

Newsletter
Number Two



The theme of 10th EURIPA Rural Health Forum, which will be held in Siedlce, Poland on 23-25 September 2021 is

“Understanding our patients – working closely together”.

Rural general practice/family medicine requires the ability of physicians to care for a highly dispersed population with limited or remote access to specialist support and highly technical services. This can involve care of patients with complex and serious illnesses who, in large urban cities, would be managed by a team of specialists. One of the differences between rural and urban general practice is a more socially oriented patient centred model of care and higher community expectations of social roles. Rural health is less biomedical and more holistic than in the city and rural doctors usually have an increased social standing compared with those in the city. The local doctor is the one who has to deal with very personal issues, a reliable friend you can always go to if you have a problem. Rural communities offer extraordinary opportunities to conduct more holistic, integrative, and relevant research using new methods and data sources. Rural health research is crucial to the provision of quality health care for the rural population.

A considerable proportion of the population live in a rural setting even in Europe, however WHO Europe reported that ‘in the health sector and beyond, limited data and analysis of the situation of rural populations, and in particular of the rural poor, contribute to their invisibility and neglect in policy processes in many countries and that the rural dimension is often neglected in analyses of health status and health system performance.

The Forum will address the full scope of research and educational questions facing rural family doctors, through oral presentations, workshops and poster sessions. You are warmly invited to submit an abstract either on this theme or as a free-standing paper, where the main focus must be rural primary care.

Dear all EURIPA Friends,

In Ponta Delgada (Azores, Portugal) when we invited you to the next EURIPA Forum, none of us had ever imagined how our world could change. We had little information about the virus from Wuhan and it was so far away from us. Now we all know what happened afterwards.

Today we are trying to recover our bodies, souls and societies. We are trying to repair a broken net of our meetings. It is a great deal for all of us to restart and take interest in non-covid problems.

On behalf of Organizing Committee, I kindly invite to the 10th EURIPA Rural health Forum in Siedlce (Poland), on 23-25th of September 2021. It will be a face to face and a virtual forum. We are going to concentrate on vaccination problems, teamwork solutions, digitalisation of health care and plenty of other interesting topics. We are preparing a safe and cosy place to re-establish our meetings in hospitable Siedlce, a town of interesting history and citizens. It will be a great honour to welcome all of you as our guests.

Paweł Żuk

EURIPA Polska

Don't be shy, even if you are not a skilled researcher or educationalist, as a rural family doctor you can still contribute to the scientific programme and also enrich the cultural content of the Forum with your ideas too. You will make this event an important opportunity to contribute to the EURIPA vision for Rural Practice.

Please follow the instructions on how to submit an abstract on the Forum website at <https://euripaforum2021.eu/call-for-abstracts/euripa-forum-presentation-guidelines/>.

When you are ready please submit your abstract at <https://euripaforum2021.eu/call-for-abstracts/call-for-abstracts/>

Abstract submission is already open, and the deadline is July 16th, 2021.

Ferdinando Petrazzuoli
Co-chair of Scientific Committee

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 16th 2021**. **Don't forget!**

Early bird registration is now **open** and continues until 16th August 2021.
We look forward to seeing you in September, if not face to face then virtually!

EURIPA Rural Health Fora

Amazingly this is our 10th Rural Health Forum and, of course, we organised the successful e-Forum in 2020.

EURIPA held its first Rural Health Forum in Mallorca in 2010 with 4 central themes mirroring those of WONCA Europe, and a particular emphasis on policy, including rural proofing.

In 2011, 2012 and 2013 we went to Romania, Croatia and Malta and explored themes of quality, education and research in more detail. In subsequent years we have explored the Future of rural medicine in Latvia, becoming a young rural doctor in France, Rural renaissance in Crete, Caring for vulnerable populations in Israel and in the Azores in 2019 we focussed on Innovative solutions.

The e-Forum 2020, as you might have expected, looked at how Rural and Remote General Practice/Family Medicine is responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic – which, of course, is still current.

This year we are focussing on the relationship with our patients and we have invited key note speakers:

Professor Shlomo Vinker, President of WONCA Europe

Professor Adam Windak, Department of Family Medicine, Jagiellonian University - Collegium Medicum, Cracow, Poland

Professor Joyce Kenkre, Emeritus Professor University of South Wales

Professor Przemysław Kardas, Department of Family Medicine, Medical University of Lodz, Poland

The context is, of course, rural primary care and we are looking forward to interesting plenary sessions as well as a stimulating programme of workshops, oral communications and posters.

More to follow in our next newsletter!