approved an 'Organisation in Collaboration Application Form' in line with Articles 4 and 5 of the EURACT Articles of Association. The benefits, conditions and procedures related

to applications for membership of EURACT from Organisations in Collaboration (OiCs) are listed below. The application form may be downloaded from <http://www.euract.eu/membership>.

### BENEFITS FOR ORGANISATIONS IN COLLABORATION:

- OiCs will be listed on the EURACT website.
- OiCs can put the EURACT logo on its web-site and use it on their promotional and educational materials together with the note: "Organisa-

tion in collaboration with EURACT".

- EURACT members of the OiC are eligible to reductions on participation fees for EURACT's courses and conferences similar to individual members of EURACT.
- Free use of educational material developed by EURACT.
- Take advantage of EURACT's expertise and network in different fields of medical education. >>

## CME/CPD Committee

Members were welcomed and given brief information about progress made since the Prague meeting.

1. Workshops in WONCA were discussed:
  - Multimorbidity in family practice – educational needs.
  - Learning and teaching cultural competence in family medicine. The same workshop could be submitted again for the WONCA Europe Copenhagen Conference 15–18. 6.2015.
2. Dublin conference: New topic: How new technologies can help polymorbid patients –how to teach it? Objective: to ask participants what are

their educational needs. What are the best practices - identifying and sharing, who is in charge to teach it in GP – cooperation with Google, Apple, Microsoft? Possible challenges and problems. Communication with patients, communication with specialists. Education of the patients. Legal aspects, data safety issues.

3. EQuIP suggested cooperation between EURACT and EQuIP in the field of teaching quality improvement. This was discussed and it was agreed to cooperate.

**Jachym Bednar**

*Czech Republic, chair of the committee*

## Specialist Training Committee

The meeting consisted of a review of current activities and also plans were made for future projects. The committee has been working on a document about the position of research in specialty training, and it was agreed to plan to present workshops on this topic at WONCA Europe's conference in Copenhagen in June 2016 and at EURACT's conference in Dublin in September 2016 using examples from three different countries: Belgium, Denmark and Slovenia.

A survey of recruitment methods for FM/GP in member countries is under way. Currently there is a 60% response rate. Preliminary findings from this survey were presented and a workshop planned with the title 'Selecting or Attracting Fu-

ture Doctors' for Copenhagen and Dublin.

The following topics were suggested for future projects: the quality of teaching and how to improve it / updating trainer's skills; the use of the educational group in GP training; underperforming trainees and students; the use of diagnostics and modern technology in ST training; improving assessment in ST training and finally a possible European validation of the specialty of FM. It was suggested that improving the quality of teaching should be the next topic to be dealt with by the committee.

**Jo Buchanan**

*UK, Committee Member*

## Member Services Committee

### COURSES

**Leonardo 1 in Georgia** 15-17 October 2015: 2 available sponsored places. Greece is willing to organize **Level 1** in 2017.

**Next Leonardo 2** in 2016 in Tartu, Estonia.

**Leonardo 3:** Greece volunteers to host it (in case it takes place!)

**Sponsoring:** Preference will continue to be given to trios, from countries with more than 10 members, excluding national representative. Applications go to Secretariat, minimum 3 months in advance. Selection is to be done by Hon Treasurer (and Member Services Committee if needed).

**Bled Course:** is continuing under the responsi-

bility of Prof. Zalica Klemenc Ketic. EURACT will continue to sponsor 5 applicants.

### CONFERENCES

**Booth in Istanbul** October 2015: shared with WONCA Europe. Dimitrios will prepare a timetable for EURACT Members to man the booth. Filipe Gomes made a poster, leaflets and little printed advertisements.

**Booth in Copenhagen** June 2016.

**Messenger:** Ruth is responsible, two issues a year.

**Organisations in Collaboration:** final approval.

**Bruce Brinkley**

*Switzerland, Committee Member*

## Basic Medical Education Committee

Francesco Carelli spoke about the ongoing research on family medicine "Activities to enforce General Practice / Family Medicine around Europe". Natalia Zarbailova and Stefan Wilm are mostly in charge of this, Francesco obtained contacts, work is in progress and soon will be shared with the Committee for final development.

The Committee discussed possible presentations in the EURACT Educational Conference in Dublin 2016. It was decided to organise a workshop about Core Curriculum. Title: "Minimal core curriculum for Family Medicine/General Practice in undergraduate medical education: your personal experience". The possible structure was discussed in detail and drafted. A draft of the abstract was prepared:

**Title:** Minimal core curriculum for Family Medicine/General Practice in undergraduate medical education: your personal experience

**Organizers:** Basic Medical Education Committee of EURACT

**Background:** What has been already done: EURACT research and publication - 15 themes as the most important topics to be included in a minimal core curriculum for FM/GP in undergraduate medical education

**Aim:** To promote GP/FM education at undergraduate level through further developing the core curriculum

**Methods:** Expert work with participation of teachers and trainers in family medicine / general practice on undergraduate medical education;

Introduction – background information; small groups have to choose one topic / theme interesting for them from the 15 as described in the research / publication. Then each group should discuss when (on which level during undergraduate education) this item has to be taught. Each group will present results; this will be followed by a Delphi process to cover all the 15 items;

Maximum number of participants – 35 colleagues.

**Expected outcomes:** Ongoing process of developing the core curriculum using a Delphi process with the participation of large number of teachers and trainers in family medicine / general practice on undergraduate medical education

**Francesco Carelli**

*Italy, Committee Chairman*

### >> ANY ORGANISATION SEEKING OIC MEMBERSHIP IN EURACT MUST:

- Be actively involved in teaching of General Practice/Family Medicine.
- Submit the dedicated application form with at least 4 individuals for appointment as EURACT members to the national representative (details from <http://www.euract.eu/about-us/council-members>).
- Pay membership fees on time and in full (see

details on <http://www.euract.eu/membership>).

- Support their country's delegate to the EURACT Council.

### PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

- The EURACT Council will approve the OIC and the individuals as members after the national representative confirms that the organisation and the individuals are involved in GP teaching.
- The OIC membership fee is calculated on the

basis of the number of EURACT member candidates multiplied by the individual membership fee of the respected country for the year of payment.

- Elections for the country representative will follow the rules of EURACT and will take place from among all paid-up members, irrespective of payment being made individually or through the OIC.

**Mario R Sammut**

*Malta, EURACT Honorary Secretary*

**IVETA VAVERKOVÁ,  
SLOVAKIA**

My name is Iveta Vaverková and I am the new EURACT Council Member from Slovakia.

When I finished my studies I started working as an internist in hospital. I worked there for seven years and since 2002 I've worked as a GP at my office. I am a „full-time“ GP, not a teacher in the true sense. But I am interested in education and training activities.

I have started to work actively for our professional society since 2009. This involved mainly

lectures for our conferences and local educational events. I have published in journals for the GP and actively participated in the preparation of the first lecture-notes for undergraduate studies. Last year I co-founded the „Society of GP of Slovakia“, a professional organization which aims to promote the interests of GP education, skills and funding. We've successfully managed and prepared three new guidelines that increase the competence of GP practice and we have organized special workshops to assist their implementation into practice. Our training activities also focused on residents (GP in training). Our ambition is working together with Medical Faculties and cooperating on the teaching programme for undergraduate education. I enjoy

this work and for me it is a kind of prevention of „burn-out“ syndrome from work in the office and lots of administration.

I have one married daughter who graduated in aesthetics. The most important member of our home now is a two-year old female Labrador who takes care of my fitness and mental well-being.

I have a very positive impression of the EURACT Council meeting: very nice people, friendly atmosphere, constructiveness and accuracy. I learned a lot. I am looking forward to meet you again and I'll try to pass on my enthusiasm to my colleagues at home.

**ZALIKA KLEMENC-KETIS,  
SLOVENIA**

I was born on the 6th of June 1973 in Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia. I graduated from the Ljubljana Medical Faculty in 1999 and finished specialisation in family medicine in 2003. I finished my doctoral studies in 2010. In 2011, I became an assistant professor for family medicine at the Maribor Medical Faculty and in 2015 I became the chair of the department of family medicine.

Currently, I am an executive board member of EQuIP and of EurOOHnet. I am also a member of the international advisory board of EURIPA. Since 2012, I am a vice-president of the professional council for family medicine in Slovenia. Since 2013, I am an honorary secretary of the Slovenian Family Medicine Society. Since 2015, I am also a chief of the research group of the department of family medicine at the medical faculty Ljubljana. I am involved in the training of family physicians

as the leader of two modules: quality improvement and research in family medicine. I am the first author of 44 original research articles published in international journals indexed in Medline. I am also a member of the editorial board of BMC Family Medicine and of the Slovenian Journal of Public Health.

For the last 16 years, I have been working as a family physician in a rural area of Slovenia, in recent years as a part-time employee.

I am married with two daughters aged 12 and 9 years. I like watching movies, reading books, travelling/getting to know other cultures, skiing and taking long walks.

I feel privileged to being a member of the EURACT Council. I am interested in getting new knowledge and ideas regarding family medicine education and I think that within EURACT I can achieve this. I think that many things could be improved in the field of family medicine education in Slovenia and I cannot think of a better source for this than EURACT. I am looking forward to contribute to the EURACT Council.

**NELE MICHELS,  
BELGIUM**

My name is Nele Michels and recently I was selected as the new Representative Council Member for Belgium. I will do my very best to take over this job from Jan Degryse who I certainly want to thank for all the work he did.

I studied medicine in Leuven and started in 2001 to work as a GP in a group practice south of Antwerp. At that time I started also to work at the Skills Lab at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences of the University of Antwerp. Until now, I am teaching at the Skills Lab for all medical students and I am responsible for a learning portfolio. I also tutor students in their clerkship. In 2006, I started a PhD trajectory, resulting in the defending of my doctoral thesis in 2012, entitled „Portfolio learning and assessment at the workplace: implementation, reliability and validity“. After that, I developed and implemented for the three Bachelor years a new Integration Module that intends to stimulate integration of knowledge, skills and compe-

tences. A very challenging job, positively welcomed by the students!

Since October 2015, I work at the Centre for General Practice of the University of Antwerp. I joined ICHO (Interuniversity Centre for the Education of General Practitioners) and became one of the Directors of the staff group of General Practitioners trainers. This staff is responsible for the quality of the postgraduate workplace learning in Flanders. We do that by validating and visiting the GPs and educational practices and by offering train-the-trainers sessions. As the education of GPs will change in the near future, we will be faced with a lot of burning questions and challenges. I hope EURACT can inspire us regarding this.

Besides EURACT, I'm a member of the Scientific Committee of the Dutch-Flemish Society of Medical Education and a Board Member of the Educational Council of the University of Antwerp.

Last but not least, I'm happily married and the proud mother of 3 children. In my free time I like to sing, swim, read, walk and travel.

Framework for Continuing Educational Development of Trainers in General Practice in Europe



You can find more information at [www.leonardo2.eu](http://www.leonardo2.eu)

First announcement: 1<sup>st</sup> EURACT Medical Education Conference



**THEME: EDUCATING DOCTORS FOR GENERAL PRACTICE/FAMILY MEDICINE 2.0**

Dublin 8<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Hosted by the Irish College of General Practitioners

Location: Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

**Keynote speakers**

**Prof. Amanda Howe, UK, President-Elect of WONCA:** *What is the future of General Practice/Family Medicine and how do we prepare and educate doctors for it?*

**Prof. Mette Brekke, Norway:** *Building a strong foundation for the future: quality General Practice/Family Medicine education in medical schools*

**Prof. Igor Svab, Slovenia:** *Janko Kersnik Memorial Lecture*

A call for abstracts will be issued for oral presentations and posters regarding the topics of basic medical education, specialist training and continuing professional development in general practice/family medicine.

**For more information:**

[www.euractdublin2016.org](http://www.euractdublin2016.org) | [info@euract.eu](mailto:info@euract.eu)