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## COMMEMORATION

# Ten years of specialist training in family medicine in Malta 2007-17

## Dr Mario R SAMMUT

On the 9th July 2007, specialist training in family medicine was launched in Malta under the auspices of the government's Primary Health Care Department, with the Malta College of Family Doctors (MCFD) responsible for ensuring the quality of academic training and assessment. This came about after Malta's accession to the European Union in 2004, following which family medicine was



Figure 1. The 2007-intake GP trainees and their coordinator, 19th October 2007. Front row, from left: Elaine Desira Lauria, Dorothy Zammit, Myriam Camilleri, Pamela Seychell, Arlene Bonello, Marie-Claire Formosa; back row, from left: Robert V Gauci, Mark Camilleri, Mario R Sammut (coordinator), Kenneth Vassallo, Daryl Xuereb, Mark L Grech.

accepted as a specialty and a 'Specialist Training Programme in Family Medicine – Malta' was drawn up by the MCFD in 2005 and approved by the Ministry of Health's Specialist Accreditation Committee in 2006. The training programme is accredited for international membership of the UK's Royal College of General Practitioners.

The first cohort of eleven trainees (see Figure 1) who completed training in 2010 have been followed by another fifty-nine doctors, bringing the total of MMCFD and MRCGP[INT] graduates so far to seventy. Another twenty-one doctors are currently training, with eighteen more due to join the programme in October 2017, under the coordination of the postgraduate training coordinators in family medicine Dr Mario R Sammut and Dr Gunther Abela.

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