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## **Call for new Vasco da Gama Movement National Delegate and National Exchange coordinator representing the Malta College of Family Doctors**

The Vasco da Gama Movement (VdGM) is the European organisation for GP trainees and GP5s (within five years of achieving specialisation as a family doctor). It is also one of the network organisations of WONCA Europe, the academic and scientific society for family medicine in Europe.

The primary aim of the VdGM is to be the voice of European GP trainees and young family doctors. In so doing, it aims to promote this medical discipline, and improve education and research opportunities for all GP trainees/young GPs in Europe.

As members of the Malta College of Family Doctors (MCFD), GP trainees and newly qualified general practitioners, are also part of the Vasco da Gama Movement, and therefore may participate and benefit from initiatives of the same Movement.

Active participation by Maltese representatives through MCFD was commenced in February 2019. The official roles included those of 'National Delegate on the VdGM council' and 'National Exchange Coordinator'.

The primary role of National Delegates is to represent their local colleagues, and the MCFD, in the VdGM council. This enables local GP trainees/young GPs to be able to have a direct role in what direction the VdGM takes, as well as seeking to improve available opportunities for the local GP trainee/young GP community. Current technology makes most of this work achievable from one's own home. A VdGM council meeting is held on an annual/biannual basis. As of recent times, one is able to either attend these meetings in person (they are generally held in tandem to WONCA Europe conferences), or by means of video link.

The role of the National Exchange Coordinator (NEC) is to help organise exchange activities. This entails helping local GP trainees/young GPs in going on exchanges abroad, as well as liaising with other NECs to help foreign doctors in participating in exchange opportunities locally. The current outgoing NEC has successfully completed the ground work to set-up an exchange programme locally. In the coming months the local family doctor community, through the MCFD, will be able to start hosting GP trainees/young GPs from abroad.

The three-year term of the current National Delegate on the VdGM council (Dr Karl Cutajar) and National

Exchange Coordinator (Dr Ian Baldacchino) has come to end. While thanking them for their work, the Malta College of Family Doctors is now issuing a new call for interested GP trainees/Young Family Doctors to take up the roles of National Delegate and National Exchange Coordinator for the coming three years. The outgoing representatives will provide a detailed hand-over of their work to all interested applicants, and they will also be available to provide any assistance necessary to the new doctors taking up these roles.

**Prospective applicants must either be GP trainees, or Family doctors within five years of achieving specialisation.** All applicants must also be paid-up members of the Malta College of Family Doctors. Interested colleagues are invited to send an email expressing their interest in one of the particular roles (National Delegate or National Exchange Coordinator), to the following email: **secretary@mcfcd.org.mt**

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*Dr Edward Zammit*  
*Honorary President MCFD*

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*Dr. Jason Bonnici*  
*Honorary Secretary MCFD*

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2021**