



Dear colleague,

We encourage you to attend the European Patient Safety Conference in Dublin in March 2017, an EQUIP conference in association with ICGP. EQUIP is the European Society for Quality & Safety in General Practice, a network organisation of Wonca Europe. Wonca is the World Organisation of National Colleges and Academic societies of General Practice.

EQUIP holds an annual spring conference in rotating venues in Europe. The first time we focused specifically on the theme of Patient Safety in General Practice was at the EQUIP conference in Prague in April 2016, in association with the Czech College of General Practice. One of the key learning points from the conference was that most of the literature and analysis of patient safety has been developed in and for hospital care.

EQUIP believes it is necessary to focus on safety in general practice for a second year in succession, and the venue for furthering this aim is in Dublin in March 2017, in conjunction with ICGP. It is 19 years since EQUIP held a conference in Dublin, so we look forward to this.

The approach towards developing and managing the safety of the care we deliver should be tailored towards our daily work in general practice. We work in an environment of clinical complexity and uncertainty with little diagnostic support for the millions of consultations we provide each year. We work in relatively small independent practices in a changing health system, attempting to provide best practice care and smooth interfaces for our patients while they interact with other primary care services and large secondary care facilities.

Through EQUIP, Wonca Europe has begun a movement for safer care in Family Medicine. We encourage you to come and share how you approach aspects of safety for your patients, your staff and yourselves, by presenting a paper, a poster or a workshop. You may wish to attend to learn from colleagues in other GP practices, national colleges and from experts. Together we can highlight the practical challenges that face us and ways to overcome them in Ireland, and in Europe. The conference programme is on www.icgp.ie/equip

Please forward this message to others who may be interested in participating or attending.

Dr Piet Vanden Bussche

EQUIP President & GP in Belgium

Dr Andrée Rochfort

EQUIP Honorary Secretary & GP in Ireland