



REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Report from the European WONCA Conference, Vienna, July 2–6, 2000**

WONCA is an international organization of Family Medicine and General Practice Organizations. Dr. Richard (Rick) Botelho and Dr. Michael Boland, president-elect of WONCA, will co-chair a newly formed International Ad Hoc Task Force on Tobacco Cessation. As noted in the editorial of this journal, tobacco is, and for the foreseeable future will remain, the leading cause of premature death internationally. The Task Force will consist of international and regional networks of family physicians and family medicine educators. The goals of the Task Force are to promote the development of innovative behavior change programs, organize faculty development and “train the trainers” programs, foster research activities, promote appropriate policy changes, and enhance international collaboration on these goals. The topic of tobacco control and cessation will be featured at the 2001 Durban and 2004 Orlando WONCA conferences. We are interested in collaborating with other organizations that are interested in this area. If you are a family physician or family medicine educator who is interested in becoming a member of or contributor to this Task Force, please send an e-mail message to Rick Botelho.

Also at the conference, Europrev presented topics addressing alcohol and smoking cessation, as well as self-care of diabetes. Europrev consists of Family Medicine organizations that address preventive issues in primary care. To learn more about this organization, please contact the Director, Dr. Carlos Brotons of Spain <brotons@hg.vhebron.es >. To facilitate collaboration between Europrev and WONCA, Carlos will also be a co-chair of the European WONCA Task Force on Tobacco Cessation, along with Dr. Leo Pas, a family physician researcher in prevention and behavior change from Belgium <leo@pas.telenet.bg >.

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**US Government Spotlights Tobacco Dependence**

The US Public Health Service has issued “Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence: A Clinical Practice Guideline,” which contains evidence-based information about treating tobacco addiction. A private-sector panel of experts convened by the federal government challenged all clinicians, insurance plans, purchasers, and medical school officials to use

the evidence in treating tobacco dependence. President Clinton also issued a memorandum directing executive departments and agencies to encourage federal employees to stop smoking, promote greater use of available smoking cessation programs, and review current federal tobacco cessation programs in light of new guidelines.

Copies of “Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence: A Clinical Practice Guideline,” and a consumer guide called “You Can Quit Smoking” are available on the Web at [www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/default.htm](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/default.htm) .