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Future challenges for family medicine in Slovenia

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Slovenia has a tradition of a relatively well organised primary care where family medicine plays an important role. It is obligatory to be a specialist if one wants to work independently, the specialty training lasts for 4 years. Family medicine is also firmly established at both medical faculties. One of the recent successes is the project of strengthening team work by introducing nurse practitioners into family medicine teams. Nevertheless, important challenges lie ahead. One of them is the constant struggle to work with policymakers in partnership, which is a constant nightmare. The motivations of a scientific discipline and policymakers are quite different and it is difficult to negotiate them. The second challenge is to incorporate all the new scientific developments in family medicine practice in an organised way. And the third challenge is to keep the physicians happy with their work which then results in delivering better services and attracts new candidates to the profession. During the workshop we will hopefully have time to discuss these challenges from an international perspective.