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TO: ADFM Members

FROM: Elissa J Palmer, MD, FAAFP, CAQ HALM  
ADFM Representative to WONCA  
(WONCA-World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians - short name World Organization of Family Doctors)

DATE: February 2, 2025

RE: Annual Report on Activities for 2024

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Thank you for the opportunity to be the representative from ADFM to WONCA. We are demonstrating interest on the world stage about the important role of family medicine departments in the education of medical students and residents, future family medicine physicians.

My representation to WONCA has been as follows:

- 1) Attendance, WONCA Europe – September 2024 (Dublin, Ireland), in person
- 2) Participant, listserv - WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice  
Global rural health issues for practice and academic situations seeking solutions are discussed on a list serve similar to the ADFM list serve.
- 3) Participant, listserv –WONCA North America (NA) Region (new)
- 4) Meeting WONCA NA, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024
  - a. Meeting took place in Phoenix, Arizona (conflicted with WONCA Dublin)
  - b. Attended by Dr. Viviana Martinez-Bianchi, director of health equity and associate professor in the Duke Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, as President-elect WONCA from 2023-2025 (will serve as President from 2025-2027)
  - c. WONCA NA Guidelines developed
  - d. Scholarship Opportunity for the WONCA World Meeting, September 17-21, 2025  
Applications open for the Montegut Global Scholars Program (MGSP), established in 2010 by the American Board of Family Medicine Foundation (ABFM-F). The program supports family physicians from WONCA regions to attend the WONCA World Conference in 2025. The ABFM-F's mission is to advance research and scholarly activities in family medicine, and MGSP was created to foster international education, research, and collaboration in the specialty.  
Deadline: Applications close on Friday 21 March 2025  
(<https://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/member/awards/MontegutScholarAward2.aspx>)
- 5) WONCA World Executive meeting
  - a. WONCA NA guidelines approved and endorsed

b. WONCA North America Region Guidelines (a few excerpts)

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND DEFINITION

1.1 The name of the organization is WONCA North American region (Acronym: WONCA NA region).

2.1.1 The objective of the organization is to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world, and in particular in North America, through fostering and maintaining high standards of care in Family Medicine/General Practice as the sole medical specialty specifically dedicated to competency in comprehensive primary health care service delivery.

***Planned upcoming participation in WONCA:***

- Available to be an ADFM in-person Official Observer at the Meeting of WONCA Council 2025  
WONCA World Conference September 2025 (Lisbon, Portugal)
- Continue listserv – Global Rural Practice and North America Region
- Continue participation in any WONCA NA meetings and listserv