

World Organization of Family Doctors

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Dear colleagues,

Health systems these days collect massive amounts of data on inputs, spending and activities of primary care providers. Surprisingly, the outcomes achieved for patients and how they experience primary care are rarely measured in a systematic and rigorous way. This is unfortunate, as this is what primary care and family medicine are all about!

As part of OECD's PaRIS initiative, twenty countries have now joined forces to make the contribution of primary care and family doctors to peoples' lives visible in an internationally comparable way: the PaRIS [international survey of People Living with Chronic Conditions](#). WONCA has been involved in this initiative since its launch in 2017 and has provided significant input on the development of the survey. Next to WONCA, many stakeholder organisations, including an international network of patient organisations have helped developing this survey. Colleagues trained as primary care providers are playing prominent roles in this project: as advisors, in the international and national management of the project and in the scientific development. A [recent article on WONCA News](#) details how family doctors have helped shaping the PaRIS survey.

The purpose of the survey is to make patients' and their primary care providers' voices heard by policymakers. It is explicitly not to benchmark providers in league tables. Therefore, aggregated and anonymised information will be disclosed and providers will receive feedback data to compare their population with those of anonymised peers. Moreover, the international nature of the study offers great opportunities for international learning.

On behalf of all family doctors and their national colleges across the world, WONCA supports the PaRIS initiative. We count on you to help make the patient's and family doctors' voices heard. National project managers in your respective countries work together with the international PaRIS consortium to help making participation as easy as possible to avoid that it takes too much of your valuable time.

To all family doctors, I invite you to collaborate with this important endeavour and motivate your patients and teams to participate in the survey.

Dr Anna Stavdal
WONCA President