



Dear colleagues

As President of the World Organization of Family Doctors, I welcome all of you to the 15<sup>th</sup> Wonca Rural Health conference to be held in New Delhi in April 2018. I attended the 14<sup>th</sup> conference in Cairns last year, and found the work to be inspiring, informative, and important. You will meet family doctors from all over the world who share your interest in rural health issues, and will come away with many new ideas and areas of action – as well as many new friends.

The India conference will be an exciting one, with its rich programme covering the arts as well as the sciences. Although the setting of the conference is not in a rural area, you should get the chance to go outside and experience the realities of India with its huge contrasts and challenges. I did my medical student elective in Tamil Nadu in 1979 - which was a wonderful but also shocking experience. Almost 40 years on, the issues of getting equitable primary care to the rural poor are still huge worldwide, but we hope that, through discussions such as those you will have in Delhi, we can help progress towards a health workforce that meets the needs of the people. And of course to show the strengths of family medicine and how we help to achieve universal health coverage in a meaningful and effective way!

So thanks to all those involved in this conference, and I am sure it will be a wonderful experience. Best wishes on behalf of myself and the WONCA Executive

Professor Amanda Howe OBE MEd MD FRCGP