

François Hérítier

# Take-home message of the president of the Swiss society of General Practice SSMG/SGAM



It is not easy to assess the impact of this conference on Swiss family medicine especially immediately at the end of this congress. I could try to summarise in one sentence: This conference gives us, Swiss family doctors, the opportunity to create a new association: the newborn association of "Family Doctors Switzerland". Under the slogan "... one voice, one structure, together we can ..."



François Hérítier.

We hope that this new association of general practitioners, inter-nists and paediatricians working in primary care will have a large impact on Swiss health policies. The first result of this impact will be our initiative "Yes to family medicine" that will be launched this coming 1st of October.

Our initiative wants to put pressure on our federal authorities with the following objectives:

1. to encourage family medicine,
2. to give more support for medical education in primary care and
3. to improve our working conditions.

Is there another impact of this conference on the Swiss family medicine? I would need more time and more distance to assess the outcomes, but I would share with you some impressions. Using some words of the title of our conference:

"The Fascination of Complexity – dealing with Individuals in a Field of Uncertainty".

## Fascination

I was fascinated by the nanosciences ... from Matterhorn to the tip of a pen ... hearing that we can expect more specific drug delivery, quicker lab test results in our offices. I was fascinated by the mirror neurons and the third ear to listen and to understand our patients. I am always impressed by pictures of our wonderful earth. I was fascinated because I heard from a professor in technology that young students prefer to chat with family doctors rather than computers and that there is a tremendous need for a general practitioner spirit as intermediary between specialist and patient. I was, and I am, fascinated because we are ALL different despite our 99.5% common DNA. Only 0.5% difference makes you white, black, yellow, red, or Swiss ...

## Complexity

I have not yet understood the triple helix model of socio-technical change, the inner image in the neurobiology of intuition, the variability of viruses from Kennedy to Obama ...

## Dealing

I do not like this word. Immediately I think: deal, dealer, business, market, financial crisis. Not all of this will I take home.

## Individuals

We were more than 4000 individual medical doctors attending this conference and we are going to meet, to listen, to treat hundreds of individual patients in a few days. Are we able to make the patient–doctor relationship **better** after this congress?

## Field

Field reminds me of the pictures at the opening ceremony showing landscapes, mountains, cities, lakes and fields of Switzerland, taken from a window of our offices. Maybe, you can enjoy some more days in our beautiful country ...

## Uncertainty

After this conference, I will remember only the uncertainty of genetics. Otherwise I have only certainties. I am sure, I am convinced that: We can take a step forward in the development of family medicine. We have a place in the core and the heart of each human life.

As I told you at the opening ceremony: Family medicine is sexy.

I tell you now: Family medicine is living, is present and has a future and

TOGETHER, WE CAN ...

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Photos: Dr Winfried Suske.