



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF PRIMARY CARE
RESEARCH NETWORKS**



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Report

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The short text following reflects the minutes of the activities and discussions that focused on PCAT systems that are still in preparation.

One of the main purposes of both WONCA Working Party on Research and IFPCRN in terms of the CEBU, WONCA Regional Conference was to explore opportunities for an international or regional study based on the Primary Care Assessment Tools (PCAT) developed by Prof. Barbara Starfield and colleagues at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

A. Workshop on Preparing a Regional Study using the PCAT Systems Tool

The purpose of this workshop was to bring together representatives from all Asia Pacific countries interested in participating in a preliminary assessment of the state of primary care in the region using the PCAT systems tool. This workshop reviewed the research plan developing in Manila, and introduced the use of the PCAT systems tool as a preliminary study. The workshop facilitated discussion among the participants about the PCAT systems tool, how it was used, and its relevance to the Asia Pacific region. Participants have learned the process for translating the tool, as well as choosing key informants to complete the tool and how to properly administer the tool.

B. The WONCA APR, WONCA WPR, IFPCRN and Researchers

Workshops for 2 days on the PCATs, the WONCA APR, WONCA WPR, IFPCRN and some interested researchers on Feb 22, 2011 was held and all joined with the main purpose.

Researchers gathered during the symposium/workshop meeting of WONCA explored and discussed research opportunities for WONCA WP on Research and IFPCRN based on PCAT systems tools.

Attendees: Prof. Barbara Starfield, Prof. Christos Lionis, Prof. Felicity Goodyear Smith, Dr. Dr. Sung Sunwoo, Prof. Nabil Y Kurashi, Dr. Susan Go, Dr. Isabelita Samaniego, Dr. Jeffrey Markuns, Dr. Karen Kinder, Prof. Richard Roberts [The completed lists of attendees with Dr. Jeffrey Markuns]

Prof. Lionis at the beginning of the meeting suggested **five steps in developing a regional study** as follows:

1. Define the region
2. Form a coordinating committee
3. Review the selection for key informants criteria in conjunction with the developers and WONCA Working Party on Research
4. Design and conduct a pilot test (study) (clarifying concepts and content) and prepare a reconciliation report to the developers.
5. Prepare the regional study and starting from the bilingual translation in all participating countries (multi-cultural translation)

Dr. Markuns presented the **PCAT Systems Tool and its four domains:**

They are clearly presented in the web-link: http://www.jhsph.edu/pcpc/pca_tools.html

1. Consumer-client surveys
2. Facility surveys
3. Provider survey
4. Health system survey (in preparation)

Prof. Starfield emphasized that the short version PCAT is not adequately validated yet and experiences from the use of the short version in Quebec and Korea were discussed.

Experiences from widespread uses of PCAT in the US were also reported.

These actions indicate the importance of using the Extended PCAT (which is adequately validated through work in the US, Spain, and Canada, at least until the short PCAT has been better tested and validated against the long version. Such work is now underway, researchers who develop their own version should realize that these versions are unlikely to be compatible with other versions, thus precluding cross country comparisons. [Website: [http://www. Jhsph.edu/pcpc/pca_tools.html](http://www.Jhsph.edu/pcpc/pca_tools.html)]

The systems PCAT in 2011 was pre tested in Brazil and Austria and the Latin Americas study results by summer which is funded by WHO. In 2012 fall the systems PCAT ready for international use.

Dr. Markuns commented on the proposal about a study entitled “**Assessment of the strengths of primary care in the health systems of the different countries**” sent by Dr. Go saying that we are at the preliminary stages of proposal development.

Certain questions have been raised as the following:

Will a single conference such as the WHO conference you propose have enough representatives to analyze the survey?

What is the goal of the survey?

Is it merely descriptive about the quality of primary care in each country?

Are there other issues or comparisons we should be considering?

Given the interests of WONCA in pursuing something like this, do we want to consider a few additional data gathering questions?

How will the tool be translated?

Would interviews be conducted in multiple languages?

An important debate was made on the background characteristics eligible for PCAT systems tool completion. There was also a question on how many experts will answer the systems PCAT which has 4 subsystems. [Govt., social security, non-profit organizations, private (for profit sector)]

At the end of the meeting, the next four tasks for WONCA WPR and IFPCRN have been defined:

1. To disseminate minutes and key messages from the Cebu meeting to the WP and IPCRN members.
2. To explore the opportunity of a collaborative research with the 7 regions of WONCA to recruit a coordinator in each region.
3. To identify possible sources of funding for these research projects and how this can be tapped.
4. To set future meeting dates and outline agenda/issues/research to be tackled/updated for the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

Dr. Sung Sunwoo stated that the next WONCA meeting will be in Korea- The 19th WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference will be held from May 24th to 27th 2012 in Jeju, Korea.