

REPORT ON THE 13TH EQUIP WONCA EUROPEAN WORKING PARTY ON QUALITY IN FAMILY PRACTICE

DUN LAOGHAIRE, CO. DUBLIN 12TH - 14TH JUNE 1998

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The meeting which was held in the Royal Marine Hotel was organised by the Irish College of General Practitioners and financed by sponsorship from the Medical Drug companies so that the Hotel accommodation, food and one social event were free for each participant.

The meeting was attended by 33 delegates from 25 European countries and one from South Africa. Each country was represented by one or two delegates.

The meeting started on Friday evening. A stand-up buffet was offered and the delegates had the opportunity to examine and pick information about projects and reports from the different countries which was laid out on two long tables. This is known as the Market Place. This was also the time when the members were available for queries about their reports.

From this session I obtained copies of:

1. "Tools and Methods for Quality Improvement in General Practice". This is a 99-page book produced by the Quality Improvement Tools group. My input for this "Cook book" was "*The Implementation of the Control Laboratory system*". This book is now available for sale and we shall be buying 10 copies for whoever of the MCFD Council members is interested, for our Library (eventually) the Medical School and Tal-Qroqq Libraries and possibly the Dept of Primary Care.
2. Three books produced by the Dutch College entitled: *National Guidelines. CME and assessment. Practice management and patient education*. These I have passed on to Dr Philip Sciortino as material suitable for his Training project.
3. I have also obtained reports from Iceland and Austria.

My input was:

1. A Country Report.
2. Our Policy Document.
3. A copy of the proposed Research Methods Course

On the second day a Plenary session was held during which new delegates were welcomed and invited to give an account of themselves and of the milieu in which they work. We heard from France, Greece and Austria.

Progress reports from the ongoing project teams were presented: These were "Medical Records" This is the project I am participating in and refers to

the Medical Record as a tool for assessing Quality. The next one was in respect of Performance indicators. Here questionnaires about Diabetic Care had been circulated and twenty GP's and Diabetologists were to complete them. Malta was one of the few countries which participated fully. The last one was on Quality Improvement Tools. This is the only one completed and refers to the book referred to above.

The combined EQUIP, EURACT, EGPRW and EUROPREV meeting to be held in Mallorca in spring 1999 was discussed. This is the European Society Conference.

Finally future projects of EQUIP were listed.

New project teams were formed and a Mission Statement was formulated: "To describe and understand the complex and variable QI systems in European General Practice. To supply this evidence in creating a vision of QI in General Practice and to participate in making it happen."

In another plenary session held that afternoon the EQUIP section in the European Journal was discussed. A home page for EQUIP was mentioned. My offer to ask Jean Karl Soler to take care of it once he is already looking after the Home page of the EGPRW was not accepted. Following my suggestion towards having a patient representative on EQUIP it was agreed that the suggestion merited follow up. Locations for future meeting up to Autumn 2000 were established. One day we shall have to host one in Malta.

That evening we had a social event - a tour of a former British Military Barracks turned into a Museum - with a detour to the "Kitty O'Shea" pub beforehand!

On the last morning, Saturday, presentations on QA in Family practice from France and Greece were presented.

We were given information about new developments re European Society/WONCA by Prof Frede Olesen of Denmark and then we had time for more work in the subgroup for the project teams. These reported back in the last plenary session.

That evening Equip hosted a section of the WONCA Conference but, as I had not participated in the previous two EQUIP meetings and the EQUIP conference in Zurich, I was not involved.