



# The Grapevine

## Summer 2020

The sun is shining (sometimes) and it is summer holidays but what a strange time. If you have been away I hope you have enjoyed a good break but, if not, I hope there has been time to rest and relax.

As I write this, lockdowns are changing across Europe and quarantine rules for travel constantly shifting. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Rural Health e-Forum is now less than a month away and when we first began discussing it we thought that possibly we might be looking back and reflecting on the pandemic. However, it is all too relevant and will provide a platform to consider and discuss the impact on rural practice and what we would like to see change for the 'new' normal.

Do join us on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020!

*Jane Randall-Smith*

Executive Secretary EURIPA

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It has been a very odd year without the opportunity to meet with colleagues face to face. What the future will hold in terms of conferences is anyone's guess. 'New' technologies have been great enablers but we all know its not the same. It is with regret that EURIPA decided to postpone our 10<sup>th</sup> Rural Health Forum planned for Siedlce in Poland but our 1<sup>st</sup> Rural Health Health e-Forum will provide a virtual meeting room and opportunities to 'see' each other.

As Jean Pierre Jacquet, EURIPA's President, writes:

*I have a dream....*

*Have a full forum with the two feet in your slippers, it's possible*

*Meet friends without using the plane, it's possible*

*Submit an abstract and present your work from your home, it's possible*

*Share the adventure of a rural escape game with friends, it's possible*

*Choose your table companions for rural aperitive and dinner, it's possible*

*Full forum available on internet when you want, it's possible*

*Ask questions about all the communications,*

*Yes, it's possible*

*If you dream of it, EURIPA will do it for you.*

*Join the first Rural Health e-Forum of EURIPA !*

You can join the e-Forum by clicking on:

**<https://euripa.woncaeurope.org/content/registration>**

Standard registration is up to 9<sup>th</sup> September and a late registration fee is now available until 16<sup>th</sup> September.

*Looking forward to seeing you in September!*



## **How Rural and Remote General Practice/Family Medicine is responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic - now and for the future**

As there is no need to travel (except to your computer) the virtual conference will open up attendance to people who have never been to a EURIPA Rural Health Forum, for whatever reason. And, if you have been to a previous Rural Health Forum, we hope you will join us again on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September.

*Welcome*

It will be a very different Forum to that held in the beautiful Azores last November but we are planning an exciting programme with plenty of time for interaction.

EURIPA is delighted to announce that:

Mehmet Urgan President of WONCA Europe

And

Shlomo Vinker President elect of WONCA Europe

will be joining us for our opening ceremony on Friday morning at 9:30, together with our President Jean Pierre Jacquet.

Eight exciting key note speakers are now confirmed:

### **Rural Practice in the time of Covid: The importance of a global perspective and response**

John Wynn-Jones and Bruce Chater

### **International Collaboration in COVID-19 Research**

Katarzyna Nessler and Carol Holland

### **Covid 19 pandemic: voices from less heard countries**

Ana Kareli, Yelena Khegay and Oliver Lammel

### **PhD in a rural setting- a blessing or a curse?**

Ferdinando Petrazzuoli and Donata Kurpas.

We have been very fortunate in having some interesting and experienced people involved in the Forum and to give keynote addresses.

**Ferdinando Petrazzuoli** from southern Italy is the chair the EURIPA Scientific Board and for Scientific Committee for the e-Forum.



Ferdinando joined EURIPA in 2006, introduced by the beloved and never forgotten Claudio Carosino, and has been involved in many initiatives, sometimes joint EGPRN EURIPA activities, over the past years. He is chair of the EURIPA Scientific Board.

Originally Ferdinando trained to be a Cardiologist but, when his father passed away, decided to change professions and took over from him at the family practice in his home village. Ferdinando lives and works in the same building which has its advantages and disadvantages: "You save time and money but are on call all the time. My patient list consists of nearly 1500 patients. Over 35% of my patients are over the age of 65. (Children under six years are cared for by the local health district paediatrician.) Many patients are farmers."

Ferdinando says that he has always been interested in research and has been awarded a Master of Science (MSc) in Primary Care & General Practice at the University of Ulster (United Kingdom) from October 2004-June 2008. Last year he defended his PhD thesis at the Centre for Primary Health Care Research, Department of Clinical Sciences in Malmö, Lund University, Sweden. Title of the thesis: Dementia management in European Primary Care.

Together with **Donata Kurpas** Ferdinando will also be presenting the findings from the EURIPA Covid-19 survey. Donata is chair of the EURIPA International Advisory board and also for the International Advisory Committee for the e-Forum. Donata is a full time senior researcher and lecturer at the Department of Family Medicine, Wrocław Medical University. She is also a GP with specialisation in family medicine and public health, living and partially working in the countryside.



Donata says "EURIPA is for me hope for the voice of rural family doctors (so far excluded and unheard), but also the professionals working within community-based primary health care teams. I started working with EURIPA because I found here commitment to problems typical of rural settings, selfless support and consistent building of our European rural family."

Raising the profile of rural health and medicine is dependent on developing the evidence base and together Donata and Ferdinando will be presenting a key note address about the challenges of undertaking a PhD in a rural setting.

Our first key note address is by Bruce Chater and John Wynn-Jones, neither of who really need any introduction.

Bruce is Head, Mayne Academy of Rural and Remote Medicine, University of Queensland (<https://medicine-program.uq.edu.au/overview/mayne-academies/mayne-academy-rural-and-remote-medicine>), the Immediate Past Chair, Statewide Rural and Remote Clinical Network, Department of Health, Queensland; Medical Superintendent with Right to Private Practice, Theodore and Medical Director, Banana Health Service, Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service and is currently the Chair, WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice (Rural WONCA!)



John was the founder of EURIPA and its first president when it was established in 1997. He remains on the Executive Committee of EURIPA. More recently he is the Immediate Past Chair of Rural WONCA having worked with Bruce for many years.



Like Bruce, John has a long pedigree in rural health and was the founding director of the Institute of Rural Health in the UK in 1997. He is now on the board of the new National Centre for Rural Health and Care, a board member of PRIME Centre Wales (research centre focusing on primary & emergency care) and a member of the Rural Forum of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

We are also privileged to have a key note address from Professor Carol Holland and Katarzyna Nessler about International Collaboration in research.

Carol is a Professor in Ageing within the Division of Health Research at Lancaster University, and Director of the Centre for Ageing Research (C4AR). C4AR is a cross disciplinary centre that has members from across the university, working together, and with businesses, NHS, local government and the 3rd sector on the challenges and risk factors related to ageing.



Carol is a psychologist who focuses on applied impacts of cognitive and health psychology of ageing and models of frailty, for example, impacts of functional memory on ability to engage socially and so links to loneliness, or addition of social and environmental aspects of frailty to the more commonly measured physical aspects.

Carol has worked on a number of research proposals with EURIPA and associated colleagues, with an interest in the impacts of rurality on older adults with multiple morbidities and their carers.

Katarzyna is the current President of Vasco da Gama Movement (VdGM), European Young Doctors Movement of The World Family Doctors Organisation (WONCA). VdGM has a Liaison Officer with EURIPA and supports the Carosino Prize.

Katarzyna is currently an Assistant Professor at the Department of Family Medicine at Jagiellonian University Medical College in Poland. Family physician in a GP practice which takes care of over 4500 of adults and children in Kraków. She has broad research experience; she was a leader and participant in several national and international research projects.



Our final key note address comprises three members of the EURIPA International Advisory Board and will bring our perspectives from countries that do not make the headlines:



Oliver Lammel is our representative in Austria. He graduated from the medical University Graz. After the basic rotations he worked as an emergency physician at the flight base C14 at Niederöblarn. Due to the lack of free GP positions at that time, he underwent the training to become a physician. After two years as a consultant of internal medicine, he got the chance to build up a own practice at Ramsau am Dachstein ([www.doclammel.at](http://www.doclammel.at)) and is now a rural GP since 2011. He has also worked as a locum GP and A&E doctor in the UK including some remote and very rural areas.

Yelena Khegay is a family physician from Kazakhstan. She graduated from Kazakh National Medical University. After finishing her 2-year GP residency programme she worked for several years Project Coordinator, and later as a Study Investigator at Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians (KAFP). Since 2014 Yelena is back to clinical practice and has been working as a general practitioner and a trainer at the postgraduate family medicine faculty. She is currently studying for a PhD. In 2018 Yelena was selected by WHO to become a part of WHO Primary Health Care Young Leader's Network through a highly competitive process. Yelena is a winner of WONCA Europe Scholarship 2020.



Our final speaker is Ana Kareli from Georgia. She has worked as a GP since graduating but also pursues her academic career and she lectures on what becoming a doctor and what family medicine is all about. She participates in faculty development meetings on adaptation of modern teaching methods. Ana takes an active part in making local protocols such as "Management of a suspected SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) case of infection in healthcare.

Ana says that since she first heard about EURIPA 2 years ago, working with them takes a huge importance in her life.

The Call for Abstracts closed last Sunday, 16th August, and the abstracts received (thank you) are currently in the process of being reviewed. The authors will be notified by the end of August and the full programme published on the web site. The first four workshops are now confirmed and they are:

**How to Run General Practice in COVID-19 Era - Tips and Hints Across Rural Europe**

Oleg Kravtchenko, David Halata and Kateřina Javorska

**Psychological Aspects Of Covid 19 Pandemic on Island (Brač-Croatia)**

Natasa Mrduljaš-Đujić, Vesna Antičević and Dolores Britvić

**COVID-19 Pandemic in Europe – Impact on now and for the future for the role of the nurse in the provision of Universal Healthcare Coverage**

John Wynn-Jones and Joyce Kenkre

**Challenges Presented to Rural GP undergraduate and postgraduate training by the COVID -19 pandemic**

Rob Lambourn and Miriam Dolan

The programme will also include another *Rural Café*. We are grateful for the support of Rural Seeds in helping to arrange this, with Berit Hansen and Oleg Kravtchenko.

**“Renaissance of the Rural Practitioner”**

At one of our monthly online meetings in EURIPA, we had talked about how we had rediscovered our own countries during the pandemic. Not being able to leave to go abroad on summer holidays, led many people to explore the countryside of their own countries. Many of us realize that beauty in nature is often closer to our own doorstep than we think.

We also realised that staying home meant online meetings and home office and that we are more willing to try new ways of communication than before. Is telemedicine suddenly not so difficult after all?

In EURIPA we are wondering whether these and other changes in the world might have a positive effect on rural practice. We would like to discuss that during the *Rural Café* if you are free and would like to join us on Saturday September 18th 17.00 CEST.

For more information, please contact [Jane@montgomery-powys.co.uk](mailto:Jane@montgomery-powys.co.uk)

The **programme** will be published on the web site later this month and also on the Padlet, which is the IT platform EURIPA is using. Access to the Padlet is given when delegates register and pay, together with an information manual on the IT. The sessions will be delivered over Zoom.

The timings in the programme will take into account that you will have to sit in front of your computer/tablet to access the sessions so there will be plenty of breaks, even a rural aperitif and rural dinner!



Finally a few words from Jean Pierre Jacquet, President of EURIPA, who had the vision of this e-Forum.



*When the Covid - 19 pandemic began in China, I could not imagine the impact it would have subsequently in our daily lives for a while. In March, with the lockdown in the western countries it was still difficult to imagine the consequences in the short, middle and long term.*

*When we decided to postpone our 10th Rural Health forum to 2021, we had two alternatives:*

- no forum in 2020*
- a virtual forum in 2020.*

*We thought it was unfair to leave all our rural colleagues without support, news and perspective, so we decided to launch the e-Forum.*

*If you search on google " A friendly e-forum" you will not find any relevant references. After our first rural health e-forum, I hope you will find one.*

*Imagine, imagine all the opportunities provided by the new communications tools in combination with good humour, kindness, friendliness - that is the challenge we took up.*

*It was a pleasure to prepare it, it will be a pleasure to attend.*

*Register, join us and enjoy*

Please join us: registration is at

<https://euripa.woncaeurope.org/content/registration>

**Registration is now open until 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

## News from EURIPA

### **WONCA featured doctor**

This month's featured doctor for WONCA is our very own **Ferdinando Petrazzuoli**. You can read about him, his interests and his practice at

<https://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/member/WoncaPeople/PETRAZZUOLIDrFerdinando.aspx>

### **EURIPA Annual Meeting**

Our Annual Meeting with Members usually takes place during the Rural Health Forum, in the autumn each year. This year the EURIPA Executive Committee decided that it needed to focus on the challenges of organising the e-Forum and has agreed to hold the Annual Meeting during the Berlin Conference (WONCA Europe) on 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> December. If you aren't able to go to Berlin, we will plan to allow for virtual access. If, for whatever reason, this changes a virtual Annual Meeting will be held in November or December.

Notifications will be sent out to members in the autumn.

### **Social Media Survey**

Thank you to everybody who responded to the social media survey. We currently have Twitter and Facebook accounts as well as the web site and the mailing lists. As a small team it would be good to understand better how you would like to be communicated with, to focus our efforts in raising awareness of our activities. The questionnaire will only take 2 minutes to complete. So, if you haven't completed the survey we would still welcome your response. You can find the survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YBZ636R>

If you are able to respond by the **end of August**, it would be appreciated. Thank you!!

### **Covid-19 survey**

Thank you to everyone who responded to this survey, especially as it was a quite a long survey, and in English. The responses are now being analysed and the initial findings will be presented during the e-Forum in September. Publication will follow.

And, don't forget that the the 10th EURIPA Rural health Forum has been postponed until 2021.



## Rural WONCA

### Rural Miscellany

Rural WONCA (the WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice) has set up a Rural WONCA resource website - [www.ruralwonca.org](http://www.ruralwonca.org) - to assist rural doctors, nurses and other health professionals, administrators and policy makers find the information they need on pressing questions with respect to rural health. It helps pull together much of the grey literature on these topics as well as links to peer reviewed journals. Anyone with exemplars or innovative solutions to rural issues is welcome to send these to the contact addresses and, as long as suitable, they will be verified and posted.

The website also hosts all the **Rural Miscellany**, which are being circulated by John Wynn-Jones each week, to keep everyone up to date with Covid-19. John will be speaking about the Rural Miscellany during the e-Forum.

Have a look at the web site which was developed by the team at the University of Queensland (Bruce Chater, Amie Bingham, Belinda O'Sullivan and Tiana Gurney) who have all worked hard to establish a searchable database from what has already been collected and will continue to be added to.

Please take a look at the website: <https://ruralwonca.org>

If you have any comments you can send them to [ruralwonca@uq.edu.au](mailto:ruralwonca@uq.edu.au) or fill in the form on the web site.

Please spread the word to your colleagues it is a fantastic resource!

## Publications

### Our Journal

If you are involved in research or training initiatives in rural health we would welcome a contribution to the **International Electronic Journal of Rural and Remote Health Research Education Practice and Policy**. Original research is always welcomed but there is also the opportunity to send in letters, project reports or personal perspectives.

There is support available to help you get published – new authors are actively encouraged!

As well as the **International Electronic Journal of Rural and Remote Health Research, Education, Practice and Policy** (<http://www.rrh.org.au/euro/defaultnew.aspof>) you can also keep up to date with:

### Family Medicine and Primary Care Review

<https://www.editorialsystem.com/family/journal/about/>

**The European Journal of General Practice** : <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/igen20/current>

**The #EURIPA Rural Health Journal**, published twice a week:

[http://paper.li/EURIPA\\_EURIPA/1445814103#/](http://paper.li/EURIPA_EURIPA/1445814103#/)

And, WONCA e-news at <http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/News.aspx>

### Recent publications

#### **Expert Panel asked for opinion on a new framework for the organisation of health and social care post COVID-19**

The European Commission has asked the Expert Panel on Effective Ways for Investing in Health for this opinion. It should be finalised by November 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/expert\\_panel/docs/mandate\\_careorganisation\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/expert_panel/docs/mandate_careorganisation_en.pdf)

#### **Learning the Lessons for COVID-19 - Opening the Door to Local Intervention**

Papers and blogs – Peter Lloyd Associates – have published a number of articles on the pandemic:

<https://www.peter-lloyd.co.uk/papers-and-blogs/>

#### **Evaluating a centralised cancer support centre in the remote region of Northern Norway**

Ervik B, Andersen S, Skirbekk H, Donnem T

[https://www.rrh.org.au/journal/early\\_abstract/6016](https://www.rrh.org.au/journal/early_abstract/6016)

#### **Patient and provider perspectives on eHealth interventions in Canada and Australia: a scoping review**

LeBlanc M, Petrie S, Paskaran S, Carson DB, Peters PA.

[https://www.rrh.org.au/journal/early\\_abstract/5754](https://www.rrh.org.au/journal/early_abstract/5754)

## Forthcoming Events

Below is a selection of events for the remainder of 2020, in this very strange year, and new dates for postponed events in 2021 that may be of interest to EURIPA members. We will keep you up to date. It is difficult to plan very far ahead just now but please send in your events (virtual or face to face) for future editions of *Grapevine* so that we can make this section more comprehensive.

Please send to the editor at [jane@montgomery-powys.co.uk](mailto:jane@montgomery-powys.co.uk)

Coming up in 2020/21:

**1<sup>st</sup> EURIPA Rural Health e-Forum:** How Rural and Remote General Practice/Family Medicine is responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic - now and for the future

18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020

More information and registration at: <https://euripa.woncaeurope.org/content/e-forum>

EFPC 2020 E-Event, including an online key-note by Anna Stavdal, president-elect WONCA world and the EFPC General Assembly 2020

27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020, virtually

You can register at: <http://euprimarycare.org/2020/05/20/efpc-2020-registration/>

**90<sup>th</sup> EGPRN meeting:** "Digital medicine and e-health".

16-17 October 2020, to be held on-line

Click here <https://meeting.egprn.org/> for more information

**25<sup>th</sup> WONCA Europe Conference: Core values of Family Medicine: Threats and Opportunities**  
Now called: **The European Conference of Family Doctors (organised by DEGAM, WONCA member)**

**Postponed to 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in Berlin**

More information at <http://www.woncaeurope2020.org/>

**Second Annual Conference: Changing Practice, Changing Outcomes**

National Centre for Remote and Rural Medicine, in collaboration with the RCGP Rural Forum

**Postponed to 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> June 2021**, Penrith, England

[www.ncrrm.co.uk](http://www.ncrrm.co.uk) for more information

**26<sup>th</sup> WONCA Europe conference**

7-10 July 2021, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Link: <https://woncaeurope2021.org>

**10<sup>th</sup> EURIPA Rural Health Forum: Understanding our patients – working closely together**

23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Siedlce Poland

Click on [www.euripaforum2021.eu](http://www.euripaforum2021.eu)

**WONCA World Conference 2020, now WONCA World Conference 2021,**

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic it has been decided to postpone the conference until **25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021** It will take place at the same venue, Abu Dhabi, UAE

More information at: <http://wonca2021.com>

### **Future Contributions to *Grapevine***

The next issue of the *Grapevine* will be Autumn 2020, following the e-Forum; contributions are welcome by the end of September for publication in October. Reminders for contributions will be circulated on the mailing list and announced at the web site.

If you are interested in contributing to the next edition of *Grapevine* please get in touch with the Executive Secretary, Jane Randall-Smith at [Jane@montgomery-powys.co.uk](mailto:Jane@montgomery-powys.co.uk) . Please think about what you do in your practice and if you would like to contribute to the clinical case section, or send us a piece about your practice, tell us about research you are doing or have published, an event that is being held in your country ..... please do get in touch.

*Grapevine* is YOUR Newsletter and new contributors are always welcome.