WONCA Europe in Copenhagen!

Text Peter Vedsted, president of Scientific Committee, and Roar Maagaard, president of Host Organising Committee – roarmaag@post7.tele.dk

In June 2016 all European GPs and trainees will have the opportunity to go to Copenhagen where the WONCA Europe Conference 2016 will take place. Together with colleges from all over Europe and other continents you will find international inspiration and the possibility of sharing experience.

The GPs are organised in the global organisation WONCA. Every year the European section – WONCA Europe – organises a large conference for GPs. In 2014 it took place in Lisbon, this year in Istanbul – and in June 2016 for the first time ever in Copenhagen – on June 15 to 18, 2016. The conference will take place in Bella Center.

The conference in Copenhagen is arranged by the Nordic GPs in collaboration through the Nordic Federation of General Practitioners (NFGP). Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Denmark, with DSAM (The Danish College of General Practitioners) as managing organisation, are responsible for the arrangement.

The conference in Copenhagen is also innovative in other ways. For the first time a conference will be held without sponsorships from the pharmaceutical industry. The Nordic countries have decided to do so in order to prove that “we can do it ourselves!” This also means that we hope for at least 3,500 participants.

Overall plan
The conference is planned to include:

- Late afternoon Wednesday launches the opening plenary session and opening ceremony, and we sincerely hope that our Patron HRH Crown Princess Mary of Denmark will be present.
- Thursday and Friday are full conference days with a professional program with keynote-speakers in the morning and afternoon – and many parallel sessions.
- Friday evening many of the participants will participate in the WONCA conference dinner.
- Saturday will have parallel sessions and two keynote-speakers followed by a closing ceremony.

Afterwards everybody will have the opportunity to experience Copenhagen as a capital in summer mood.

Themes and an extensive professional program
The overall theme of the conference is “Family doctors with heads and hearts”. The theme is chosen as GPs work in the border-land between medical science and humanity. We must be able to understand, listen to and respect the needs and wishes from the patients. How do we secure and develop this central quality in a modern health system?

Within this main theme we have invited seven prominent keynote-speakers to contribute within five central topics:

*The ageing Europe* – Europe’s population has and will change and why and what does that mean to general practice? Are there variations across countries? Will there be more diseases or do we live longer and better?

*Making healthcare affordable* – The health care system will change dramatically towards more specialised care, higher costs, more fragmented care. How will general practice fit into this? What can family medicine do to preserve and develop its core functions and values?
The future consultation – How will general practice develop, what will the content and task be and how will we be able to put science, knowledge into that. How will general practice be able to address future developments and expected tasks?

Diagnosing - a vital task for Family medicine – We get more and more focused on our ability to identify physiological changes and risks early, to use technology and at the same time the public expectations are increasing. What about family medicine? How should diagnosing develop there?

Inequality in health and specific patient groups – Is there a possible risk of increasing inequality in health and access to health care in Europe? We can see inequality based on social differences, among specific disease groups like mental diseases and for children and elderly people. Is the role of general practice to treat the effect of inequality or to treat the inequality in the society?

Practice visits
Our conference guests will have the possibility of visiting a Danish GP clinic. The visit will take place on Wednesday on the opening day of the conference. The participants can sign up for this visit at registration.

Many young doctors attending the conference
Our young colleges are the future GPs and high efforts are made to welcome trainees and young GPs. We hope for many young visitors. Many young doctors will arrive in Copenhagen already Monday to participate in the preconference arranged by “Vasco da Gama Movement”. Trainees in general practice (FYAM) are responsible for this arrangement and for many other activities for young doctors during the conference. Young doctors are also offered a “one day exchange” in a Danish GP clinic. For further information please see the website, “Young Doctors”.

Website and social media
The conference is open for registration and for abstracts on www.woncaeurope2016.com – and here you can also sign up for newsletters in order to follow the preparations.

Like and share on Facebook! www.facebook.com/woncaeurope2016

See you in Copenhagen on June 15, 2016

The seven keynote speakers:
Family doctors with heads and hearts: Professor Michael Kidd, President of WONCA
The ageing Europe: Professor Kaisu Pitkälä, University of Helsinki
Making healthcare affordable: Professor Martin Marshall, University College London, UK
The future consultation: GP, Director Clare Gerada, Practitioner Health Programme, UK
Diagnosing - a vital task for family medicine: Professor Paul Glasziou, Bond University, Australia
Inequality in health and specific patient groups: Director Bernadette Kumar, NAKMI, Norway & Ass. Professor Katherine Rouleau, University of Toronto, Canada