



Association of Private Family Doctors  
127, Professional Centre,  
Sliema Road, Gzira GZR 1633  
Email: [president@apfd.info](mailto:president@apfd.info)  
Website: <http://www.apfd.info>



Malta College of Family Doctors  
127, Professional Centre,  
Sliema Road, Gzira GZR 1633  
Email: [contact@mcfcd.org.mt](mailto:contact@mcfcd.org.mt)  
Website: <http://www.mcfcd.org.mt>

## Press Release

### World Family Doctors Day – 19<sup>th</sup> May

The Malta College of Family Doctors (MCFD) is a Voluntary Organisation (VO/0973) that strives to improve the academic and clinical performance of family doctors (known as “it-tobba tal-familja” or “general practitioners”) and the standards of primary health care in our country.

The Association of Private Family Doctors (APFD) on the other hand, is a Voluntary Organisation (VO/1803) that strives to improve family medicine and primary health care in our country on behalf of the private family doctors (known as “it-tobba tal-familja” or “general practitioners”) and their patients.

The APFD and MCFD praise the self-discipline and social solidarity shown by the citizens of Malta and Gozo and encourage the general public to keep taking heed of the recommendations of the Public Health authorities in the national efforts to control the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, so that the livelihoods of families are preserved whilst the health services are not over-run.

On one hand, both Voluntary Organisations point out to the general public that the family doctors continue to be available in the current circumstances to preserve the physical, social and psychological wellbeing of all citizens. All the other medical conditions, over and above SARS-CoV-2 infections, continue to affect the health of those involved and their families.

And on the other hand, they encourage the general public to continue to respect family doctors and the service that they provide by using due care as to how and when to seek consultations. The circumstances have been hard and stressful for family doctors as well, such as drastic change in the way of working and living, self-isolation from family members to decrease the risk of

contagion, inability of a number of family doctors to work due to vulnerability of themselves and/or close family members, and attempts to continue to provide primary care service with the least face-to-face contact as possible.

Finally, MCFD and APFD encourage our society in general to appreciate that in the upcoming turnaround we should try to make things right, while avoiding the mistakes that brought us here in the first place. Definitely it cannot be the economic growth at any cost of the last years but wellbeing must be at the centre of future policies and actions. Of note are positives to take home including family measures such as working at home, the widespread use of digital services such as online teaching and meetings, the decrease in air and noise pollution due to the decrease in traffic and the ability to work as a united country towards a common goal.

#### Notes

1. World Family Doctor Day, 19th May, was first declared by WONCA in 2010 and it has become a day to highlight the role and contribution of family doctors in health care systems around the world. The event is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the central role of our specialty in the delivery of personal, comprehensive and continuing health care for all of our patients. It is also a chance to celebrate the progress being made in family medicine and the special contributions of family doctors globally.
2. WONCA is an acronym for the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians. WONCA's short name is World Organization of Family Doctors. The Mission of WONCA is to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world through defining and promoting its values, including respect for universal human rights and including gender equity, and by fostering high standards of care in general practice/family medicine. <https://www.globalfamilydoctor.com>

Dr Edward Zammit

Honorary President MCFD

Dr Anthony Azzopardi

Honorary President APFD