



Content of the July 2010 Primafamed Newsletter

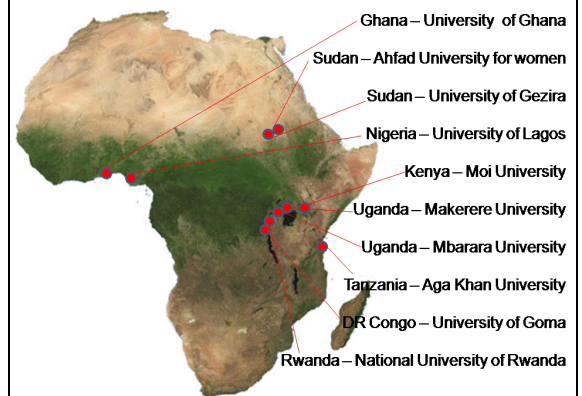
- Page 1 The Primafamed Network and continuation of the Primafamed project
- Page 2 Activities in the Primafamed project, the visiting expert to give training
- Page 3 The Primafamed workshop 2009 and the WONCA Africa Conference
- Page 4 The VLIR Southern Africa family medicine twinning project, AMASA
- Page 5 The HURAPRIM project, Network: TUFH, 15by2015, contact details
- Page 6 Primafamed 2010 workshop

End of the Primafamed Edulink project

Continuation of the Primafamed Network

The Primafamed project financed by Edulink ACP – EU has ended. After the first 2 years of the project and another 6 months extension, the funds provided by the European Union are finished. Though this will not mean it is over. In the past years we have built up a strong network of partners all over Sub Saharan Africa working on the development of the family medicine training. Primafamed will continue as the Primafamed network with the same vision and mission. Presently we are not able to finance the partners. But through other funds and projects the South – South cooperation, yearly workshop/

conference and the further development of family medicine all over Africa will continue and grow. Slowly but steadily more and more countries all over the continent are starting to realize the importance of well-trained doctors in primary health care. The strong links between countries within the Primafamed network will make that countries can learn from each other and share experiences in the process of development of the family medicine training and integrating family medicine in the country's health system.



Many thanks

This way, we, Prof. Jan De Maeseneer, Primafamed project promoter and Dr. Maaïke Flinkenflögel, Primafamed project coordinator, would like to express our gratitude to all who have been working with us in the Primafamed Edulink ACP– EU project. Family medicine in Sub Sahara Africa is starting to leave its results in health care and has become an important part of health care systems in African countries. In the few years of the project we have seen more and more universities following in these footsteps. Our special thanks goes to all the local coordinators who put much effort into the objectives of the project and without whom we would not have been able to come this far. Our associates also deserve our thanks as they have assisted us in the several activities and work packages of the project, like the conference and the given trainings. Last but not least we thank Edulink ACP EU for funding the project and making this all possible.



NEWSLETTER

Trainings in the Primafamed project

Prof. Steve Reid from South Africa visited **Moi University** in May 2009. During the first days of his visit he joined the family medicine training-curriculum reform. He advised on the roles and objectives of the future family physicians to be trained in the program and how to put this into the actual training course. After this he gave a workshop on qualitative research. He trained family physicians from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda in taking interviews and how to use this in research. In June 2010 Prof. Steve Reid went to **Mbarara University**. There he visited the several training sites within the family medicine training (used in under and postgraduate training) for reviewing. He gave lectures to faculty staff members and undergraduate students on COPC (Community Oriented Primary Care). A whole list of recommendations were given to assist the department on strengthening the training.



Prof. Reid teaching qualitative research

End of September 2009 Prof. Bob Mash from Stellenbosch University traveled to Ghana to assist in several activities at the **University of Ghana** during his stay. Several meetings were held to discuss the family medicine training programme, both under- and postgraduate. The last days he gave a workshop on OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination).



Prof Mash giving the workshop in Ghana



Prof Bob Mash in discussion at Aga Khan

Next to teaching about the examinations, he was also involved in the actual postgraduate examinations that were taken from the registrars. Start of June 2010 Prof.

Bob Mash traveled again, this time to Tanzania where he gave a 2-day workshop at **Aga Khan University** on writing research proposals. Trainers and registrars from the family medicine program and other doctors took part in the workshop. As it is often difficult to get funding for research, the workshop was seen as very useful by all participants.

In February 2010 Dr. Mieke Visser went to the **University of Rwanda** to give a training on community health. The goal of her visit was to set up the community health program of one month within the family medicine training (FAMCO). Three of the second year family medicine registrars followed the intensive training in Rwinkwavu Health Centre.

Dr. Honey Mabuza from Limpopo University visited the **University of Goma** half of June 2010. He was asked to train the participants of the workshop on a whole list of items important in family medicine; consultation, sexual assault and rape, approach on HIV/AIDS and STIs, evidence-based practice, interpretation of the ECG, methodology of research, lifestyle related diseases, mental disorders, hypertension and diabetes mellitus. Both staff members from the University as alumni were present. Dr. Mabuza's advice was to work more with support from outside, to strengthen the family medicine training in Goma.



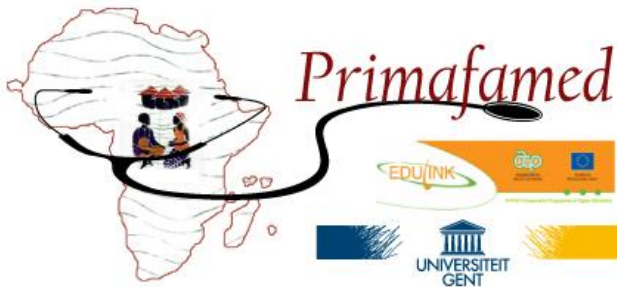
Dr. Mabuza in the class in Goma



Dr. Mwembesa and students behind computers

End of June Dr. Drake Mwebesa, from Dar es Salaam traveled to Kampala for two weeks to teach the local residents and tutors at **Makerere University** about the use and the importance of health informatics. *'Being a computer and information scientist I picked interest because I'm passionate about seeing health professionals especially in Africa go electronic in many aspects of their practice because I believe it is the best way to take advantage of today's information era to better everyone's health'*. For two weeks the trainees received daily classes on the basics of computers, health informatics with EMR (Electronic Medical Record), medical evidence in internet, ... In his recommendations he pointed out the importance of e-medicine.

Start of June 2010 Prof. Joseph Ana traveled to the **University of Lagos** to give a workshop on "quality issues in chronic disease management". For a long time, the main focus of disease management was on one-time contact of the patient with tropical diseases, only in the past years one has realized the importance of chronic-disease management, also in PHC. The recommendation Prof. Ana gave was to work closely together with the general practitioners in private practice in and around Lagos to strengthen the family medicine training program in Lagos.

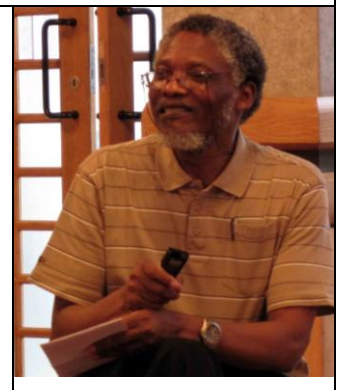


NEWSLETTER

The Primafamed Training-of-Trainers workshop 2009



End of October 2008, the Primafamed “Training of Trainers and Development of Departments of Family Medicine and PHC” – workshop was organized in Rustenburg, South Africa. All partners from the Primafamed Edulink project and the VLIR 2009 projects participated. During the 3 days with presentations, workshops, and many discussions, all participants shared experiences and learned from each other. Many items were covered, from “bringing bad news” and patient-centeredness to writing grants. In the evening meetings the project partners discussed the projects, the work packages and the way forward. The young departments all over Africa learned a lot from the established South African departments. The Primafamed workshop 2010 will focus on research.



The WONCA Africa Conference 2009



Almost 400 participants from Sub Saharan Africa and other interested people came together to listen to the keynote lectures from important people in the development of the African family medicine. In the many workshops participants discussed the principles of family medicine within the African context. The consensus statement agreed to by the conference audience defined the contribution of Family Medicine to equity, quality and primary health care within an African context, as well as the role and training requirements of the family physician. This was published in the online, open-access, African Journal of family medicine and PHC¹.

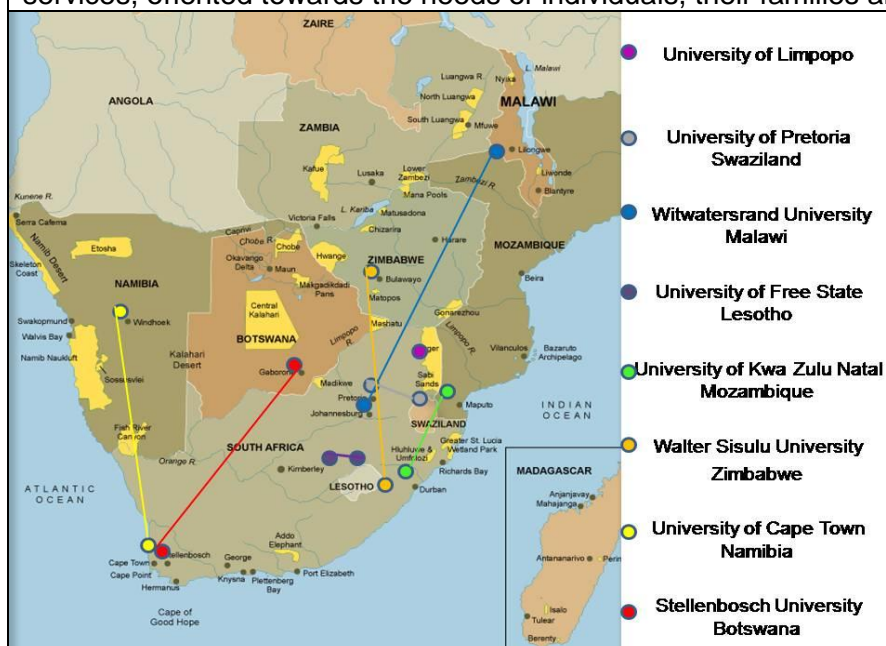
¹ <http://www.phcfm.org/index.php/phcfm/article/view/151/50>



NEWSLETTER

The “Southern African – family medicine – twinning project”

In follow up of the VLIR² 2003 and 2006 projects, where Ghent University worked together with the 8 South African departments of family medicine and the East African partners, this VLIR 2009 project focuses on development of family medicine in the neighboring countries of South Africa. Each department of FM in SA twins with one specific country. The aim of the project is to improve the health of communities through accessible, responsive and quality health care systems in Southern Africa. This will be accomplished by training family physicians who contribute to interdisciplinary primary health care services, oriented towards the needs of individuals, their families and the communities in which they live.



Capacity building will focus on creating a strong link between the South African departments of family medicine and their twinning partner in the Southern African region. Next to this the establishment of training complexes, and making educational resources available through South-South cooperation in the format of E-learning, training programs, and "training the trainers" workshops are of utmost importance. Research will include refining a definition and building a comprehensive framework for family medicine/primary health care in an African context and looking into the place of family medicine in the health care systems of countries in Southern Africa.

Accessing Medicines in Africa and South Asia (AMASA)

is a 3-year research project funded under the European Union's Framework Program 7 (FP7). It is led by the University of Edinburgh, in collaboration with Ghent University (Department of Family Medicine and PHC) and partners in Switzerland (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute), Uganda (Makerere University, and Mbarara University), South Africa (University of the Western Cape) and India (Foundation for Research in Community Health).

The research investigates how the interplay of patent regimes, pharmaceutical regulation, availability of drug production facilities, health care infrastructure, service provision, and engagement by foreign donors influence appropriate, affordable access to medicines. It examines the production, distribution, supply and consumption of medicines within six health care areas – infectious disease, HIV/AIDS, malaria, reproductive health, tuberculosis control, and mental health. The project contributes to improve the access to medicines in particular and to health care in general, and teams up with existing effort in this field. Findings from the research will guide health policy decisions concerned with accessibility, affordability, acceptability, and the appropriate use of essential medicines in these study countries, with implications that benefit other developing countries and the work of international agencies. Project activities will involve national and international stakeholders throughout the course of the research, in order to ensure that the findings have maximum impact on policy and practice.

² VLIR = Flemish Inter-University Council; the Belgian government funds the Flemish Universities



HURAPRIM

In spring 2011 an international research project, HURAPRIM (Human Resources for Primary Health Care in Africa) will start. This project, sponsored within the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union, brings together European and African partners to investigate the causes and scope of the human resources crisis in Africa. It will try to design, implement and evaluate interventions to tackle the different forms of brain drain that cause the deficit in primary health care workers on the African continent. The universities of Ghent (Belgium), Oxford (UK), Vienna (Austria), Witwatersrand (South Africa), Mbarara (Uganda), Botswana, Ahfad (Sudan) and Bamako (Mali) will collaborate on this project for four years



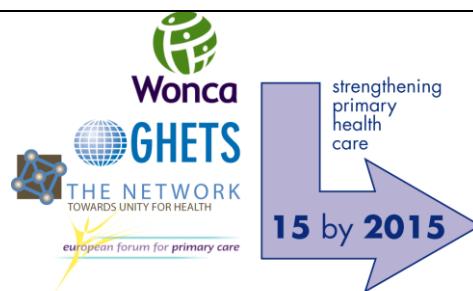
This fall (Nov 13-17), The Network: Towards Unity for Health will host its annual conference in Kathmandu, Nepal together with the BP Koirala Institute for Health Sciences and Kathmandu University. The Network: TUFH brings together academic institutions, health service providers, health managers and policy managers committed to contribute to innovative education, research and service in order to improve the health of the communities in which they work and live. The conference topic for this year is "Advancing quality through partnerships of health professions education and health services institutions". More information is available at www.thenetwork-tufh.org/conference



The 15by2015 campaign

With the "15by2015" campaign we ask that donor organizations allocate 15% of their vertical funding towards sustainable comprehensive primary health care that is accessible and affordable in all regions of the world. For more information and for signing the petition, go to the website.

www.15by2015.org



Contact details

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|------------------------------------|--|--|
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In August 2010 Primafamed will organize a workshop on
“Research integrated in the family medicine training; the master thesis”

Goals of Primafamed

- Through linkages and exchange of academic institutions and input from experts
- To develop unified and harmonised understanding of Family Medicine
 - To exchange information, resources and skills and develop comprehensive programs
 - South-south cooperation and network strengthening
 - Integration of PHC and family medicine in the national health systems

Content of the workshop

- Strategies for development of Family Medicine departments
- Core curriculum for Family Medicine with integrated research
- Accreditation and mutual recognition
- Quality assurance of academic programs
- Roles and responsibilities of African Family Physicians
- Research in Family Medicine
- Networking and project management
- Career paths for Family Physicians in the African context
- Training of trainers
- Recruitment and retention

Practical

- 23 – 25 August 2010
- Swaziland
- Royal Villas – Ezulwini
- www.royalvillasswaziland.com
- Costs:
 - low income countries €250
 - other participants €500



Call for abstracts

We ask all twinning partners in the VLIR project to prepare 3 posters

- On the health care system in your country, where does family medicine stand, how are the policies of the Ministry of Health concerning PHC and family medicine
- How is family medicine developing in your country, how is the curriculum structured, amount of registrars, capacity building
- How is the training focusing on research; what are the most relevant research questions for the needs of the community

Otherwise all are invited to send in **presentation** or **posters** on innovative or good examples of the following topics:

- accreditation and mutual recognition of family medicine training between universities
- involvement of the government/ ministry of health or education in family medicine training
- recruitment of students
- career path of qualified family physicians
- training of trainers
- development of training sites
- project management and networking
- funding for the development of family medicine training
- roles and responsibilities of family physicians
- social accountability in the family medicine training

Send an abstract of **one page** with the summary of your topic to Primafamed@ugent.be before 18/06/2010. Please clearly name your background and contact details.