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The WONCA Europe Book of Titles

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When experts in family medicine meet together, we never have trouble discussing our problems. Most of them are universal and we know them. But the problem often arises when we try to agree on formalities, especially titles. When we enter the world of academic titles, we enter the world of words, their meaning, their use, the rules and exceptions. New, sometimes confusing and traditionally rooted words emerge.

Confronted with such a variety of confusing concepts, words and titles, our patients that seek care throughout Europe and policymakers try to make sense of it, usually without success. One wonders: isn't there a simple way out?

We have decided to start addressing this issue by writing a book about the way that we get titles in different European countries. There are many of them: doctor, general practitioner, family doctor, family physician, medical doctor, specialist in general practice, basic doctor, specialist in family medicine, Huisarts, Hausarzt, Praktisches Arzt ...

We have decided to tackle this issue by:

1. describing the situation by asking some key colleagues in Europe the same set of questions
2. asking people who are wise and daring enough (Genius Forecasters) to give their opinion about the subject and its potential solution

The ambition of this workshop is to make the move towards better understanding of our position in the academic and professional arena that we would hopefully make it easier for all of us to struggle for recognition.

The workshop will be aimed at discussing the first results of this activity.