

**The Austrian Society of General Practice and Family Medicine (ÖGAM):
18th WONCA Europe Conference 2012 in Vienna**

The Austrian Society of General Practice and Family Medicine (ÖGAM) hosts the WONCA Europe Conference 2012 in Vienna. From July 4-7, 2012, about 4000 general practitioners from Europe and overseas are expected to meet in the Austria Center in Vienna. +++

(Vienna, February 22, 2012) – The main theme of the WONCA Europe Conference is „*The Art and Science of General Practice*“. Accordingly, there will be plenary lectures covering “the art“ as well as the science of general practice. „It is indisputable, that scientific results and solid scientific evidence are the foundation of general practice. However, more knowledge about diseases and their contemporary therapy are insufficient for a general practitioner to individually and successfully cope with patients and to find efficient approaches under difficult conditions. Creativity and courage to make patient-specific decisions, recognition and respect for the unique strength and weaknesses of individuals as well as patience in managing patients are the ‘art of general practice and family medicine’“, says Univ. Prof. Dr. Manfred Maier, chairman of the Scientific Committee. Thus, the term “art” is well justified for the primary care specialty General Practice. In addition, artistically active colleagues will be presenting their art work during “docsart” at the conference.

New: Opportunity to submit “Last Week Results” and cooperation with the British Medical Journal

Diversity as well as generalism are immanent in General Practice, Therefore, it is the main theme of the conference – there won’t be predefined topics for presentations. So far, the scientific committee received more than 900 abstracts, the reviewing process is ongoing. The scientific committee is pleased about the variety among the abstracts submitted.

Though, a new feature of the WONCA Europe Conference is the opportunity for the submission of latest research results (“Last Week Results”) till March 15, 2012. For authors whose abstract has been accepted for presentation under “Last Week Results”, the early bird registration fee applies till March 31, 2012.

In cooperation with the British Medical Journal (BMJ), another distinctive feature of this conference is the selection of presentations for the plenary lectures on “science”. The authors of publications accepted by the BMJ during spring of 2012 will be invited for plenary presentations. Their papers will be published in the issue of the journal corresponding to the conference.

News about the programme: Richard Roberts as keynote speaker

Richard Roberts, professor and past chairman of the Department for General Practice at the University of Wisconsin, School of Medicine & Health in Madison, will be a keynote speaker for the “art” part of the plenary sessions.. Professor Roberts is the current president of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) and past president of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). Since 1987, Dr. Roberts practices in Belleville, a rural community with a population of 1900 inhabitants. As family doctor and lawyer, Dr. Roberts offers the full range of services in the sector of general practice.

Iona Heath, the current president of the Royal College of General Practitioners and member of WONCA world executive, will give her keynote address on the “art” part entitled. “The art of doing nothing”. From

1975 till 2010, Iona Heath worked as a general practitioner in London. From 1993 till 2001, she was editorial advisor for the British Medical Journal and served as chairman of the Journal`s Ethics Committee from 2004 till 2009.

The third keynote speaker on “art” will be announced soon.

Vienna as a cultural metropolis is the ideal place to present and discuss the main theme of the conference, as it has an important medical tradition as well as many historical places and sights. “The ÖGAM invites you to participate at this exciting and innovative conference. We are looking forward to welcoming you in Vienna”, says MR Dr. Gustav Kamenski, President of the 18th WONCA Europe Conference 2012.

About WONCA (World Organisation of Family Doctors)

WONCA is the world organization of family doctors and general practitioners. It consists of the national umbrella organizations of general practitioners as well as of academic authorities in education and research. WONCA Europe is one of six regions of WONCA and includes all European countries. The politically neutral mission of WONCA is the improvement of the quality of primary health care by developing and supporting high standards in the field of general practice. Other goals are the development of academic institutions for General Practice and Family Medicine, the exchange within the member organizations as well as the representation of the professional activities in education, research and daily practice. In Austria, WONCA is represented by the Austrian Society of General Practice and Family Medicine (ÖGAM), which organized the WONCA conference in Vienna already in the year 2000.

Links:

www.oegam.at

www.woncaeurope2012.org

www.vienna-wieninfo.at

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