



The Malta College Of Family Doctors **Newsletter**

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Tragic loss of a friend

I deemed it fit to start this newsletter with a short note in remembrance of Dr. Saviour Cilia who was for many years the editor of this newsletter. Salvu as he was affectionately known had been active in the MCFD for many years and was Secretary for Communication in the past MCFD Council. He was always ready to help others and showed great dedication in his work for others. He will be sadly missed by all of us and we will surely remember all the great work he has done within the MCFD and the MAM. Most of all we will miss a truly dear and honest friend. We will always keep him and his family in our prayers.

MRCGP [INT] Development Days 2007

Once again the MCFD was invited to attend the yearly MRCGP [INT] Development Days in London. They were held between the 21st and 24th May, and the theme chosen this year was "The dynamism of the MRCGP [INT]". This year the focus was on training issues, with a pre-conference test writing workshop which provided a golden opportunity for the test writers from current and future sites to bring in their questions for validation and constructive comment.

The College delegation also used these days to make important meetings with Dr. Adrian Freeman (the International Development Advisor for Malta) and Dr. John Howard (Chairman of the MRCGP [INT] board). These meetings were extremely constructive and in fact it was envisaged that within 2 years Maltese doctors would be able to obtain the MRCGP [INT].

The College delegation consisted of Dr. Mario Grixti (head of delegation), Dr. Noel Caruana, Dr. Jean Karl Soler, Dr. Renzo De Gabriele and Dr. Mario Sammut.

Certificate in Diabetes

The Council of the Malta College of Family Doctors has recently set up a Diabetes Task Group. The members of this group are Dr. Noel Caruana, Dr. Mario Gixti, Dr. Michael Borg, Dr. Antonia Mizzi and Dr. Christine Scalpello. One of the first projects of this group is to organise a "Certificate in Diabetes" in collaboration with the Irish College of General Practitioners. All those interested in pursuing this certificate are to send an e-mail to Dr. Mario Gixti on mario.gixti@gov.mt to confirm their interest. The course will start this September and the fee is 1100 Euros (around Lm450). This is an online course and there will be no need to travel abroad.

Other Courses organized by the MCFD

The Education Committee of the Malta College of Family Doctors is seriously considering running the following two courses, if there is sufficient interest expressed by members:

1) A repeat of the popular and successful Evidence Informed Practice workshop held in June at the Seminary in Rabat. If there are 10 or more interested parties, we would consider running this course again, after the summer. The possibility of running it in Gozo, if there is sufficient interest from Gozitan members, is one option.

2) The organisation of a hands-on three-day full-time course for GPs in Ultrasound imaging. The course would be run by three foreign University lecturers, just after the summer, and would cost about GBP 500.00 per participant. The outcomes of the course would be to introduce local family doctors to the limitations and potentials of ultrasound, to introduce them to practice current ultrasound techniques in areas defined by the RCGP guidelines, to make us aware of quality assurance and safety issues, and to award successful participants with a formal certificate.

Interested parties should write to College Education Secretary Jean Karl Soler on jksoler@synapse.net.mt as soon as possible, indicating level of interest, and for which course. Courses will only be run if there is sufficient interest.

Forthcoming EURACT Courses

The European Academy of Teachers in General Practice wishes to announce the two following courses being held under its auspices.

a) The 16th Bled Course on Learning and Teaching about Patient Empowerment in General/Family Practice is being held on 18-22 September 2007 in Bled, Slovenia. The course fee is set at 300 Euro + V.A.T. (with a 40 Euro reduction of the course fee for EURACT members). A limited number of sponsored places are available through the EURACT sponsorship programme. Accommodation on bed & breakfast basis is available from 40 to 72 Euro per night per person. The closing date for applications is the 15th August 2007. For full details please follow this link <http://www.drmed.org/novica.php?id=10483>

b) The EURACT First Assessment Course for Trainers in Family Medicine, being held between the 14 and 18 November 2007 in Zakopane, Poland. The total fee (course registration and full-board accommodation for 4 nights) is 670 Euros for EURACT members and 720 Euros for non-members. The closing date for applications is the 8th October 2007. To download the information/registration form please follow this link:

http://www.euract.org/html/pdf/Assessment_Course_Leaflet.pdf

CPDAS Log Book

A Continued Professional Development Accreditation Scheme (CPDAS) personal folder was devised by the MCFD Education Committee for College members to:

- a) keep a personal record of CPD activities;***
- b) apply for CPD accreditation to the Malta College of Family Doctors.***

After undertaking an educational activity which qualifies for accreditation (see Pages 4 and 5 of document for details), you are advised to immediately fill out the details of the activity on the relevant record sheet.

Moreover, in the case of Passive Learning, for each accredited meeting attended you should:

- 1. sign the attendance sheet made available by the organisers at the venue;***
- 2. collect the certificate of attendance (where provided) and file it with this folder.***

At the end of each calendar year, please send the Active and Passive Learning Record Sheets to:

***The MCFD Registrar
Malta College of Family Doctors
PO Box 69
Gzira GZR 01***

You can download the CPDAS personal folder from the college website or by following this link

<http://www.mcfid.org.mt/MCFD%20CPDAS%20Folder%202007.doc>

Teachers' Course

The MCFD will soon be advertising a course for those wishing to become trainers. It is envisaged that the course will be held in September. Please check the website regularly for further updates if you are interested in this course.

MCFD Souvenirs

The Malta College of Family Doctors has designed some souvenirs for its members. These include tiepins, badges and paperweights. The paperweights cost Lm2.50 each, tiepins cost Lm2 each, and badges cost Lm1.50 each. These can be bought from stands which will be set up at CME events organised by the MCFD. They can also be bought by contacting Dr. Adrian Micallef on mobile number 99493463. These souvenirs can be viewed on the college website at this address http://www.mcfid.org.mt/mcfid_souvenirs.htm

Environment and Health

Environmental health comprises those aspects of human health including quality of life that are determined by the physical, biological, social and psychosocial factors in the environment. It also refers to the theory and practice of assessing, correcting, controlling and preventing those factors in the environment that can potentially affect adversely the health of present and future generations (from the Helsinki Declaration, 2nd European Conference on Environment and Health, 1994).

Professionals in the medical field (doctors, scientists, nurses, other health professionals, and students in this area) interested to focus on the linkages between human health and environmental factors, and to take action locally, nationally and internationally are encouraged to contact family doctor Jason J. Bonnici MD, MMCFD, on email address jasonjbonnici@hotmail.com. Actions include building local capacity through education and training, raising awareness, research and publication, advocacy and being a good role model.

Other notices

- 1. The Caritas Malta Epilepsy Association has prepared a special epilepsy diary for patients, allowing sufferers to document personal details and contact numbers, treatment details, frequency and severity of fits and what to do in an emergency. These diaries are designed to be carried by the patient. They are very useful for monitoring fit frequency and severity, and would be useful to support discussions with their doctor. These diaries are being distributed free of charge. If you would like to pick some up to give to your patients, please contact Dr Mario Gixti (mario.gixti@gov.mt) or Dr Jean Karl Soler (info@thefamilypractice.com.mt).*
- 2. You can find the latest information and the scientific programme of WONCA 2007 on our website or by following this link http://www.mcfid.org.mt/Wonca2007/wonca_2007.htm*
- 3. Members who wish to obtain back copies of the "Familjakana" magazine for their clinic waiting rooms are to contact Ms. Joanna Zammit Falzon on telephone number 21238068 /21238942 (Monday to Friday, mornings only) or else on email sec@canamovement.org*
- 4. The college website is updated regularly with the latest news and events. You can also register online so that you receive the latest news directly to your email address. Follow this link for further information http://www.mcfid.org.mt/get_e-mail_from_mcfid.htm*