



1<sup>st</sup> Invitational Meeting  
of European Colleges and  
Associations

4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Lisbon – Portugal



Dear President,

Dear Colleague,

General Practice/Family Medicine is well organized in Europe. We have the bigger and better structured Wonca Region; we have networks for Education, Research, Quality Improvement, Prevention, Rural and Isolated Practice, developing an impressive amount of good work. We have Special Interest Groups for the more prevalent diseases and for political aspects we have UEMO.

The major support for these organizations are the National Colleges and Associations, and to continue developing all this initiatives we need strong, well organized and financially healthy Colleges and Associations. Usually we don't have enough time to look to our own Organizations, and we don't benefit as much as we could from international collaboration and cooperation. In the major part of the cases we could improve the way we work together, how we learn from each others and how we exchange the best organizational practices.

To change this situation, we propose a meeting in Portugal, in April 2008, open to every European College and Association, hosted by the Portuguese Association of General Practitioners and under the umbrella of Wonca Europe. We invite one or two members of every European College mainly those more related with organisational aspects. We expect to join around 50 colleagues.

The idea is to arrive on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April and have an informal get together, a full day of work (group work and plenary sessions) on Saturday, and departure on Sunday.

We will be pleased to support the expenses with accommodation and meals for two persons, for two nights, from every European College and the facilities for the meeting. The participants only need to pay their own travel expenses.

Main areas for discussion and exchanging information could be: managerial ones like publishing, organizing meetings, owning companies or foundations, services provided to members, internal organisation of the colleges like contracting staff and policy areas like how to deal with politicians and media, pharmaceutical industry, funding, etc.

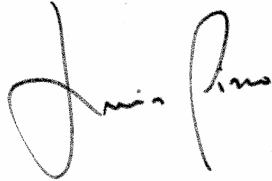
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We are open to receive suggestions about topics for discussion and soon, we will send a more detailed plan for the meeting.

In case of success it could be organised at least every two years in different countries.

We are looking forward to meet you in Lisbon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luis Augusto Pisco'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'L' being particularly large and stylized.

Luis Augusto Pisco  
President APMCG