



Concept Paper Webinar Series

“Family Medicine and Primary Health Care Development Around the World”

Organiser

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In collaboration with

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Background

Currently, Thailand is going through the process of Decentralization. The administrative authority for primary health care structure and services provided will be transferred from the Ministry of Public Health to Local authorities. This is considered an opportunity to review past development and plan for better achievement in the coming future, although challenging as local authorities still have limited knowledge about primary health care and health services provision.

Thailand has established family medicine training and universal health coverage (UHC) for more than 20 years. However, most trained family physicians work in public hospitals and provide services to primary care units part-time. Most public primary care facilities are under the support of the National Health Security Office, an authority that manages the UHC budget. However, these facilities are financed by the Contracting Unit of Primary Care, centralized and managed by hospital administrative bodies. Therefore, the enforcement of the Law to decentralise the primary health care system to local authorities provides a great opportunity for improvement in all aspects: staffing, financing, service quality, efficiency, and capacity building, for example.

The Family Medicine Academic Center, under the Royal College of Family Physicians of Thailand and the GP/FP association of Thailand, propose to work with WONCA Working Party on Research, to stimulate knowledge and share experiences through a webinar series named “Family Medicine and Primary Health Care Development Around the World”.

As all countries continue to move towards achieving better care for our patients, although with different contexts and levels of development, sharing information and experiences on family medicine and primary health care will provide an opportunity to learn and adopt new ideas to improve the system in each country.

Key activities

1. A webinar organized every 2 months, with 10-minute presentations from four different countries on a snapshot of the nature of family medicine and primary health care in their country, using the template for PowerPoint presentation slides.
2. Each webinar will present a case, and the presenter will describe how much involvement family medicine / primary care has in managing such a case.
3. The webinar series is planned to take place over 1 year from 2022 to 2023, with three subthemes as follows:
 - *Core functions* of primary care (comprehensiveness, coordination, continuity, access) Case will be a patient with multi-morbid conditions presenting with both acute and chronic issues – case management.
 - *Core values* of person-centredness, clinician / patient relationship, equity, teamwork/collaboration and community perception of family medicine Case will include social, psychological and/or family issues, and possible social deprivation.
 - *Practice transformation/direction* in the post-COVID-19 era (have the core functions, values and practice changed and if so, how?) The case illustrates patient interaction with the health system. Include digital transformation
4. The template for the presentations will have minor adjustments to address each theme. Professor Felicity will provide the templates and Prof Mehmet will provide the cases.
5. Each webinar will be 1.30 hours (90 minutes) in length. In addition to the four 10 min country presentations, there will be a 10 min presentation by an invited expert followed by discussion & Q & A.
6. As the webinar series will take place over one year, it is anticipated that information will be gathered from up to 24 countries (i.e., eight countries per sub-theme).
7. Because of time zone issues, the webinar will focus on Asia Pacific countries to make it manageable in terms of scheduling, although countries from other regions will be included to broaden their perspective and knowledge. The webinar is planned to be delivered through Docquity, an application for continual medical education webinar providers, based in Southeast Asia.
8. The webinars will be recorded and links provided on the WONCA and Docquity platforms.
9. The webinars will be promoted by WONCA, the Family Medicine Academic Center, the Royal College of Family Physicians of Thailand, the GP/FP Association of Thailand, and other relevant organizations (i.e, National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians.).
10. We plan to collate and synthesise the material and produce an article for publication for each of the three sub-themes i.e., two webinars (eight countries) per paper.

Expected outcomes

1. Collaboration between academic centres, GP/FP associations from different countries and WONCA, to strengthen knowledge and research capacity in family medicine and primary health care.
2. Improvement in knowledge about family medicine and primary health care systems.
3. Publications in peer-reviewed journals from the webinar series.