



29 August 2023

Dr David VK Chao
Chairman
26th WONCA World Conference Bidding Committee
President
The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians
Room 803-4, 8/F HKAM Jockey Club Building
99 Wong Chuk Hang Road
Aberdeen, Hong Kong

Dear Dr Chao,

Support for the Bid for the 26th WONCA World Conference

On behalf of the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong, I write to pledge support for the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians in its bid to host the 26th WONCA World Conference in 2027 in Hong Kong. The scholars and graduates from our Faculty figure highly among the College's members. Professor Cindy Lam, Clinical Professor of our Department of Family Medicine and Primary Care, School of Clinical Medicine, serves as the Chief Censor of the College's Council and as Advisor of some of its Boards. Dr William Wong, our Chairperson of Family Medicine and Primary Care, serves as the Honorary Secretary of the Finance and House Management Committees of the College.

Since establishment in its former self as the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners in 1977, the College has contributed tremendously in the promotion of family medicine in Hong Kong, through helping the two universities set up General Practice/ Family Medicine Unit to formalise the family medicine curriculum, promoting the continuing medical education and continuing professional development of family physicians, driving related quality assurance and accreditation, and forging international collaboration. The College has been a close partner of our Faculty in the pursuit of training, research and clinical excellence.

An essential component of the healthcare system, the role of primary care has been elevated in recent decades, especially in light of the healthcare needs given rise by the ageing population and prevalence of chronic diseases. The promulgation of Primary Healthcare Blueprint in Hong Kong in late 2022 signified a major leap to enhance the accessibility and quality of primary healthcare for the local population. Siting the 26th WONCA World Conference in Hong Kong would enormously benefit the development of family medicine in Hong Kong, the neighbouring region and beyond. Hong Kong itself is continuously strengthening its primary healthcare services as a family-centric community health system continues to develop.

Holding the Conference in Hong Kong, with many experienced family doctors, researchers and scholars attending from around the world, aligns with the mission of WONCA to foster high standards of care in general practice/ family medicine through the exchange of

knowledge and information between Member Organisations and between general practitioners/ family physicians. Timing is now opportune for WONCA to help transfer international standards and latest developments to family physicians and allied health practitioners from across the Asia-Pacific region.

Hong Kong is experienced in hosting successful medical conferences. Supported by the city's vibrant culture, world-class infrastructure and excellent transport links, a conference hosted by Hong Kong would likely see more delegates from Mainland China and across the Asia-Pacific region.

Our Faculty sees great value and promise in holding the 26th WONCA World Conference in Hong Kong. I wish the College the best of luck in securing the bid and look forward to hearing the outcome of your efforts. Should the College succeed, we would be pleased to take part in the Conference.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CS Lau', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor CS Lau
Dean of Medicine