

REPORT ON THE 18TH WORKSHOP OF EQUIP - WONCA EUROPEAN WORKING PARTY ON QUALITY IN FAMILY PRACTICE ATHENS, GREECE, NOVEMBER 2-4, 2000

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The 18th EQUIP Workshop was hosted by the Greek Association of General Practitioners, represented by the Vice President Dr Antonios Karotsis - their EQUIP delegate.

These meetings now have taken a traditional format in that, in the first evening, what is called an "Open Market" is held, where delegates bring updated documents on quality improvement and other interesting topics. The author brought several from various countries for the College's information.

The following day (8.30 am - 5.30 pm) was for reports of the previous meeting in June in Vienna, welcoming of new delegates, and news from WONCA, ESGP and QIFM.

This was followed by progress reports on EQUIP Projects. The author is participating in the "Records Project" wherein we are collating a "Comprehensive set of Quality Indicators for the improvement of the personal medical record". This will be published and we have now gathered a set of quality indicators to audit medical records that we will use initially in a pilot study to assess our own records. The author shall be asking Maltese GP's to participate in this exercise once we have refined it.

As usual, the rest of the day was dedicated to meetings of the individual project groups.

The following day Dr. Angela Coulter, director of the Picker Institute, Europe, held a long workshop on "Improving the quality of care by partnership with patients".

One item, which is being perceived as being of great importance, is (as usual) use of the Internet. It is envisaged that documents be put on the EQUIP Website, (www.equip.ch) and links to GP institutions and colleges encouraged.

Through our active participation, these meetings serve to put our country firmly on the map and the author is happy to say that our College is visibly gaining in respect.