

REPORT FROM TURKEY

EQuIP Meeting, Barcelona, 22-23 November 2006

★ **News from the Health Transition Project:** ★

Piloting has Started in Eskişehir, Bolu, and Edirne

★ **ICPC-2R Book Available in Turkish** ★

★ **Core Curriculum and Log Book for Turkish Family Medicine Residents** ★

★ **General Assembly of TAHUD** ★

★ **Academic News** ★

★ **Panel: the Future of family Physicians in Turkey** ★

- **News from the Health Transition Project: piloting has started in Eskişehir, Bolu, and Edirne**

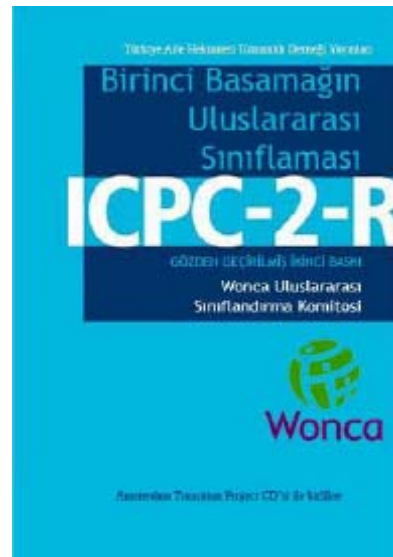
Supported by the World Bank, the Health Transition project is continuing in Turkey since 2003. Within the ongoing primary health care reform which is part of the Health Transition project supported by the World Bank, family physicians are organizing the certification in-service re-training of GPs, who are/(will be?) employed in the national primary health care system.

Düzce was the first city where a sort of pre-pilot implementation was initiated. On March 2006, the Turkish Ministry of Health declared 10 other pilot cities aiming to implement the health transition project in these areas before the end of 2006. Out of these new cities, Eskişehir, Bolu, and Edirne could finish the 10-days introductory trainings and the necessary infrastructure to apply the new system. Details on the new system were published in our previous reports (available at <http://ailehekimligi.trakya.edu.tr> and www.aile.net).

- **ICPC-2R Book Available in Turkish**

Led by the Turkish EQuIP delegates and supervised by Wonca, The last edition of the Wonca ICPC Book (ICPC-2-R) was finished a couple of months ago. The bureaucratic formalities and release of funds could be fortunately completed and the book was printed at the beginning of November 2006. The ICPC

codes were translated and published via the TAHUD web site earlier. With the availability of the electronic version and the book, primary care physicians in Turkey will have a good guidance to apply the codes in their practice.



TAHUD aims to spread and promote the use of ICPC codes among primary care facilities in Turkey. Since most of the trainers in the transitional period are family physicians and medical records are a

part of the curriculum, it is believed that this book will aid as a resource in the certification training vocational training of the GPs and the implementation on a countrywide perspective will be easier during this particular period.

- **National Family Practice Core Curriculum will be Published by 25th of November**

As reported earlier, the Turkish Board of Family Medicine (TAHYK) was working on the development of a standardized curriculum. The

project is finished now and it was announced that together with the log book, the curriculum will be published by November the 25th, 2006. It is hasted to make the curriculum ready and available for the family physicians who participate in the national assembly.

On the other hand, secretary of the Board has changed. Dr. Pınar Topsever, the former secretary devoted herself to the board for two years with important achievements. Her duty was taken over by Assoc. Prof. Dr. NeziĖ DaĖdeviren. Information on the curriculum may be obtained from Prof. İlhami Unluoglu (Chairman of the Board) (iunluog@ogu.edu.tr) or Dr. NeziĖ DaĖdeviren (Secretary of the Board) (drdagdeviren@trakya.edu.tr).

- **General Assembly of TAHUD on November the 26th**

Since the establishment of TAHUD in 1990, general asseblies are held every 2 years with presentations, discussions of different topics and elections of the executive board.

As the total number of family physicians in Turkey is approaching 2000, also the number of participants in the assembly increase. This leads to a diversity of ideas and different orientations. Hopefully, this variety will lead to improvements as it did so far.

This assembly seems to be a more competetive arena for the candidates of the executive council, which should contribute positively to the quality of family medicine in Turkey.

- **Academic News**

European Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity: WHO European Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity took place in Istanbul between 15-17 November 2006. The conference was organized by the Turkish Ministry of Health and the European Union. Countries were represented by their ministers and also non governmental organizations were invited to discuss policies in the struggle against obesity. As to the request from the executive of Wonca Europe, Wonca



Europe was represented in the meeting by Dr. AyŖe aylan, president of TAHUD.

Wonca Europe 2008 Meeting will be in Istanbul: In the last Wonca council meeting it was decided that the European congress 2008 shall be performed in Turkey.

WONCA EUROPE 2008



Aware of the difficulties of organizing such a big event, Turkish family physicians are striving to have success. TAHUD executive has announced the event and started to discuss details.

National Family Medicine Days: Family medicine has found a nourishing ground in Turkey especially in the academic field. Currently there are more than 30 departments of family medicine in the universities. Most departments have their own agenda for CME activities. However, there are also activities at the national level with broader participation.



One of the national initiatives are the "National Family Medicine Days". The fourth of this series of congresses will be performed by the Akdeniz University Medical Faculty Family Medicine Department in collaboration with TAHUD on 25-29 April 2007. Information on the congress is available at www.ailehekimligi2007.org.

- **The Future of Family Physicians in Turkey was discussed in a panel organized by TAHUD**

The rapid growth of family medicine in Turkey also carries some burden and potential complications. Especially the rapid changes in the health care system, and employment of GPs based on a private contracts makes family physicians worried and concerned about their own future. After receiving the 10-days introductory orientation courses of the MoH, GPs are assigned to the same positions as specialists for family medicine and also officially referred to as “family physicians” without the “specialist” suffix, though.



A panel meeting was organized in November 2006 to bring family physicians together and discuss their problems. Authorities from the MoH were invited to this event in order to find answers to the questions right at the meeting. Turan Buzgan, the primary health care general director and Abdulkadir Atalık, the undersecretary were also present.

Local CME activities: the 3rd Çukurova Family Medicine Days: As a part of their CME activities, Çukurova University Department of Family Medicine is organizing regular local meetings. The third Çukurova Family Medicine Days were successfully performed on the 18th of November. The main theme of the meeting was devoted to mental health in family medicine.

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This and other EQuIP reports of the Turkish delegates are available under www.aile.net