

REPORT FROM TURKEY

EQuIP Meeting, Paris, 16-17 October 2007

- ★ Wonca Europe 2008 ★
- ★ Health Transition Project ★
- ★ Physicians are Pushed for One Full-day Work ★
- ★ Family Medicine System Decreases Hospital Patient Loads ★
- ★ Data Standards for Primary Care Defined ★
- ★ Upcoming events: Family medicine autumn course ★

- **WoncaEurope2008:**

www.woncaeuropa2008.org

As announced earlier, the next Wonca Europe meeting will be in Istanbul. With the collaboration of Wonca and the international advisory board, the preliminary program is ready for internet access. Main topics of the conference are cover-



ring a wide area of family practice including the delivery of health care, clinical approach, training, research, and ethical issues.

31st of March and 15th of May 2008 are set as the important dates for abstract submission and early registration respectively.

Registration and abstract submissions are possible through the conference web site www.woncaeuropa2008.org.

EQuIP is expected to support the meeting with individual participations workshop organizations, and presentations as it was during past conferences.

- **News from the Health Transition Project**



As to the declaration from the health minister Prof. Recep Akdag's office, pilot implementation of the family medicine system will continue

covering another 7 cities (Amasya, Manisa, Yalova, Bayburt, Çorum, Karaman, and Karabük) by the end of 2007. currently the new health sytem is applied in more than 15 cities.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Health opened the bids for the phase 2 transitional trainings of the untrained GP's who already passed the phase 1 courses. The second level is a longer project which will incorporate on-site learning and distant learning features.

- **New draft law is submitted to the Parliament: multiple contracts will not be possible anymore**



As to the current regulations in Turkey, physicians working in the government hospitals have the right to apply for part time work. Although

some deductions are made from the salaries by appying to this schedule, doctors have the advantage of making more money by having

private offices of making contracts with other health facilities.

Since the current system has some disadvantages for the patients and the health providers, discussions were going on to find a solution. The recent development in this issue is the proposal of a new law prohibiting physicians to have a second contract besides the one with the ministry of health.

- **The pilot family medicine system is claimed to decrease patient loads in the hospitals**

Dr. Mustafa Kasapoğlu, the Director General for Samsun, one of the pilot cities announced the health statistics for his region. Due to the problems in primary care patients were preferring to visit specialists at the hospitals, leading to an unnecessary crowd and problems with appointments.

According to Dr. Kasapoğlu, the well organized system and the availability of primary care doctors increased the trust of patients and thus the preference of the family health offices. In one area with 7 GPs in the past today 19 family doctors are giving health service. As a result, statistics of the last four months show an increase in primary care visits and simultaneous decrease in hospital visits.

- **Ministry of Health defined data standards for EHR used in primary care**



The ministry of health tries policies to prevent monopoly in the sector. One attempt in accordance with these policies is the development of data standards for electronic health

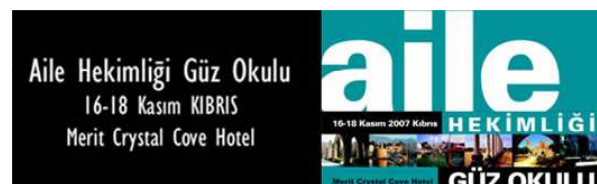
records used in primary care.

The ministry of health expects software developers to utilize the standards and develop products in an open market strategy.

The standards (in Turkish) are available from the following link:

http://www.saglik.gov.tr/extras/birimler/bidb/MVS_V2.0.pdf

- **Upcoming events: Family medicine autumn course**



The nearest national CME event of the Turkish family physicians is the Family Medicine Autumn Course (web site <http://www.guzokulu2007.org/>). The course will be focusing mainly on cardiovascular topics such as metabolic syndrome, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, and diabetes. Chaired by Prof. Süleyman Görpelioğlu, the program will be in Cyprus during 16-18 November 2007.

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