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The Wonca Congress and the Journal PrimaryCare



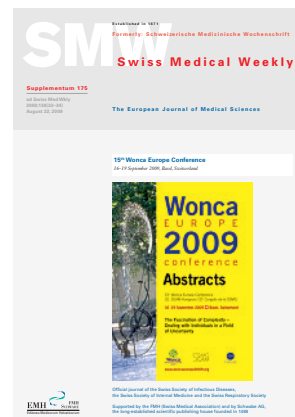
As the publishers of *PrimaryCare*, we take special pleasure in this wonderful special issue on the Wonca Congress in Basel that appears shortly before the tenth anniversary of this journal. Thanks to the fact that the heads of the Organization and Scientific Committees are both members of the editorial staff, there were very close ties between *PrimaryCare* and the Congress organizers during the entire run-up to the Congress. However, as often happens in such cases, the idea of a special issue was born rather late in spite of this propitious constellation.

The fact that this issue is now coming out in time for the Congress is due solely to the enormous editing efforts of Bruno Kissling. To make this special issue a reality, he literally pulled out all the stops. Within a very short time Kissling had contacted all potential authors for the special issue and obtained a pledge to contribute – a sensational success rate of 100 %. When the articles started coming in, he read each one carefully and carried on a lively editorial discussion by email with the authors and with us. He did all of this, it must be noted, in the midst of the preparations for the Congress coming up in Basel. This event can be considered the climax of his many years of dedication to Wonca – not only as the delegate of the SGAM to Wonca to the Wonca Congress but also as editor writing about Wonca topics for *PrimaryCare*. If you enter the key word «Wonca» and the author "Kissling" in the search menu on our website, you will get 73 or more hits.

We would now also like to extend a sincere "thank you" to all of the authors who contributed to this issue. We know that it is not easy – and certainly nothing to be taken for granted – to write a text according to a certain model with such a tight deadline. However, all of the authors managed to submit their articles – plus a portrait photo – to the editorial staff on time. It is because of their dedication that you now have in your hands a special issue presenting the field of family medicine in all of its diversity. We think that you will agree that the original idea (the seed, so to speak) has now germinated and blossomed into a fantastic bouquet of flowers.

- 1 www.emh.ch
- 2 www.fmh.ch
- 3 www.schwabe.ch
- 4 www.primary-care.ch
- 5 www.smw.ch

You will find an impressive bouquet of flowers of a totally different kind in the abstract book prepared for the Congress; it appeared as a supplement to the Medline-listed journal *Swiss Medical Weekly*. I can only begin to imagine the enormous work that went into selecting and cataloguing the approximately 1,000 abstracts. Thanks to the professional assistance provided by Kathrin Rosenberg from Dr. Schlegel Healthworld AG, however, we were able to implement this publication project as well in a professional manner.



The publishing house producing these two journals – and numerous others – is a specialized publishing house in which the majority of shares are held by Swiss doctors. EMH Swiss Medical Publishers¹ is a joint venture of the Swiss Medical Society (German abbreviation: FMH)² and Schwabe AG³ in Basel. Schwabe AG, a company founded in 1488, is the oldest printing and publishing house in the world.

Are you now thinking, perhaps, that we are a bit old fashioned? To dispel this idea, we would like to point out that *PrimaryCare*⁴ and the *Swiss Medical Weekly*⁵ are both open access publications: you can download the full text of both this issue of *PrimaryCare* and the *Wonca Abstracts* online.

We are now all looking forward to the Wonca Congress 2009 and the fascinating articles, which will be continued, like a red thread, in *PrimaryCare* after the Congress.

We wish all of you an exciting stay here in Basel.

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