

VI Iberoamerican Summit on Family and Community Medicine

VI Cúpula Ibero-Americana de Medicina de Família e Comunidade

VI Cumbre Iberoamericana de Medicina Familiar y Comunitaria

In recent years, with the increase of the prevalence of chronic non-communicable diseases, gender inequalities, social and health inequities, violence, climate change, lifestyles of human society and the reiteration of health as a fundamental human right, health systems have been taken to value and strengthen the primary care level.

All over the world, Family and Community Medicine (FCM) has been a pillar for a qualified Primary Care (PC), developing a comprehensive care for people, providing better health services to all populations and in all social settings. It is a medical specialty and an academic discipline that studies the health-disease process of the person, their family and community from a systemic perspective and a bio-psycho-socio and cultural approach. Its practice is characterized by knowledge, skills and attitudes that differentiate it from other specialties. However, it is a specialty that still needs to be valued in the Latin American context.

Political discourse and international recommendations speak of the importance of the PC and the FCM in the provision of healthcare services, based on the premise of better utilization of resources, equity and social justice. However the different degrees of commitment and efforts made to strengthen education and training in PC and FCM in Latin America health systems have been insufficient. It could be said that in many cases the efforts are very little or almost nulls, if not contradictory, even reverse the signed agreements.

As a way to discuss, reflect and support the development of appropriate policies for health systems to a qualified PC, with Family and Community doctors, the Iberoamerican Confederation of Family and Community Medicine (Wonca Iberoamericana CIMF) promotes the realization of Ibero-American Summits of Family Medicine. The summits, as well as a political event, are also a technical and an academic event. Through the exchange of experiences and participatory activities, with strategic representatives from the areas of health, education and research, solutions are sought for organizational problems, assistance, training and research in Iberoamerican health systems, especially those related to Primary Care and Family and Community Medicine.

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Health Ministers of the Iberoamerican region, representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and PAHO/WHO, representatives of CIMF and the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), Managers of Health and Education, Academic Societies representatives interested in Family Medicine and Primary Care, and representatives of organized society are invited to attend these events.

Since 2002, there have been six summits: in 2002, Summit of Seville, Spain; in 2005, Summit of Santiago, Chile; in 2008, Summit of Fortaleza, Brazil; 2011 Summit of Asuncion, Paraguay; 2014 Summit of Quito, Ecuador, and in 2016, the Summit of San José, Costa Rica, the subject of specific interest in this supplement of the Brazilian Journal of Family and Community Medicine (RBMFC).

The VI Ibero-American Summit of Family and Community Medicine was held during 12 and 13 April 2016, in the city of San José, Costa Rica, under the theme: **“Universality, Equity and Quality in Health Systems: Family and Community Medicine as Axis”**.

This great event was organized by the Ministry of Health of Costa Rica, the Costa Rican Department of Social Security, CIMF, WONCA, the Association of Family and Community Medicine of Costa Rica (MEDFAMCOM), PAHO/WHO, with the collaboration of the Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE).

We had the honourable participation of Dr. Fernando Llorca Castro, Minister of Health of Costa Rica; Dra. María del Rocío Sáenz Madrigal, Executive President of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund; Dra. Lilia Reneau-Vernon, OPS Costa Rica, the authorities from the WONCA Executive Committee: President Dr. Michel Kidd, Executive Secretary Dr. Garth Manning and President Elect Dr. Amanda Howe, as well as the Executive Committee and Board of CIMF and representatives of the Ministers of health from Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Puerto Rico; as well health managers, teachers, residents and students. In all, 170 people from 24 countries were gathered reflecting and discussing the Family and Community Medicine (FCM).

In this VI Summit, participants were given the task of developing 5 working axis through 5 groups, divided into 8 sub-working groups:

- Axis 1: Universality, Equity and Quality in Health Systems: The Family and Community Medicine as Axis
- Axis 2: Training in Family and Community Medicine, Certification and Recertification
- Axis 3: Reference and Counter Reference System: care coordination mechanisms and role of Family and Community Medicine in the structure of Network Health Services
- Axis 4: Research in Family and Community Medicine
- Axis 5: Quaternary Prevention: Medical Ethics, Evaluation and Efficiency in Health Systems

During the Sixth Summit, the situational diagnoses of the countries of the region related to the referred themes have been presented. After a participatory discussion in working groups, 7 central definitions and 22 recommendations were generated to form the letter of San Jose. The Letter as well as 8 articles on the topics of this summit, are published in this supplement of the Brazilian Journal of Family and Community Medicine (RBMFC).

This time, unlike the previous one, when the conclusions of the summit were published only in Spanish, we decided to publish in 3 languages: Spanish, Portuguese and English. The aim is to provide relevant information to the decision makers and medical community about the strengths and opportunities presented by the Latin American countries on key issues for the development of more efficient and fairer health systems, based on the PC and FCM.

We know we have the challenge of improving the processes of scientific production, as scientific associations we are. We believe that the articles that integrate this number of the RBMFC are part of the construction of this story. A story that has been developed based on cooperation and collaborative spirit among family and community physicians from all the countries of our Confederation, committed to FCM. Furthermore, the articles are relevant because they provide important and new information.

Finally, we thank everyone involved in the publication of this work, from the scientific part, and including those who contributed to the publishing production, as is the case of Marli Machado, from RBMFC; our external reviewers, Professor Arnulfo E. Irigoyen-Coria, Editor of the Journal of Family Care and Professor of the Faculty of Medicine of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM); Master Jose Enrique Alfonso Manzanet, Head of Department of Medical Journal Editors, Editorial Medical Sciences, National Information Center of Medical Sciences of Cuba and Dr. Danae Ricardo Aldana, Editor from the same institution.

“Publication of position papers and the conclusions of the CIMF Summits, represent a clear editorial and scientist effort to consolidate the Family Medicine - our speciality- at the Latin American level. We must be convinced that without the arduous and complex execution of these tasks -the Family Medicine in Iberoamerica- cannot be consolidated. More than forty years have passed since the academic training of specialists in family medicine began in Mexico; and it can be said that without these scientific-publishing efforts, the desired consolidation of the specialty will be further away each day.”

Arnulfo E. Irigoyen Coria

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