



MALTA COLLEGE OF FAMILY DOCTORS
Professional Centre, Sliema Road, Gzira GZR1633
Fax: +356-2333 1040 • E-Mail: mcfcd@synapse.net.mt
Website: <http://www.mcfcd.org.mt>

6th June 2008

The MCFD- A College to be proud of

Dear college members,

As in previous years, our college was recently invited by the Royal College of General Practitioners to participate in its Membership Development Days. This year we were given the opportunity to give a presentation, which I delivered, by the title of **'Notes from a small island – Malta's Experience'**.

The Malta College of Family Doctors, founded in 1989, is a young college. At that time it had Dr Dennis Soler as its president, Dr Wilfred Galea as its vice president and Dr Ray Busuttill as its Hon Secretary. In its 18 year history this college has lived up to its statute in *'maintaining the highest possible standards in Family Medicine in Malta and in sustaining and improving the professional qualifications of members of the medical profession who are engaged in Family Medicine'*. Over the years its presidents built on the progress which was achieved by their predecessors and today we have Family Medicine as a recognised speciality in this country at par with all other specialities. We have our own membership, the **MMCFD**, and we have a specialists **training programme** which started in July 2007 with its first group of 11 trainees. This was followed by another group of 6 trainees enrolled in October of that same year. We also have qualified trainers in Family Medicine and we have also reached a stage where we run our own **trainers course** with external observers from the RCGP and EURACT. In July 2010 we will see the first group of trainees undertaking their first assessment process on completion of their three year training programme. The current council is working to develop this assessment process up to the same rigour as that of the MRCGP [Int], as agreed by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the MCFD and the RCGP by the previous president, Professor Pierre Mallia. Successful trainees will be awarded the MMCFD, a CCST certificate and the MRCGP [Int]. It has to be said that the college is the body solely responsible for the summative assessment of the training programme and has set up its own **Assessment** and **Curriculum Boards** to address this training programme. This council has also approved the setting up of an Assessment Board for established members who wish to pursue the MRCGP [Int].

Besides training we are also proud to be involved in providing **Continuing Medical Education (CME)** and **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**. We have our own **Diploma in Family Practice** and we had the graduation of the first 28

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WONCA – World Organisation of Family Doctors EGPRN – European General Practice Research Network
EQuIP – European Working Party on Quality in Family Practice EURACT – European Academy of Teachers in General Practice
EUROPREV – European Network for Prevention and Health Promotion in Family Medicine and General Practice



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graduates in May 2008. We are also very active in the international scene and this year we hosted the **EURACT Council Meeting** and we also organised an **international workshop on Lifelong Learning**.

When reflecting on all these achievements and also on the relatively short time taken by the college to attain all these, it must make each one of us feel proud of belonging to this college. It has taken sister colleges around Europe many more years to achieve the same milestones in their history. All this thanks to the college council, past and present, and to the membership.

The College always had an impact on reforms in Primary Care in this country. In 1990 it was very actively involved when the first reforms were being implemented. However it must be said that at that time its recommendations were not completely taken up by the national administration. We now have a secondary care system which is running into difficulties because we do not have a sustainable primary care system in place. Notwithstanding this, we have to look forward and once again our college will be asked to participate actively at a national consultative level in the restructuring of Primary Care in Malta. For this reason this present council approved participation in a task group which was jointly set up between doctors working both in the private and public sector. This is known as the **APFD-MCFD-AGP task group on primary care**. It is hoped that we move together in unity as a group in the forthcoming consultation process. Although the college is an academic body it cannot keep away from involving itself in reforms on primary care as this has a direct impact on its functions and its responsibilities towards promoting high standards of care in Family Medicine.

No doubt Malta is a small island with its most precious resources being that of its human resources. The Maltese medical profession is well established both locally and internationally. The college is proud of its members and throughout these years has wisely invested in its human resources as evidenced by its achievements. It will continue to invest in its human resources and will take the necessary steps to sustain the progress that it has achieved.

Thanking you for your support,

Dr Mario Grixti
President Malta College of Family Doctors

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Membership Fees

The college would like to remind all its members that membership fees for 2008 are now overdue. All members who have not yet paid are requested to do so at their earliest.

The membership fee for full membership (MMCFD) is 116 Euro. Kindly send your cheques, to be made payable to the Malta College of Family Doctors, to:

Dr Louise Gatt
55, Triq L-Emigranti
Naxxar NXR3201

In order to pay the above-mentioned fee by standing order the following information must be presented to any Bank of Valletta branch:

1. Account number: BOV 40012881989
2. Account name: Malta College of Family Doctors
3. Details: Doctor's first name and surname and college membership number
4. Amount: 116.00 Euro
5. Date of payment: 1st January of each year

Membership of the Malta College of Family Doctors: MMCFD

The college would like to take this opportunity to inform its members that according to our records there are still a number of MMCFD certificates which have not yet been collected. There are also doctors who have still not applied for the MMCFD. Please be informed that the Membership Board had recommended that all those college members who are registered as specialists in family medicine be offered the MMCFD on the basis of acquired rights. This clause will be available for a **time-limited period** and certainly until training for the MMCFD by examination or assessment is effectively in place. Therefore please take time to consider applying for the MMCFD. Our Membership is also recognized by the Medical Council. Application forms can be found on the college website.

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CD with Photos of Graduation Ceremony of Diploma in Family Practice

Those who are interested in buying the CD containing the photos of the graduation ceremony of the Diploma in Family Practice held last May are to contact the college by sending an email to renzodegabriele@gmail.com. The cost of the CD is 5 Euro.

Saving the Diabetic Foot

The conference being organised by the Tissue Viability Unit in collaboration with the MCFD on “*Saving the Diabetic Foot*” will be held on the 20th June at the Westin Dragonara Resort. For further details kindly view the college website or follow this link <http://www.mcfcd.org.mt/Diabetes.pdf>

Counselling: a Means of Bridging Differences

A conference on “*Counselling: a Means of Bridging Differences*” is being held at the Dolmen Hotel in Qawra between the 2nd & 6th July 2008. For further details kindly follow this link http://www.macpmalta.org/iac_conference.htm

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