



# **The Santiago de Compostela Mission 2003: An Action Agenda for Rural Health**

6° Congreso Mundial WONCA en Salud Rural

6<sup>th</sup> WONCA Rural Health Conference,  
Santiago de Compostela

# Introduction

- Action Agenda is derived from
  - Existing Wonca Policies and Declarations
  - HARP action plan
  - Emerging Themes Agenda
  - Outcomes of Workshops and Plenary Sessions
  - Outcomes of Working Groups

# **The Santiago de Compostela Mission 2003: An action Agenda for Rural Health**

- New and Emerging Themes
- HARP: Health for All Rural People
- The EURIPA Statement on Emergency Care in Rural Practice
- The Rural Action Plan for Spain
- The Conference Statement on Child Labour
- The Conference Statement on HIV/Aids

# **The Santiago de Compostela Mission 2003: An action Agenda for Rural Health**

- The Conference Statement on International Collaboration in Rural Health Research
- The Rural Medical Education Provider's Network
- WRITE Statement
- The European Section of the International Journal on Rural and Remote Health
- Progress on the WONCA Statements

The Durban Declaration: Health for All Rural People

The Kuching Statement: The Health of Indigenous Peoples

The Calgary Commitment to Women in Rural Family Practice

The Melbourne Manifesto: A code of Practice for the  
Recruitment of Health Care Professionals

# NEW AND EMERGING THEMES IN RURAL HEALTH

- **PRINCIPLES**

- Thanks for all posted contributions
- NEW issues emerging
- NEW perspectives on established themes
- Focus on **Action** for:
  - WONCA
  - all of us as individual practitioners and activists
  - working through Governments, NGOs, academia, medical councils, colleges etc
- The list is not comprehensive
- Invitation to add others in writing for consideration at Braga and beyond

# THE THEMES

- Medicalisation of human conditions – impact on diversion of precious resources and peoples experience of day to day life.
- Support and training for political/advocacy role of rural primary care practitioners – conflict resolution skill training
- Patient (population) / provider partnerships to challenge legal profession driven adversarial relationships

# THE THEMES

- International networking of rural support organisations (e.g. academic centres, workforce agencies). Need for appropriate balance between formal networks vs informal networks
- Culturally responsive capacity building for rural primary health care providers and rural communities for rural based clinical education and service development (“investment in social capital”)

# THE THEMES

- Promotion of the high status of rural/remote practice as a prestigious, valued and rewarded professional option (good news stories) (Where is the “Odd-Bod/individualist in you?”)
- “Rural proofing” - Establishment of importance and resourcing of sophisticated downstream analysis of rural health initiatives and changes (e.g. closure of rural hospitals, decay of obstetric services, competition in the health marketplace)
- Training and resourcing for the population based healthcare roles of rural practitioners

# THE THEMES

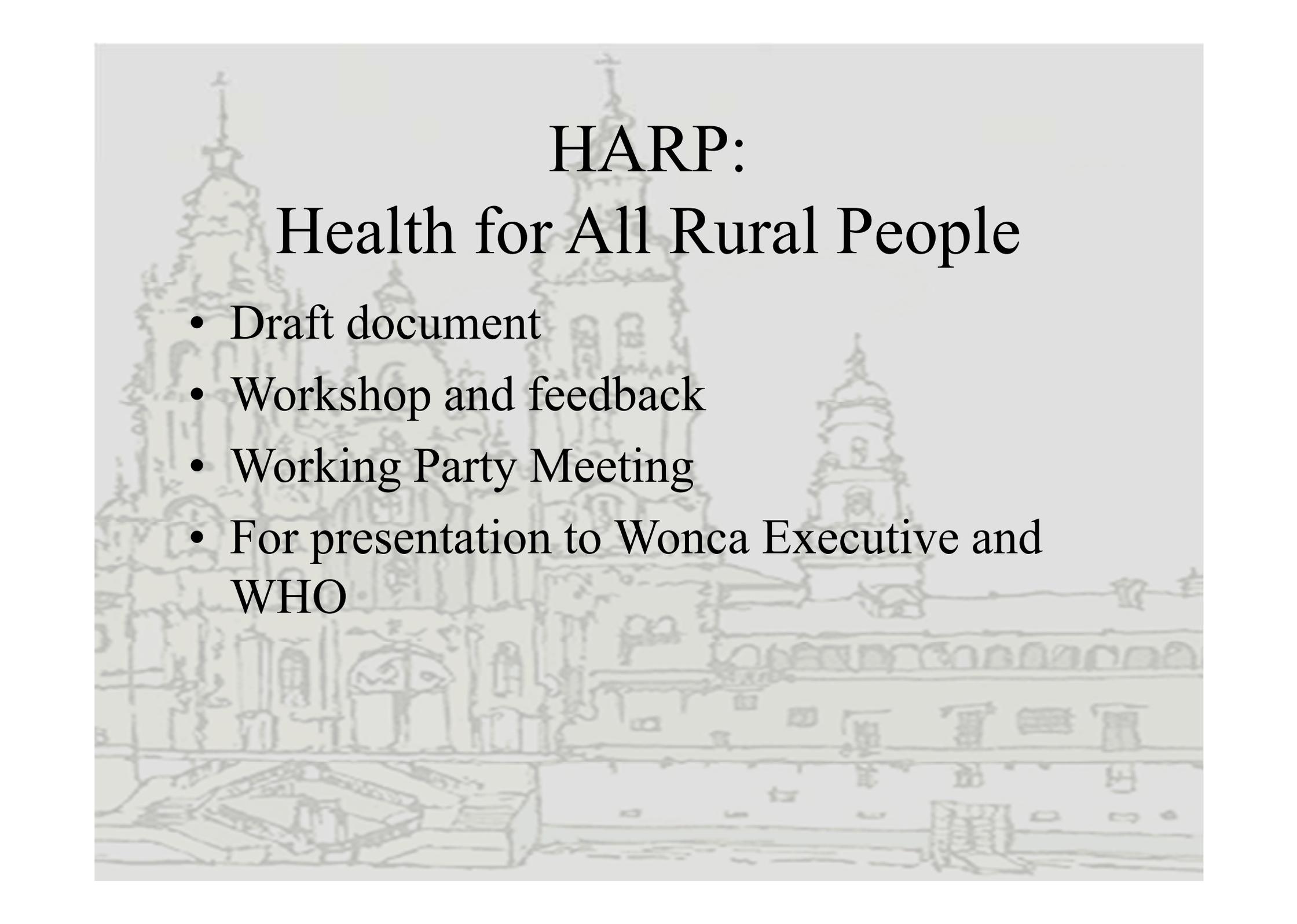
- Prioritisation of retention before recruitment of rural clinical workforce
- Rural occupational health (the working environment, working conditions, child labour, recognition of occupational health outcomes)
- Education and action for healthy living environments – (e.g. water, food, housing, Genetically Modified products, chemicals, climate, etc.)

# THE THEMES

- Develop research tools to evaluate the impact of population changes on rural health care provision (seasonal fluctuations, demographic change – esp ageing – refugee influx) and appropriate responses to such issues
- Support preparation and training for response to major sudden health threatening events (“disaster planning”) within rural communities

# THE THEMES

- Resourcing mental health services (prevention and intervention) within rural communities – teaching behavioural sciences and resourcing to reflect increasing responsibility within general practice .
- LIA?



# HARP:

## Health for All Rural People

- Draft document
- Workshop and feedback
- Working Party Meeting
- For presentation to Wonca Executive and WHO

# EURIPA Declaration on Rural Emergency Care

- The Pre-Hospital Care of accidents and medical emergencies is an integral and vitally important part of rural health care.
- People living in rural areas have no less a right to effective high quality care for medical and trauma emergencies than urban residents.
- There is evidence that lack of confidence in coping with emergency care due to insufficient preparation for the role is a significant factor inhibiting recruitment to rural practice.

# EURIPA Declaration on Rural Emergency Care

- EURIPA recommends that training in Pre-Hospital Care should be an essential component of preparation for rural practice, should begin at undergraduate level, and continue throughout professional life.
- Established rural practitioners should be supported in providing emergency care throughout their careers through regular locally accessible training, and provided with the necessary specialist equipment. As teamwork is an integral part of emergency care, training should be multi-disciplinary, and equipment standardised.

# The Rural Action Plan for Spain



# Recommendations on Child Labour

- We, the rural health practitioners and members of WONCA, are aware of the urgent need for actions to eliminate all forms of child labour that harm the physical, mental or moral well/being of children.
- Due to the nature of our work and our closeness to our local people, we are in a good position to understand and investigate the nature and scale of the problems of child labour in our community and in assessing the hazards and hazardous working conditions faced by the working children and the impact of these risks on the health of these children.

# Recommendations on Child Labour

- We, the rural health practitioners and members of WONCA, are well placed to act as catalysts in raising the awareness, disseminating educational material about this issue for the use of current and future rural health practitioners.

# The Santiago de Compostela Statement on HIV/AIDS

We as rural practitioners at the 6th World Rural Health Conference in Santiago are deeply concerned about the extent of the growing HIV/AIDS pandemic and the way that it exacerbates the problems of poverty, inequity and underdevelopment in the world.

We recognise this to be a global problem. We live in an interdependent world. None of us can remain uninvolved. All of us are affected if not infected.

We believe:

- it is critical to address HIV/AIDS in terms of primary health care, health care systems and international organisations, and
- the developed world has a moral responsibility to work towards equitable care of those infected with HIV/AIDS in all parts of the world.

# The Santiago de Compostela Statement on HIV/AIDS

## **We therefore:**

1. commit ourselves to work with other health professionals, non-governmental organisations and communities to ensure a comprehensive, equitable response to HIV/AIDS at a primary care level, within the philosophy of Health for All;
2. support a comprehensive approach to the problem which includes both adequately resourced, appropriate treatment and broad-based preventive strategies (including safe medical practices, education about risks, promotion of behavior change, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, etc); and
3. call on Wonca
  - to recognise the critical importance and urgency of the situation regarding HIV/AIDS, and
  - to lobby member countries and international agencies to commit resources to the problem, especially in the developing world, recognising the importance both of strengthening local health care systems and of addressing the issues of global poverty, injustice and inequity which fuel the spread of HIV/AIDS.

# **The Conference Statement on International Collaboration in Rural Health Research**

- **That this conference recommends that the Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice supports the establishment of an International Rural Health Research Network to:**
  - **Support skill development and capacity building for rural health professionals to enable them to engage in research activities within local environments**
  - **Develop an international rural health research agenda**
  - **Seek funding support for rural health research both within and across national boundaries**

# The Rural Medical Education Provider's Network

- This conference supports the formation within WONCA of a Network of Rural Medical Education Providers to foster international collaboration and support for evidence based strategies to increase the production of appropriately trained rural doctors.

# WRITE : The WONCA Rural Information Technology Exchange

- Connections with developing countries
  - To counteract the tendency to focus on the issues of developed nations, the WRITE group recommends that a framework be developed to foster and promote greater connectivity and discussions with developing nations, their rural health care providers and informatics groups.

# WRITE : The WONCA Rural Information Technology Exchange

- Connections with other informatics groups
  - To increase the awareness of informatics issues and resources amongst rural health care providers, the WRITE group recommends that greater emphasis be placed on developing connections and relationships with other informatics groups such as the International Medical Informatics Association, the WHO Telemedicine Centre in Tromso and the WONCA Informatics group.

# Proposed European Section of the International Journal on Rural and Remote Health

**EURIPA** Representatives have achieved an initial agreement to work with *Rural and Remote Health*, the international peer-reviewed web-based journal to develop a European section.

*Rural and Remote Health* is keen to publish material from this conference from authors throughout the world. The journal is free for contributors and readers, and will assist authors who need help to publish in English.

Further details will be submitted shortly to the **EURIPA** committee working on the proposed Journal in Europe and to the **EURIPA** (web server) list of members to gain approval to proceed and to elect Editorial representation for the European section.

**Rural and Remote Health**

The International Electronic Journal of Rural and Remote Health: Research, Education, Practice and Policy

<http://rrh.deakin.edu.au>



# The Durban Declaration: Health for All Rural People

- The Durban Declaration, a private/public partnership to improve health of all Rural People is being addressed by the “call for action” of the **HARP** document and the **Healthy Villages** initiative. Both have had a high profile at this conference and have been the subject of workshops

# Kuching Statement:

## The Health of Indigenous Peoples:

### Key elements

- Endorsed by WONCA 1999 in Malaysia
- Revised for consideration/endorsement at Santiago de Compostela
- Ensure consistency with International declarations, covenants etc
- Key focal points: Self determination, Indigenous Community participation, Health professional Involvement, Indigenous families & children

# Kuching Statement: Where to from here

- Endorsement on the Revised *Kuching Statement for Action* at Wonca conference at Santiago.
- Submit to the United Nations International Working Party on Indigenous Peoples
- Aim to ensure that it is actioned by governments.

# The Calgary Commitment to Women in Rural Family Practice

- The women in rural family practice group recommends that the current draft policy with expansion of suggested illustrative models be put forward for official endorsement by WONCA
  - A transportable workshop module will be developed and leadership team established for presentation of Women in Rural Family Practice materials worldwide
  - Tools for implementing “female friendly” medical conferences will be developed and disseminated
  - Collaboration with other Women in Medicine organizations will be established to promote rural specific issues for women in medical education, practice support, leadership, and health policy

# Melbourne Manifesto: way forward

## Recommendations:

- Translate the Code on Ethical recruitment into Spanish and other appropriate languages
- Present the Manifesto to the Wonca Executive meeting in Beijing for endorsement and submission to the Wonca Council meeting in Orlando and the WHO
- Ensure the Code is presented to the Orlando conference and use this as a chance to publicize it.
- Wonca and the Global Family doctor website should take a lead in facilitating and promoting the international sabbaticals for family physicians
- Link with local champions, national agencies and international organisations to promote the code and facilitate co-ordinated skills transfer to developing countries

Note: Monitoring of the implementation of the code with penalties is essential for its success.