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Press Release World Family Doctors Day – 19th May 2022

“Family Doctors, Always There to Care!”

The Malta College of Family Doctors (MCFD) and the Association of Private Family Doctors (APFD) look forward for the gradual transition of our society following from the removal of the restrictions necessitated by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. They praise the self-discipline and social solidarity shown by the citizens of Malta and Gozo to preserve the livelihoods of families while preventing the health services from being over-run by taking heed of the recommendations issued by the Public Health authorities.

They point out that the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic showed once again that family doctors are always in the front line caring for the community. Both wish to take this opportunity to thank society in general for the respect shown to the medical community in its efforts to provide timely c.

Family Doctors are present at all times, with continuity being a fundamental feature of their work. They continually provide care at all stages of patients’ lives, and throughout the big and small moments. Continuity is also present in care through the ongoing follow-up carried out to patients, where coordination with other levels of care and health care professionals is crucial. Lastly, continuity represents their constant preparation and skills development, uninterrupted research, and the ability to adapt and build resilience to change, technologies, methodologies, and educational strategies.

Family doctors as primary care professionals are there, wherever and whenever needed as part of the communities they work with, proactively reaching and engaging with members, sharing their core values, creating a unique connection with their patients, and building bonds of trust.

The APFD and the MCFD are committed to help national authorities to deliver accessible, equitable, and sustainable, high-quality care by always looking after people and providing what

is necessary for their welfare and protection, identifying and advocating for their patients' needs to guarantee the fundamental right to health.

These two Voluntary Organisations point out how the electoral programmes of the 3 main parties shared this reasoning and included pledges to give more tools to family doctors so that they can deliver more. Consequently, the MCFD and the APFD are reaching out to national authorities to set the ball rolling to accomplish the electoral promises to enable our society to move forward after the hard times experienced.

Notes

1. World Family Doctor Day, 19th May, was first declared by WONCA in 2010 and has become a day to highlight the role and contribution of family doctors in health care systems around the world. The event is an 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>
3. 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.
4. 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.

Dr Edward Zammit

Honorary President MCFD

Dr Anthony Azzopardi

Honorary President APFD