

Course for Teachers in Family Medicine

Dr Noel CARUANA

The Malta College of Family Doctors organized a course for family doctors wishing to become Trainers in Family Medicine. The course was organized in two modules during 8th and 9th September and 21st to 23rd September 2007 in collaboration with the Royal College of General Practitioners and The European Academy of Teachers in General Practice (EURACT).

The modules were delivered by qualified teachers from the Malta College of Family Doctors who included Dr Anton Bugeja, Dr Noel Caruana, Dr Doreen Cassar, Dr Patricia De Gabriele, Dr Mario R Sammut, Dr Philip Sciortino and Dr Andrew P Zammit. Dr Marek Jezierski represented the Royal College of General Practitioners, supervised the teaching and gave feedback to the teachers.

The College used an open selection process based on anonymous Curriculum Vitae: out of 24 applicants, 14 participants were selected. The number of teacher trainees was consistent with the established best practice that ensures optimal teaching quality. This practice is the standard adopted by the Royal College of General Practitioners.

The seven local tutors devised their own educational programme, incorporating their expertise achieved through previous RCGP Teachers' Courses and a Leonardo EURACT Course for Trainers in Family Medicine. The teaching material was a synthesis of these two educational programmes but several

of the tutors resourced their own materials. Outside the directly taught material, there was particular emphasis on giving teaching presentations to groups and looking at video consultations.

At the end of the second module a certificate of successful completion of this Teachers Course in Family Medicine was presented to the following participants: Drs Sonia Abela, Gunther Abela, Joseph Agius Muscat, Andrew Baldacchino, Rudolph Busuttill, Noel Camilleri, Maria Stella Caruana, Karl Causon, Renzo De Gabriele, Charmaine Fava, Alfred Grech, Robert Portelli, Raymond Sacco and Ramon Tonna. The course was quite a powerful learning exercise for the tutors themselves in beginning to appreciate the complexities of being responsible for delivering an educational course. As for the participants, they were given the opportunity to develop a different attitude towards helping junior doctors during their Vocational Training. Like all educational experiences, this was merely the beginning of a journey...which we hope will proceed with new experiences in the not too distant future.



Participants and tutors with MCFD President and Minister of Health (sitting centre)

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Chairman Teachers Course Coordinating Team