



## Welcome

It is my privilege to welcome doctors, nurses, students and other healthcare professionals to 10th EURIPA Rural Health Forum, which will be held for the first time in Poland in Siedlce on 23-25 September 2021.

Over the last 30 years Poland has undergone huge political and economic changes. It transformed from a communist state towards democracy and a market economy. There were big changes in primary care as well and state-owned medical centres were replaced by privately owned medical practices which work within the public healthcare system. During the conference we would like to share our experiences with colleagues from other countries and provide examples of good practice.

Provision of high level medical care in rural places remains a challenge in many countries. The situation is aggravated by younger generation migration to cities leaving elderly populations without care that traditionally was provided by the closest family members. New developments such as telemedicine, electronic prescriptions, new medications that are easier to deliver and monitor give us a chance to provide modern medicine even when there are scarce numbers of medical professionals.

The theme of this Forum is:

**“Understanding our patients – working closely together”.**

This is for many of us still a new idea. We will discuss how to involve patient groups in finding best solutions for organisation of services, preparing guidelines and delivering medical care.

Although some of you may have visited Warsaw or Krakow, participation in the 10th EURIPA Rural Health Forum will give you an opportunity to see Siedlce located in Eastern Poland. Siedlce founded as a private city by Polish aristocracy has turbulent history going back to the 15th century. Today with almost 80,000 citizens, it is a dynamic city with a local University of Natural Sciences and Humanities and the only El Greco's painting in Poland “The ecstasy of St. Francis” presented in the diocese museum. Siedlce is surrounded by small villages located in agricultural areas. I hope that beauty of local fields and forests as well as hospitality of Polish people living in Eastern Mazovia will be an added value to the scientific attractiveness of our Forum.

**Slawomir Chlabicz**

**President of Scientific Committee**

And, from **Jean Pierre Jacquet, President of EURIPA:**

2021 is probably an important milestone to rural world. Lockdown, social distancing, pandemic, climate change, greenhouse effects, planetary health.... all these key words in the same pot. The consequences of these terrible circumstances are already alarming.

We will have to work closely with our patients, working together, thinking together, not only as professionals but also as global citizens.

Join us, in the most appropriate way, to share the present and build the future.

## Save the Date!

## Call for Abstracts

### Now Open

The Call for Abstracts is **open** and you are invited to submit an abstract for an oral communication, workshop or poster.

As usual EURIPA offers support to anyone who is unsure about their abstract. We would like to encourage you to submit an abstract whether you are new to practising in a rural area, have made a long term commitment to rural practise or are thinking about practising in a rural community, we welcome your contribution to our Forum.

The **deadline** for abstract submission is **July 16<sup>th</sup> 2021**. **Don't forget!**

## The programme

The outline of the Scientific Programme will be available on the web site shortly. Our next Newsletter will have more information on the keynote speakers and themes of the Forum. Clinical visits to local primary care facilities are being organised which will be an excellent to opportunity meet local primary care teams, see their working conditions and to understand the range of clinical responsibilities. Places for the visits will need to be booked on registering for the Forum.

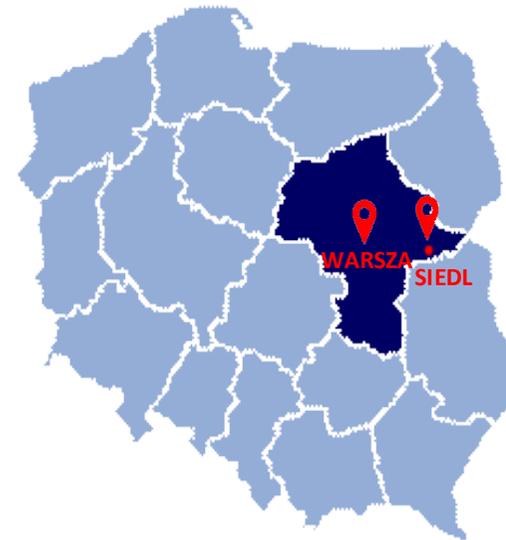
We've all missed social contact during the past year and the 'real' event will include a Rural Dinner and also a tourist offer. And, during the Scientific programme there will be plenty of opportunity for networking.

## Registration

Early bird registration is now **open** and will continue until 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Delegates have the choice of registering for a face to face Forum or for a virtual Forum - we hope that travel arrangements will be clearer in the coming months.

<https://euripaforum2021.eu>

## Siedlce, Poland



Siedlce is located in the eastern part of the Masovian Province on the traditional international route running almost all of Europe from Lisbon through Paris, Berlin to Moscow. The international railway line going through the city connects the east and west of Europe. The history of Siedlce goes back over 470 years. The first mention of the city comes from 1448.

For more information go to: <https://siedlce.pl/en>

**We look forward to seeing you in September,  
if not face to face then virtually!**